

## TAIL BLEEDING IN CATTLE

Website link to a video showing how to tail bleed cattle:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VoqUOfzW0Y>

### PROCEDURE

1. One red top tube and a fresh needle for each individual animal.
2. Remove caps from needle and screw shorter end of needle onto yellow vacutainer holder.
3. Insert the vacutainer tube into the needle holder until the stopper touches the end of the needle – *do not* puncture the stopper. Hold these assembled materials in one hand.
4. Stand behind the animal, lift the tail up with your left hand to about the level of your head (so you can see underneath the tail)
5. Using your free hand, remove all the faeces/urine from the first 15cm from the base of the tail
6. Note the bony edges of the vertebrae poking out approx. every 6cm, or so - the space we need to go in is directly in the middle of these two bony edges around 4-6" up from the tail base.
7. Place the needle directly in the middle into the soft area between the two vertebrae. The depth you will go will depend on the animal but it is usually around ½-1".
8. Once the vein has been punctured, blood will start dripping out the bottom of the needle. If blood doesn't appear, twist the needle slightly or push it in/out gently until the vein is found.
9. If using a needle and syringe then negative pressure must be placed by pulling back the stopper of the syringe to draw blood out. Twisting the needle slightly or pushing it in/out until the vein is found may be required.
10. Once blood is seen, push the tube onto the needle and puncture the rubber. Be sure the keep the needle under the skin. The 'vacuum' inside the tube will pull the blood in, if you accidentally puncture the tube and air is sucked in, the tube cannot be used so use a new one. Collect ¾ of a tube full of blood (we can make do with ¼ of a tube but this isn't preferred)
11. Remove the needle from under the skin and detach the tube.
12. Immediately label the tube (1), (2), (3) etc. Separate personal records must be kept with the tube number and corresponding cow identification details (e.g. tube (2) = cow N527). Please provide us with a separate copy of these for security.
13. Please keep all tubes refrigerated or in a cool esky for transport to the clinic





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### **IMPORTANT**

- Please wipe down all tubes of any excess dirt, faeces or blood
- Please ensure that the bloods are dropped off to us no later than Thursday 11am to ensure they can be transported to the lab with sufficient time for processing.

**This information sheet is not intended as a substitute for a veterinary consultation. It is recommended that a consultation be arranged with a Veterinarian if you have any concerns with your animal's health.**

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