

of academic philosophers; and with its comprehensive bibliography, it is also a handy way for specialists in the field to find references and catch up on missed papers.

David Fraser

Animal Welfare Program

University of British Columbia, Vancouver

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International Zoo Yearbook, Volume 38

Edited by PJS Olney and FA Fiskén (2003). Published by The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, UK. 406 pp. Hardback (ISBN 0074 9664). Price £69.00.

The International Zoo Yearbook was first published in 1960 by the Zoological Society of London to provide an authoritative channel for international exchange of information about zoos. This volume is the thirty-eighth, and it continues the tradition and follows the same general style and layout of previous editions. It is divided into three sections. The first is devoted to a special subject, the second is more general and comprises articles on captive wildlife husbandry and management, and the third is a reference section listing data and survey results collated from information in the annual questionnaires returned from zoos and aquariums around the world.

Volume 38 is particularly interesting because it takes as its general theme "Zoo Challenges: Past, Present and Future". Despite their popularity and their place in our tourism history, in recent years zoos have undergone considerable change in both their structure and their function. While remaining attractive places to visit, they have seen their survival as being dependent upon their changing direction and becoming a more relevant part of today's society. As such, zoos now market themselves not only as places of entertainment and recreation, but also as important conservators of wildlife. In Section 1, fifteen articles about zoos have been written by a number of eminent authors, all of whom either work in the zoo industry or know it intimately. They discuss and demonstrate how zoos have addressed the challenges of the past and present, and how they have changed and developed to meet them. In addition, as the Editor, PJS Olney, points out, the authors provide warnings and predictions for the future of zoos and for the conservation of wildlife.

The first three papers provide us with an overview of zoos and the zoo industry. The authors, W Conway, M Hutchins and JM Knowles, are all zoo directors of considerable experience and reputation, and their views of how zoos need to

respond to the challenges confronting them should be compulsory reading for anyone interested in their future.

Most of the remaining articles outline the various aims and objectives of today's zoos and their progress towards achieving them. Thus they review topics of importance to the zoo community including education, genetics, reproductive technologies, environmental enrichment, population management and wildlife reintroductions. These are well researched and well written, informative, interesting, and serve as a valuable summary and reference for the current state of the world zoo industry.

Yet, in spite of these achievements, there is no doubt that zoos are still seen by some as being superficial, ineffective and therefore indefensible. These people are philosophically opposed to keeping wild animals in captivity, believing that zoos in their present form provide stressful husbandry conditions. Recognising this issue, the ethics of zoos and the welfare of their animals are also covered in this volume. The two articles in question are interesting because they illustrate just how our attitudes to animals have changed and how quickly this has occurred. In "Ethics in zoos", PMC Stevens and E McAllister provide an interesting historical overview of ethical standards in zoos, beginning with the precept that humans have a moral obligation to treat animals in captivity as living, sentient beings. They explain how, today, 'Codes of Ethics' have been adopted by many individual zoos and their national or regional zoo associations. However, they also point out that while in some regions these codes are strictly enforced, in others they are only morally enforced through self-regulation. They conclude by urging the zoo profession to adhere to a strict code of ethics to avoid giving "ammunition to those who say that zoos are a 'nineteenth century anachronism'".

JK Kirkwood's article "Welfare, husbandry and veterinary care of wild animals in captivity: changes in attitudes, progress in knowledge and techniques" discusses exactly what this title indicates. It too reminds us of how attitudes have changed and of the comparatively recent and rapid growth in concern for animal welfare by both zoos and their public. The author outlines the substantial improvements that have been made over the last few decades in husbandry, veterinary science and the care of zoo animals, but also leaves us with a timely warning that in spite of the important role that zoos can play in species conservation, it is still vital that they recognise and balance the 'welfare costs' associated with their actions, and strive to minimise these through high standards of husbandry, medicine and further research.

The final article in this volume is entitled "Characteristics of a world-class zoo or aquarium in the 21st century", and is written by M Hutchins and B Smith. It summarises some of the expectations of a world-class zoo and aims to provide a "road map for a new generation of zoo and aquarium directors, governing boards and staff". In so doing, the authors move beyond the commitment to conservation, science and education as the principal way forward, and argue that the objectives of the zoo will not be reached without due consideration of other vital factors. These include

organisational structure and philosophy, employee recruitment, training and retention, and marketing and development. The authors recognise that zoos are not only conservation organisations, but also vibrant and intricate businesses, and they conclude: “A new generation of zoo managers must take a more holistic approach, while at the same time never losing sight of their primary objectives”.

