

Appendix 1C

3rd Eyelid Lymphoid Follicle Sampling Procedures

Since potentially infective lymphoid tissue is being harvested and the site of harvesting is a potential route of introduction (eye) of the scrapie agent, precautions to prevent potential transmission of scrapie are required in sampling potential source flocks. Single use instruments may be used and discarded after use on a single animal. Alternatively, the forceps and scissors used on an individual sheep are placed in a bag accompanied by the individual sheep identification. These instruments are then stored until the results of the tests are known. If the test results for the individual sheep on which the particular set of instruments were used are positive, it is recommended to discard those instruments. If the test results for the individual sheep on which a particular set of instruments were used are negative, those instruments may be cleaned as per normal and returned to normal use.

Technique

One person is required to restrain the sheep.

Verify by checking individual identification that this animal has been genotyped as a QQ 171.

Instill several drops of a local ophthalmic anaesthetic agent (proparacaine, lidocaine or xylocaine) into the selected eye.

Apply a drop of 1% histamine solution (can be compounded by veterinary pharmacy eg. Veterinary Pharmacy, Imperial Road, Guelph, ON 519-824-7887 or Strathcona Prescription Centre 8225-105 St., Edmonton, AB T6E 4H2 780-432-0394, 888-433-2334) to the bulbar surface of the third eyelid. This will dramatically facilitate the visualization of the now hyperemic, slightly raised / irregular area that represents the lymphoid follicles.

Allow 5-6 minutes for applied drops to take effect.

Grasp the edge of the 3rd eyelid with tissue forceps, evert, and visualize the ventral (bulbar) surface of the 3rd eyelid.

Using scissors (metzenbaum preferred) , blades flush with the 3rd eyelid, cut identified lymphoid follicles from the 3rd eyelid. Place sample in test tube or small vial of formalin. Forward sample to laboratory capable of testing lymphoid tissues for scrapie.

