

POLICY NUMBER: 300.55  
DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_ Animal Control  
POLICY TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ Tranquilizing or Chemical Immobilization  
AGENCY (ies): \_\_\_\_\_ Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department  
AUTHORITY: \_\_\_\_\_ Health Director  
DRAFTED: \_\_\_\_\_ 02-01-77  
BOH: \_\_\_\_\_ 11-20-84  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_ 09-13-01 [~~10-15-08~~]  
APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ 09-28-01  
REVIEWED:

POLICY STATEMENT:

10. ~~Tranquilization for remote chemical capture are not to be implemented until all other methods of capture have been utilized. The Department will maintain a tranquilizer gun and blowguns to be used only in cases where the safety of the public and Animal Control Officer is in danger or the potential for such exists.~~
11. ~~The tranquilizer gun may be used on all wild or domestic animals when the animal cannot be captured by other means, when the animal has bitten or attacked someone, is threatening to bite or attack, or is suspected of being dangerous or rabid. All other uses of tranquilizer gun will be approved by Manager or Field Supervisor on a per case basis.~~
12. ~~Animals which have been tranquilized may not be used for slaughter or human consumption for a minimum of sixty days after the date of tranquilization.~~
13. ~~Only the trained Animal Control Officers are allowed to use the tranquilizer gun. One Officer, an ACO II, shall be assigned responsibility of training other officers and maintain a tranquilizer gun in his assigned vehicle. This officer shall be certified in the use of chemical immobilization.~~
14. ~~Tranquilizer gun shall not be used without Manager or Field Supervisor approval, assurance that adequate backup staff is available, and a veterinarian notified to stand by. If Manager and Field Supervisor cannot be contacted, the Animal Control Officer must use his discretion in approving use of the tranquilizer.~~
15. ~~The Field Supervisor or most senior ACOII and/or trained Animal Control Officer shall be in charge of the situation at the location of the animal to be immobilized.~~

PROCEDURE:

- I. ~~The trained Animal Control Officers will maintain the necessary tranquilizer drugs (Rompum, Telazol,) and stimulant (Yobine) in a drug box furnished for that purpose. Included in that drug box shall be at least the following: half inch (2") and one inch (1") darts, one inch (1") and two inch (2") disposable syringes, ammonia ampoules, and alcohol swabs. Accurate records (Exhibit 1) of use of all drugs must be kept by each officer and given to the Manager after each use. Ledger of record (Exhibit 2) will be kept by Manager.~~
- II. ~~Each vehicle of a trained Officer will be equipped with a jabpole for short range use.~~
- III. ~~The assigned Animal Control Officer will be responsible for transportation and use of tranquilizer rifle, if needed for a long range capture.~~
- IV. ~~When a domestic animal must be captured and meets the criteria (Policy Statement 1 and 2) for use of a tranquilizer, the Animal Control Officer shall notify dispatcher.~~
- V. ~~The dispatcher shall contact the Animal Control Manager, Field Supervisor or ACO II for approval of tranquilizer use. A Veterinarian will be contacted to be ready (stand~~

by) to receive any tranquilized domestic animal.

- ~~VI.~~ During period when the office is closed or the Manager ~~or Field Supervisor~~ or ~~ACO II cannot~~ be contacted, the Animal Control Officer II must use his own judgement as to when to use the tranquilizer and must file a detailed report.
- ~~VII.~~ Back up staff must be present and briefed prior to tranquilizing an animal. Back up staff is to assist in positioning the animal for delivery of the dart and to maintain visual contact of the animal until immobilization takes place. If they are not available, assistance must be obtained from other knowledgeable agencies (i.e. Police, Sheriff) before proceeding. If none is available, the Animal Control Office will weigh the hazards of tranquilizing the animal vs. the danger the animal poses to the public.
- ~~VIII.~~ Accurate estimates of weight must be made to reduce risk of overdosing or underdosing animals. (Exhibit 3).
  - ~~A.~~ Dosages for large and small animal concentrations of Rompum: Rompum should be used for live capture of domestic animals and injected into the muscle tissue — ( using the 2" appropriate dart).
  - ~~B.~~ Dosages for Telazol or other immobilization drugs used for cats, and other animals in conjunction with tranquilizing gun should be based on the table attached and other reference materials. ~~This drug can be thinned with water so that it injects easily.~~
  - ~~C.~~ Darts shall be loaded per instructions (Exhibit 4) with appropriate sized syringe and proper dosage of drug for tranquilization.
  - ~~D.~~ The ACO must make reasonable efforts to ensure the injection site is at an acceptable dart impact location on the animal (Exhibit 5).
  - ~~E.~~ ~~If captured animal is slow in recovering, the stimulant (Yobine) may be used to help speed up the process. Dosage rate is one (1) cc per ten (10) pounds injected under the skin with a one inch (1") syringe and no more than three (3) cc given in one body location.~~
  - ~~F.~~ ~~The ACO may use an ammonia ampoule when the animal fails to respond immediately. This will cause an involuntary reflex action in which the lungs take in air.~~
- ~~IX.~~ The Animal Control Officer will exercise good judgement and follow some basic guidelines when using the tranquilizer.
  - ~~A.~~ Every reasonable precaution will be taken in order to maintain the health and safety of the individuals in the area and the tranquilized animal.
  - ~~B.~~ Old animals, or animals which do not appear to be in good health, should not be tranquilized, if possible.
  - ~~C.~~ Every effort shall be made to recover darts shot before the animal is pursued further.

