



Handbook of Primate Husbandry and Welfare

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BOOK REVIEW

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Handbook of Primate Husbandry and Welfare. By Sarah Wolfensohn and Paul Honess, Blackwell Publishing, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50014, USA. 2005. 176 pp. ISBN 9781405111584. US\$76.99 (paperback).

Review by Elaine N. Videan

According to the title, this book aims to provide the reader with a comprehensive guide to the care of multiple species of nonhuman primates in captivity. However, this volume is primarily dedicated to the care and management of macaque monkeys. The authors, Sarah Wolfensohn and Paul Honess, are leading primatologists from Oxford University; therefore, their background is United Kingdom (UK) animal welfare law, which does differ a bit from the regulations governing care of nonhuman primates set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Nonetheless, the *Handbook of Primate Husbandry and Welfare* is a thorough guide to the physical, medical, and psychological care of laboratory- and zoo-held monkeys. The book covers our own evolutionary and emotional links to primates, issues involving ethical, cultural, and legal considerations of housing nonhuman primates in captivity, as well as all aspects of nonhuman primate care from the physical environment (Chapter 2) and nutrition (Chapter 4), to psychological well-being (Chapter 6) and animal training (Chapter 7), to staff training and management (Chapter 3). The result is an easy-to-read manual perfect for those new to the management of nonhuman primates and a worthwhile reference for those more experienced.

The first half of the manual covers issues involving nonhuman primate housing, health, and nutrition. The discussions of physical environment are very well done, and they are presented not only in terms of size and structure but also in terms of behavioral needs. Differences among similarly sized primates in terms of social structure, their use of space, and their response to stress likely require marked differences in captive housing.

The authors eloquently address these needs for a variety of nonhuman primates, including such often neglected issues as lighting and sound levels. The chapter on nutrition, however, is basic, and although it does refer to more detailed manuals (i.e., NRC, 2003), what is lacking is a discussion of the challenges of providing captive nonhuman primates with the variety of foods and complexity in foraging and feeding techniques they would receive in the wild. The chapter on physical health includes detailed information on daily health assessments, clinical assessments, and postmortem procedures, as well as discussion of common infectious diseases. As detailed as this chapter is, however, it is focused almost solely on the health maintenance and assessment of macaque species. Significant differences exist between macaques and other commonly held nonhuman primates in the United States, such as Callitrichids, squirrel monkeys, and chimpanzees. For holders of these species, this chapter is a good introduction, but further information specific to the needs of great apes and new world monkeys should be sought elsewhere.

The remaining four chapters discuss more advanced issues involving psychological well-being, positive reinforcement training, breeding, and transport of nonhuman primates. Chapter 6 addresses specific differences related to sociality between species and does an excellent job of discussing specific socioenvironmental needs, including scent-marking, territoriality, and degree of arboreality. Social needs are continued in the first part of Chapter 7, which addresses methods of social introduction and basic differences among monkey species in terms of behavior, both toward human care staff and conspecifics. However, these discussions are general, and readers should seek additional outside information specifically relating to their species of choice. The remainder of the chapter discusses the importance of all staff participating in positive reinforcement training. Benefits of and methods used to train animals to present for injection or participate in blood collection are mentioned; however, approaches are simplified and staff should seek additional resources before implementing

training programs. The chapter on breeding is quite well-done and emphasizes the importance of understanding natural breeding systems, as well as various influences on primate fertility—both environmental (i.e., nutrition, length of daylight) and social (i.e., dominance). There are also brief discussions of parturition, lactation, and weaning, but these mostly focus on macaque species. The manual closes with a discussion of the legal considerations of importing monkeys from the wild, including the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Taken as a whole, the *Handbook of Primate Husbandry and Welfare* is a useful introduction into the mainly diverse and interconnected issues surrounding care and management of primates in captivity. Perhaps, the

volume should have been titled *Handbook of Macaque Husbandry and Welfare* because this book remains focused on macaques. Significant references throughout the book make this a convenient starter reference, but readers should be cautioned that holders of non-macaque species will need considerable outside information to supplement this text.

LITERATURE CITED

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NRC). 2003. Nutrient Requirements of Nonhuman Primates, Second Revised Edition. The National Academies Press, Washington.

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