

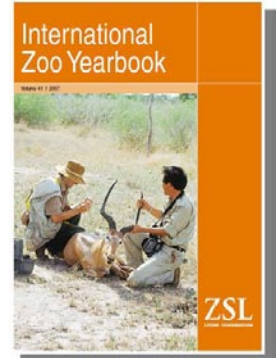
# REVIEW

## *International Zoo Yearbook* — Volume 41

by **Stephanie Sanderson**, Head of Conservation Medicine, Chester Zoo, UK

The International Zoo Yearbook (IZY) is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in wildlife conservation, including zoo professionals, researchers into the biological and social sciences, university students and zoo enthusiasts. IZY is published annually and contains two main sections: a world directory of zoos and zoo associations, and a series of papers and review articles split between new developments in the zoo world and a specialist topic.

The specialist topic for the 2007 edition is Animal Health and Conservation. This section explores the important role vets play as part of a multidisciplinary conservation team and how the skills developed for the management of captive individuals have ever-increasing relevance to the management of in situ populations.



Disease forms a normal part of any ecosystem but, as pressures increase on the world's wild places, disease is now also seen both as a significant threat to the survival of endangered species and as a symptom of ecosystem damage. This specially commissioned section of IZY 41 includes papers on how vets can contribute to wildlife health in a range of ways, including collation of baseline health and physiological data on individual species in the relatively controlled conditions of a zoo, production of a set of tools to assist with disease risk analysis and the application of these data and techniques to wildlife reintroductions and translocations. The authors are clearly passionate about their subjects and the text contains a good balance of theory and real-life examples, including both successes and failures to illustrate the points made therein.

Another area covered in this section is the interface between human, livestock and wildlife disease. A proposal is put forward that zoos, through their meticulous data collection and biological sample banks, can play an important role in biosurveillance, and contribute to public and environmental health by the tracking of and research into zoonotic and emerging disease. Three papers follow providing detail on some highly topical threats to wildlife, human health and ecosystem health, namely Avian Influenza H5N1, West Nile Virus and Amphibian Chytridiomycosis.

Papers featuring in the 'developments in the zoo world' section cover a wide range of topics. Their scope ranges from experiences with individual animals (hand raising techniques) to the global (regional animal management differences and breeding success). Management of medicinal leeches, sexual reproduction of corals, priorities for conservation breeding of European rodents are also covered as are exhibit design and visitor behaviour.

A number of the papers in this edition of IZY illustrate one of the many uses of the second half of this book – the zoo directory. This is not only a listing of world zoos but also includes data on species held, visitor attendance, type of management and institutional specialisms. This resource can and has been used to look at global trends in zoo visitation as well as find specific contact details for individual zoos.

A great deal of work has gone into this volume and the authors and editors alike should be commended on the results. They have succeeded in producing both a useful reference for those working with and in zoos, and in providing a wide-ranging and thought-provoking exploration of Animal Health and its role in Conservation. I look forward to Amphibian Conservation in IZY 42.