



## Book Review

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## BOOK REVIEW . . .

**Chemical Immobilization of North American Wildlife**, L. Nielson, J. C. Haigh, and M. E. Fowler, eds. Wisconsin Humane Society, Inc., 4151 North Humboldt Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212, USA. 1982. 447 pp. \$18.50 US.

The book, "Chemical Immobilization of North American Wildlife" is a compilation of 29 manuscripts written by researchers, veterinarians and wildlife biologists which form the proceedings of the North American Symposium: Chemical Immobilization of Wildlife held April 4–6, 1982 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and sponsored by the Wisconsin Humane Society.

This publication represents the first readily accessible source of information specifically relating to the chemical restraint of North American species of mammals, birds and reptiles. The first 164 pages deal with technological, pharmacological, medical and physiological aspects of restraint relating primarily to mammalian species. The subsequent 284 pages of this lengthy proceedings focus on chemical and physical restraint of North American species including, most specifically ruminants, carnivores and very generally birds and reptiles. Although this represents the general format a few papers are unfortunately out of sequence. The text contains a large number of charts (some of which are confusing), line drawings, and black and white photographs of moderate quality. As with most symposia proceedings no index is provided. The text does suffer some of the problems inherent to proceedings of symposia including: (1) the formats of the papers are inconsistent, (2) the quality of the papers varies

greatly, and (3) some of the papers are highly technical and well edited while a few are superficial, contain erroneous information, and are poorly edited. Additionally, much of the initial 164 pages contains information which has been published previously in other texts dealing with chemical restraint and medical care for captive and free-living wildlife. In contrast some papers, such as "Mechanical Capture as a Preliminary to Chemical Immobilization and the Use of Taming and Training to Prevent Post Capture Stress" and "Chemical Immobilization of Captive White-tailed Deer and the Use of Automatic Blood Samplers," present recent and novel approaches to problems which have persisted in the arena of chemical restraint for years. Although the title of the text identifies chemical immobilization as the major topic, inhalation (volatile) anesthesia is only mentioned in the paper titled "Chemical Immobilization of Birds." It is unfortunate that the critical topics of respiratory physiology, assisted ventilation, and remedial respiratory therapy were not addressed as important aspects of chemical restraint in animals.

Overall, this publication provides valuable information which is of practical and scientific value and should be included in the library of wildlife veterinarians, field biologists, and investigators concerned with the chemical restraint of wildlife.

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