~~D. All used darts shall be destroyed and disposed of in the medical hazardous material container provided. This container, when full will be turned over to Health Department Lab for disposal.~~

~~E. Domestic animals that have been captured by tranquilization will immediately be transported to a veterinarian to insure the stabilization of the animal.~~

~~X. News media representatives will be provided with all reasonable assistance and cooperation without allowing them to interfere with the operation.~~

~~A. Media representatives will be courteously informed that they must keep a safe distance from the animal until adequate immobilization has been attained.~~

~~B. Requested information regarding the capture of the animal will be given by the Animal Control Manager or the Trained Animal Control Officer.~~

~~XI. Training Protocol~~

~~A. The Division Training Officer will attend a qualifying chemical immobilization course before instructing personnel on proper usage of tranquilizing equipment.~~

~~B. During the training period officers receiving training will read all equipment instruction materials and books provided by the Department.~~

~~C. Each ACO who is assigned a tranquilizer gun and equipment is responsible for care and maintenance of the items and for practice and review of training material on a regular basis to maintain a level of proficiency.~~

~~XII. Additional factors may need to be considered prior to making the decision to use chemical immobilization as each situation is different (Exhibit 6).~~

Date: 8-17-08 Officer: 95  
Drug: Call #: 80900

<input type="checkbox"/> Euthasol	_____ cc
<input type="checkbox"/> Fatal +	_____ cc
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Animal Rompom	_____ cc
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Animal Rompom	_____ cc
<input type="checkbox"/> Atropine	_____ cc
<input type="checkbox"/> Xylazine	_____ cc
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telazol	<u>2.0</u> cc
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____ cc

# of: 1/2" Dart \_\_\_\_\_ 1" Dart \_\_\_\_\_ Syringe \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pistol  Rifle  Jabpole  Other

Animal Type:  
 Raccoon  Possum  Skunk  Squirrel  
 Bird  Bat  Other dog

Place of Injection: right hip

Reason:  Rabid  Injured  Other: aggressive

Address where animal was picked up:  
2000 blk of M

Purpose:  Euthanasia  Tranquilize  
 Recorded Supervisor Approving: [Signature]

mchassis.odt 9-08

Animal Control  
 Record of Drugs Used

ACO 96	BEUTHANASIA					
Date Used	Location	Animal	Amount Used	Beginning Total	Total Used	Total Remaining
5/1/04	6646 PEGGY CIR	SQUIRREL	1.5	0	31.25	-31.25
5/31/04	1730 B ST	BAT	0.25			
5/31/04	329 H ST	SKUNK	10			
6/6/04	875 S 37TH ST	BAT	0.25			
6/19/04	4235 N 80TH ST	BLUE JAY	0.2			
7/3/04	S 24TH ST & VAN DORN ST	RABBIT	0.7			
7/5/04	2828 SHERIDAN BLVD	BAT	0.2			
7/10/04	3631 SPYGLASS LN	BIRD	1			
7/11/04	I-180 & CORNHUSKER HWY	DEER	13			
7/30/04	1344 D ST #B2	BAT	0.5			
8/5/04	400 B ST	RACCOON	2			
8/7/04	917 N 67TH ST	BAT	0.5			
8/9/04	5800 COLBY ST	SQUIRREL	1			
8/13/04	3244 VINE ST	CHICK	0.15			

