

1994. ABSTRACT. Page 24 in WRCC-95 Annual Meeting
(November 16-17, 1994, Reno, Nevada)

ALPHA-CHLORALOSE USE AS AN IMMOBILIZING AGENT

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Abstract:

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program has been pursuing authorization for use of the immobilizing agent alpha-chloralose to capture and relocate problem waterfowl, coots and pigeons since 1989. After completion of numerous laboratory and field studies that were conducted by the Denver Wildlife Research Center (DWRC) in 1990 and 1991, this valuable wildlife management tool became available in 1993 for use by the ADC Program. ADC Program use of alpha-chloralose is allowed by a continuing Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and its use is strictly controlled.

Under the INAD, only specifically trained ADC personnel or trained individuals under the direct supervision of ADC personnel are allowed to use alpha-chloralose for capturing waterfowl, coots and pigeons. The drug is available for these species through the Pocatello Supply Depot (PSD) and access is controlled by ADC State Directors. Because of FDA requirements, exacting records have to be maintained on the amount of alpha-chloralose used and the numbers of animals captured. These records are compiled and reported to FDA semi-annually. The ADC Program has also implemented an internal training and certification program for alpha-chloralose use and has completed an alpha-chloralose training manual.

Now that ADC use of alpha-chloralose has begun, DWRC, the APHIS Technical and Scientific Services (TSS) and the ADC Operational Support Staff (OSS) are addressing issues concerning the 30-day holding period required for huntable species, the expansion of authorized uses to cover other species of interest to the ADC Program, and procedures designed to allow the use of alpha-chloralose by non-ADC personnel for scientific or research purposes. In addition, this group is preparing guidelines for the use of alpha-chloralose when it is requested by Pest Control Operators (PCO's). During 1993 DWRC generated and submitted data to FDA to allow the expansion of current uses to include ravens and other Corvids. The ADC Program is attempting to provide access to all bona-fide users of alpha-chloralose, while assuring that sufficient data and records are generated to meet FDA requirements, and that sufficient control will be exercised to maintain the availability of the drug for continued use.