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## **Animal Control Capture Methods - Chemical Immobilization**

### **Guideline Statement**

Tranquilizer guns do have value under certain circumstances, but should only be used after the officer has received proper training, and then only as a last resort when all other methods of capture have failed. Tranquilization should be used only when the animal or the community is at risk if the animal remains at large.

### **Basis for Guideline**

Tranquilizer guns and the drugs received for immobilization pose inherent dangers to the animal, the officer or a bystander. A variety of factors such as the weather, and the physical condition of animal, can vary the success rate.

### **Guideline Recommendation**

When tranquilization must be used it may be necessary to contact appropriate agencies to maintain crowd or traffic control. The procedure should be performed with a veterinarian/consultation whenever possible. Complete documentation pertaining to the procedure should be kept, including, but not limited to, medical observations before, during, and after chemical immobilization. Adequate personnel should be on hand to maintain visual contact with the animal until immobilization takes effect.

Reviewed/Revised by the NACA Corporate Office - 09/17/02

The foregoing Guideline has been affirmed as duly adopted by the NACA Board of Directors.

***John W. Mays***

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