

## Book review

Health and management of free-ranging mammals. *OIE Scientific and Technical Review*, volume 11, no. 4, December 1992, 248 pp., US\$34, ISBN 92-9044-321-0 and volume 12, no. 1, March 1993, 312 pp., US\$40 ISBN 92-9044-322-7

Two issues of the *OIE Scientific and Technical Review* have been devoted to the vast topic of the "health and management of free-ranging mammals", namely: Volume 11(4), December 1992 and Volume 12(1), March 1993. An introduction in the first of the two issues explains that these papers were compiled following presentations made at an International Symposium organized by the Laboratory for the Study of Rabies and Diseases of Wild Animals ("LERPAS" in French) and held in Nancy (France), from 14 to 18 October 1991, under the triple patronage of the World Health Organization, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Office International des Epizooties.

To achieve effective management of wildlife populations, man now acknowledges the need to analyse and understand the nature of relationships between mammals, parasites and their environment. The aim of these two issues is to provide the information presented in Nancy to all those who are involved in managing wildlife populations. Research and the exchange of information on a world-wide level is all the more important since the regression of species subjected to changes in habitat (destruction of traditional habitats, intensification of farm production and the wide use of pesticides, abandonment of farming in some areas, etc.) has often been followed by

boosts in populations, as hunters and conservationists introduce animals from other areas and even other continents (e.g. *Sylvilagus* hares) or reintroduce certain species (e.g. lynx). In this type of intervention, not only is the potential introduction of accompanying parasites or pathogens often a threat, but also—despite some disastrous experiences, as with myxomatosis—a lack of understanding prevails, in that a dramatic disease situation may arise when healthy carriers mix with non-immunized animals.

The proceedings of this Symposium are arranged in three parts. The first is concerned with the present state of knowledge on various species and individual diseases. The second considers the epidemiology of diseases, with reference to transmission, impact and models, and the third describes current capacities in the surveillance, control and prevention of wildlife diseases, and the management of species of wild animals.

In the 390 pages devoted to this theme, the reader will find a wide variety of papers which discuss how diseases are detected, monitored and avoided in a multitude of different species and environments. Papers vary from a study of crassicaudosis in large baleen whales to a serological survey in captive Arabian oryx. A total of 45 contributions by 116 specialists are presented.