

### **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