

Opening the final chapter of the book, Jeremy Taylor returns and accuses such leading primatologists as Jane Goodall and France de Waal of misleading the public regarding the resemblance between the two species. In his opinion this trend is starting to shift, however, and key figures in the psychological community are now finding hints of exclusive human cognition after all, rejecting the Darwinian claim that cognition can be measured on a continuous axis among all animals.

At the end, Jeremy Taylor mentions Hiasl, a chimpanzee that was at the centre of a case in which an Austrian court was asked to decide whether or not to grant it human rights. Taylor argues that granting Hiasl or any other Great Ape human rights would wrongly unite between two species that, it should now be very clear, are not so closely related as once thought.

*Not a Chimpanzee: The Hunt to Find the Genes that Make Us Human* is a book worth reading. It raises important questions regarding our relationship to chimpanzees, and seasons it with some interesting tales from the world of science. Still, one might rightfully ask what is Jeremy Taylor innovating here? After all, we all know that humans are far more sophisticated than chimpanzees, have achieved far greater accomplishments and possess a more complex cognition. I suspect that Jane Goodall and France de Waal would agree. Nevertheless, chimpanzees are, in fact, our closest living relatives and, in being so, provide plenty of hints to what our ancestors might have been. During my observations of zoo primates I have become quite used to hearing visitors express their astonishment at 'how human' chimpanzees are. This certainly doesn't mean that they are willing to give them the right to vote, but it does show that they acknowledge the obvious similarity along with the distinct differences. In that sense I find myself not so different from the ordinary zoo visitor. I believe that their faster pace of evolution has allowed humans to develop unique abilities, but I also believe that these are still directly linked to the rest of the animal kingdom.

Reading the book one might find oneself compelled to 'pick sides'. Is one to believe that chimpanzees are almost human or to denounce the distorted similarity? Personally, I refuse to analyse the picture in such dichotomy. For example, although I find it unsuitable to grant chimpanzees human rights, I believe their cognition to be developed enough for it to be highly inappropriate to use them, or any of the Great Apes, in biomedical research.

While Jeremy Taylor may have wished only "to put the chimps at arm's length" it seems as though he has actually pushed them a little bit further still.

I gratefully acknowledge Ms Naomi Paz for her help in preparing and editing this review.

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## **Veterinary Disaster Response**

Edited by WE Wingfield and SB Palmer (2009). Published by Wiley-Blackwell, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50014-8300, USA. 584 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-0-8138-1014-0). Price US\$84.99.

*Veterinary Disaster Response* is an A4-size soft-back of over 550 pages. Its declared purpose is as a resource for US National Veterinary Response Team members. From the first jargon-heavy and acronym-strewn chapter on the Incident Command System, it is clear that this book is written for a US audience. However, this should not detract from the wealth of useful information in the book for those who may respond to animals in disasters elsewhere in the world.

The book is written throughout in a 'question and answer' format which is somewhat disconcerting at first reading, and remains cumbersome throughout. The format may remind the reader of the many information technology guidebooks available but, in use, the lack of a detailed contents list at the beginning of each chapter makes it difficult to access specific information. For example, chapter 1.11, 'Zoonoses and zoonotic diseases' is some 60 pages long, and after a brief introduction consisting of 29 questions on subjects from 'describe the meaning of the word host' to 'describe what is meant by the term biological weapons of mass destruction (WMD)' the chapter embarks on a long list of potential zoonotic or potential WMD diseases, through a series of questions on each disease. Questions 30 to 324 deal with bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic disease, toxins and prions. However, with no list of contents for these questions, navigating to specific information on any one disease requires patience, or constant reference to the index at the back of the book.

The book is divided into five sections: 'Training'; 'Planning'; 'Preparation'; 'Recovery'; and a final section which is a directory of resources for further information and study.

At nearly 400 pages, by far the longest most generally useful section is section 1 — 'Training'. Reading through this section, the reader will gain a basic understanding of disaster management in the USA using the 'Incident Command' system, and a practical overview of dealing with animals in disasters from start to finish. This overview includes finding and rescuing the animal, identifying and recording where it was rescued, and identifying and recording the animal itself. First aid, pain management, emergency sheltering, triage, euthanasia and carcass disposal are all included. Human safety is not neglected, and personal protective equipment, decontamination and zoonotic dangers are also covered. Some subjects will be familiar territory to those with a veterinary background, and some will be new unless already having experience of disasters. Clearly, such a wide range of subjects cannot be dealt with in great detail. This is recognised by the authors. In his introduction, Dr Wayne Wingfield states the book's aim is "to provide factual information to the reader and to

stimulate further learning and discussion” and stresses the need for good planning, training and practical exercises to equip responders for the field. In this context, the training section is an excellent resource. The chapters on small and large animal first aid, triage, humane euthanasia and carcass disposal were particularly informative and well written. The chapters on zoonoses and zoonotic diseases seem clumsy due to the inclusion of a wide range of disparate diseases that might potentially be considered as potential weapons of mass destruction, which seems to result in a large amount of information lacking any cohesive direction. Chapters on hazardous materials, personal protective equipment and decontamination provide much useful information, but also have an emphasis on the present obsession with weapons of mass destruction which will perhaps be of greater value to military than civilian personnel.

