

SOP for Autoclip Removal

Equipment: Autoclip Remover
Sharps Container
Alcohol
Gauze Sponge

Preparation: Before removing autoclips the surgical site should be evaluated to ensure sufficient healing has occurred. The autoclips are left in place for 5 to 7 days. This allows for the incision to have healed and swelling or inflammation to have subsided. The autoclips should be removed before the hair has regrown. If there is infection, dehiscence of the incision or the autoclip has healed into the incision the veterinarian should be consulted before proceeding with the clip removal.

Procedure: Position the animal so that there is easy access to the autoclip. This may involve manual or chemical restraint. If the autoclip is difficult to remove or the animal is fractious chemical restraint is recommended. The removal can take place either on the cage top, counter top or in the cage. 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. Squeeze the remover to spread the base of the clip open. This releases the clip from the skin. Lift the clip up and dispose of the clip in a sharps container. If there are multiple animals, animals from different groups or strains or autoclips that are soiled, the remover must be wiped with an alcohol soaked sponge before additional clips are removed. When finished the remover should be cleaned in the same manner as surgical instruments. The autoclip remover can be autoclaved or wiped with alcohol before returning it to the box.