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?

- Light anesthetic
- No anesthetic
- Heavy anesthetic

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?