

1 November 1996

To: Mr. Kallie Venske
Park Warden: Etosha National Park

Report on telemetry implants in black-backed jackals for Kim Wolhuter

Two male black-backed jackals were implanted on the 30 and 31 October 1996 respectively. The first male, a young adult by the name of "Scruff", which was very tame and known to hang around the camp, was implanted early during daytime. The second male, an adult, known as "Douw", was more difficult to capture and was implanted during the night after being darted.

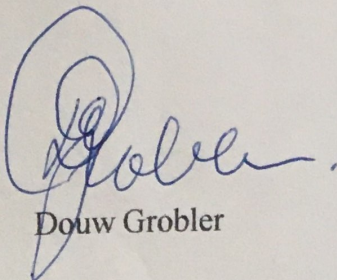
The following drug mixture was used: 30 mg Zoletil with 0,8 mg Medetomidine. Dan-Inject darts with thin 20 mm barbed needles were used together with your own Telinject system. As accuracy with this system is limited to about 15 metres, we spent several hours on approaching till the right opportunity was there. The young adult was very easy (down in 4m23 s), but "Douw" gave us a hard time. We were very fortunate to hit him with the very first dart, probably my biggest luck-shot in my life, just above the foot, but going down at just under three minutes.

We did the implant operations at the camp in the kitchen and both ops went very well. A mid-ventral incision of approximately 4 cm was cut through the line-alba under clean and as sterile as possible conditions. The implants, which were kept in Hibitane solution for three days to sterilize it, was then washed with 1 lt Ringers-Lactate solution and slipped into the abdomen. The linea-alba was then sutured with individual sutures using No. 0 monofilament nylon. The same procedure was followed for skin closure. Additional drugs given were the following: 2 ml Compropen, 0,3 ml Finadyne, 0,3 ml Ivomec and finally 3 mg Atipamezole as an antidote to the Medetomidine.

Both jackals were on their feet within 2 hours and 10 minutes (Scruff) and 1 hour and 40 minutes (Douw). After initial falling around and some staggering, their recovery was uneventful and rather smooth. Both were seen hours later and the next day and appeared to be in good health.

Thank you for allowing me to help Kim with his work in this wonderful place.

Kind regards,



Douw Grobler