

# Presentation Information



**TEXAS**  
Department of State Health Services




**Practical  
Vet Med  
SEMINARS**




**Longview**  
ANIMAL CARE & ADOPTION CENTER

## Euthanasia Techniques

Presented by Wendy Blount, D.V.M.




## Injection Cephalic Vein



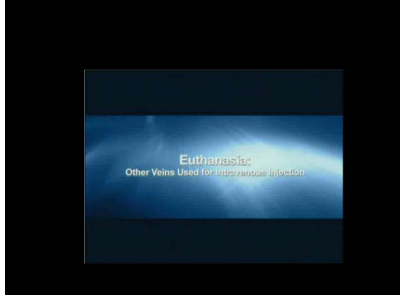
9:23

2

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## Injection Other Veins

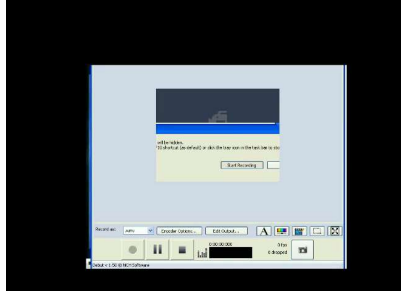


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## Intraperitoneal Injection




7:03

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## Intracardiac Injection




3:36

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## Verification of Death



5:22

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### Euthanasia of Wildlife

- Consult with game warden before euthanizing protected species
- Assume all rabies vector species to be infected with rabies
  - Skunk
  - Bat
  - Raccoon
  - Fox, coyote
- Send head for rabies examination if any people or domestic animals exposed


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### Euthanasia of Wildlife

- Birds
  - **Intracoelemic** injection just below the breast bone
  - 0.3cc/lb body weight; 3 cc/10 lb body weight
- Small Mammals
  - Rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, hamsters, etc.
  - Anesthetize, then IP or IC injection
  - IP without sedation if can be safely restrained


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### Euthanasia of Wildlife

- Reptiles
  - Must be sedated prior to euthanasia
    - Especially turtles and tortoises (why?)
  - Requires supervision of a veterinarian
  - Know how to identify poisonous snakes
  - 2-3cc pentobarbital/10 lbs
  - Reptiles can feign death, and heart rate can fall to a few per minute and still be alive
  - Death can take a day or two


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### Euthanasia of Livestock

- Gunshot to the head commonly used
  - May need to follow with shot to the heart
- If euthanized with pentobarb, the animal can not be used for food
  - Wildlife can be poisoned
- Cattle in a chute or sedated
- Horse euthanasia only by the experienced
  - 120cc solution attached to an IV line
  - Horse can rear after injected
  - Must be clear of the horse when falling


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### Euthanasia of Livestock

- Cattle, sheep and goats
  - Inject jugular vein
- Pigs
  - **Sedate** then IC injection
  - Thick fat layer makes IV injection very difficult, unless the ear vein is used
  - The squealing is unbearable
  - Sometimes can hit the ear vein with sedation
  - Experienced pig handlers can hit the jugular vein, but it takes practice.


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### Euthanasia of Livestock

- **AAEP Euthanasia Guidelines**
  - **IV pentobarbital is preferred**
  - Gunshot to the brain is acceptable
  - Captive bolt is acceptable
  - IV potassium chloride after sedation is acceptable
  - Alternatives may be necessary under special circumstances


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### Euthanasia of Livestock

- **AVMA** – captive bolt OK for cattle, horses, swine
- **AABP** – captive bolt OK for cattle
  - Followed by exsanguination or pithing
- Non-penetrating captive bolt guns should not be used


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### Euthanasia of Aquatic Animals

- Agents approved by the FDA as tranquilizers and anesthetics for finfish have been used extralabel as euthanasia agents for aquatic animals.
  - MS 222 – Tricaine methane sulfonate (TSM)
  - Finquel®, Tricaine-S®
- Benzocaine hydrochloride gel can be applied to the belly of the fish
- Immersion in low concentration ethanol can also be used


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### Injection Tips

- **Quickly check needle for barbs to prevent painful injection**
  - Cheap needles will become dull or barbed with a single pass through the drug bottle
  - Change the needle for comfort (2 needles per animal, or leave 18g needle in vial)
- **If you must recap a needle, use the one handed technique (demo)**
- **Keep a syringe of 8-10 cc of pentobarbital ready, in case re-injection is needed**
  - If not needed by the end of the day, return to the drug supply bottle in the safe

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### IV Injection

- **Unconsciousness within less than a minute**
- **Things that can delay onset of death**
  - Mental state – excitement
    - sedate
  - Poor circulation
    - Dehydration
    - Shock
    - Heart failure
    - After a large meal (xylazine can cause vomiting)
    - Inherent drug tolerance

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