
Book review

The African Elephant as a Game Ranch Animal published by the Wildlife Group of the South African Veterinary Association, Pretoria, 1991. Pp. 192. Price (including postage and packaging) R50-00 (RSA), R55-00 (neighbouring states), US\$50-00 elsewhere.

The Wildlife Group of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) was constituted in the beginning of the 1970s by a number of persons interested in theoretical and practical aspects of wildlife (*sensu lato*), wildlife diseases, and the handling of game and wild animals (*sensu stricto*).

Over the years, the group applied itself and supported the eventual establishment of the Price Forbes Chair in Wildlife Diseases within the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria, while it was also associated with the publication of the *Capture and Care of Wild Animals*, authored by the late Dr Eddie Young.

In April 1991 the group convened in the Kruger National Park for a symposium devoted to the concept of the African elephant *Loxodonta africana* as a game ranch animal. The proceedings of this meeting has just come to hand and is briefly reviewed here.

The publication is a soft-cover issue with 146 pages of roneod text, plus an added 46 pages devoted to a Bibliography of the elephant (both African and Asian) compiled by J. G. du Toit and R.E.J. Burroughs. Authors of the

17 papers are well-known personalities in the veterinary and conservation fields and a *capita selecta* of the issues discussed range from the past, present and future distribution of elephant in southern Africa (Ebedes, Vernon & Grundling), factors that may influence the establishment of elephant populations onto private land (Walker), the construction of elephant bomas (Henwood), management and care of newly captured juvenile African elephants (Bengis, Keet, Raath & de Vos), to questions addressing the African elephant as a game-ranch animal (du Toit), whether the African elephant can earn its keep (Moore), and aspects of elephant diseases (Colly), disease diagnosis (Meltzer), and autopsy procedures (Keet).

The contributions are of a good standard and makes interesting reading on a topic which is becoming more and more actual in view of the pressures exerted on the African elephant—threatening its eventual survival under natural conditions. It will prove to be a useful publication and copies may be ordered from the SAVA Wildlife Group, P O Box 12900, 0110 Onderstepoort, RSA.

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