

Reindeer Sedation

It is best to use this method rather than anesthesia that would need to be reversed in most cases. Bulls during the rutting season will not recover from anesthesia reversal and you would have just killed the reindeer.

I wouldn't call the drugs listed below anesthesia, but rather "chemical restraint" since they are actually in my opinion not anesthesia.

We use 50% ketamine 50% vallium and plan to administer 1cc per 50# via IV. Mix more than you think you will need. At least that's what we start with, if necessary we can add more should the initial dosage not provide the desired effect.

We restrain the reindeer, generally over a square hay or straw bale, administer the drug mix IV, wait a short time observing the animal. Perform what ever treatment is necessary. Continue to restrain and observe until he is capable of standing and walking on his own.

I like the above chemical restraint vice other anesthesia because the animal usually remains on his feet, isn't lying on the ground flopping around banging his head from side to side once the recovery drug is administered.