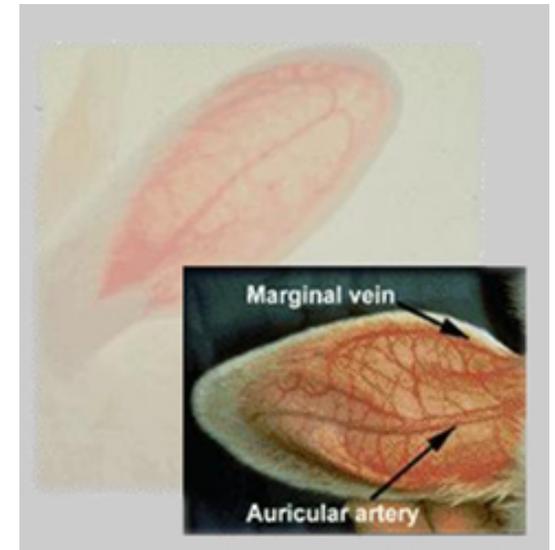


# Rabbit Technical Procedures

## INTRAVENOUS INJECTION (IV)

IV injections are administered to rabbits in the *marginal ear vein*. The picture below illustrates the location of the vein.

1. Place animal in appropriate restraint device.
2. Shave the hair over the marginal ear vein.
3. Clean injection site with alcohol.
4. Insert a small bore (22 – 30 gauge) needle with a syringe or insert a similar gauge butterfly needle (needle with tubing).
5. Gently pull back the syringe plunger to aspirate the syringe. A flash of blood in the syringe or tubing indicates proper placement.
6. Administer substance in a steady, fluid motion.
7. Apply pressure to the withdrawal site to stop bleeding.



## INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION (IM)

**IM injections are administered in the thigh muscles of the hind limb.**

1. Restrain animal manually as shown in picture below.
2. Clean the injection site with alcohol.
3. Insert needle into thigh muscles, and directed away from the femur avoiding the sciatic nerve.
4. Pull back the syringe plunger to aspirate the syringe. Any blood indicates improper needle placement, and needle must be repositioned.
5. Administer substance in a steady, fluid motion. Take care not to administer fluid too rapidly.



## **SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION (SQ or SC)**

**SQ injections are administered in the space between the skin and the underlying muscles.**

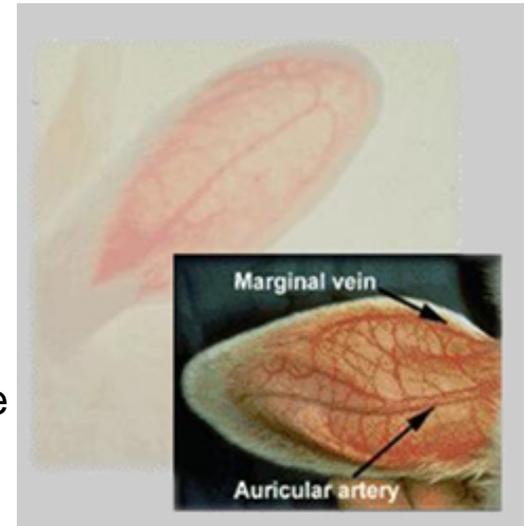
1. Restrain animal on a table as shown in picture.
2. Clean injection site with alcohol.
3. Insert needle at base of skin fold between thumb and finger.
4. Pull back the syringe plunger to aspirate the syringe. Any blood indicates improper needle placement, and needle must be repositioned.
5. Administer substance in a steady, fluid motion.



## BLOOD COLLECTION

**Auricular Artery** - Blood is commonly collected from the *auricular artery* of the ear. The picture below illustrates the location of the artery.

1. Place animal in appropriate restraint device.
2. Shave the hair over the auricular artery.
3. Clean injection site with alcohol.
4. Insert a 21 – 22 gauge needle with a syringe or insert a similar gauge butterfly needle (needle with tubing).
5. Gently pull back the syringe plunger to collect the appropriate amount of blood.
6. Remove needle, and apply pressure to the withdrawal site to stop bleeding.



## BLOOD COLLECTION

**Saphenous Vein - The saphenous vein of the hind leg may be used for blood collection. Unless the animal is conditioned to handling & restraint, it is best to anesthetize them for this procedure.**

1. Shave hair on the rear leg over the saphenous vein.
2. Clean withdrawal site with alcohol.
3. Apply gentle pressure to the medial surface of the leg (as shown in picture). The vessel should become visible as blood pools. Alternatively, a tourniquet may be applied to the leg.
4. Insert a 21 – 22 gauge butterfly needle (needle with tubing) into the vein. Blood will flow into the tubing, if the needle is inserted properly.
5. Once blood is visible in the tubing, attach a syringe to tube.
6. Gently pull back on syringe plunger to obtain blood sample.
7. Remove needle, and apply pressure to stop bleeding.

