

Bring 'Em Back Alive

DANIEL O. TRAINER, JR.

Pathology Research Project

Wildlife has been notoriously uncooperative about physical checkups. Now a "flying syringe" acts as a persuader, with no harm to the animal.

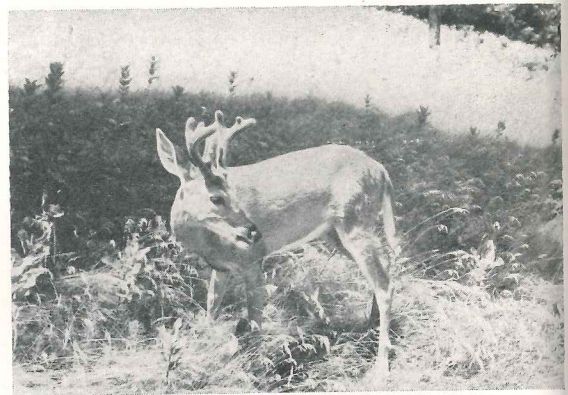
One of the major problems encountered in the study of wildlife diseases has been the difficulty in securing live wild specimens for examination. One cannot just walk up to a deer, beaver, or other wild creature and take its temperature or a blood sample.

Recently, as the result of the combined efforts of a group of Georgia scientists (a wildlife worker, a veterinarian and a pharmacologist) who borrowed some of the South American Indian's blow-gun secrets, a simple yet unique device designed for the capture



Photos by D. R. Thompson

Preparing the syringe to load in the gun.



An unsuspecting white-tailed "patient."



Turn broadside, will you?



A hit—and a startled but unharmed buck.



The drug working, the deer loses its sense of balance.



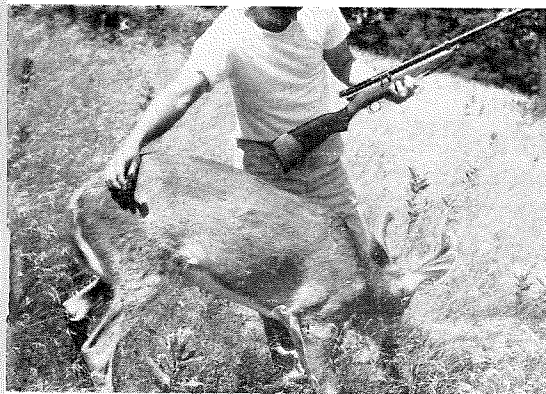
"Out" 1 1/2 minutes after the shot was fired.



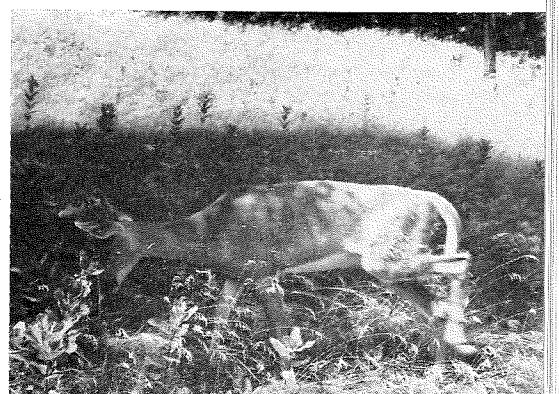
Now to get a blood sample.



Treat the needle wound with antibiotics and fly spray.



On his feet again, but unsteady.



Back to the woods after his contribution to science.

of wild and domestic animals was developed. The device, commercially called "Cap-Chur immobilizing equipment," consists of a Crosman carbon-dioxide-propelled rifle which has been converted to deliver a flying syringe to the "patient" who is to be anesthetized.

Uses of this weapon other than anesthetizing or immobilizing include vaccination from a distance, treatment with antibiotics, and administration of tranquilizers to allay excitement prior to moving or handling. Any liquid compound can be injected into an animal from distances up to approximately 50 yards. The optimum range is 20-35 yards.

Use of this flying syringe on deer enables us to examine the animal externally for parasites; to determine its age and weight; to obtain blood samples for disease investigations; to ear-tag and mark the animal and trace its movements, etc.; and finally to return the animal to the wild unharmed.

Nicotine is the immobilizing drug used

most successfully in deer. Susceptibility to nicotine apparently varies with species; for example, the same amount used to immobilize a deer, if injected in a human, would prove fatal. Nicotine acts most satisfactorily (immobilizing a deer in 1 to 3 minutes) when delivered into the muscle; therefore the hip provides an excellent target.

One question which always arises when sportsmen see this weapon is, "Wouldn't the violator have a time with this outfit?" Actually this is not true because:

- (1) Only state, federal, city agencies and veterinarians are eligible to purchase this equipment.
- (2) The range of the gun, the time element before the drug takes effect, and cost of the equipment renders it impractical.
- (3) And last but not most important, *nicotine is very toxic to man*; therefore, this meat would not be suitable for consumption. Nicotine is removed from the system of a live animal in several days.

Correction: No Open Season on White Deer

An article in the October *Bulletin* indicated white deer are legal game. Recent action of the Conservation Commission restored such animals to the protected list. DON'T SHOOT WHITE DEER!

Idaho Rewards Hunters Who Go "Back In"

. . . The "general" deer tag may be used in any open area in the state. An "extra" tag is necessary if a second animal is to be taken in any one of the three designated areas. A third deer may be killed—but only in the primitive Salmon River—Middle Fork area.—IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Seventy-Two Shells Per Bird?

From October 1 through December 9 last season daily permits were issued for specified hunting zones to 14,004 hunters who spent 53,787 hours and fired 117,949 shells to bag 1,629 Canada geese.—NORTH WOODS CALL (in a report on a Michigan hunting area)