

**Arizona State University  
Animal Care and Use  
STANDARD INSTITUTIONAL GUIDELINE**

**VAGINAL LAVAGE – RODENTS AND RABBITS**

***Restraint***

*Small rodents:* Restrained by hand while in the biosafety cabinet or at a workstation.

*Guinea pigs:* Restrained by hand or wrapped in a towel.

*Rabbits:* Placed in a commercial rabbit restrainer or restrained by hand.

Note: Instead of physical restraint, animals can be anesthetized as described in the IACUC protocol.

***Procedure***

1) A plastic blunt-tipped needle\* attached to a 1 ml syringe is carefully inserted into the vagina.

2) Sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) is gently injected into and aspirated from the vagina a total of 5 times.

PBS volume:

a. Small rodents: 50-100 uL

b. Guinea pigs: 100-200 uL

c. Rabbits: maximum of 500 uL

3) The needle is removed, and the animal is returned to its cage.

\*Braintree Scientific, Inc: disposable feeding needle, 20g x 1.5 in. (or similar product)

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