**DOSAGE GUIDELINES FOR CHEMICALS USED IN THE CAPTURE OF A DOG**

<b>Body Weight</b>	<b>Telazon/ 5 cc H2O</b>	<b>Telazon/ 2.5 cc H2O</b>	<b>Rompun*/Xylazine</b>	<b>Yobine</b>
20 lbs	1.0 cc	0.50 cc	0.4 cc - 1.2 cc	0.50 cc
30 lbs	1.5 cc	0.75 cc	0.6 cc - 1.4 cc	0.75 cc
40 lbs	2.0 cc	1.00 cc	0.8 cc - 1.6 cc	1.00 cc
50 lbs	2.5 cc	1.25 cc	1.0 cc - 2.0 cc	1.25 cc
60 lbs	3.0 cc	1.50 cc	1.2 cc - 2.4 cc	1.50 cc
70 lbs	3.5 cc	1.75 cc	1.4 cc - 2.8 cc	1.75 cc
80 lbs	4.0 cc	2.00 cc	1.6 cc - 3.2 cc	2.00 cc
90 lbs	4.5 cc	2.25 cc	1.8 cc - 3.6 cc	2.25 cc
100 lbs	5.0 cc	2.50 cc	2.0 cc - 4.0 cc	2.50 cc

Yohimbine is given to awaken the animal more rapidly. Give equal amount of Yohimbine as Rompun given. Give IV or IM. IF it is given IV, care must be exercised as it will cause the animal to awaken very rapidly.

\* Rompum is not to be used on cats

NOTE: 1 cc = 1 ml

### TO FILL DART

Hold dart in vertical position and insert 2" 18 gauge hypodermic needle in dart needle and fill with required amount of drug. Cover hole in dart needle with vaseline.

Use "P" darts in our Air and CO<sub>2</sub> guns. Use "C" darts in our Cartridge Rifles. Can also be used in CAP-CHUR equipment and other 50 cal. dart guns with filled barrels.

When using "P" darts fold the rubber flaps to the rear of the dart before inserting in the muzzle of projector.

### CAUTION

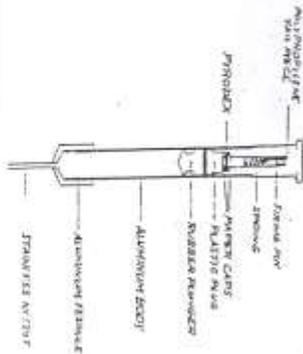
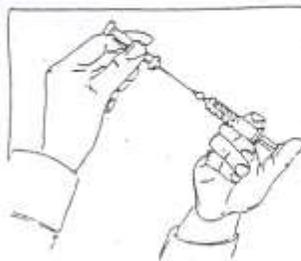
Do not shake or drop darts as they could detonate.

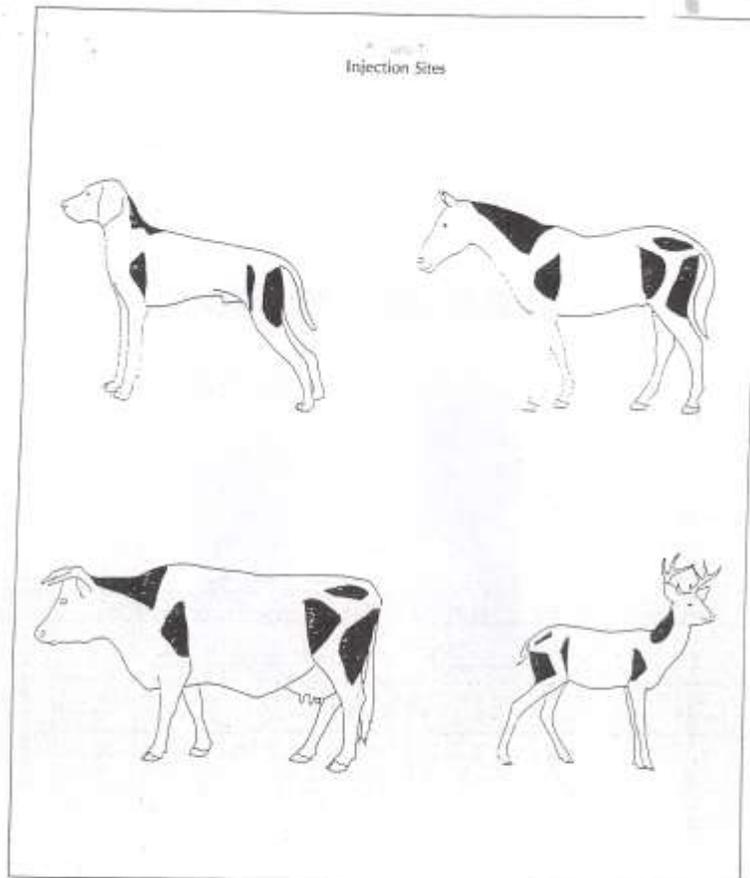
Do not leave darts in hot places as on dashboards of vehicles that sit in the sun.

Be careful when filling dart and hold needle opening away from your face.

Unfired darts should be handled with care and placed in an appropriate container.

Fired darts should be recovered when possible and disposed of in a safe manner.





The dark areas are acceptable dart impact locations. The muscle masses in the hind quarters are usually the safest.

