**Protocol for emetine administration by gavage to awake behaving ferret.**

***You will need****:*Emetine powder  
Sterile saline  
20ml syringe x2  
5ml syringes  
0.2um syringe filter  
Non-sterile beaker/vial  
Stir bar  
Sterile beaker/vial  
14Fr red rubber feeding tube  
Large diameter PE tube  
Surgical lubricant

**Preparation** – 5mg/kg, 5ml injection volume:

1. Calculate the amount of emetine needed so injection volume does not exceed 5ml.
   1. For example: If the ferret’s weight is 1.5kg, 7.5mg of emetine needs to be administered. Dissolve 7.5mg in 5ml saline – or 15mg in 10ml saline.
2. Dissolve emetine in sterile saline.
   1. Make 10ml of emetine solution if 5ml is needed to account for loss in filtering.
3. Transfer all emetine to large syringe and fit with 0.2um syringe filter.
4. Push emetine through filter and into sterile beaker/vial or directly into the sterile syringe for injection.
   1. The emetine solution is now STERILE.
5. Pull the correct dose into a sterile syringe.

**Gavage Administration:**

1. Attach emetine syringe to the end of a 14Fr red rubber feeding tube. Warm up the rubber with your hands to make it more flexible.
2. Cut about 1.5in of thick perfusion tubing to use as a chew guard.
   1. Feed the red rubber tube through this guard.
   2. Position the guard at the tip of the tube when giving to animal.
3. Apply a liberal amount of surgical lubricant to the red rubber tube so the chew guard can slide smoothly along it.
   1. Reapply directly before administration to animal as the lubricant can dry out.
4. One person should scruff the animal securely and hold him up vertically.
5. Hold the tube up to the ferret and estimate the length of tube necessary to reach the stomach.
6. Another person should put the chew guard into the ferret’s mouth and quickly feed the tube down the throat.
   1. Hold the chew guard between the teeth! The ferret can easily chew through the red rubber tube.
7. Feed the tube down the esophagus quickly until it reaches the stomach (as determined by the previous estimate).
8. Depress the syringe, stopping at 1ml. Listen for any sounds of respiratory distress – this means you are in the trachea (very unlikely).
9. Depress the syringe the rest of the way at a moderate speed.
10. Kink the red rubber tube at the top and pull out of the ferret’s mouth.