

**DOG HEALTH PROGRAM
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**



PROTOCOL - JUNE 2004

PROTOCOL FOR THE USE OF CONTROLLED DRUGS AS PART OF A DOG HEALTH PROGRAM IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

A Poisons Permit for the purchase of Moxidectin, Proligestone and Pentobarbitone is issued by the Western Australian Department of Health to enable the permit holder to purchase these drugs for use in accordance with this protocol.

It is a condition of each Poison Permit that the permit holder must ensure any person working within the Dog Health Program and having access to and using any of these drugs, must be competent in their handling and use. Such competency has been determined to be the successful completion of a training course which is supervised by the Veterinary School at Murdoch University. Personnel who have satisfactorily completed this training will be provided with a certificate outlining their proficiency.

Trained officers with a leave of absence, for a continuous period of greater than six months will be required to participate in a refresher course which is to be determined by the Veterinary School at Murdoch University.

Responsibilities of the Permit Holder

1. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that only personnel with the required competency have access to the drugs used in the administration of the dog health program and that in all instances the correct recording and reporting procedures are followed for the purchase, supply, administration and disposal of each drug
2. The permit holder must obtain a copy of the competency certificate, issued by the Veterinary School at Murdoch University, for each person working within their geographical location and a copy of each certificate is to be kept on file.
3. The permit holder must ensure that each person working within the Dog Health Program keeps accurate records, using the template provided by the Department of Health for recording data. These records are to be forwarded to the permit holder within 7 days from the end of each calendar month.
4. The permit holder must forward to the Department of Health a report within 7 working days from the end of September, December, March and June which summarises the data collected over the reporting period. Each reporting period, will outline for each location listed on the permit, the amount of drug that has been purchased, used or destroyed during this period together with a report detailing the name of each Community treated, number of dogs treated and the total volume of each drug used.

The three monthly reports may be faxed or emailed to:

Chief Pharmacist

Department of Health

Pharmaceutical Services Branch

Email address: poisonsinfo@health.wa.gov.au

Fax: (08) 93884988

5. Copies of the information which is relevant to each community should be forwarded to the community where the treatments have been conducted for their information and any comment

6. The permit holder must be advised of any Schedule 4 drugs that require disposal and make arrangements for their destruction in compliance with the *Poisons Regulations 1965*.

The information forwarded to the Department of Health is collated and forms a statistical basis from which future health initiatives may be based to ensure continuing improvements in the health of the Aboriginal Population and their dogs.

MOXIDECTIN

Administration:

Moxidectin (Cydectin Pour-On for Cattle and Red Deer) is only to be administered topically (on the skin) at a dose rate of 500 micrograms/kg (1 ml per 10 kg live weight).

Storage:

The preparation is to be stored in a locked cupboard or locked refrigerator, away from children and unauthorised adults at a temperature below 30°C (Do not freeze). Skin and eye contact should be avoided at all times and if accidentally swallowed immediately contact the Poisons Information Centre on 131126 or the nearest medical centre for advice. If accidental spilling on the skin occurs, the area should be washed with soap and water.

Frequency of Administration:

Moxidectin is not to be administered more than twice in a period of fourteen days. For dog health programs, the drug is recommended to be administered every three months. For the immediate cure of sarcoptic mange in individual dogs, the treatment may be given twice with an interval of fourteen days between each administration.

Animals:

Dogs to be treated must be six weeks old (weaned) or older. Pregnant or lactating bitches may be treated at the standard dose rates.

Equipment:

Automatic dispensing guns that are set to deliver a 1 ml dose may be used for dispensing moxidectin. If syringes are used to administer moxidectin on the skin they should initially be flushed with cooking oil.

After dispensing moxidectin it is strongly recommended that people wash their hands with soap and water. Care is to be taken to avoid excessive contact with the Moxidectin solution, or inadvertent contamination of food stuffs.

PROLIGESTONE

Administration:

Proligestone (Covinan, Intervet Australia - 20ml vials) is to be administered by subcutaneous injection between the shoulder blades. Dose rates to be used are as recommended by the manufacturer at 10 - 33 milligrams/kg.

Storage:

The preparation is to be stored in a locked cupboard or locked refrigerator away from children and unauthorised adults at a temperature below 25°C. Do not freeze.

Frequency of Administration:

Proligestone is not to be administered more frequently than every three months.

