

Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife, Second Edition

J Hadidian, M Baird, M Brasted, L Nolfo-Clemets, D Pauli and L Simon (2007). Published by The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037, USA. 283 pp Paperback (ISBN 0-9748400-8-4). Price US\$27.95.

Ten years ago the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) brought out the first edition of *Wild Neighbors*, raising awareness of alternative approaches to dealing with urban wildlife conflicts. The current book is updated to take account of developments in certain areas of animal control and reflects changing societies and attitudes. The book is aimed primarily at householders wanting to deal with animals in their homes and gardens, though “in the context of the larger issues that engage us in society in our interactions with wild animals”. This means that it also touches on some municipal solutions, particularly in the sections dealing with birds.

It is well laid out in two sections, together comprising no less than 43 chapters. The first, general section (chapters 1–8) discusses topics such as how to define the conflict, health and safety issues, (American) legislation, where to get help in dealing with wildlife, and what the authors see as unacceptable methods of control. Chapter 8 outlines the tools available to householders, and is particularly useful as it also discusses the limitations of each method, eg the effectiveness of repellents in light of the amount of food available to the animals. A lot of emphasis seems to be placed on getting professionals to do the job, though there is still useful ‘self-help’ advice.

Section two deals with 35 different species of urban wildlife, ranging from alligators to woodpeckers. Each chapter is laid out clearly and identically, with information on habits, public health concerns, common problems, and solutions. The solutions sections include tolerance (highlighting where problems may be seasonal), exclusion, habitat modification, repellents, scare devices and occasionally a word on lethal control methods. Most chapters include drawings of the animals’ tracks, which are practical. However, tracks are missing for some species, including one of the most common wild neighbours, the rat.

All chapters finish with a section on additional resources about the natural history of the species. Whilst interesting, to my mind it would really have benefited from pointers to (internet?) resources containing more detailed information on how to deal with each species as, due to the total number of species discussed, each chapter is necessarily limited in detail. From the afterword I understand that this was actually present in the previous edition. Although they have now included a useful appendix with internet retail sources for certain products, it seems a shame that they have decided to change the resources section from the way it was before.

The book is good at encouraging householders to deal with conflicts in a stepwise, rational manner, though it is probably unlikely to solve all problems. This is particularly true if

infestation is extreme; for certain species that suffer a particularly bad image or where there are immediate health concerns. These things are, to be fair, acknowledged in the book. In the spirit of the book, lethal methods are seen as the last option (although it does concede to some methods for some rodents in particular), with translocation being the second to last. But as it is often easier (and cheaper) for householders to buy and use lethal methods, many will go straight to this option and thus may not even pick this book up. Numerous animals suffer for some time with many of these methods and, to my mind, complementing the advice given in this book with information on the welfare effects of various lethal control methods (including practical recommendations on the best methods) would make even more of a positive impact on animal welfare, as well as perhaps increasing the readership. Though the book touches on lethal control methods, it only discusses the most inappropriate ones.

This does not diminish the importance of the approaches discussed in the book. In summary, it makes interesting reading, is well laid out, and contains sensible advice. It clearly highlights how important it is to not only deal with the problem, but also how to prevent it from (re-)occurring. Due to the large number of species discussed, the book is necessarily broad rather than in-depth. I felt some opportunities were missed in not giving details of where to find more information on dealing with each particular species (including perhaps lethal control advice).

However, even if it simply makes people stop and think, it has made a positive impact. Although aimed at the American audience, the general chapters in particular contain material that is practical to any householder, and it would, thus, be a useful addition to every European bookshelf.

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The Welfare of Cattle

J Rushen, A-M de Passillé, MAG von Keyserlingk and DM Weary (2008). Published by Springer, PO Box 17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands. 320 pp Hardback (ISBN 978-1-4020-6557-6). Price £88.50.

Written by a group of leading animal welfare scientists, this book sets out to review the scientific literature on the subject of cattle welfare. And that it does. With over 800 references, it systematically covers the challenges facing cattle farming worldwide. With extraordinary clarity, the authors critically evaluate a wide range of studies to identify the consistent findings which also reveals what is less well understood.

In spite of disciplined referencing and precise detail, the book never loses readability. The book contains 10 chapters spanning 258 pages (excluding references and index) and is split into two parts: part I reviews the literature on welfare indicators and part II reviews the specific challenges to cattle welfare. Each chapter is sub-divided into sections with a logical progression of subtitles. Each chapter is illustrated with black-and-white photographs, and numerous figures and

tables adapted from studies described in the text. The outcome is a well-judged balance between text and visual materials.

