EVALUATION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES IN DIFFERENT ANESTHETIC PROTOCOLS IN CAPYBARAS (*HYDROCHOERUS HYDROCHAERIS*)

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The fashion for consuming meat from wild animals reached Brazil in the mid 1980s, and one of the novelties was capybara meat. Today, the monthly consumption in Brazil is more than 35 tons (about one thousand animals). Production is guaranteed by raising animals in captivity, where there is control over the supply of a balanced diet and over the correct period in which to slaughter the animal. It is therefore important to know which anesthetic protocol is most valid for carrying out clinical tests, sampling biological tissues and medicating the animal. In this present work, evaluations were made for cardiac and respiratory frequencies and rectal temperature, at 10, 20 and 30 minutes after applying the anesthetic, in accordance with the following protocols: protocol 1 (n=2) – pre-medication with atropine sulfate (0.044 mg/kg), 10 minutes before applying ketamine (5.0 mg/kg), associated with xylazine (0.2 mg/kg); protocol 2 (n=2) – application of ketamine (1.7mg/kg), associated with xylazine (0.34mg/kg), without pre-medication; protocol 3 (n=3) – application of tiletamine (2.5 mg/kg) associated with zolazepam (2.5 mg/kg), also without pre-medication. The analysis of variance technique (ANOVA) was used, applying contrasts when there was a statistical significance for the factors being studied. The goodness of fit of the parametric model was checked by means of the Shapiro Wilk and Jarque-Bera statistical tests for normality and the Levene and Bartlett test for the homoscedasticity of the rest. The open source statistical language program R was used to develop the analyses in this work. The t test for cardiac frequency values, at the time of 30 minutes, indicated that protocols 1 and 3 differed significantly (p= 0.035), and the values of protocol 1 were higher. The results of this work indicate that protocols 1 and 2 showed greater organic stability, with values varying within normality, and good sedation for management in the field.

Key words: Capybara; anesthesia; management.

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