

Peter Singer's paper is particularly interesting because much of it is devoted to a broad review of the ethical considerations affecting wildlife management as a whole, setting a backcloth for his closing remarks on the specific issue of fertility control of feral eutherians in Australia. The general review summarizes the history of animal liberation (deploying several Old Testament quotations to expose the Judeo-Christian roots of speciesist discrimination) and introduces the concept of intrinsic value beyond the species boundary. This is a carefully argued case, and is especially interesting in clarifying the complex, and often rather dismaying, distinctions between two rather loftily motivated groups: those concerned with conservation and those concerned with animal welfare. Singer explains clearly why the argument of some conservationists, that treating wildlife as a resource is the best way to foster their future, may indeed preserve endangered species - but side-steps the liberationist's bottom line that it is wrong to rank one sentient life above another. On the topic of ranking, Singer presents an interesting argument that some lives (eg humans) are worth more than others (eg mice), on the grounds that species with foresight and the ability to plan have a capacity to understand their existence and their prospects of a future, and therefore suffer a qualitatively different (and presumably greater) loss at death. The paper draws attention to the cruel bind in which three reasonable groups are trapped: farmers wanting to make a living, conservationists (of an ilk called biocentrists) wanting to be rid of pestilential placentals, and animal liberationists determined that the pests (such as rabbits) should not suffer. A method of fertility control that could be spread by a means that does not cause significant suffering to the rabbits would be the perfect solution.

In summary, this is an interesting volume. Singer's account illustrates clearly just how convenient it would be if fertility control could be made to work. Sinclair shows that, in principle, it might. The dozen or so other papers report various ingenious approaches to travelling the road to fertility control. Clearly, there is a way to go, and there is, as yet, no real expectation of fertility control being a panacea for wildlife management. Nonetheless, there is sufficient prospect of it emerging as a useful tool that future developments are worth watching for.

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Humane Law Enforcement Manual

Washington Humane Society (1995). Washington Humane Society: Washington, DC. 250pp. Ring-bound. Obtainable from the publishers, 7319 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington DC 20012, USA. Price US\$10.00.

The *Humane Law Enforcement Manual* is a useful working document, but one that is limited in its application being based on the District of Columbia State Law. Most of the contents relate to companion animals and, in particular, to dogs. However, the operational methodology of the Washington Humane Society will be recognizable to most animal welfare organizations which have an enforcement role.

Section 1 defines standards of appearance and dress for Humane Law Enforcement Officers; a pro forma job description is given and an essential equipment list. Section 2 deals with the process of complaints relating to animal cruelty or mistreatment, and Section 3

outlines the law as applicable to animal cruelty in the district of Columbia. Section 4 presents enforcement options when a complaint appears to be substantiated; surrender of the animal, compliance with the law through owner education, and prosecutions are all discussed. Impoundment is advocated in certain circumstances - particularly those of ongoing cruelty and serious incidental cruelty. Section 5 deals with search warrants and Section 6 deals with investigation procedure. Section 7 is entitled 'Requirements for Compliance' and attempts to define circumstances which might lead to unnecessary suffering. Section 8 covers the difficult areas of preparing for prosecution and gathering evidence. Interview techniques are discussed and advice is given on court appearances. Section 9 provides advice on closing cases and gaining compliance, while Section 10 discusses the difficulties of handling and disposing of animals surrendered or seized. Section 11 provides pro forma enforcement letters. Useful appendices are attached relating to animal care standards.

The major strength of the manual lies in its balanced approach to enforcement, with a cascade of documented actions appropriate to circumstances - beginning with formal advice and ending in prosecutions. The manual will provide a useful reference source for all those actively involved in enforcement work, particularly that relating to companion animals. It is expected that the manual will be of particular assistance to humane societies in developing countries.

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Wild Mammals in Captivity: Principles and Techniques

Edited by D G Kleiman, M E Allen, K V Thompson and S Lumpkin (1996). University of Chicago Press: Chicago. 656pp. Hardback and paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 5801 South Ellis Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA; or, for European orders, c/o John Wiley Distribution Centre, 1 Oldlands Way, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 9SA, UK (ISBN 0226440028 hardback, or 0226440036). Price US\$70 or £55.00 (hardback) and US\$29.95 or £23.95.

This is a well-researched, comprehensive and highly informative book, providing facts and background information on the present 'state of the art' in captive mammal management. Although large - consisting of some 48 chapters and 5 appendices, with 76 contributors - the book successfully manages to avoid just presenting a heterogeneous collection of views.

It is divided into seven parts: 'Basic Husbandry', 'Nutrition', 'Exhibitory', 'Population Management for Conservation', 'Behaviour', 'Reproduction' and 'Captive Mammal Research'. The structuring principle followed in all sections is to first present general rules and, in the context of the chapter, to discuss differences relating to the species' taxonomic position. Only then, are details or examples discussed. This approach will greatly help all those dealing professionally with captive wild animals to find answers to both general and highly specific questions.

In parts 1 and 2, the presentation of husbandry procedures explains their origins and the principles and reasons underlying current practices (using a series of impressive examples), rather than providing a comprehensive list of methods and techniques. Important aspects of relevant behaviour are covered - although little information is provided on how to handle