

as having a major role to play if society's tolerance of cat and dog ownership is to continue. For, as he says, '*the concept of producing a socially acceptable dog (Canine Good Citizen) is important and is more significant to the long term survival of this (veterinary) profession than all the fancy orthopaedic surgery and internal medicine combined*'. Whilst I agree totally with his sentiment, behaviour is a multi-disciplinary subject and the veterinary profession must work closely with other professionals, both in the animal and human fields. Only by so doing can pet ownership continue to flourish, be beneficial to the individual and be perceived at least neutrally, if not positively, by society.

It is perhaps a truism that proceedings are never as good as having been there and heard the paper. What is written is rarely a completely accurate report of what was said, or what was clarified or extended by visual aids, or in the discussion. However, the text should contain the essence of the paper in such a way that the reader who was not present easily understands it. Overall, I think this publication meets that objective, and the excellent referencing will permit the reader to take particular interests further.

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Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals

Edited by J Twiss Jr & R Reeves (1999). Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington. 471pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 470 l'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7100, Washington, DC 20560, USA (ISBN 1560987782). Price US\$60.00.

This textbook provides a wide-ranging insight into the complex and diverse scientific, economic, social and political considerations that constitute the field of marine mammal conservation. Within this volume, the history of marine mammal conservation is reviewed alongside other topics ranging from current status to implications of future national and international legislation, ecosystem management, and interactions between marine mammals and fisheries. The controversial arguments for and against maintaining marine mammals in captivity are also informatively discussed, highlighting the inertia within current scientific methodology to definitively resolve such important welfare issues. A detailed, if perhaps slightly selective, discussion of marine mammal die-offs also provides a broad overview of the potential causes of, and problems inherent within, the investigation of marine mammal mass mortalities. The inclusion of well-written contributions on the contemporary whaling debate and the evolution of public attitudes towards marine mammals is particularly welcome alongside chapters dealing with specific conservation efforts directed at particular species. The editors sensibly conclude that effective marine mammal conservation necessitates a heavy reliance on sound science and a fundamental understanding of ecological relationships, together with the interdisciplinary cooperation of scientists, affected communities and nongovernmental organizations. Ultimately, *Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals* should serve as a useful and informative source of reference for scientists, students and policymakers alike who share a common interest in understanding the complex nature of marine mammal conservation.

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