Ferret Suture Removal Protocol

1. Fast ferret for 3 hours prior to induction.
   1. Do not induce anesthesia in a ferret that has not been fasted. Anesthesia can induce vomiting and aspiration.
2. Place ferret in isoflurane induction chamber until the ferret no longer rights itself.
   1. O2 flow should be at 2L/min
   2. Isoflurane can be at 5 to fill the chamber more quickly
3. Quickly move ferret to mask and lower isoflurane to 2%. Keep isoflurane as low as possible for the duration of suture removal. Ferret does not need to be at surgical plane.
   1. Monitor EKG and respiration rate with Spike2 and record these on DLAR anesthesia monitoring sheet
4. Remove sutures on abdomen, making sure to not leave any pieces behind in the skin.
5. Shave around abdominal incision site and clean with chlorhexidine solution.
6. Remove sutures from neck and back of head incision.
7. Use scissors, gauze, and/or shaver to clean build up from head incision margins.
   1. Remove enough of the scabbing so the skin can be seen and the area around the cement can be cleaned.
8. Shave around the entire perimeter of the head cap.
9. Clean neck incision and around head cap with chlorhexidine solution, including under any skin that is separated from the head cap cement.
10. If any incision sites or the head margins look irritated or unhealed, silver sulfadiazine (SSD) cream can be applied to sooth the area and to prevent infection.
11. Remove isoflurane and allow ferret to wake up in 114 EEI. Keep the ferret warm with blankets.
12. Once ferret is fully ambulatory, it can be taken back to home cage and given kibble.

\*\*\*Ferret should be under isoflurane for as short a duration as possible. Aim for about 30 minutes.\*\*\*