In part I, the authors review health, disease, productivity, physiological and behavioural measures used to evaluate welfare. The authors have ensured any technical terminology is always explained in clear and simple terms. The authors eloquently build arguments and develop concepts. For example, evidence is presented that illustrates the weakness of physiological parameters for welfare assessment for all except acute welfare insults. A strong case is made for the use of behavioural welfare measures in studies of animal welfare.

In part II, the authors cover a wide range of specific welfare issues in chapters on housing, nutrition and stockmanship. Part II is cleverly structured so that it progresses from short-term or acute challenges to welfare, moving on to more long-term issues. The stockmanship chapter presents several interesting studies, although readers may be left with the impression that this subject is less well researched and understood than other areas of welfare science and, yet, is probably deserving of the most attention, albeit through social science research. In this chapter alone do the authors venture close to controversy with the description of Nigerian Fulani cattle herdsman who integrate socially with their herds through a combination of beating and gentling of their cattle. There is a human safety justification of some cattle handling methods which may surprise some readers, and this is perhaps at odds with the tone set in the rest of the book which is very focused on welfare science, but is consistent with the interpretation of practical application.

The authors have not attempted to cover every welfare issue affecting cattle throughout the world. This would have sacrificed some of the outstanding quality of critique found in this book. Instead, they have focused on the main issues and reviewed the evidence to a consistently high standard. At numerous points throughout the book the authors have given practical recommendations from the conclusions of the literature review. However, the book is not aimed at providing cattle management advice. Nor does it provide details of methodology beyond a critical evaluation, although the reader is directed to the relevant methodology papers. Irrespective of this, *The Welfare of Cattle* represents an extremely important reference for welfare scientists working with cattle, students studying animal welfare and anyone providing advice or forming policy on cattle welfare. It identifies the conspicuous gaps in our knowledge and understanding requiring further investigation. The flaws and limitations of published research are respectfully identified for consideration in future project design. Many fundamental research principles relevant to cattle welfare are discussed, making this an invaluable addition to any welfare science library, whether it is personal or institutional.

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International Zoo Yearbook, Volume 41

Edited by FA Finken (2007). Published on behalf of The Zoological Society of London by Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 9600 Garsington Rd, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK. 461 pp Paperback (ISSN 0074-9664). Price £96.

The *International Zoo Yearbook* has been periodically published by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) since 1959. It consists of a yearly volume that gathers a significant number of papers on issues related to zoo animals and conservation. The book is usually divided into three sections. The first tends to be devoted to whatever is the volume's main topic; this changes every year according to the different priorities that arise in the field of zoo biology. The main topic of Volume 41 was 'Animal health and conservation'. The second section generally has a broader scope, 'The developing zoo world', containing articles that focus on specific situations, such as study cases and trend analyses. The third is a permanent reference section with an index, contact details and general information on zoos, aquaria and associations around the world, as well as studbook listings with general statistics of rare species in captivity. Nearly half of the book is devoted to this last section, perhaps highlighting the value of having all that information in a single directory. However, as helpful as this can be, this is not the most important merit of this book. Rather, the capacity it has for identifying the hottest zoo issues from year-to-year. One can easily get an idea of the zoos' history in the last five decades, only by looking at the list of past volumes (and the near future looking at the ones to come in the two 'to be published' issues also listed there).

The main section contains ten very interesting papers. They range from several approaches on the new roles that zoo veterinarians face, through comprehensive reviews about emerging diseases such as West Nile virus, avian influenza and amphibian chytridiomycosis, to applying public health methods to the zoo world, like using zoos as urban epidemiological monitoring stations or disease risk assessment in wildlife conservation programmes.

The second section of the book presents several papers describing cases of hand-rearing and/or adaptation of orphaned/rejected animals. The scope of each article is different as some deal with the reintroduction of hand-reared animals to their natal groups while another describes the successful adaptation of an orphan bonobo to its family group without the need for hand-rearing. A further one explains and justifies the use of hand-rearing for research purposes as it enables a positive relationship with animals into adulthood, thus making it a potentially useful tool for physiological and ecological studies. All of the three studies dealing with hand-rearing present a detailed account of the procedure, as well as nutritional and management advice, making them a good source of information for each species (white-crowned mangabey, cherry-crowned mangabey, drill and roe deer). They all have animal welfare aspects that are discussed, at variable depth, in each case.