

	Flinders University Safe Work Method Statement Sheep – Catching, Handling and Restraint 21/05/19			
				College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facility
SWMS Number	RA Number		RA Score	
SWMS- 5.0	RA – 5.0		Medium	
Contact Person	SWMS prepared by	AWC Approval Date	Review Date	
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Legislation

- *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th Ed.*
- *Animal Welfare Act 1985.*
- *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*
- [Gene Technology Act 2000](#) (the Act)
- [Gene Technology Regulations 2001](#)
- *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012*

University Policy

- Work Health and Safety Policy 2013
- Responsible Conduct of Research Policy 2016
- NHMRC Guidelines

Local Policy

Use of the College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facilities by all staff and researchers of the College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University, is subject to awareness of, and adherence to the following:

Research Involving Animals:

- The University holds a permit for the use of animals for teaching and research purposes. To satisfy the requirements of the permit, anyone wishing to undertake teaching and research using animals must submit a proposal to the Animal Welfare Committee. No work with animals may commence until written approval has been received from the Animal Welfare Committee. Standardised application forms for Research and Teaching can be found on the Flinders University website listed below. It is your responsibility to regularly check this site for updates to guidelines, forms etc
http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics_home.cfm

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- **All staff and students involved in animal research must complete Animal Ethics Online Training (AEOT) and must also regularly attend Animal Researcher Information Sessions (ARIS).**

Safe Work Method Statements

Refer to Risk assessments, Safe Work Methods Statement for chemicals, processes and plant equipment where appropriate. All projects must have an accompanying Risk Assessment signed by the Animal Facility Manager

RA 5.0 Sheep catching handling and restraint

Personal Protective Equipment Required

- Scrubs or overalls
- Closed toe shoes

Hazards and Controls

- **Animal kicks- training, demonstrate competency, adhere to SWMS.**
- **Animal Scratches- training, demonstrate competency, adhere to SWMS.**
- **Manual handling- training, demonstrate competency, adhere to SWMS. If restraining sheep for a long period of time, technicians should swap to reduce muscle fatigue.**

Before Work Commences

Ensure that you are aware of the locations of the following:

- **Spill Kit**
- **Fire Extinguisher**
- **Eye Wash**
- **Exits**

Risk Assessment and SDS (Safety Data Sheet) - Ensure that you have read and understood for all the substances being used.

Equipment

- **Check for safety and electrical compliance**
- **Ensure that you have read and understood the Risk Assessment and Safe Work Method Statement**
- **Obtain training before using any equipment**

General Information

- **All procedures are to be performed by trained competent staff.**
- **Training is available from senior animal house staff or Animal Welfare Officer.**
- **Evidence of training is available in the “Staff Training Needs Analysis”.**

General Sheep Handling

- To keep sheep moving, make sure their path is clear ahead (they don't like visual dead ends).
- Move the herd slowly. Handlers should be close enough so that the sheep do not escape between, but handlers should not be in front of the herd, or the herd will turn and escape.
- A mirror can be used for a dead wall (the sheep will feel more comfortable and will move into the desired area).
- Where possible, use a decoy sheep to help coax the sheep if they are required to be put into a handling race or moving paddocks.
- Ideally, races should be narrow enough to prevent sheep turning round and blocking the flow. Tapered sides on the race (slightly wider at the top than at the bottom) can be used to accommodate sheep of varying sizes from large pregnant ewes to small lambs.
- Sheep prefer to move from dark into light, and generally dislike changes in light contrast.
- Floor should provide sufficient grip so that the Sheep don't slip and panic.
- Sheep remember past experiences. Allow them to run them through new facilities a few times to acclimatise before subjecting them to any unpleasant procedures like ear tagging or shearing.

Catching and Restraint

*****Important – Ensure all doors in the facility are closed first to prevent escape*****

- Don't catch or hang on to sheep by their fleece, as it will cause pain and bruising.
1. To catch a sheep, move up quietly in the blind zone immediately behind it.
 2. Hold the sheep under the neck; the other hand should be on its rump preventing it from running forward or back.

Sitting a sheep on its rump: Method 1:

1. Place one hand under its chin and lift its head slightly to stop it lurching forward. If it gets its head down you will lose control.
2. Then, with one hand under its chin, turn its head round to face its rear on the side away from you. Grab its rear end with your other hand, or down where the back leg joins the body.
3. Move backwards as you pull the sheep towards you.
4. The sheep's legs will buckle and it will fall back towards you. Lay it on the ground on its side, and press down on it to keep it there.
5. Then quickly grab its front legs and sit it up on its rear end at an angle of about 60 degrees from upright.
6. The sheep will relax and you can take your hands off and hold it only with your legs, provided it is sitting in the right angle (*see photo below*).

Sitting a large sheep on its rump: Method 2:

1. With a large sheep, stand on one side of the sheep. While firmly holding the head, bend beneath the sheep, put your arms underneath its body, and grab the two legs furthest from your head.
2. Give the legs a firm pull towards you and the sheep should drop onto its side.
3. Quickly grab its front feet and quickly sit it on its rump.
4. The sheep will relax and you can take your hands off and hold it only with your legs, provided it is sitting in the right angle (*see photo below*).



- **Caution must be taken when the sheep is sitting on its rump to avoid possible injury to the technician and the sheep.**
- **If it is too far forward it will jump back on to its feet.**
- **If it is too far back it will struggle and kick with both back legs in unison.**

Drenching / Oral Dosing

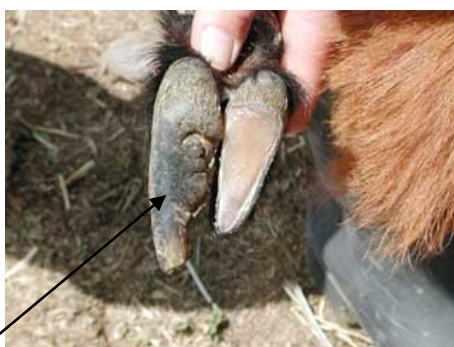
- Sheep are routinely drenched for worms, and oral dosing can be done using a drenching gun or by placing a Syringe into the side of the mouth and gently tilting the head back. Any fluid must be administered slowly to allow the sheep to swallow.



Hoof Trimming

1. Sit the sheep on its rump using one of the methods above, and support the sheep with your knees.

2. Securely hold the sheep's leg, inspect the hoof, and remove any dirt or faeces between the walls of the hoof. A rotten smell is usually indicates foot rot, and if noticed, you must immediately contact the Animal Welfare Officer.
3. Start trimming around the perimeter of the hoof. Avoid cutting off large chunks of hoof. Stop at the first sign of pinkness. A pink colour means you are getting close to the foot blood supply.
4. The foot should be trimmed from the heel to the toe to remove excess growth. The wall (*as pictured below*) may be over grown (*left toe*). Both toes should be trimmed to resemble the toe on the right. The bottom of the hoof should be flat.
5. Do not trim hooves during hot weather or late gestation.



Over grown wall

SWMS Review

This SWMS currently applies to the animals housed in the College of Medicine and Public Health Animal Facility. This SWMS will be reviewed 3 yearly, but also updated more frequently as policies, techniques and animal care requirements change.

Position	Name	Contact Details
Manager Animal Facility	Roxanne Collingwood	8204 4380 roxanne.collingwood@flinders.edu.au
Animal Welfare Officer	Lewis Vaughan	0450 424 143 awo@flinders.edu.au

Useful References

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/>

http://www.flinders.edu.au/research/researcher-support/ebi/animal-ethics/animal-ethics_home.cfm

Any questions regarding the above guidelines and any technical advice/ assistance required can be directed to Animal Facility Manager.