Footpad Injection Procedure of Mice and Rats

Materials and Supplies:
- Gloves
- 30g x ½” needle
- TB syringe
- Injection agent

Procedure:
1. Injection agent is drawn into the syringe. The maximum amount that can be injected into a footpad is 50 microliters (0.05 ml).
2. Only one hind foot is used. Never inject both hind feet. The animal is placed in a restraint tube with one hind foot isolated and extended by grasping the skin above the stifle.
3. Wipe the foot with water or alcohol to remove debris prior to injecting.
4. Inject subcutaneously into the center of the hind foot forming a small bleb at the injection site. Caution: To avoid the blood vessel that runs the length of the foot, inject just off the midline parallel to the vessel.
5. All animals must be closely monitored for signs of pain, level of food consumption and for normal ambulation. Self-mutilation can occur with the foot being chewed off. This is a sign of chronic pain. Any animal demonstrating self-mutilation should be called to the attention of the veterinary staff immediately.
6. The animal must be euthanized when the lesion or tumor interferes with the animal’s ability to ambulate or reach the food and water.