

# Use of psychotropic drugs in zoo animals



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## OBJECTIVE

Zoo animals must face stressful situations that endanger their wellness: Capture operations, transportation, new habitat, new animals, presence of public, etc. We have a number of tools to reduce this stress, among which the use of psychotropic drugs stands out

To compile all available information on the use of psychotropic drugs in wild animals and the effect they produce on the stress response.



## Long-acting Neuroleptics

Use for long-term situations  
Fatty acid ester of the active drug dissolved in a vegetable or medicinal oil:

- **Zuclopenthixol Acetate** → (3-4 days)
- **Perphenazine enanthate** → (7-11 days)
- **Pipothiazine Palmitate** → (2-5 weeks)

## Short-acting Neuroleptics

Use for specific situations  
Fast onset of clinical effects with a short duration:

- **Azaperone** → (5-6 hr)
- **Haloperidol** → (10-12hr)
- **Acepromazine** → (6-8hr)

## Others

- **Fluoxetine**
- **Midazolam and Diazepam** → (1-4 hr)



### Decrease of:

- Heart and respiratory rate
- Rectal temperature
- Metabolic acidosis
- Injuries
- Aggressive Behaviors

### Extrapyramidal signs:

- Dystonia
- Alotriofagia



## CONCLUSION

Although the use of psychotropic drugs has been very useful in a wide variety of species, it is necessary to continue carrying out studies in this field, since we can not limit ourselves to extrapolate doses in other species.