



## **PREGTEST Testing & Sampling Instructions**

### **How to Neck Bleed Sheep and Goats**

- 1.** Clip the animal's neck to see the jugular vein easier. Use electric shears to shave a patch approximately 4 inches wide by 8 inches long. Shaving an area allows for easier viewing of the vein and provides a clean area in to minimize the chance of introducing dirt or bacteria into the vein with the needle.
- 2.** Blood sampling can be done with assistance or alone; however, producers who are new at blood sampling will benefit from having assistance. The assistant should turn the head of the animal at a 30-degree angle to the side by holding the animal under its jaw to allow for easy access to the vein. The animal's body may also need to be restrained. Another assistant or a blocking stand can help keep the animal from moving. Restraining an animal without assistance is better for those who have become proficient at drawing blood. The handler should straddle the animal, place his or her knees behind the shoulders of the animal, and back the animal in a corner or against a wall to help control its hindquarters. The animal's head should be turned opposite to the side of collection, once again at a 30-degree angle. Restraint of the head is accomplished by using the elbow and the upper arm to keep it held off to the side. This leaves both hands available for the blood collection. An unruly animal can be dangerous to the assistants, the person drawing the blood, and to itself. It is important to be gentle and patient when restraining the animal.
- 3.** The easiest way to locate the vein is to draw an imaginary line from the middle of the animal's eye down the side of its neck. The vein can be located by applying pressure with the thumb or fingers in the groove on either side of the trachea and below the half-way point of the shaved area. The pressure will cause the vein to pop up and be easy to see.
- 4.** Once the vein has been located, the area needs to be properly cleaned to keep bacteria out of the needle insertion site. This is accomplished by using the surgical scrub on the area. Apply a small amount of the surgical scrub to a few pieces of gauze. Squeeze some of the excess scrub out of the gauze before applying it to the animal to make the process easier. Then the area should be cleaned by starting in the center and working out toward the edge. Never go back over a place that has already been wiped, because bacteria could be carried back into the clean area.
- 5.** Once the area has been cleaned and the vein has been located, the blood can be drawn. This can be done using a syringe.
- 6.** The syringe should be guided into place with the right hand while the left hand is used to apply pressure to the vein. The vein should be easy to see and feel. Try to aim for the center so you will have more of a chance of placing the needle within the vein. Inserting the needle does not require a lot of force. Apply enough pressure to break through the skin and enter the jugular vein. Once the needle is in place, draw the syringe so a vacuum created in the syringe. If the needle is in the vein, blood will start to fill the syringe immediately. If this does not happen, gently withdraw the needle so that the tip comes to the outside of the wall of the vein and re-insert. Gentle prodding may be needed to achieve maximum blood flow. Collect 2 cc or more of blood. Before removing the needle, be sure to remove your left hand, which applies the pressure to prevent blood from exiting through the insertion site.

7. After the needle has been removed from the skin, press your fingertip over the area where the needle was inserted. A small red dot may appear on the animal's neck from where the needle was removed. This is normal and is nothing about which to be concerned about.
8. Sequentially label the sample vials with the ear tag ID using a permanent marker on the vial **LABEL**. Labeling the tube will assist the laboratory in sample organization and help speed results.



#### Label Tubes as Illustrated

◀ *Tube Sequence #*

◀ *Animal ID*

**2cc or more of whole blood**

9. Place the tube in the refrigerator until shipment
10. Discard the syringe into a "sharps" container. Do not re-use the syringe.
11. Completely fill out the Pregtest Sample Submission Form (enclosed). Please be certain that the total number of samples sent is correct. Return samples to the laboratory in a box.
  - a. Bundle tubes together in groups of 1-10 tubes with a rubber band.
  - b. Place inside a leak proof Ziploc bag.
  - c. Wrap the bundle with absorbent paper towel or newspaper (enough to absorb all fluid if all tubes break). Seal the boxes with packing tape.
  - d. It is not necessary to ship samples with ice.
12. Seal the boxes with packing tape. Post via Express Post to speed samples to the laboratory. Make certain that the Pregtest Sample Submission Form accompanies the samples.
13. Payment for services should be enclosed in packaging.
14. Results will be reported via fax, phone or email (at the indication of the Client) following sample receipt. Pregtest Australia will notify the client of the test results.
15. Ship samples to the laboratory at the following address:

**PREGTEST AUSTRALIA**

**P.O. Box 838**

**Yass, NSW 2582**

**Phone: 02 6227 6227**

**Mobile: 0409 888 685**

**Email: [mail@pregtest.com.au](mailto:mail@pregtest.com.au)**