Chinchilla jugular venipuncture. The jugular vein is generally the quickest and easiest site from which to obtain a blood sample on an awake chinchilla. Obtaining blood from this site is done in the same manner as drawing a blood sample from the jugular vein of a cat.

Rat femoral venipuncture. To obtain a blood sample from the femoral vein, first palpate the pulse of the femoral artery in the inguinal area. The nipple, indicated by the black arrow, can be used as a landmark to help find the pulse. This is also one of the easiest ways to obtain blood from a guinea pig.

Rat tail vein venipuncture. A small blood sample can be obtained from the tail vein in rats and mice. This can be accomplished using a 27- or 25-gauge needle with a hematocrit tube (pictured) or an insulin or tuberculin syringe.

Rat saphenous vein venipuncture. A small blood sample can be obtained from the lateral saphenous vein of most rodents. Because this vessel is small, it is difficult to draw blood from this vein. A 27-gauge needle with a hematocrit tube (pictured) or an insulin or tuberculin syringe should be used. The restrainer can hold off the vessel, or a small rubber band can be used as a tourniquet when necessary.

Various venipuncture sites.