# Choosing a Contraceptive for Females

## Birth-Control Pills
- **Combination (Estrogen + progestin)**
  - Placebo can be skipped unless estrus behavior is desired
- **Progestin-only**
  - No placebo week provides continuous suppression of estrus behavior

## Progestins
- High efficacy and reversibility
- May not prevent follicle growth & estrous behavior
- Only short-term use for carnivores & callimicos

## MGA Implants
- Requires incision
- Replace @2 years
- Remove to speed reversal

## MGA Feed & MGA Liquid
- Oral daily
- Quick to reverse

## Megestrol Acetate
- Oral daily
- Quick to reverse

## Depo-Provera
- Injection
- Variable time to reversal

## GNRH Agonists
- High efficacy
- Effects like spaying
- Variable and/or lengthy reversal times
- Separation of sexes or prevention of stimulation phase with alternative contraception necessary

## Suprelorin
- Large bore needle insertion (Trocar)
- Remove to speed reversal
- Replace @6 or 12 months for 4.7mg and 9.4mg implants respectively

## Lupron
- Injection
- Boosters @4 months
- Expensive

## Immuncontraception
- Injectable vaccine

## PZP Vaccine (Porcine zona pellucida)
- High efficacy
- Annual booster
- Reversibility decreases with repeated use
- Variable effect on behavior

## Improvest Vaccine (Anti-GnRH)
- Efficacy uncertain
- Boosters @2-6 months
- Reversibility unknown
- Expected effects like spaying

## Separation of the Sexes
Long-term non-conceptive cycles can increase the risk of infertility

Note: Clicking on product names takes you to their associated RMC webpages
This guide is meant to give you an idea of the most commonly used contraceptive options available and start discussion about which approaches might be desirable in your scenario. **This guide is NOT meant to substitute for consultation with the RMC and your veterinarian.** Full details are available at [stlzoo.org/contraception](http://stlzoo.org/contraception) or contact us at contraception@stlzoo.org.