



USING ZOLETIL FOR IMMOBILIZING FINNISH FOREST REINDEER (*RANGIFER TARANDUS FENNICUS* LÖNNB) IN KARELIA

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Finnish Forest Reindeer were captured, maintained in preparation for shipping, and shipped, in July 2008. All the arrangements for the capture and the procedure itself were carried out by the staff of the Zoology Laboratory of the Institute of Biology of the Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Science. Our group was responsible for immobilizing the animals captured in the water, transporting them from the place of capture to the station where they were going to be maintained until all animals have been captured and ready to be shipped, and immobilizing them again for loading into shipping crates. No medications were used for shipping the animals by truck from the station at Lake Pinozero to the Breeding Station of the Moscow Zoo or for their release into their new enclosures.

The captured animals were two adult females and a young male. A mixture of zoletil and xylazine was used for immobilization. Based on the 5 ml volume of the flying syringe, the zoletil/xylazine mixture was prepared by dissolving the zoletil dry substance in 3 ml of solvent and adding xylazine up to the full 5 ml volume. The anesthesia was reversed by injecting 1 to 2 ml of antisedan.

The drug started to work 5 to 15 minutes after the injection, and its effect continued for a period of 40 minutes to 1.5 hours. When deer were captured in the water, besides being anesthetized, their legs were tied and their eyes were covered with thick cloth. One to ten minutes after the injection of antisedan the deer got up and were able to move. Coming out of anesthesia in transport crates took a longer time, as it was difficult for the animals to get up because of the limited space.

