

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME	POLICY NO. FW-21.00
	PAGE
REVISED: Feb. 7, 2005	APPROVED:
TITLE: USE OF PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS IN WILDLIFE	

To accomplish the mission of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department), it is sometimes necessary for Department personnel to capture, handle and transport a variety of wildlife for management, research and public safety purposes. Although physical capture and restraint techniques are used commonly, the safe and efficient handling of wildlife may require the administration of anesthetic agents. Administration of pharmaceutical agents may be needed to treat disease conditions or as adjunct therapy in some situations. The use of pharmaceutical agents is accepted as a necessary part of wildlife management activities. Pharmaceutical agents used include antibiotics, anthelmintics, anesthetics, and agents used for treatment of a variety of medical conditions.

The administration of most pharmaceutical agents in wildlife requires the involvement of a licensed veterinarian within the context of a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship. Federal and/or state rules require that animals in which pharmaceutical agents are used must be identified and a meat withdrawal time established.

The Department endorses the use of drugs for the immobilization of wildlife, provided that such use has been approved by the appropriate Regional Supervisor or the chief, Bureau of Wildlife; users have been properly trained and qualified; the choice of drugs, dosages, and methods of administration are appropriate for the species and situation; and all applicable federal and state laws and regulations are followed.

1. CLASSIFICATION OF ANESTHETIC AGENTS

- 1.1 For the purpose of this policy, the classification of drugs used to immobilize wildlife will be based on drug schedules as defined by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

ALLOWABLE USES OF ANESTHETIC AGENTS

- 2.1 Schedule II-V drugs may be used to capture or restrain wildlife for management, research or public safety purposes in situations where other methods of capture are not practical. Approval of the Regional Supervisor or the chief, Bureau of Wildlife is required for use of

Schedule II drugs.

2.1.1 The use of anesthetic agents for these purposes will be restricted to Department personnel who have been trained as described in Section 3.

2.2 The use of drugs within the agency will be reviewed and revised, if necessary, by the Drug Review Panel, composed of the State Drug Coordinator and the Regional Drug Coordinators.

3. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

3.1 All Department personnel that immobilize wildlife with pharmaceutical agents including scheduled (Schedule III-V) and non-scheduled drugs, are required to successfully complete a basic training course.

3.2 In addition to the basic training course, all Department personnel that immobilize wildlife with Schedule II narcotic drugs must successfully complete a specialized training course.

3.3 All Department personnel certified to use drugs for immobilizing wildlife must renew their certification every two years.

3.4 The State Drug Coordinator is responsible for developing and administering training and recertification courses.

4. ACQUISITION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND ANESTHETIC DRUGS

4.1 Schedule II-IV drugs will be ordered under the license of the State Wildlife Veterinarian who will act as the State Drug Coordinator. The procedures for ordering controlled substances required by the Drug Enforcement Administration will be followed. The drugs will be dispensed to the Regional Drug Coordinators upon request. Regional Drug Coordinators can dispense drugs only to regional personnel having met training requirements.

4.2 The Wildlife Veterinary Medical Officer and the Wildlife Health Technician may function in the process to order, store and dispense drugs under the direction of the State Drug Coordinator.

5. STORAGE AND TRANSFER OF PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS

5.1 With the exception of anesthetic agents, all drugs are to be kept in locked storage facilities when not in use.

5.2 Controlled substances and anesthetic agents are to be stored in safes that meet federal Class V or UL TL-15 specifications.

5.2.1 Only Department personnel authorized to use Schedule II narcotic drugs will have access to these agents.

5.3 All drugs are to be kept in locked, crush-proof containers while being transported or used in the field.

5.3.1 Drug transport containers must be labeled appropriately and include the name, address, and telephone number of the responsible Department personnel.

5.4 Disposal of outdated drugs, contaminated syringes, containers, and empty drug vials is to be by incineration locally as directed by the Regional Drug Coordinator or by return of such materials to the State Drug Coordinator.

5.5 Narcotic and non-narcotic drugs may be transferred between certified Department personnel, but each transfer must be documented on appropriate drug inventory records.

6. REPORTING AND RECORD-KEEPING FOR ANESTHETIC AGENTS

6.1 Regional Drug Coordinators will be responsible for maintaining a drug inventory record for all anesthetic agents (controlled substances and non-controlled anesthetic agents) within each region. Drug inventory record forms shall be updated each time anesthetic agents are acquired or used.

6.2 A capture record for each animal will be made and kept on file by the person doing the immobilization.

6.3 The State Drug Coordinator will provide drug inventory record and capture record forms.

6.3 Annual summaries of the use of anesthetic agents will be prepared on or before December 31 of each year by the Regional Drug Coordinator and given to the State Drug Coordinator. Annual summaries will include copies of at least the following information: a) Drug inventory records and b) Individual capture records.

7. FIELD USE OF IMMOBILIZING DRUGS

7.1 Each field team immobilizing wildlife will have a team leader certified for the schedule or type of drug used and responsible for the following:

- a) Appropriate first aid kit on hand
- b) Safety of public and Department personnel
- c) Humane treatment of animals

7.2 The use of immobilizing drugs in urban or other populated areas will be restricted to situations in which no other management option is feasible and will be limited to appropriately trained IDFG personnel. Approval of the Regional Supervisor or the Chief, Bureau of Wildlife, is required for

use of Schedule II narcotic drugs.

8. MEAT WITHDRAWAL TIMES FOR DRUGS USED IN WILDLIFE

- 8.1 The meat withdrawal time for a drug is the time from administration of the drug to the time when humans can safely consume the animal. The State Wildlife Veterinarian will establish meat withdrawal times for drugs commonly administered by Department personnel. This information will be maintained and updated as needed and provided to Department personnel as needed as per the accompanying procedures for this policy.
- 8.2 Identification of all animals that receive drugs and could be legally harvested during the meat withdrawal period will be done if the animal is to be released. Identification will be done using durable plastic ear tag containing a unique number and an appropriate notification warning (e.g. DO NOT COMSUME. Call IDFG XXX-XXX-XXXX). Information on ear tags will be recorded on the capture record form. Coordination of tags will be done by the State Drug Coordinator.
- 8.3 Department personnel that administer drugs to wildlife must forward the drug administration information (capture record form) to the State Drug Coordinator within 24 hours if drugs were administered to an animal during an active hunting season for the species, otherwise within 5 business days.
- 8.4 Animals harvested within the meat withdrawal period for the drug(s) should be condemned as unfit for human consumption. The carcass should be confiscated by Department personnel and disposed of appropriately to avoid consumption by humans or animals. The decision to issue a replacement tag will be made by the Regional Supervisor or the Bureau of Wildlife.