Book review

Capture, Care and Management of Threatened Mammals, published by the Wildlife Group of the South African Veterinary Association, P.O. Box 12900, Onderstepoort, 0110 Republic of South Africa. Pretoria 1993. 84 pp. Price (including postage and packaging) R30-00 (RSA); elsewhere US$30-00.

This is the third publication by the South African Veterinary Association’s Wildlife Group (in collaboration with the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians) on a topic relevant to nature conservation. The first publication was devoted to the African elephant Loxodonta africana as a potential ranch animal (see Koedoe 35(1): 130 (1992)). This was followed by a the publication on sable antelope Hippotragus niger as a decided ranch animal (see Koedoe 35(2): 61 (1992)). The new volume takes a rather broader field to task and is devoted to the capture, care and management of threatened mammals, and the data presented are the proceedings of an international symposium held at Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa.

The volume consists of some 27 contributions of which 12 are presented as full-length papers on topics such as the Somali wild ass Equus africana somalicus in captivity; the importance of ethology in the management of the Cape mountain zebra Equus zebra zebra; the management of captive primates in a tropical environment in Gabon; gazelle management for breeding and reintroduction in Saudi Arabia’s King Khalid Wildlife Research Centre; and tick toxicosis as a predisposing factor of cytauxzoonosis in roan antelope Hippotragus equinus calves in Namibia.

Other contributions are given as abstracts and refer to chemical immobilisation, post-capture care and transportation of white rhino Ceratotherium simum; physiological changes following the immobilisation of the wild dog Lycaon pictus with fentanyl and xylazine; clinical and pathological findings from marmosets (Callithricidae) showing chronic weight loss under captive conditions; and the implications of G-6PD allozymes for capture and care of the black rhinoceros Diceros bicornis.

This publication is somewhat of a potpourri, but its strength and real value lies in the considerable amount of physiological data which can be gleaned from both the full-length papers and those presented in abstract from.

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