

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-5660**
Service: **Research**
Operating Section: **Diagnostic Laboratory**
Unit: **CMF**
Title: **Examination for Ectoparasites**

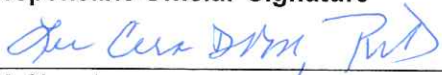

Purpose:

To define materials and methods used to examine fur and skin for evidence of ectoparasitism.

Procedure:

- 1) Skin scrape test
 - a) The location of the scraping is dependent upon the lesion present. Generally, the periphery of alopecia is used as the test site. A scalpel blade or similar instrument is dipped in mineral oil. The blade is scraped over the pinched skin at right angles until the superficial epidermis is removed as evidenced by seepage of capillary blood.
 - b) The detritus and hair adhering to the mineral oil is placed on a microscope slide and cover slipped.
- 2) Cellophane tape test
 - a) This method is useful for screening rodents for ascariasis; the perianal region is usually used as the test site. When using the test for ectoparasite discovery, the pelt is sampled.
 - b) The sticky side of transparent tape is repeatedly pressed on the physically-restrained animal to remove hair and detritus.
- 3) Submission and Reporting
 - a) Prepared glass slides should be labeled and submitted with a CMF diagnostic laboratory form, and examined for the presence of ectoparasites or eggs.
 - b) Whenever possible, parasites should be identified to the most specific possible taxonomic level. If identification is not possible, a description of the findings should include: size, shape, and any identifying features.

APPROVALS

Responsible Official Signature		Date	
		3/01/18	
QA Signature		Date	
		03/01/2018	
Version #3	Effective Date	Supersedes #2	Original Date 04/11/00