

**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)