DELAWARE COUNCIL OF WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS & EDUCATORS

Can Ivermectin be used on wild foxes to successfully treat Sarcoptic mange?

Yes, <u>when administered properly *and* given to captive foxes</u> which involves:

1. Obtaining the correct weight of the animal to determine the amount of the drug to administer.
2. Administering the drug every five days for a 4–5-week period to break the life cycle of the mites. It will not kill the eggs.

Proper administration can be given to captive foxes. When given to free-roaming foxes, there are high risks. Ivermectin is highly toxic and frequently fatal to herding dog breeds such as Collies, Australian Shepherds, and Whippets. It is also toxic to tortoises, kittens, neonatal and very young animals, and certain bird species. It is highly toxic to frogs and amphibians.

<u>BUT</u>, it is illegal to give free-roaming wild foxes Ivermectin:

Administrative Code, Title 7, Natural Resources and Environmental § 556 states this:

Use of drugs on protected wildlife. (a) It is unlawful to administer any drug to protected wildlife without written authorization from the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife except in accordance with a permit issued under the provisions of this title or regulations adopted by the Department. This prohibition includes drugs used for fertility control, disease prevention or treatment, immobilization, or growth stimulation. Nothing in this section prohibits the treatment of sick or injured wild animals by licensed veterinarians or wildlife rehabilitators permitted by the Department. This section does not limit the Department, the United States, or Commercial Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators, as authorized by the Department, in the performance of their official duties related to public health, wildlife management, or wildlife removal. For the purposes of this section, the term “drug” means any chemical substance, other than food, that affects the structure or biological function of protected wildlife. (b) Whoever violates this section shall be guilty of a class B environmental misdemeanor for each offense. (77 Del. Laws, c. 425, § 3; 85 Del. Laws, c. 414, § 1.)

It is illegal for a person to administer Ivermectin to a wild animal unless they are a Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitator or licensed Veterinarian in the state of Delaware. It is also illegal for a Rehabilitator or Veterinarian to dispense the drug to the public to administer.

In Delaware, all native wild birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles are legally protected under state wildlife laws. Specific high-level protections are given to endangered and conservation-priority species managed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

https://dnrec.delaware.gov/dewap/sgcn/mammals/

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