

Book Reviews

Wild Animals in Captivity: Principles and Techniques for Zoo Management, Second Edition

Edited by DG Kleiman, KV Thompson and CK Baer (2010). Published by The University of Chicago Press, 1427 E 60th Street, Illinois 60637, USA. 548 pp Hardback (ISBN 978-0-226-44009-5). Price £55.00.

My copy of the first edition of *Wild Animals in Captivity*, published some 14 years ago in 1996, is now very well thumbed and slightly tatty around the corners. This weighty book has proved an invaluable companion to me through more than a decade of working with, and writing about, the zoo community. It was a poignant task reviewing the second edition. Devra Kleiman, the editor-in-chief and inspiration behind *Wild Animals in Captivity*, died earlier this year, of cancer, just before the new edition was published. She was a well-known and well-respected researcher, working in the area where wildlife conservation and zoos overlap. Her research interests spanned many aspects of conservation biology, but she is perhaps best remembered for her efforts to save South American monkeys, such as the golden lion tamarin.

This new edition of *Wild Mammals in Captivity* is dedicated to her memory.

Although still listed as Kleiman *et al*, the editorship of the second edition has changed somewhat. Kleiman and her co-editor, Katerina Thompson, worked together on both editions, but for the second edition, Charlotte Kirk Baer replaced Mary Allen and Susan Lumpkin, and Holly Harris did not resume her earlier role as managing editor. But readers will notice few changes as a result of the different hands at the helm; the book remains an authoritative, scholarly and comprehensive guide for anyone with a professional interest in the management of mammals in captivity, and in their conservation and welfare.

Readers of this journal, in particular, will be pleased to note that ethics and animal welfare standards have moved to the forefront of the second edition of *Wild Animals in Captivity*, and form a new three-chapter introduction to the book, ahead of the chapters on various aspects of husbandry. After the new Part one, the book more or less follows its previous form, with a sections on 'Basic mammal management' (formerly 'Basic husbandry'), 'Nutrition', 'Exhibitory', 'Behavior' (I have followed the editors' American spelling here) and 'Reproduction'. Separate chapters in the first edition covered 'Population management for conservation', and 'Captive mammal research'. These two topics have, in the second edition, been amalgamated into a single chapter entitled 'Conservation and research', but without any obvious detriment to the breadth of coverage.

This is a book for zoo professionals, not a lay audience. Written largely by experts for experts, the acknowledgements at the start of the first edition read like a roll call of the great and good in the world of zoos and captive breeding for conservation. Kathy Carlstead is there, and William Conway, alongside Terry Maple, Ronald Swaisgood, Jill

Mellen and David Shepherdson. Even with fewer chapters, the second edition of Kleiman *et al* still clocks up an impressive 78 authors. These are drawn from a much wider range of countries than contributors to the first edition, with its overwhelmingly North American focus. For a UK audience, it is gratifying to see the names of leading conservationists, academics and zoo professionals from this side of the Atlantic prominent in the second edition: Georgina Mace, Miranda Stevenson, Alexandra Zimmerman, David Field, Jake Veasey and Sally Walker, among others, all made contributions to the second edition, as chapter authors or reviewers, or both.

Kleiman was able to write the preface to the second edition before she died, and in this she outlines the scope of the second edition, and the review and consultation process that led to the various changes. The alterations to the text are extensive, and bring the book up-to-date with current thinking and practice in zoos, and in the field of conservation biology. Some important things have not changed, however. Where there is doubt, or controversy, over aspects of conservation management, this is acknowledged. The information provided is comprehensively referenced, as in the first edition, and reliable. I have just one small gripe over the referencing, and that is that reference lists are provided at the end of each chapter rather than as a single list at the end of the book. This means that you have to remember which chapter you spotted a particular reference in before you can track it down.

A very welcome change to the second edition is the expanded provision of general reference material in the appendices. There is now an excellent Appendix 1 on 'Standard methods for measuring animals'; Appendix 2 covers 'Identification and marking techniques', and Appendix 3 'Records, studbooks, regional zoo associations and ISIS'. These are likely to be of great practical use to anyone working in a zoo or captive breeding facility. The final appendix is an annotated bibliography of books, journals and online resources on captive management. This is lengthy but not exhaustive; the resources listed are perhaps biased towards the North American literature, and there are one or two surprising omissions.

Other things about this book have not changed. The photographs are black-and-white, not colour, although it is good to see a wider range of illustrations. The typeface is still small, and the new edition, at 548 pages, remains lengthy — and correspondingly heavy. But at a recommended price (for the hardcover version) of £55, *Wild Mammals in Captivity* represents exceptionally good value (at a little over 10 p per page). Anyone working with mammals in zoos, or in conservation biology, should make sure that they have a copy of the new edition of this important book on their shelves.

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