

BEIRA (*Dorcatragus megalotis*) IMMOBILIZATION AT AL WABRA WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

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Beira Antelopes (*Dorcatragus megalotis*) are classified as vulnerable by the IUCN. Currently, Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation (AWWP), owned by Sheikh Saoud Bin Mohd. Bin Ali Al-Thani, is the only zoological facility in the world where this species is held in captivity. There are no reports on chemical restraint for the species. The objective of this retrospective study is to evaluate the safety and quality of ketamine-medetomidine combination for Beira immobilization.

Forty healthy Beiras ($10.2 \pm 1.8\text{kg}$) were immobilized in Qatar for claw trimming, transfer and routine health checks. Animals were darted by blowpipe, delivering a mixture of ketamine hydrochloride ($1.8 \pm 0.6\text{mg/kg}$) and medetomidine ($0.060 \pm 0.008\text{mg/kg}$) (dosages expressed in relation to the exact body weight; the intended dose was 3mg/kg ketamine and 0.08mg/kg medetomidine). For reversal, alpha-2 antagonist atipamezol ($0.34 \pm 0.04\text{mg/kg}$; intended dose 0.4mg/kg) was intramuscularly injected. Corneal and anal reflexes, muscle relaxation, quality and time of induction, recumbency, and recovery, were recorded.

Induction lasted 13.0 ± 5.5 minutes and allowed 38 ± 15 minutes of surgical tolerance with just 5% of the animals showing abnormal fast respiration (hyperpnea) or shivering ($n=2$). Animals were maintained at $38 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ rectal temperature, 60 ± 6 heartbeats per minute, 31 ± 19 breaths per minute, and adequate muscle relaxation and level of hypnosis. After reversal, recovery lasted 11 ± 10 minutes with just 3 animals showing hyperpnea.

In conclusion, the combination of ketamine-medetomidine is a safe and adequate immobilization protocol for minor procedures in Beira Antelopes.

Acknowledgements

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Immobilised beira antelope (©AWWP, Hammer).



Beira antelope (©AWWP, Hammer).