

## FELIDS - CARNIVORES

### Recommendations

- (1) **GnRH Agonists** - Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone Agonists are considered the safest reversible contraceptives, but dosages and duration of efficacy are not well established for all species; side effects are generally similar to those associated with gonadectomy, especially the potential for weight gain unless diet is controlled.
  - [Suprelorin® \(deslorelin\) Implants \(F or M\)](#)
  - [Lupron® Depot Injection \(F or M\)](#)
- (2) **Ovariohysterectomy, Ovariectomy (F) or Castration (M)** are safe methods and effective methods for preventing pregnancy if permanent sterilization is an option (but see Caution 1 for males).

### Cautions

- (1) **Vasectomy of males will not prevent potential adverse effects to females** from prolonged, cyclic exposure to endogenous steroids associated with the obligate hormonal pseudo-pregnancy that follows copulation-induced ovulation in felids. Endogenous steroids and steroid contraceptives cause similar side effects.
- (2) **Progestin contraceptives** are associated in felids with progressive uterine growth that can result in infertility, infections, and sometimes uterine cancer; mammary tissue stimulation also can result in cancer. Signs of diabetes mellitus have also been reported.
  - a) If a progestin is used, treatment should only be short term, because of the increased likelihood of side effects with prolonged exposure.
  - b) If a progestin is used, treatment should start well **BEFORE** any signs of proestrus, since the elevated endogenous estrogen can exacerbate side effects of the progestin.
  - c) Progestins should not be used in pregnant animals, since they may suppress uterine contractions necessary for normal parturition. Thus, progestins should only be administered to females **CONFIRMED** non-pregnant.
  - d) Progestins
    - [MGA Implant](#) for 2 years, then remove for 1 pregnancy if

possible; non-fertile ovulatory cycles do not substitute for pregnancy in reversing deleterious effects on the uterus; not recommended for more than a total of 4 years **(F)**.

- [Depo-Provera®](#) injection (5 mg/kg body wt. every 2 months) **(F)**.
- [Megestrol acetate](#) for seasonal breeders, but for no more than 2 consecutive seasons **(F)**.

(3) **PZP vaccine** efficacy and safety have only been demonstrated in pinnipeds and bears among the carnivores. In other carnivores, there is mounting evidence that anti-PZP antibodies do not cross-react with the sperm receptor on the ovum, or may cause depletion of ovarian oocytes. PZP is contraindicated in species in which pseudopregnancy is common.

## Research and Monitoring

(1) Surveillance for deleterious effects

- [Contraception Survey](#)
- [Tissue Submission Form](#) – Pathology
- [Adverse Reactions Report](#)

**THE USE OF ANY CONTRACEPTIVE IN NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS IS CONSIDERED EXPERIMENTAL**  
**(M=MALE-DIRECTED, F=FEMALE-DIRECTED METHOD)**