

## FTA CARD PROCEDURES

### Before You Begin

- Plan Carefully. Label an FTA card with animal's unique identification.
- Prepare a clean flat surface for air drying the FTA card (not in direct heat of any kind, including sun light or hair dryers)
- Deal with one animal at a time.
- Secure the animal. Check the animal identification to ensure that blood being drawn is from the animal identified on the FTA card.

### Drawing the Blood Sample

1. Select one of the options for obtaining the blood: a) Locate a vein on the outer surface of the ear or the vein midline on the under surface of the tail; b) poke the vein with a sterile needle to drop the blood onto an FTA card without the use of a syringe; c) poke the ear or a vein and suck up the blood that emerges in the syringe.
2. Clean the site with 99% alcohol and let it air dry.
3. Have the labeled card at hand and right side up. Use one card per animal.
4. Use the syringe with needle attached. Avoid contamination by using a separate syringe and needle for each animal.
5. Place the needle in the vein or poke the ear.
6. While the needle is in the vein, draw the plunger back gently and fill the syringe with blood OR suck up the blood that emerges from the vein with a syringe.
7. Spot the blood onto the collection area of the FTA card. Do not allow the needle or syringe to touch the sample collection area. Blood should be evenly distributed in the circle. **Do not overload or saturate the circle with blood.** Tilt the card slightly to distribute the wet blood within the circle.
8. The FTA card must be air dried immediately after the blood is obtained. Air dry in a clean and dry environment prior to folding or handling the card. Complete air drying will take at least one hour.
9. Apply gentle pressure to the puncture site on the animal and clean the area again.

### HELPFUL HINTS

*Make certain that contamination does not take place from card to card. Do not stack cards. Avoid contacting the collection area (the circles on the card). Use one card per animal.*

### Shipping Procedures

Once the FTA card is completely dry, attach it to the completed Application for Test form. Mail the FTA card and application form to **GENSERVE LABORATORIES, c/o Saskatchewan Research Council, 125 – 15 Innovation Blvd., Saskatoon, Sk S7N 2X8**. Testing fees of \$52.50 per sample are payable to SRC and must accompany the samples and forms, if payment has not been made to CLRC.