



February 13, 2016

All Wildlife Diseases, All Conservation, All One Health, All the Time!

NEWS ON ARTICLES FROM JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 52(2)s

Health of wildlife, domestic species and human beings, and the environments that support them (One Health), has been a focus of the Wildlife Disease Association for more than 50 years. The **Wildlife Welfare special issue** of Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD) issue 52(2)s has several articles with particular conservation and wildlife management significance that we would like to make you aware of.

In Barbados a unique relationship has developed between endangered green sea turtles and humans. It started when discarded offal from fishing boats attracted turtles and has now become a popular tourist attraction. In **EFFECTS OF "SWIM WITH THE TURTLES" TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ON GREEN SEA TURTLE (*CHELONIA MYDAS*) HEALTH IN BARBADOS, WEST INDIES** a team from **Barbados, St. Kitts, UK and Georgia, USA** led by **Kimberly Stewart** explored how tourism-based human interactions affected health risks for sea turtles. Recommendations were made to decrease negative behaviors and health impacts for turtles.

Capture and translocation of large ungulates is a widely used wildlife management tool but may cause fear and stress that can hamper overall effectiveness and safety. **Lisa Wolfe** and **Michael Miller** of **Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife** summarize advances made over the last ten years in **USING TAILORED TRANQUILIZER COMBINATIONS TO REDUCE STRESS ASSOCIATED WITH LARGE UNGULATE CAPTURE AND TRANSLOCATION**. These include using combinations of midazolam and azaperone immediately upon capture for tranquilization and muscle relaxation during manual restraint and to prevent hyperthermia and capture myopathy. Also additions of a sustained-release haloperidol for extended tranquilization during transport and overnight holding. These combinations benefits captured animals without impeding management or research goals.

In **ASSESSMENT OF THE RATES OF INJURY AND MORTALITY IN WATERFOWL CAPTURED WITH FIVE METHODS OF CAPTURE AND TECHNIQUES FOR MINIMIZING RISKS**, researchers from **The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust** led by **Michelle O'Brien** compared injury rates in ducks, geese, swans and rails. The capture techniques included swan pipes, duck decoys, cage traps, cannon netting, and roundups. Total rate of injury (including mild dermal abrasions) was 0.42% across all species groups, and total mortality was 0.1% across all capture methods. Techniques used before, during, and after a capture to reduce stress and injury in captured waterfowl are described.

Poaching, poisoning and other challenges to conservation programs for iconic species are now often requiring that they be captured, held and translocated to other parks or safe areas. Michelle Miller and a team from Stellenbosch University, South African National Parks and Colorado State University describe **A SCORING SYSTEM TO IMPROVE DECISION MAKING AND OUTCOMES IN THE ADAPTATION OF RECENTLY CAPTURED WHITE RHINOCEROSSES (*CERATOTHERIUM SIMUM*) TO CAPTIVITY**. By day 8 of captivity scores were able to sort out those that were adapting from those that were not. Seventeen of the 94 adult and sub-adult rhinoceroses did not adapt to boma confinement, and 16 were released, with only 1 mortality.

LEUKOCYTE COPING CAPACITY (LCC) AS A TOOL TO ASSESS CAPTURE- AND HANDLING-INDUCED STRESS IN SCANDINAVIAN BROWN BEARS (*URSUS ARCTOS*), by a large team of researchers from Austria, Norway, Sweden, Spain and Saskatchewan, Canada led by Núria Fandos Esteruelas, describes a new method of monitoring stress. In 24 wild brown bears they found 1) LCC values following capture were lower in solitary bears than in bears in family groups suggesting capture caused relatively more stress in solitary bears, 2) ability to cope with handling stress was better (greater LCC values) in bears with good body condition, and 3) LCC values did not appear to be influenced by telemetry implantation surgery (done in 19 of 24).

Abstracts of these and other articles in JWD 52(2)s are available at the WDA website under Publications. If are interested in getting access to the full article contact wda.manager@gmail.com

