

## Recommended Standard Methods of Blood Collection: *Sheep*

Method	Maximum volume (per sample)	Anesthesia Required	Description	Special Considerations
Jugular Vein	No more than 1% blood volume		The animal is positioned for shearing. An electric shears is used to shave a patch approximately 4 inches wide by 8 inches long. The animal is restrained and its head turned at a 30-degree angle to the side by holding the animal under its jaw to allow for easy access to the vein. The vein is located by applying pressure with the thumb or fingers below the half-way point of the shaved area. The pressure will cause the vein to pop up and be easy to see. The collection site is cleaned with three alternating scrubs of 70% alcohol and betadine. Before inserting the needle into the vein, the plunger is pulled back to break the seal in a new syringe, and then the plunger is depressed completely to express any air that was drawn into the syringe. Using a 6 cc syringe, 20-gauge by one-inch or less needle and vacutainer the needle is inserted into the vein. The syringe is gently pulled back to see if the needle is in the vein. The needle may need to be gently moved until blood is easily pulled back into the syringe. Once the sample has been obtained, pressure from the vein is removed and the needle is taken out. Blood flow is stopped by applying firm pressure on the collection site with sterile gauze to achieve hemostasis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two personnel are needed to restrain and collect blood.</li> <li>• The insertion site should be swabbed with alcohol to remove any bacteria that might have entered the area during the drawing of the blood.</li> </ul>

**NOTES:**

Total blood volume of a sheep is 60 ml/kg or 6.0 % of total body weight (BW).

No more than 1% of the animal's blood volume in one collection or over a 24 hour period.

No more than 7.5% (4.5 ml/ kg BW ) of total blood volume can be collected in a single or multiple draws over a week period.

If 10 % (6 ml/kg BW) of total blood vol, must allow 10 days recovery before next draw.

***If 15 % ( 9 ml/ kg BW) of total blood volume is collected, must allow 15 days recovery before next draw.***

**\* A Comparative Medicine Veterinarian must be consulted if blood will be drawn from a USDA covered species.**