



Book review

BENGIS, R.G. (Coordinator). 2002. Infectious diseases of wildlife: detection, diagnosis and management. *Revue Scientifique en Technique, Office International des Épizooties*, Vol. 21(1 & 2). ISSN 0253-1933; ISBN 92-9044-554-8 (Part 1); ISBN 92-9044-567-X (Part 2). 403 pp. Price: 90 euros

Wildlife diseases were last addressed by the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* in 1988. Since then, impressive progress has been made in diagnosis and management of infectious diseases, detection of new or emerging diseases and recognition of the epidemiological link between wildlife and many of these diseases. The growing economic, aesthetic and cultural importance of wildlife cannot be overlooked by the veterinary profession. This compilation will therefore serve as a timely stimulus for improved wildlife disease detection, diagnosis and management.

In order to familiarise readers with important background information, specific chapters address the value of wildlife, international regulations for movement and trade and the use of geographic information systems as an epidemiological tool.

Important coverage is given to interspecific transmission of disease at the interface between wildlife and domestic animals, as well as disease risk

assessment related to translocation of wildlife. Disease management strategies are dealt with, including pro-active and reactive interventions. Management of population density as a tool for handling density-dependent diseases is discussed, as is biological control of disease agents and vectors.

Diseases of farmed wildlife are also discussed, with the emphasis on farmed deer and bison. These chapters contain short accounts of various diseases affecting other species as well, e.g. malignant catarrhal fever, foot and mouth disease, blue-tongue and bovine viral diarrhoea, and various bacterial diseases. Of particular importance to southern Africa is an excellent review of diseases of farmed crocodiles and ostriches by Dr Fritz Huchzermeyer.

Several chapters are dedicated to specific diseases that are historically or currently problematic in wildlife. The thorough reviews of tuberculosis, anthrax and brucellosis in wildlife are particularly relevant to southern Africa.