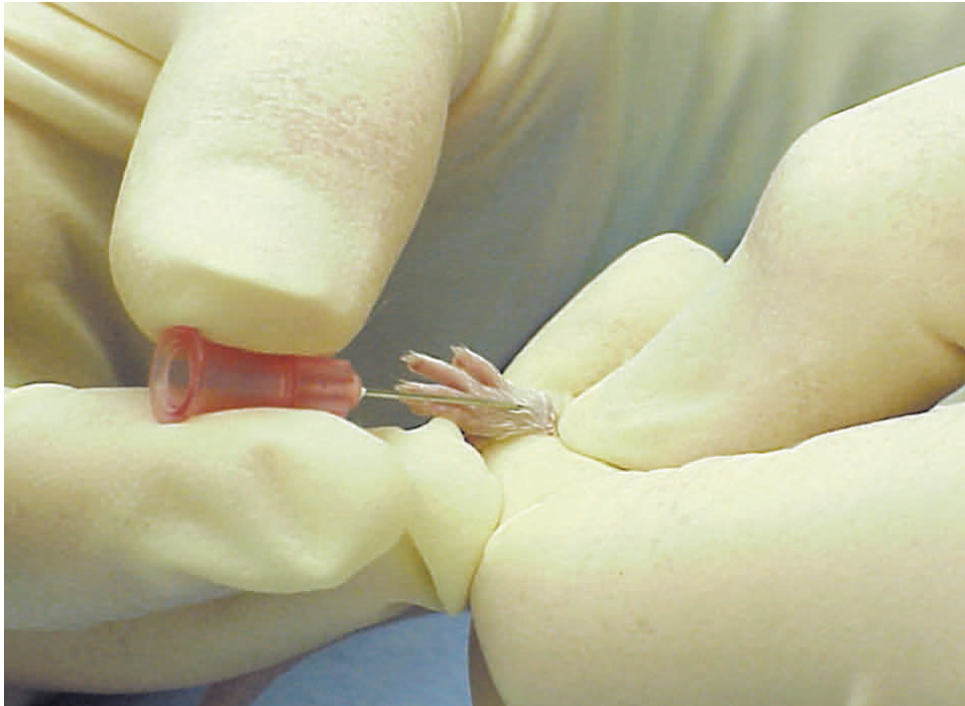


# Pedal Vein Bleed Mouse & Rat



The pedal vein is located on the dorsal surface of the hind foot. There is minimal fur in this area, so shaving is not necessary. The animal need not be anesthetized and manual restraint is often sufficient for this technique. Putting pressure on the ankle above the vessel can enlarge it. The skin can be moistened with sterile lubricant gel, if needed. Alcohol is not recommended, as it will allow the blood to seep across the skin, rather than form a drop for easy collection. A 25 g needle is used to puncture the vessel, being careful to not go through the foot. A blood drop should form which can be collected via a microhematocrit tube. Volumes are usually low, less than 10ul. **Limit attempts to a maximum of three punctures on one foot.** Once the blood drop has been collected, pressure should be applied to the puncture site until bleeding dissipates.