

TECHNICAL NOTE

Blood collection in mink

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During the last couple of years the study of diseases in mink (*Mustela vison*) has been intensified.

Blood collection from mink has until now been done by clipping of nail or tail or by puncture of the jugular vein or heart under anaesthesia.

We now suggest a simple method for collection of blood: puncture of V. cephalica antibrachii. We have practiced this method on a large scale on mink from 4-6 weeks of age (about 1000 blood samples in 1986):

The animal is placed in a squeeze cage, one foreleg is pulled out between the bars, and the fur is clipped on the dorsal proximal part of antibrachium.

A tourniquet is placed just proximal to the extended elbow joint. The stasid vein, which is palpable and sometimes visible, is punctured with a 19 or 20 G × ½ inch needle (Airtite, N. J.) (Fig. 1).

10 ml blood is easily drawn from 5-6 months old animals and 1-2 ml from young animals of 4-6 weeks.

Compression of the site of puncture stops the bleeding and prevents hematoma. With some practice you might do the puncture without stasis in older animals.

The advantages of this new method are many:

1. Less risk for the health of the animal
2. Quick, one person can handle the procedure
3. Anaesthesia is not necessary
4. Aseptically drawn non-hemolyzed blood
6. Repeated blood collections from individual animals are possible.

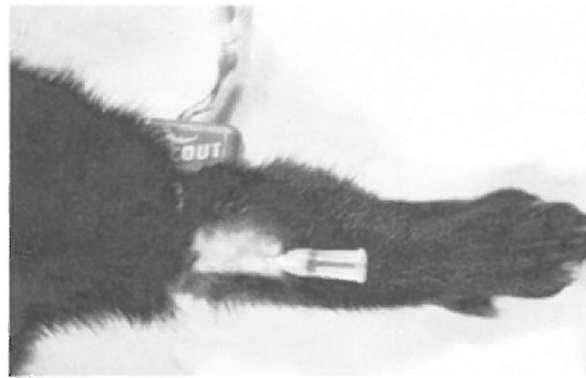


Fig. 1. demonstrates the site of puncture of the vein.

Sammendrag:

Der gives en introduktion af en ny, hurtig metode til blodprøvetagning på mink ved punktur af Vena cephalica antibrachii. Denne metode belaster dyrene minimalt, kræver ingen anæstesi, åbner mulighed for udtagning af op til 8-10 ml blod på ældre dyr, giver minimal hæmolyse og kan udføres af en enkelt person.

Yhteenveto / K. Pelkonen

Raportissa kuvataan uusi nopea menetelmä verenottoon minkin vena cephalica antibrachii-suonesta punktoimalla. Toimenpide aiheuttaa vain minimaalisesti kipua, ei vaadi anestesiaa, mahdollistaa jopa 8-10 ml verinäytteen täysikasvuisesta eläimestä, aiheuttaa minimaalisesti hemolyyysiä, ja sen voi suorittaa yksinkin.