

# Animal Chemical Immobilization/Euthanasia

## 812.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the safe and effective use of chemical immobilization equipment and the drugs used to anesthetize animals.

### 812.1.1 DEFINITIONS

**Chemical Capture** - The immobilization of an animal for the purpose of capture. It is most commonly accomplished by projection delivery of a dart containing an anesthetizing drug from a remote delivery system (rifle, pistol, blowpipe, pole syringe). Chemical capture is used when all other methods of capture are exhausted or public safety and/or the safety of the Animal Control Officer are compromised.

**Euthanasia** - The act of humanely ending the life of a living being in order to end extreme suffering, typically as the result of a serious and irreversible injury or illness. When possible, injured animals (owned, domestic, stray and wildlife) will be transported to the nearest contracted veterinary facility or rehabilitation center, however, emergency euthanasia is occasionally necessary to be performed in the field.

## 812.2 TRAINING

The use of chemical immobilization equipment requires mandated training as set forth in the California Penal Code § 597.1 (a)(2)(A-D). Only trained and certified personnel are allowed to use chemical immobilization equipment.

Training requirements are as follows per Penal Code § 597.1 (a)(2)(B-E):

- PC 832 Course (Firearms Component Only)
- Completion of Euthanasia Training (as set forth in Section 2039 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. Penal Code 597.1 (a) 2 (C).
- A minimum requirement of 4 hours of controlled substance training provided by a California Licensed Veterinarian
- Completed State and Federal Fingerprinting background checks and may not have any drug or alcohol related convictions.

## 812.3 DRUG TYPES/USE/STORAGE

Animal Control Officers will store drugs in a locked drug storage container mounted in the Animal Control vehicle while on duty. After hours, drugs are stored in a wall-mounted combination safe located in the Traffic Office.

- Ketamine/Xylazine mixture (Anesthetics)
- Sodium Pentobarbital (Euthanasia)

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### **812.4 RECORDKEEPING**

A Drug Log shall be maintained. Each drug vial is assigned a number with an accompanying Log Sheet. The Log shall contain the date, case number, amount used and signature of the authorized Animal Control Officer. When drug vial is spent, the accompanying Log Sheet will be returned to the Tri-City Shelter and a copy will be scanned into SLPD's Records Management System.

In addition, a Chemical Immobilization Form must be completed each time chemical immobilization occurs. These Forms will be stored in the Records Management System in accordance with Department recordkeeping requirements.

Oversight of drugs and logs will be the responsibility of the Traffic Sergeant.