

**1. PURPOSE**

---

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes procedures for the determination of estrous cycles in adult female mice and rats using vaginal smear cytology.

**2. RESPONSIBILITY**

---

Principal investigator (PI) and their research staff, veterinary care staff.

**3. MATERIALS**

---

- 3.1. Gauze
- 3.2. Sterile isotonic solution: 0.9% saline or phosphate buffered saline
- 3.3. Fine tip plastic pipettes, tip inner diameter 1mm

4.6.3. Metestrus:

4.6.3.4. Lasts approximately 21 hours

4.6.3.5. In this stage, there is a mix of cell types with a predominance of leucocytes (neutrophils) and a few nucleated epithelial and/or cornified squamous epithelial cells

4.6.4. Diestrus:

4.6.4.6. Lasts

