



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO VETERINARIANS

"Dedicated to wildlife health and conservation"

581705 White Oak Road • Yulee, Florida, 32097 • 904-225-3275 • Fax 904-225-3289

ELECTROIMMOBILIZATION

AVMA Policy - The AVMA does not support the use of electroimmobilization for animal restraint.

Introduction - Electroimmobilization is the use of electrical current to restrain conscious animals by causing paralysis. The direct action of electrical current on animal's muscle and/or nervous systems is used to prevent animals from moving. There is concern that electroimmobilization is a source of distress because animals are believed to be conscious and aware of their surroundings and experiences, but unable to respond. In addition, physical discomfort may result due to loss of bodily control, sustained overstraining of muscles and labored or suspended respiration.

AAZV Position- Support

Purpose - Speculation that electro-immobilization might produce some analgesic or anesthetic effects is not clearly supported anecdotally or experimentally. Nevertheless electroimmobilization along the spine has sometimes been discussed as if it produces "*surgical anesthesia*" or causes "*pain to be blocked out*" for procedures on animals such as turtles.

Justification - These uses are not supported by any research at this time and electroimmobilization should *not* be considered a form of anesthesia or analgesia.

Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, Dipl. ACZM

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President, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians

Director of Animal Health and Research

Director of Emergency Medical Services

The Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132-1711