Oral Gavage in the Mouse

The mouse is restrained in the non-dominant hand and held with its nose pointed towards the ceiling. The length of the gavage tube is measured externally from the tip of the nose to the last rib. After lubricating the tube with KY or other lubricant, the tube is directed to the left of the incisor teeth. Without placing pressure on the syringe, the tube is advanced into the stomach. The solution volume being no more than 1 to 2% of body weight is injected. The tube is removed following the same angle that was used to place it.

Under Non-Surgical Procedures #2, add: The animal will be observed for no less than 15 minutes after the procedure for signs of gasping, bleeding or frothing at the mouth or nose. If any if these signs are noticed the mouse will be euthanized immediately. After 24 hours the mice will be observed for abnormal swellings indicative of esophageal penetration and injection into the subcutaneous tissues of the neck.