

Crocodylians may experience hypoglycemia when excited or handled roughly. Although this hypoglycemia can be treated with oral or parenteral glucose therapy, it is better to avoid the stress altogether by applying only sufficient restraint or force to accomplish a particular procedure.

THE USE OF INDUCED VAGO-VAGAL RESPONSE FOR SHORT-TERM RESTRAINT

Crocodylians, most large lizards, and some chelonians can be immobilized for short periods by the application of gentle inward digital pressure upon their eyes for a few moments. Usually the effect of this vago-vagal response is observed after about 20–30 seconds. The depression of the eyes induces a brief drop in heart rate and blood pressure. An animal so treated will remain torpid for a few minutes without ill effect. This technique is particularly useful for restraint during radiography or other painless procedures; it is not applicable for snakes and some chelonians. Loud noises or other significant external stimuli abolish this response, but the pressure on the closed eyes can be repeated, as necessary.

CHEMICAL RESTRAINT/ANESTHESIA

A wide variety of chemical agents are available for sedating and anesthetizing reptiles. Because of their wide margin of safety, effectiveness, chemical stability under a broad range of temperatures, and availability, I will stress the use of the dissociative psychotropic agents ketamine HCl (Keta-set, Ketalar, Ketanest, Ketaject), at a dose of 20–50 mg/kg; teletamine-zolazepam (Telazol), at 10 mg/kg; and alfadolone acetate-alfaxalone acetate (Saffan), at an intravenous dosage of 6–9 mg/kg of the combined agent; they are highly

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**A COMPACT CLINICAL AND
SURGICAL REFERENCE**

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