

Wild Mammals in Captivity (International) Revision

Zoo Outreach Organisation would like to thank Dr. Devra G. Kleiman who has been entrusted with the revision of an excellent book which can be of great use to zoo personnel. Dr. Kleiman, who edited the last edition over a decade ago, is trying to find out if there is an international audience for this book. She needs to know if zoo and wildlife personnel in India and South Asia had access to *Wild Mammals in Captivity* and if it was useful or needs modification for some regions. Her appeal to zoo personnel is duplicated in the next columns.

Wild Mammals in Captivity was a modern update (1996) of previous versions which have appeared through the years in various forms. Amazingly, this book had its start in India in 1892 with Ram Brahma Sanyal's *A Handbook of the Management of Wild Animals in Captivity in Lower Bengal*. Central Zoo Authority republished this book in 1995 for historical interest, although much of what Sanyal wrote, zoo directors in India and other parts of Asia could have used to benefit their animals even today.

Much later, Dr. Lee Crandall, then Director of Bronx Zoo, and clearly inspired by Sanyal (Crandall referred to Sanyal 18 times in his version!) wrote a very comprehensive and outstanding tome appropriate to its time. Crandall's book probably found its way to almost every zoo director's desk in the world and went through many revisions. It was titled *Management of Wild Mammals in Captivity* and published by University of Chicago Press in 1964. About 1981, the idea of doing a revision arose, but it wasn't started for many years and then not completed and published until 1996.

The original Crandall was taxonomically based. Dr. Kleiman and her editors (Mary E. Allen, Katerina V. Thompson, and Susan Lumpkin) originally thought they would do 3 volumes, one organized by topic and 2 organized by taxon. In the end they only managed to complete the first volume and that is what they will revise. The one volume ran 600 pages with many authors and cost \$30.00 -- amazingly inexpensive considering its size.

Now there is an initiative to bring out another update with more essays by people from our region. If you are interested in this book and have seen the last edition edited by Kleiman, would you please respond to Dr. Kleiman's request in the next column.

To South Asian Zoo Personnel
From Devra Kleiman
Ref Intl version of *Wild Mammals in Captivity*

Dear Colleague:

I have been communicating with the University of Chicago Press about revising the 1996 volume *Wild Mammals in Captivity*. The book has been an enormous success and UC press is very enthusiastic about a revision. Mary Allen and Kaci Thompson, two of the original co-editors, will be working with me on the revision. The chapters for the volume were completed almost a decade ago, and many sections are outdated or have been superseded by changes in our profession.

I am writing you because you are a zoological garden professional who has probably used the volume. To make the revision as relevant as possible to the current challenges facing mammalogists, curators and caretakers working in zoos or related facilities, I am hoping that you will answer the following questions and return this survey to me before 1 November 2004 (or pass it onto an appropriate individual(s) within your institution for response):

- 1) Which sections or chapters have you found most useful in your work or do you think are most useful for those working with captive mammals?
- 2) Which sections or chapters are least useful?
- 3) What changes in emphasis would you recommend in the revised volume, i.e. would you recommend eliminating sections/chapters or adding new sections/chapters?

The original volume had a very limited number of non-United States participants. We wish to expand the range of contributors and the international scope of the revision. Can you recommend individuals (names, contact information if available, and specialty) from outside the United States with expertise in the areas covered by the book to participate in the revision? I thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely,
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