

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 1158.1

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TITLE:	Pro-Vet 500 Tattoo Plier®
SCOPE:	Animal Care Personnel
RESPONSIBILITY:	Facility Manager, Professional and Administrative Staff
PURPOSE:	To Outline the Proper Procedures for Use and Maintenance of a Pro-Vet 500 Plier

I. PURPOSE

1. This procedure outlines the use and maintenance of the Pro-Vet 500 Plier® used to mark and identify various large animal species.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

1. It is the responsibility of the Facility Manager to ensure that equipment is appropriately cleaned, maintained in good working order and available for research personnel as requested.
2. It is the responsibility of the veterinary professional, administrative, and managerial staff to ensure that all research and technical staff using this equipment are adequately trained and experienced to perform veterinary tattoo marking and identification.

III. EQUIPMENT USE

1. Place appropriate combination of figures or letters into the slotted jaw of the marker. Close the digital retainer clip. Ensure figures or letters are in the correct orientation.
2. The plier unit and numbers are thoroughly cleaned (e.g., 2% Chlorhexidine solution) and disinfected with an appropriate hard surface disinfectant (e.g., Clidox 1:18:1 with a contact time of 5 minutes) followed by rinsing with sterile saline. Ideally, the unit/numbers are initially flash autoclaved at 131° for 3 minutes and then cleaned and disinfected between uses as above for serial same day uses with a single species.
3. Anesthetize the animal. Inhaled or injectable anesthetic cocktails described in the Comparative Medicine formulary (http://www.research.usf.edu/cm/docs/cmdc/C086_Guidelines_Anesthesia_Analgesia_In_Lab_Animals.pdf) may be used. Methods should be consistent with those in the approved IACUC protocol.
4. Perform preparation of skin of the ear; use of a dilute chlorhexidine solution followed by saline rinse is acceptable. Dry skin with alcohol.

5. Select an area of the ear near the center avoiding the ribs, cords, and vasculature. Insert the ear between the jaws of the plier with the figures or letters over the selected area. Close the jaws quickly and firmly and release quickly to avoid tearing.
6. After the ear has been punctured, rub ink thoroughly over the punctures with gloved finger. Rub each puncture until well filled. In case of an excessive flow of blood, it is necessary to use more ink and rub longer. Ensure hemostasis with digital pressure.
7. Make a notation in the animal medical record noting the figures or letters of the tattoo and the location. Notation should be made on the cage card, in the animal's Progress Notes form (CMDIC #013), as well as, carried over to all related paperwork (e.g., surgical paperwork, anesthetic logs, etc.) at the time of assignment. (Please note: if this numbers is not the USDA assigned number on paperwork, but rather is the USF (or GLP) assigned identification, it should be recorded as such).
8. Wash and dry the plier and figures/letters prior to storing.

IV. MAINTENANCE

1. Periodically inspect all parts for wear or any damage and report to Facility Manager.

V. TROUBLESHOOTING

1. Refer to the manufacturer's operation and maintenance manual.

VI. REFERENCES

1. Refer to the manufacturer's manual for additional information.

Approved:

Date: