

# Pika Handling

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# What techniques have been used?

- Destructive sampling
- No anesthesia
  - Very common
  - David Hik (U. of Alberta) ear tagged and sexed >1000 pikas/+15 yrs using a gentle but firm grip
- Isoflurane
  - Passive diffusion (cotton ball method)
    - E.g., Chris Ray's method
  - Continuous flow vaporizer
- Other drugs?

# Our experience - Isoflurane

## Method 1: Cotton Ball

- Easy method logistically
- Short duration of anesthesia (sec-min)
- Need to re-anesthetize multiple times for extended handling/sampling



## Method 2: Flow Vaporizer

- More logistically intensive
- Longer duration of anesthesia
- Respiratory depression experienced
- Mortality during recovery



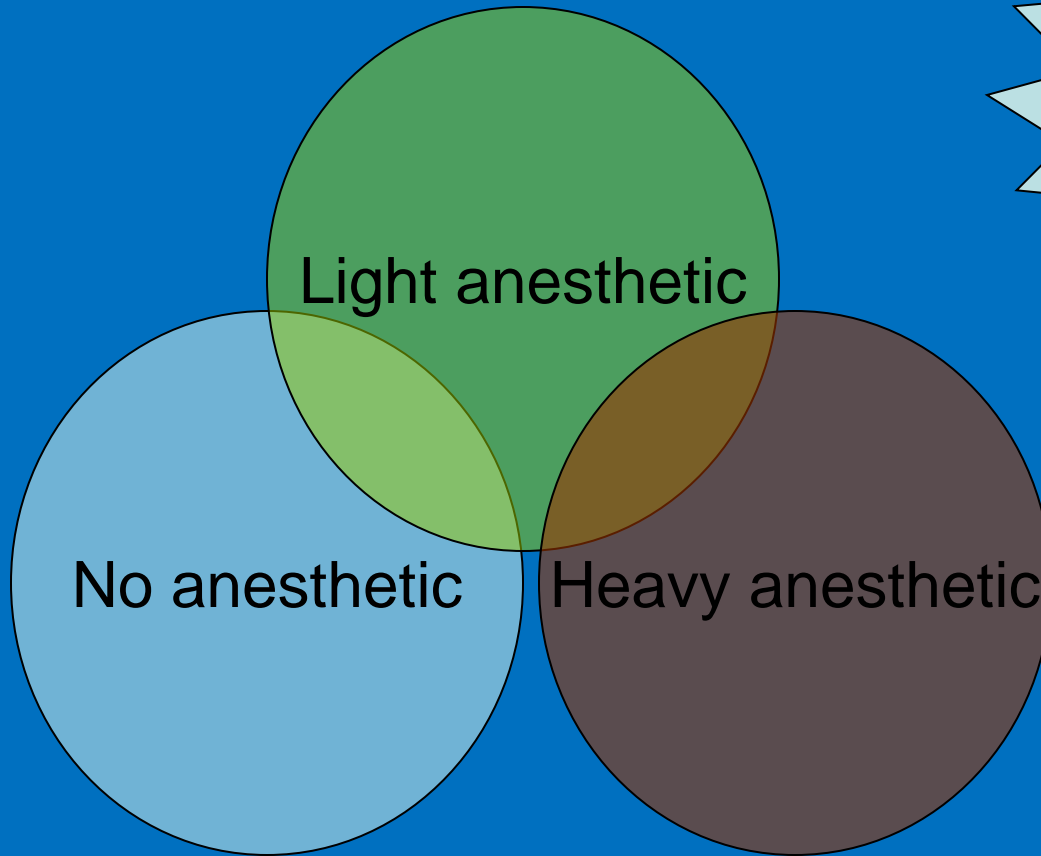
# The Challenge Ahead

- Goal: Establish what are safest, most reliable handling and anesthesia methods for pika.
- Balance need for more extensive sampling with a safe, reliable anesthesia method.



# Safety Spectrum?

This is just a Hypothesis



Shock syndrome

Respiratory depression

# Goals for this meeting

- Gather input about safety of various methods that have been employed to date.
- What type of sampling has been accomplished on pika without anesthesia (and handling times)?
- What other anesthetics have been used in pika?
- Is there a need/desire for formal study to investigate promising anesthetic alternatives?
- Establish Pika health working group?