

Table 3.1 lists the needle sizes appropriate for use with different sizes of dogs and cats.

All shelters should use approved medical waste (sharps) containers for disposal of used needles and syringes. Needles and syringes should never be discarded with general waste disposal as they are

a potential source of injury and/or infection. With the growing concern over medical waste, some local jurisdictions have strict regulations about the disposal of syringes and needles. Check with local health authorities to be sure that your shelter is meeting the proper standards.

**TABLE 3.1**  
**Common Needle Sizes for**  
**Various Methods of Injection**  
**(Anonymous 1996)**

SPECIES/SIZE	SUBCUTANEOUS (SC)	INTRAMUSCULAR (IM)	INTRAVENOUS (IV)	INTRACARDIAC (IC) (ONLY UNCONSCIOUS)
Dog/Large (over 60 lbs.)	20–22G x 1"	20–23G x 1"	20–22G x 1"	18–20G x 1 1/2"
Dog/Medium (30–60 lbs.)	20–22G x 3/4" or 1"	22–23G x 3/4"	20–23G x 3/4" or 1"	18–20G x 1" or 1 1/2"
Dog/Small (15–30 lbs.)	22G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	22–23G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	22–23G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	20G x 1" or 1 1/2"
Puppy (under 15 lbs.)	22G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	22–23G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	22–23G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	20–22G x 3/4" or 1"
Cat	22G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	22–23G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	23G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	22G x 3/4" or 1"
Kitten	22G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	27G x 5/8" or 25G x 5/8"	27G x 5/8" or 25G x 5/8"	22G x 3/4" or 1"
Rabbit	22G x 3/4" or 25G x 5/8"	27G x 5/8" or 25G x 5/8"	27G x 5/8," 22G x 3/4," or 25G x 5/8"	22G x 3/4"