

## Care of Veterinary Syringes to Insure Proper Vaccination

Mel Pence DVM MS PAS Diplomate ABVP (beef cattle)

The University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory, Tifton, GA 229 386 3340 mepence@uga.edu  
Department of Large Animal Medicine, Food Animal Health and Management Program

1. Clean external with soap, water and brush.
2. Rinse inside components, including tubes and connectors with HOT water (>180 F) ...Should not use a soap or disinfectant on internal components ... residues of either soap or disinfectant will kill MLV vaccines.

**Metal syringes** that require taking a part should be boiled in water and re-assembled while hot. If boiling the parts is not possible ... do the following:

- 1) Clean work area ... don't try to work in an area subject to blowing dust,
- 2) wash external surface of syringes,
- 3) operator wash hands for 2 minutes,
- 4) cover clean work area in new clean paper towels,
- 5) disassemble syringes,
- 6) wash syringe parts with clean hot tap water ... limit wash to hot tap water only,
- 7) reassemble with small amount of CLEAN vaseline (buy squeeze tubes not jars),
- 8) **place syringe in NEW - clean zip-lock bag, 9) store in freezer,**
- 10) before use - rinse internal syringe with water that is almost boiling ...(boil 2 cups of water in Microwave and pull boiled water into syringe three times),
- 12) let syringe cool for five minutes before using MLV vaccines.

**Plastic syringes** can be heat sterilized in a microwave:

NOTE THIS IS ANOTHER METHOD OF STEAM/HEAT STERILIZATION ... MUST BE WET ... (tubes & syringe full of water) FOR PROCEDURE TO WORK ...After washing in plain water, leave wet and wrap in wet paper towels ... (If plastic automatic ... fill tube & syringe with water).Place wet paper towel wrapped syringe in zip-lock bag (leave top OPEN) Syringes should be individually wrapped in wet paper towels and spread flat in zip-lock bag on the bottom of the microwave ...Place in microwave for 1 to 10 minutes ... (1 minute per 1 60 cc or 3 10 cc...10 minutes for ~15 60 cc or ~30 10 cc syringes ... 5 minutes for 5cc automatic)

If microwaving for over 3 minutes DON'T LET THE PAPER TOWEL DRY OUT.

Check syringes every 2 to 3 minutes to insure paper towels are not drying excessively.

(THEY CAN CATCH ON FIRE IF MICROWAVED LONGER THAN 3 MINUTES DRY) ...

RE DAMPEN TOWELS OR ADD WATER TO ZIP-LOCK BAG IF NEEDED.

Note: Almost all of the water in the syringe will be gone when removed from the microwave ... but if any water remains squirt it out before using ...

Can use after allowing to cool from microwave for 5 to 10 minutes.

3. Store in dust free, dry (low humidity) environment ... **NEW zip-lock bag.. Freezer is best.**