If there is a weakness in this excellent volume of the *International Zoo Yearbook*, it is perhaps that it discusses zoos from only one standpoint — that of zoos. All of the authors are either still working in zoos or come from a zoo background. While this certainly provides for informed and knowledgeable articles, it also means that we are only getting a zoo perspective on their role today and how they should be tackling the future. As M Hutchins writes in his article “Zoo and aquarium animal management and conservation: current trends and future challenges”: “To meet the challenges of the future and address the concerns of their critics, zoos and aquariums must get better at doing what they claim to do.” It would be interesting to hear what these zoo critics really feel about what zoos are doing now, and how they would like to see them develop into the future.

Nevertheless, this is a book that I would recommend to anyone interested in zoos — their history, development, aims and objectives, and their role and relevance into the future. It makes a valuable addition to our knowledge and understanding of just what we should expect from today’s zoos.

Andrew Tribe

University of Queensland

Australia

Pain and Practical Pain Therapy. Proceedings from the AVERT and ANZCAART Conference, 14–16 May 2001, Melbourne, Australia

Edited by M Bate (2002). Obtainable from M Bate, c/o Research Office, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan, NSW 2308, Australia (email: Mary.Bate@newcastle.edu.au). 140 pp. Paperback. Price Aus\$22.00.

This book is a collection of papers derived from a conference held in Melbourne in May 2001. The conference was organised jointly by the Australian Veterinarians in Ethics, Research and Teaching (AVERT) and the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCAART). There are 22 papers, grouped into five sections, with an introductory paper on human responsibilities and animal pain. This paper asks the reader to consider in a challenging manner what is the nature of pain, what is the function of pain, and what is the place of pain in our physical and mental life.

Three papers are grouped under the theme ‘Understanding pain’. The first is an informative overview of the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific purposes. It is relevant to conducting research on animals in Australia. This is followed by two papers on the mechanisms of pain. Both papers provide the reader with a

good résumé of our current understanding of the pathophysiology and the causes of pain. Readers at all levels of knowledge will gain a useful understanding of the basis of pain.

The next section comprises four papers focussing primarily on the recognition and assessment of pain in animals. This is a challenging field of animal pain, and the authors have summarised much of the literature concerning pain assessment and have incorporated personal observations. There are summaries of possible pain-induced behavioural alterations in many domestic species and a review of the currently used pain assessment ‘tools’. The final paper deals with the selection of an analgesic for use in various pain scales in dogs and cats. There are useful tables of drug dose rates for the management of acute and ongoing pain. This paper leads into a section on pain therapy, which includes papers on analgesics as anaesthetics and a useful paper on nursing animals in pain. There is a summary of complementary therapies in pain management and a paper on considerations for pain management in experimental animals.

The section on ‘Clinical analgesic practice’, which contains an overview of practical techniques for pain management in small animals, is comprehensive; ‘pocket pets’, ruminants, birds and wildlife are also considered. The section on pain management in ruminants covers castration in calves, dehorning in cattle and velvetting in deer.

Overall, this is an informative book for the general or species-specialist practitioner. As is inevitable in a collection of papers from a conference, there is overlap in some areas (in particular, recognition and management of pain in small animals) while there are some notable omissions (eg little consideration of horses or pigs). However, it is a useful addition to the growing literature on animal pain, and it is recommended to general readers and to undergraduate veterinary students.

Andrea Nolan

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

University of Glasgow, UK

Animal Social Complexity: Intelligence, Culture, and Individualized Societies

Edited by FBM de Waal and PL Tyack (2003). Published by Harvard University Press, Fitzroy House, 11 Chenies Street, London WC1E 7EY, UK; <http://www.hup.harvard.edu>. 640 pp. Hardback (ISBN 0 674 00929 0). Price £33.50.

What do we mean by social complexity, what are its causes, and what does it tell us about an animal’s cognitive abilities? These are questions addressed by this book, but to them could be added another: why should animal welfarists be concerned about social complexity? Complexity is a relative term. Social insects, such as some hymenoptera, show considerable social complexity, but this book does not deal with the rather mechanistic lives of these organisms. Instead the editors and organisers of the conference, of which this book is the proceedings, take complexity to refer to the numbers of relationships and the variety of interactions between animals. They are concerned not only with how