

Materials and Methodology for Pit Tagging Hatchling Green Turtles Captive-Born
at Sea Life Park Hawaii

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MATERIALS

- Pit tags and Injection Needle - Destron TX1406L sterilized in individual wrappers
- 1% Lidocaine HCL Injection, USP (10mg/mL).
- 25 Gauge Needles
- 1.0 cc Syringes
- 70% Isopropyl Alcohol Swabs
- Vetbond 3M Tissue Adhesive No. 1469SB
- Rubber Gloves
- Sharps Disposal Container
- Two or More Trained Personnel

METHODOLOGY

1. Only tag healthy green turtle hatchlings that are normal in appearance and behavior.
2. Clean hatchlings of loose sand.
3. Wear rubber gloves to reduce biohazard of needle stick to hands.
4. Wipe dorsal surface of left hind flipper with alcohol swab (Photo 1)



Photo 1

5. Using a 1.0 cc syringe with 25 gauge needle, inject 0.02 cc of 1% Lidocaine into subcutaneous soft tissue of dorsal left hind flipper at location shown in Photo 2. Use a new needle for each turtle.



Photo 2

6. Allow 10 minutes for Lidocaine to take effect.

7. Place a sterilized Destron needle with preloaded sterilized TX1406L Pit tag into injection handle mechanism.

8. With bevel facing up, insert pit tag needle 12-15 mm under skin of the dorsal left hind flipper at an oblique angle, at the point shown in Photo 3. The insertion point is the same as shown in Photo 2. About 5mm of the needle's length will remain outside the skin when inserted the partial distance of 12-15 mm (Photo 4). Maintain the needle in this position and insert the Pit tag using the slider on the injection handle mechanism.



Photo 3



Photo 4

9. Withdraw the needle and apply one drop of Vetbond 3M tissue adhesive to the puncture to seal the site (Photo 5).



Photo 5

10. Scan with reader to verify presence of Pit tag in the flipper.

11. Allow 10 minutes for tissue adhesive to dry before putting the turtle into seawater.