

**UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL MEDICINE**

Tail Snipping SOP #PRO-009

Tail snipping (tailing, tail biopsy, tail tip amputation) is a procedure to obtain tissue used for DNA analysis of transgenic strains of mice.

Anesthesia:

- **not required** (but is recommended) **for animals prior to weaning (21-28 days)**
- **required** **for animals older than 28 days or for any animal that undergoes a repeat tail biopsy**

Sample size:

- **5mm or less**
- **amounts greater than 5mm must be justified in the protocol and approved by the IACUC**

Analgesia:

- **not required** (but is recommended) **for animals 28 days of age or younger**
- **required** **for animals older than 28 days**

Equipment Required:

- Gloves
- Sterile sharp scissors or sterile scalpel blade
 - (If using a bead sterilizer, allow it to heat to 500 degrees F)
- 70% alcohol to clean tail
 - (providone-iodine or chlorhexidine solutions may interfere with DNA analysis)
- Cauterization method (styptic powder, silver nitrate, surgical glue, cauterizing instrument)

Technique:

1. Carefully restrain the animal. (Anesthetize if required or as necessary.)
2. Swab the tail with alcohol.
3. Cut the tip of the tail using sterile scissors or sterile blade. (Use of hot scissors from a bead sterilizer will cauterize tail.)
4. Control bleeding using digital pressure or cauterization.
5. Make sure tail is not bleeding before returning animal to its cage.
6. Observe animal for bleeding or any signs of pain or distress.
7. Check animal daily to ensure tail is healing.