



# Chapter 022, Basic Experimental Methods (American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine)

*Mark Suckow*

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NOTE: This is a single chapter excerpted from the book *The Laboratory Rabbit, Guinea Pig, Hamster, and Other Rodents*, made available for individual purchase. Additional chapters, as well as the entire book, may be purchased separately.

This chapter discusses the handling and sampling techniques of guinea pigs. Extensive use of the guinea pig in a variety of experimental procedures ranging from inhalation studies to hearing research has given rise to common biotechnology and the introduction of specialized experimental techniques. All surgical techniques described in this chapter are performed using aseptic technique, and with the administration of appropriate anesthesia and analgesia. Most simple procedures can be performed on guinea pigs under manual restraint and chemical restraint is rarely required. The animal can be held firmly against the body or with the head held in the crook of the elbow for minor procedures. Another restraint technique involves holding up the anterior portion of the animal while its rear legs remain on the surface supporting the animal, or by holding the chest and forelegs in one hand and the pelvis and hind legs in the other hand. With repeated handling, guinea pigs become accustomed to being held and struggle less. The sampling techniques involve blood sampling, cerebrospinal fluid collection, milk collection, semen collection, and urine. Furthermore, the specialized research techniques include endotracheal intubation, which is difficult in a guinea pig due to the narrow oral cavity and the anatomy of the larynx and upper airway. The guinea pig is preferred by many investigators for the study of pre- and neonatal cardiac or cortical activities under various maternal conditions.

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