Equipment required:

- Razor blade (new) or scalpel blade (size 10 or 15)
- Empty cage
- Anesthesia if required

Technique: Lateral Tail Vein Sampling

1. Can be used in both mice and rats by incising the vessel perpendicular to the tail, or in the rat by cannulating the vessel using a needle.
2. Warming the tail with a heat lamp or warm compress may increase the amount of blood obtained. Animals should be observed closely for signs of heat stress if a heat lamp is used.
3. Repeated collections are possible, bleeding volumes should be within approved guidelines in SOP PRO-001.

Technique: Tail Clip Sampling

1. If animals are over 28 days of age, anesthetize the animals with isoflurane or ketamine/xyazine.
2. Cut no more than 1 mm of the distal tail in mice or 2 mm in rats.
3. Repeated collections are possible. The clot/scab can be removed for repeated small samples if serial testing is required.
4. Bleeding volumes should be within approved guidelines in SOP PRO-001.
5. Apply pressure to stop bleeding and place the animal in a cage without bedding.
6. Continue to monitor the animal until sternal if it was anesthetized, then, if there is no more bleeding, place the animal back into the original cage.