

EAZA RMG contraceptive guideline for Kirk's dik dik (*Madoqua kirkii*)

Please be aware that we have limited data on contraceptive use in Kirk's dik dik and therefore our recommendations are based on data on similar species. If you are using contraception in your dik dik, please share your experience with the EAZA RMG ([contraception@chesterzoo.org](mailto:contraception@chesterzoo.org)) or add your data to the Contraception Database (<https://eazarmg.org>).

## **Females**

**Deslorelin (Suprelorin) Subcutaneous implant-** 1 x 4.7mg is recommended for a **minimum** duration of 6 months and 1 x 9.4mg is recommended for a **minimum** of one year. The first bout must also be supplemented with oral megestrol acetate pills (Ovarid/Megace; 2mg/kg) daily 7 days before and 8 days after placing the implants to suppress the initial stimulation phase. Suprelorin is designed to be fully reversible however no females have been allowed to breed. To increase the chances of a full reversal, place the implant in such a way that facilitates removal. The most common side effect of Suprelorin is weight gain.

**Medroxyprogesterone acetate (Depo-Provera): Intra-muscular injection formulation** - The recommended dose is 2.5-5mg/Kg body weight 45-90 days. Latency to effectiveness is approximately 1-3 days post injection, though if cycle stage is unknown extra time (1 week) must be allowed and separation of the sexes is advised for at least one week. As Depo-Provera binds readily to androgen receptors and is anti-estrogenic, females may experience male-like qualities such as increased aggression or the development of secondary sex characteristics. Depo-Provera is designed to be fully reversible and reversibility using this product has been demonstrated in a couple of females; both females conceived 4 months after treatment ended.

**GnRH Protein Conjugate (Improvac): Intramuscular injection formulation** - Two injections of 350-400µg are given 35 days apart and boosters are usually administered every 3-4 months. Latency to effectiveness can be up to 6 weeks so separation of the sexes is recommended if possible. In seasonal breeders, initial injections should be administered at least 6 weeks prior to the breeding season. Improvac is designed to be fully reversible; there are currently no reversals on the database however studies have shown reversibility in equids within a two-year period. It must be taken into consideration that younger individuals will take longer to reverse in comparison to older individuals.

**PZP: Intramuscular injection formulation** - The first injection would consist of 0.5mL PZP + 0.5mL adjuvant and the second injection should be given no less than 14 days after this. For seasonal breeders, contraception should begin 1-2 months before the breeding season. Latency to effectiveness is approximately 2-3 weeks after the final injection in year 1 therefore separation of the sexes from the initial injection until 2 weeks after the final injection is recommended. Reversibility differs between species; however, the longer PZP is given the longer it takes for a female to come back to being fertile. It is therefore suggested that an individual is on PZP for no longer than 3 years if you want the female to breed. (Please visit [www.sccpzp.org](http://www.sccpzp.org) for more information). There are no contraindications for use during pregnancy and lactation.

**Disclaimer:** The EAZA RMG endeavours to provide correct and current information on contraception from various sources. As these are prescription only medicines it is the responsibility of the veterinarian to determine the dosage and best treatment for an individual animal under their care. The EAZA RMG can therefore not be held liable for any injury, damage or contraception failure in an animal. The EAZA RMG recommends that individuals managed within breeding programmes should not be contracepted without the agreement of the programme coordinator. No portion of this message may be copied or distributed without the express permission of the EAZA RMG [www.egzac.org](http://www.egzac.org)

## **Males**

**GnRH Protein Conjugate (Improvac): Intramuscular injection formulation** - Two injections of 400µg are given 35 days apart and boosters are usually administered every 3-4 months. Latency to effectiveness can be up to 6 weeks so separation of the sexes is recommended if possible. In seasonal breeders, initial injections should be administered at least 6 weeks prior to the breeding season. Improvac is designed to be fully reversible; there are currently no reversals on the database however studies have shown reversibility in equids within a two-year period. It must be taken into consideration that younger individuals will take longer to reverse in comparison to older individuals.