**Ferret Gavage Protocol**

**Gavage Setup:**

1. Make 5mg/kg emetine.
   1. Dissolve 30mg emetine in 15ml sterile saline in small beaker with stir rod
   2. Transfer emetine to sterile 20ml syringe
   3. Push emetine through 2um syringe filter into a sterile container
   4. Transfer appropriate volume of sterile emetine to sterile 5ml syringes using a sterile needle. Cap the needle and leave in place.
   5. Label both syringes. Keep the tips sterile!
2. Set up gavage catheter
   1. Remove needle from syringe – do not touch syringe tip
   2. Fit the syringe tip into end of a red rubber feeding catheter. Be careful not to depress plunger
   3. Cut about 2 inches of thick Tygon tubing for a bite guard
   4. Use surgical lubricant to make sure the catheter can freely move through the bite guard

**Gavage Infusion:**

1. Two people are needed.
2. One person should sit next to the chamber and hold the ferret, the other should hold the syringe and catheter at the ready
3. The ferret handler should hold the ferret up by the scruff with left hand with hindlimbs resting on lap
4. The catheter holder should bring the bite guard to the end of the catheter and insert into ferret’s mouth. They will make sure the bite guard is always between the teeth.
5. The ferret handler feeds the catheter down to the stomach (about 6 inches are out of mouth) and slowly depresses the plunger. Wait briefly after the first ml for any sounds of respiratory distress – this indicates placement in trachea, which is very unlikely.
6. Kink the catheter and pull out of esophagus.
7. Place ferret back in chamber.

Emetine is infused at 15min into the recording. Record for another 90min.

Make note of start of emesis and time of any vomiting (this can be hard to see on camera).

After recording, keep ferret in a chamber with a water bottle and blanket until it has gone about an hour without an emetic response; make note of times. Ferret can then be taken to cage with a half can of A/D mixed with Ensure.

Email DLAR vet staff letting them know you will keep an eye on the ferrets for weight loss or other changes.

Weigh the ferrets the next morning and keep track of any weight loss.