### III. CONSIDERATIONS

- A. First and foremost to consider is the humaneness of the application of any technique.
  - 1. Maintain the objective of capturing the animal while inflicting the least amount of fear, pain, injury and stress.
  - 2. Safety and welfare of the animal must be assured.
- B. Moral, ethical, and philosophical considerations
  - 1. Chemical immobilization must not be considered as a routine procedure
    - a. It is a last resort procedure
    - b. It must only be implemented when all other alternatives have been exhausted
    - c. Physical capture is always preferable
    - d. At times physical capture followed by sedation is the best choice
    - e. The least severe method of capture, restraint and handling must be used
    - f. Only a few selected and well trained officers should have access to and authorization to use chemical immobilization equipment
  - 2. Persons administering drug must
    - a. Be willing to accept the responsibility for the life of the animal.
    - b. Possess the knowledge and qualifications to perform chemical capture.
    - c. Be aware of normal animal behavior, the pharmacology of the drugs used and their effect on the behavior and physiology, and the possible complications that may arise from the use of the drug.
    - d. Have a high regard for the safety and welfare of animals and an awareness of the value of animal life.
    - e. Be prepared to face possible litigation and erosion of the professional credibility and public image of the animal control agency should injury or death of the target animal occur.
    - f. Set aside adequate time for target practice to maintain skills
    - g. Continually seek out updated information on chemical immobilization issues
    - h. Give proper maintenance to equipment
  - 3. Death/injury of the animal may occur
    - a. Chemical immobilization should never be employed as an instrument for long range euthanasia.
    - b. Injuries and mortalities must be reported, investigated and reviewed with corrective action taken to prevent repetition.
- C. Pre-Immobilization considerations
  - 1. Purpose
    - a. Must be justified
      - 1. Is there a threat or danger to the public if the animal remains at large?
      - 2. Is the animal injured and in need of medical care?
      - 3. Is the animal exposed to injury, harassment or death?
      - 4. Have all other methods of capture been exhausted?

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Exhibit 6

2. Type of animal
  - a. Is it exotic, indigenous to area, domesticated?
    1. Does outside expertise need to be contacted?
  - b. How will this type of animal react to a capture attempt and/or immobilization?
  - c. Do you know the safest technique for this species?
  - d. When darted, is it likely to
    1. Charge
    2. Try to escape
  - e. How susceptible is it to stress and self injury?
  - f. Are there young to be dealt with?
3. What is the general condition of the animal?
  - a. Physical factors that effect immobilization
    1. Is it over or under normal weight?
    2. Does it appear to be sickly, injured, or pregnant?
    3. What is the age of the animal?
4. What is the mental state of the animal?
  - a. Adrenalin release in frightened or challenged animals will enact the "flight or fight" response
  - b. Avoid chasing the animal before or after darting
  - c. The higher the level of stress and/or excitement, the lower your chances of success
5. Observe the area around you
  - a. Hazardous areas to avoid that may cause injury
    1. Bodies of water
    2. Rugged terrain such as steep hills, cliffs, excavations
    3. Heavy traffic
  - b. Is the area open or is there cover available?
    1. Can the animal be approached unobserved within darting range?
    2. Are there areas of dense cover where the animal can disappear after darting?
    3. Remember that it takes time for the drugs to take effect
    4. Is there an area for containment of the animal following darting?
  - c. Is the area highly populated?
    1. Are you likely to attract spectators?
    2. News media (refer to dealing with media in sample procedure)
6. Time of day
  - a. Keep in mind the length of time needed to complete the capture and to monitor the drugged animal after capture until it recovers
  - b. When an nonreversible drug is used, recovery time is much greater
  - c. You want to avoid searching for a drugged animal in the dark
  - d. Some animals are more susceptible to drugs after being active during the day
7. Time of year
  - a. Physical condition of animals is generally better during the summer and fall
  - b. Seasonal issues such as pregnancy, lactation, and rutting must be considered

- c. Thick winter coats and fat will effect darting
- d. Weather considerations
  - 1. Drugs affect the animals ability to regulate it's body temperature
  - 2. Be prepared to protect the drugged animal against the elements
  - 3. Weather can affect trajectory of dart and working ability of equipment
- 8. Resources and equipment available
  - a. The proper type of delivery equipment and drugs must be considered. Detailed information will be covered later in this course
  - b. Someone with knowledge of emergency equipment and how to use it must be present.
  - c. Person or persons (preferably a veterinarian) with ability to handle animal medical emergencies
    - 1. Hypo or hyperthermia
    - 2. Shock
    - 3. Circulatory, digestive (bloat) and respiratory problems
    - 4. Physical injuries
    - 5. Drug reactions
  - d. Adequate numbers of trained support staff for backup
  - e. May need police officers for traffic and crowd control