Section 2 — ‘Planning’ is perhaps the most USA-centric. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has resulted in a complete revamping of the US disaster management system, and legislative change which requires the inclusion of animals in disaster planning. The new system is described in detail — eg chapter 2.6 ‘Federal response to veterinary disasters’, question 28 — ‘describe what the acronyms DMAT, DMORT, NMRT and NVRT stand for’ — clearly has little relevance to anyone outside the USA. However, the approach to disaster planning, from federal and state level to communities, right down to individual homes or businesses, such as veterinary practices and farms, contains much common-sense and practical advice and is well worth reading.

Section 3 — ‘Preparation’ remains at the more personal level on how to prepare family, farm or veterinary practice for a disaster, and also covers what to do in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. The human-animal bond and the importance of animals in disasters are given brief consideration here. Subjects covered vary from a discussion on hazard mitigation for the most commonly encountered disasters, to questions such as ‘what can I do about my monthly bank loan payments?’ and ‘should I seek a disaster loan?’ On the whole, this section seems much more basic than the rest of the book, and some of the more common-sense questions seem even out of place. This section also contains a section on the ethical dilemmas of disaster response, starting from the basic: ‘why spend (waste) resources on animals when it could be spent to the benefit of humans?’. This section is a worthwhile read, but presents more of a personal view than an attempt to find a sustainable ethical basis for response to animals in disasters. The chapter is titled ‘Noah’s Burden: a prolegomenon (cf preface) to the ethics of veterinary disaster response’ and, as such, achieves its end, but I feel that perhaps this is an opportunity lost.

Section 4 — ‘Recovery’ includes a useful section on ‘care for the caregiver’ which discusses the psychological and emotional needs of responders after the response — a brief overview but an important and often neglected subject. The rest of this section appears to contain a lot of repetition of subjects covered in section 3.

In summary, this book must be recommended reading to anyone involved in animals in disasters, whether as a veterinarian, volunteer responder or professional disaster planner and manager. For those within the USA, I am sure it will become a required standard text; however, there is plenty to interest others from around the world. As the authors freely declare, this book is too broad in scope to be a definitive text on any one subject, but serves as a useful ready reference and points to sources for further detailed study. The question and answer format does not endear itself to this reader, and makes information difficult to access due to lack of detailed listings of chapter contents. Despite this drawback, the quality of the subject matter shines through.

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### ***Veterinary Disaster Medicine: Working Animals***

WE Wingfield, SL Nash, SB Palmer and JJ Upp (2009). Published by Wiley-Blackwell, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50014-8300, USA. 344 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-0-8138-1017-1). Price US\$69.99.

*Veterinary Disaster Medicine: Working Animals* is an A3-size ring-bound, soft-backed book of around 300 pages, and so is a size which would be feasible to carry in a field setting. The authors’ declared purpose in writing this book is to provide a ready resource for anyone assisting animals that become victims of a disaster — be they veterinarian or veterinary technician, search-and-rescue personnel or members of emergency medical services present to deal with the human victims. Therefore, although the person assisting the working animal may be a professional with knowledge of first aid, they may not be familiar with the species with which they are faced. The scope of this book is restricted to working dogs and horses, with a few references to other species that disaster responders may encounter.

This book does not follow the same question and answer format as *Veterinary Disaster Response* following a standard format of numbered headings, but does suffer from the same lack of a listing of numbered headings and subject matter at the beginning of each chapter, making accessing information cumbersome.

The ten chapters in this book cover first aid for working dogs and horses, triage and euthanasia, and also specific chapters on bomb blasts, weapons of mass destruction, chemical and radiological events, and a chapter on selected animal pathogens. There is an emergency response contacts directory at the end of the book.

The first-aid chapters contain much of the same information, and are of the same high quality, including many of the same pictures and illustrations, as the chapters in *Veterinary Disaster Response*. Being restricted to only two species, this book is able to include more detail, including practical field restraints, and dosages of drugs for chemical restraint and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories. The chapters on triage and euthanasia again contain much the same information as the larger volume, including the same tables.