



Book review

WOODFORD, M.H. (Ed.) 2002. *Quarantine and health screening protocols for wildlife prior to translocation and release into the wild*. Published jointly by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Veterinary Specialist Group/Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Care for the Wild International, and European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians. ISBN 92-9044-520-3. 104 pp. Soft cover. Price 16 euros

Translocation is defined as the movement of living organisms from one area for free release in another. This includes translocation from one wild population to another, the introduction of captive-bred animals into a natural population, or the return of rehabilitated animals to the wild after varying periods of time in captivity. The translocation of endangered species, often to reintroduce them into part of their historic range from which they had been extirpated, has also become an important conservation technique.

These releases should no longer be regarded as consisting of single animals, but rather as a package or organisms, including those viruses, bacteria, protozoa, helminths and arthropods which any single animal may harbour. Any of these organisms may become pathogenic in stressful conditions, affecting not only the released animal, but also other animals and possibly humans.

Many of the disease risks attending wildlife translocations are described in this book and suggestions

are made for the reduction of these risks, both at the source of the animals and at the release site. This book is therefore an excellent reference source to enable veterinarians to make rational decisions regarding translocation and release of wildlife.

The first chapter outlines the principles of translocation and reintroduction policy, e.g. evaluation of the health status of the animals and the source population, quarantine, clinical examination and diagnostic testing, vaccination, etc.

The following chapters are devoted to detailed information on these topics for the mammalian orders Artiodactyla, Perissodactyla, Primates, Carnivora, Rodentia and Lagomorpha, Marsupialia, Monotremata and Chiroptera, as well as for birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

The final chapters list sources of vaccines and pharmaceuticals, as well as contact addresses of organisations and institutions concerned with conservation and wildlife health.