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LETTER TO THE EDITOR . . .

On the Use of Succinylcholine in Elk

We are writing in response to information given in the article: "Efficacy of Triclanbendazole Against Natural Infections of *Fascioloides magna* in Wapiti" in Journal of Wildlife Diseases 27(4)1991, pp. 599–605.

Starting on page 599 it is stated that 14 adult wapiti were immobilized solely with succinylcholine chloride and subsequently antlers were removed in the males with no additional analgesia or anesthesia provided. Due to the strictly paralytic nature of succinylcholine chloride we feel the elk were subjected to an unacceptable level of pain and stress. Cost and ease of use do not preclude the humane treatment of animals, especially when alternative means are available, such as the xyalzine later listed in the study.

Publication of the above article, although providing valuable scientific information, condones an unacceptable protocol which we believe is not in the best interests of the journal or the organization.

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