

CFAES Needle Safety Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define the proper handling and disposal of needles used on CFAES operations. The re-capping of needles **should be avoided**, as needle-stick injuries can be serious. If recapping is necessary, please refer to the following guidelines for the correct technique.

Procedures:

Restraint: Ensure the animal(s) to be administered medications, vaccines or have blood drawn are properly restrained via chute, snare or other species-appropriate device. Limiting animal movement facilitates ease of administration and reduces risk to the employee.

Administration: When placing the needle into the animal, use a one-handed technique when possible, as this avoids the risk of self-injection. When using multi-dose reusable syringes, take care to point the needle away from yourself and all other personnel working around you and the animal.

Needle Use and Disposal: It is **strongly encouraged that all needles should be used once and disposed of properly**. If needles are to be reused between animals, change them frequently for better hygiene and to avoid burrs that increase the user effort and resultant pain when injecting the animal. When using multi-dose syringes ensure that the needle is removed properly between animals, is re-capped per directions below, or the syringe is stored in a rigid vaccine cooler between animals. **Never place syringes with exposed needles on a table, chute, or other area where accidental needle sticks can occur**. All used needles should be disposed of in rigid approved sharps containers. Needles that are bent should be removed and disposed immediately, as they will easily break when reused. If a needle breaks off in an animal during administration, please identify the animal and notify the attending veterinarian immediately.

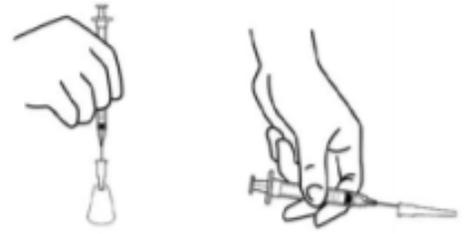
Needle Recapping: Recapping of needles should be avoided, but when necessary one of the following methods should be used:

1. One-handed scoop method: Hold the syringe with the attached needle and scoop or slide the cap, which is lying on a horizontal surface, onto the needle's sharp end. Once the point of the needle is covered, tighten the cap by pushing it against an object.
2. Pliers or hemostats: use pliers or hemostats to place the needle cap back on the needle, or to remove the exposed needle for direct deposit into the sharps container
3. Use a recapping device.

All needle stick injuries should be reported to a supervisor immediately!

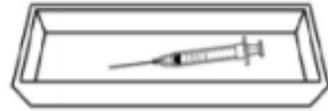


DO NOT RECAP THIS WAY!



Recapping device

One-hand scoop



Rigid tray

USE A PROPER METHOD



DISPOSE OF NEEDLES IN APPROVED SHARPS CONTAINERS