IV Catheters



Why do we use intravenous catheters?

* Sampling of blood
* Fluids
* Medications
* Parenteral nutrition
* Chemotherapy
* Blood products

Catheter Basics

* Select the smallest gauge of catheter that can effectively deliver the prescribed therapy

- 24-ga for puppies and kittens

- 22-ga for cats and small dogs

- 20-ga for medium-sized dogs

- 18-ga large dogs and small ruminants

- 14-ga horses

* If patient needs large volumes infused over a short period of time, then select the largest gauge that is likely to fit the chosen vein



Placing a Catheter

* Clip fur from catheter site around limb
* Scrub skin 3 times with surgical scrub
* Wipe away scrub with alcohol and air dry
* Have assistant hold off vein or use tourniquet
* Insert catheter at 15° to 20° angle
* Look for flash of blood in cannula
* Feed cannula over stylet
* Quickly place cap and tape into place
* Flush catheter with sterile saline
* Replace cap or connect to t-port or fluid line



Equipment for catheterization

* Tape – two skinny and one thick with a notch
* Vet wrap (usually red)
* Clean clippers with sharp blade
* Chlorhexidine soaked gauze
* Alcohol soaked gauze
* 2 catheters (one for back up)
* Cap or t-port
* 3 ml syringe with saline flush
* A good assistant!



The Perfect Catheter

* Flushes easily
* Fluid can be felt in vein when pushed
* Catheter is not positional
* Catheter is secured
* Does not bother patient

