

FLSC Standard Operating Procedure for Autoclip Removal

Equipment

Autoclip Remover	Sharps Container
Alcohol	Gauze Sponge

Preparation

1. Evaluate the surgical incision for sufficient healing before removing autoclips.
2. The autoclips are left in place for 5 to 7 days to allow the incision to heal and tissue swelling or inflammation to have subsided.
3. Remove autoclips before hair regrowth.
4. Consult with the Attending Veterinarian if there are signs of infection, dehiscence of the incision, or the autoclips have healed into the incision before proceeding with the clip removal.

Procedure

1. Position the animal so that there is easy access to autoclips. This may involve manual or chemical restraint.
2. Chemical restraint is recommended for fractious animals or difficult removals.
3. Place the animal on a secure surface such as the cage top, counter top or in the cage.
4. Slide the tips of the remover down the upper arch of the clip until the tips rest in the grooves at the base of the clips near the skin.
5. Squeeze the remover to spread the base of the clip open releasing the clip from the skin.
6. Lift the clip up and away from the animal.
7. Dispose of the clip in a sharps container.
8. Clean the autoclip remover with alcohol soaked gauze sponge between animals and animals from different groups or strains.
9. Clean the autoclip remover if it becomes soiled from removing any autoclips where infection is present or the autoclips are soiled with fecal or bedding material
10. The autoclip remover is cleaned in the same manner as surgical instruments at the end of the removal procedure.
11. The autoclip remover can be autoclaved or wiped with alcohol before returning it to the storage box.