

**TAGGING:** (following extracted from: <http://archive.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/risc/pubs/tebiodiv/live-animal/captml11-02.htm>)



Investigators have an obligation to identify and assess the consequences of their research activities on wild animals, populations and the environment....Investigators should always weigh potential gain in knowledge against the negative consequences of disturbance....animals should not be exposed to excessive or inappropriate handling, conspecific aggression, predation, temperature extremes or undue suffering.

Most studies require individual animals to be marked for identification. Marking techniques can have a wide variety of effects ranging from short-term discomfort to long term influences on breeding and survival. It is essential for the welfare of the animal and the integrity of the research results, that the marking procedure not adversely affect the normal behaviour, physiology, ecology or survival of individuals. In choosing an acceptable marking technique, the investigator must consider the nature and duration of the restraint that is required for its application....the amount of momentary or prolonged pain that is involved and the potential risk for infection.

In general, for a marking procedure to be effective, it should meet as many of the following criteria as possible:

1. The animal should experience no immediate or long-term hindrance or irritation from the mark or marking procedure.
2. The animal should suffer no adverse effects on its normal behaviour, physiology, longevity, social life, ecology or survival.
3. The mark should be able to be applied quickly, easily and with minimal pain.