

## Surgical implantation of a radiotelemetry device for studying the behavior of the Korean river otter (*Lutra lutra*)

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**Abstract:** Radiotelemetry devices were surgically implanted in the abdomens of three Korean river otters (*Lutra lutra*) to observe their behavior patterns and monitor their habitat. The surgical techniques involved an incision in the paralumbar fossa to introduce a radiotelemetry device into the abdominal cavity. After inhalation anesthesia, fur around the incision site was rubbed with chlorhexidine surgical lubricant jelly followed by povidone iodine and alcohol. The musculature and fascia were transected before the device was implanted. After the surgery and recovery from anesthesia, the otters were placed in a 2.65 m × 5.50 m room that resembled their natural habitat. The otters were given fresh river fish and drinking water. The surgical sites healed with no noticeable complications. The survival of otters was indicated by 7-11 months of postrelease monitoring.

**Keywords:** Behavior, *Lutra lutra*, radiotelemetry, river otter, surgical procedure

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