Animals:

Only bitches are to be treated with Proligestone. They must be older than three months of age and preferably close to six months of age at the commencement of treatment. Pregnancy status should be determined before injection and pregnant animals should not be administered Proligestone. Proligestone will not terminate the pregnancy but may prolong it.

Equipment for Use:

Subcutaneous injections of Proligestone are to be given with a 5ml syringe and a 21 gauge, 1 inch needle.

PENTOBARBITONE

Administration:

Pentobarbitone (300 - 320mg/ml) (eg Valabarb Euthanasia Solution, Jurox 500 ml, Apex Euthanasia Solution, Apec Laboratories 100ml vial) is to be administered by the intravenous or intracardiac injection for rapid euthanasia. Intraperitoneal and intrathoracic administration of barbiturates is accompanied by extreme pain and is not regarded as humane. Pentobarbitone is only to be used for the euthanasia of dogs. The owner's consent must be obtained and it is the administrator's responsibility to ensure that only the correct animals are euthanised.

The Australian Veterinary Association's guidelines on the humane destruction of dogs must be adhered to at all times.

Storage:

Pentobarbitone is to be stored in a locked cupboard or locked refrigerator away from children and unauthorised adults at a temperature below 30°C. Do not freeze.

Access to the key to this cupboard is restricted to personnel nominated in writing by the permit holder and the key is to be held by the permit holder or his/her appointed deputy. The key to this cupboard should be coded- restricted cut access. It is ideal if pentobarbitone can be stored in a drug cabinet in a pharmacy or clinic.

Dosage and Packaging:

Pentobarbitone solution should only be purchased in concentrations of 300 - 350mg/ml. The pack size should not exceed 500ml and the stock holding for an area is not to exceed 1000ml.

Pentobarbitone is to be administered at the dose rate recommended by the manufacturer which is usually 1ml/2kg (volume dosage).

Disposal of Carcasses:

All animals euthanised by Pentobarbitone are to be buried or burnt. Access of other animals to the carcasses must be prevented and carcasses are not to be used for any other purposes (eg. food stuffs).

Animals must be confirmed dead (no heart beat or breathing) at the completion of the injection.

Equipment for Use:

A syringe with a volume of up to 10ml attached to a 21 gauge, 1 inch needle is recommended for intravenous injection. Intracardiac injections are best performed with a 21 gauge 1 ½ inch needle.

Animals:

Only dogs may be euthanised using Pentobarbitone. Euthanasia of animals only forms a small component of dog health programs and it must be practised with due care and responsibility.

Dogs of all ages may be euthanised with Pentobarbitone. At no time are animals (of any type) to be euthanised by any other means than those stipulated in the Australian Veterinary Associations policy guidelines. These guidelines prohibit the use of other drugs (eg Paracetamol) or poisons (eg Strychnine).

DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT

Needles used to administer drugs must be disposed of immediately after use in a sharps container. These containers, once full, are to be given to a hospital or community clinical staff member who is responsible for the disposal of other medical waste. Syringes once used should be disposed of in sharp disposal containers or given to hospitals or community clinic staff.

OTHER DRUGS:

Moxidectin replaces the need to use other anthelmintics. Although there is no contraindication for simultaneous use, other anthelmintics are not recommended to be used together with Moxidectin. Proligestone must not be used in any animal receiving other fertility control drugs.

Topical organophosphates are not recommended as part of dog health programs and their use should be replaced with Moxidectin.

Any animals receiving treatment by a veterinarian are not to be treated with either Moxidectin or Proligestone.

INFORMATION TO BE RECORDED:

Each time any of these drugs are used the following information must be recorded:

1. . community's name.
2. . the name of the dog owner (or house number).
3. . total dose or volume of drug used.
4. . date of administration.
5. name and signature of person administering the drug.

This information must be reported to the permit holder within 7 days of the end of each calendar month.

LOCATION:

Moxidectin, Proligestone and Pentobarbitone are only to be used in those communities participating in dog health programs. They are not to be used in any animal under the care of a veterinarian. Individual animals within towns that are not part of the dog health program are not to be treated with these drugs.

Dog Health Program Protocol.doc

COMMUNITY

DATE

	Owners Name	Dogs Name (or House Number)	Sex	Age	Proligestone mls	Moxidectin Pour-on	Pentobarbitonemg/ml	Comments
						mls	mls	
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

Print Name:

Signature

Position

Date: