

In conclusion, I applaud the authors and the HSUS for highlighting the problems that confront the reptile trade, legislators, human medical and veterinary professions, and for this reason alone the report is worth reading. Unfortunately, it is lacking in several important respects and ultimately the book's conclusions are poorly founded.

Stephen J Hernandez-Divers

Diplomate Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Zoological Medicine

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Specialist in Zoo & Wildlife Medicine (Reptiles)

Assistant Professor in Exotic Animal, Wildlife and Zoo Animal Medicine

Animal Pain: A Practice-Oriented Approach to an Effective Pain Control in Animals

Edited by L J Hellebrekers (2000). Published by Van Der Wees, Uitgeverij, Janskerkhof 26, 3512 BN Utrecht, The Netherlands. Obtainable from Blackwell Science Ltd, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL, UK, or Iowa State University Press, 2121 South State Street, Ames, Iowa 50014-8300, USA. 184 pp. Hardback (ISBN 90 5805 030 0). Price US\$44.95.

New additions to the library of knowledge of animal pain are welcome. This is a reflection of the increasing attention that is now focussed on the problem of pain in animals. The book *Animal Pain* is another useful addition to the library and will appeal to veterinary undergraduate students and to veterinary practitioners whatever their discipline, since pain and suffering affect all our species.

The information in the book is presented in 10 chapters with a preface. There are eight contributors to the book, including the editor, individuals who are all well recognised in the field of animal pain. The editor sets the scene for the contents of the book in chapter one, and this is followed by a challenging opening on the ethics of pain control. Although the title of the chapter refers to companion animals, the author argues for the rise of new social ethics for animals and leads the reader ultimately to ethical management of pain in animals. The reader is exposed to ethical questions around the changing role of animals in society, which are explored further in the following chapter. These chapters are a useful introduction to animal pain and encourage the reader to consider complex issues in some detail. The following chapter focuses on the recognition of pain in various domestic species, and also details the methods available for scoring pain in animals and their limitations. Adequate management of pain depends primarily on adequate recognition of pain, and, given the different behaviour profiles of domestic species and the complex relationships and interactions that humans have with different species, this is an area of animal pain research which requires further work.

There follows an overview of the pathophysiology of pain, and a comprehensive chapter on the clinical pharmacology of analgesic drugs. The treatment of pain in dogs, cats, exotic species and horses is covered in the remaining chapters. Treatment regimens and dosing strategies are detailed, which will be of use to practising veterinary surgeons.

As in many books written by multiple authors, the book contains overlap in content. Dosing regimens are not always consistent and the management of pain in farm animal species is a significant omission. The book is readable and will be useful both as a reference book for dosing strategies and to raise awareness of the subject of pain in animals. Pain management in animals is and should be a matter of concern for all professions dealing with animals, and also for the wider public. This book is targeted at those dealing with the

management of pain in animals directly, and it is a useful addition to their armoury of knowledge for this purpose.

Andrea Nolan
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
University of Glasgow, UK

UK Wildlife: First Aid and Care CD-ROM

WildPro Multimedia Ltd (2002). CD-ROM. Produced by the Wildlife Information Network, The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU, UK. Price £31.50.

Casualties occur in those free-living animals which, through starvation, injury, disease or abandonment, fail the exacting demands of survival in the wild. The majority fall prey to predators or carrion feeders, but for those that are found and taken into captivity, their care presents many practical problems and ethical dilemmas. In attempting to rehabilitate such casualties, the major concern must be to ensure their welfare; it is only on the rare occasions when dealing with endangered species that the concerns are also those of conservation. The aim of any attempt to treat and rehabilitate a wildlife casualty must be to ensure both its welfare during captivity and its ability to survive in the wild once released. If these conditions cannot be ensured, then euthanasia might be the most humane course of action.

Education of those who handle wildlife casualties is the most certain method of safeguarding their patients' welfare, and one important aspect of education is the availability of information. In this country, much of the published work that is available on this subject is anecdotal. Very little of it attempts to combine the veterinary aspects of the subject with those of the natural history of British wild animals and their husbandry whilst held in captivity. This CD-ROM, which has been compiled by a dedicated team of veterinary surgeons, attempts to perform this much-needed task.

The CD-ROM has been produced by the Wildlife Information Network, based at the Royal Veterinary College in London, and is a module of their WILDPro programme. It has been designed to be used by "wildlife rehabilitators, veterinary surgeons and nurses, students, naturalists and field-biologists as a one-stop information source on British mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians". The present programme is not intended to cover the whole subject of handling wildlife casualties but concentrates on techniques and assessments needed for immediate, short-term and medium-term care. The information, which is of a highly practical nature, is generally presented as bullet points. It is extremely well researched and fully referenced throughout, making the programme an invaluable review of current literature.

The contents include sections on: species identification; catching, handling and transportation; rehabilitation and release; treatment; natural history; husbandry; common reasons for admission of casualties; and legislation. The information is extensively cross-referenced, which allows access to species-specific or group-specific details for each stage of the process of handling a wildlife casualty, from capture to release. The programme is designed to allow a user to obtain details of the biology and natural history of a particular species and, by using cross-referencing, to find details of handling, first aid, husbandry and release of that particular species or group of species.

The design of the programme and how it works can be illustrated by taking the case of an otter, injured in a road traffic accident, as an example of an unfamiliar animal that, nowadays, could be presented to almost any veterinary surgery or rehabilitation unit.