



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mail Code 501-03

PO BOX 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

David Chanda, Director

[www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com)

(609) 292-2965

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

### INFORMATION FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS REGARDING THE USE OF PHARMACEUTICALS

Many drugs are safe to use in animals, but may cause severe health problems or even death in humans. These drugs should NEVER be given to animals meant for human consumption (e.g., poultry or cattle) because drug residues may remain in the muscle of animals for an undetermined length of time. Rehabilitators and veterinarians often forget that some of the species they treat may eventually be consumed by humans (deer, geese, groundhogs, etc.). Therefore, these drugs should not be given to any species for which there is a hunting season.

**Drugs that should NEVER be given to wildlife that may eventually be consumed by humans (deer, geese, groundhogs, etc.) include:** cephalosporins, chloramphenicols, clenbuterol, diethylstilbesterol, dipyron, fluoroquinolones, gentian violet, glycopeptides, and nitrofurans.

Rehabilitators should always consult with their veterinarian and the FARAD (USDA Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database) for current listings of drugs that are unsafe to use in animals that may be consumed by humans.

Similarly, some of the drugs used in animals leave residues in tissues that may be harmful to animals that later consume them. Most anesthetics (both injected and inhaled) are quickly metabolized by an animal and do not remain in the tissues after the animal awakens. However, if an animal is anesthetized and then euthanized (even if euthanasia is with carbon dioxide gas), the anesthesia drugs may remain in the tissues after death and could be harmful if the dead animal is then consumed by another animal. Most injectable euthanasia drugs also remain in the tissues and can be lethal to an animal that eats the euthanized carcass. For this reason, animals that are euthanized while anesthetized and all animals that are euthanized with injectable euthanasia drugs should not be used as food for other animals; carcasses of these animals should be disposed of properly to prevent later consumption by scavengers.