

Concern about wildlife

Veterinary surgeons, animal welfare organizations and animal shelters are being increasingly asked to advise on, treat or look after injured, diseased or orphaned wild mammals and birds. The assistance which can be given to those creatures is often limited by the lack of knowledge the potential helpers have of the basic care and management of the animals. In an attempt to provide some of this essential background knowledge, Marian Small has prepared a 40 page A4 booklet on the natural history, care and feeding of a number of common British land mammals. Details are given on the general biology of the species, on means of capture, on food and food preferences, on suitable accommodation and, to a varying degree, on injuries, first aid and common diseases. There are a number of whole page, black and white illustrations by Lynne Mustard. This volume, which has been sponsored by Intervet UK, should be most useful to those who have to deal with wildlife casualties.

Wildlife Welfare (Mammals). Marian Small. (1994) Intervet UK Ltd: Cambridge. 40pp. Paperback.

Ethics and animals

Two publications recently put out by the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals (RSPCA) clearly and succinctly present many of the ethical concepts which underpin the beliefs of Western societies pro-animal lobby.

The leaflet *Ethical Concerns for Animals* briefly states the views of three influential reformers (Jeremy Bentham, Lewis Gompertz, Henry Salt), six contemporary philosophers (Peter Singer, Tom Regan, Richard Ryder, Stephen Clark, Bernard Rollin, Mary Midgley) and four of the main religions (Hinduism/Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity) on man's use and misuse of animals. This leaflet is backed up by a booklet *On the Side of the Animals: Some Contemporary Philosophers's Views*, formed from a series of one to two page essays by Midgley, Clark, Singer, Regan, Rollin, Ryder and Andrew Linzey.

These two publications are a straightforward introduction to Western societies animal care/animal rights ethics.

Ethical Concerns for Animals. Produced and published by the RSPCA: Horsham (1994). 7pp. Paperback. Price 10p.

On the Side of the Animals: Some Contemporary Philosophers' Views. Produced and published by the RSPCA: Horsham (1995). 15pp. Paperback. Price 50p.

Both obtainable from RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG, UK.