

## **Removing Suprelorin® Implants**

The Suprelorin product insert instructs the veterinarian to place the implant subcutaneously between the shoulder blades. That site is still appropriate if removal will not be needed, but removal is often desirable to hasten reversal. The implants were not designed to be removed, and they do become more porous and prone to breakage with time, as deslorelin diffuses out, but they do not dissolve. Thus, with careful placement, removal is possible. The European Group on Zoo Animal Contraception (EGZAC) reports successful removal of Suprelorin implants from other placement sites in a variety of species that facilitate later removal. The ideal site will vary by species, but examples of those that have been successful have been SQ ventral to the ear, inner area of the leg (front or rear), and the umbilical area. Although the animal may be able to lick or scratch these areas, deep placement of the implant at the end of a tunnel created by the trocar can protect it. An instructional video illustrating implant placement SQ in the inner aspect of the rear leg can be viewed on the [AAZV](#) and [AZVT](#) websites.

Below are some tips for placing deslorelin implants that may facilitate later removal.

### **Placement Tips:**

1. Identify a location where it is unlikely that the implant will migrate and where the implant can be palpated through the skin, e.g., loose skin ventral to ear, inner side of the leg or the
2. Create a tunnel with the trocar, then slowly withdraw the the obturator, leaving the implant in place in the tunnel. The implant should be held steady as the obturator is removed to ensure release of the implant so that it remains in place under the skin
3. Ensure the entire implant is in place by gently palpating, being careful not to crush it, and make note in medical records for future retrieval attempts,
4. At each opportunity, physically palpate the location of the implant to confirm it is in place, again always taking care not to crush the implants, since they become prone to breakage over time.

### **Tips for removal:** (Photos courtesy of Zoological Society of London)

1. Locate implant by palpation, being careful not to crush it
2. The area should be clipped and cleaned using standard surgical prep techniques (Figures A and B)
3. Make a small incision through which the implant can be removed (Figure C)
4. Grasp implant carefully with forceps and gently remove; even if the implant breaks, attempt to remove all remaining pieces (Figures D and E)
5. Confirm that all pieces have been found and excised (Figure F)
6. Flush area with sterile saline to remove any remaining fragments
7. Close incision

**Figures A – F:** Removal of a single Suprelorin implant from a bamboo lemur 18 months after placement. (Photos courtesy of the Zoological Society of London).

**Figure A** – shave and wipe area with alcohol swab



**Figure B** – prep for surgery



**Figure C** – make incision for implant removal



**Figure D** – Remove ALL pieces of implant



**Figure E** – Remove ALL pieces of implant



**Figure F** – Confirm entire implant has been removed

