

## **The Capture and Care Manual:**

**Capture, Care, Accommodation and Transport of Wild African Animals,  
Edited by Andrew A. McKenzie**

**Wildlife Decision Support Services SA Veterinary Foundation ISBN 0-620-17608-3, Pretoria, 1993, 729 pages, 34 colour illustrations, 13 page index, 22 page appendices, 8 page glossary, contributed by 26 wildlife specialists.**

This book was published in 1993 in Pretoria by Wildlife Decision Support Services CC and The South African Veterinary Foundation, printed by CTP Book Printers. It has been published for the purpose of providing information on wild animal management. The contents of this book have been contributed by 26 wildlife specialists and edited by Dr. Andrew McKenzie. The authors professional background include nature conservation officers, veterinarians, technicians, agricultural extension officers, researchers, University lecturers, veterinary pharmacists and toxicologists and a range of many other specializations.

The foreword which is very extensive covering 7 pages has been written by Dr. Ian Player. Dr. Player has given a deep story of the wildlife capture methods giving his own experience. This foreword deserves to be read by all people interested in wildlife conservation. It is very interesting and describes the actual options one is faced with, feelings and decisions in capturing, care, management, transportation and accommodation of wild animals.

The preface of the book has been written by Dr. Andrew McKenzie who together with his own work and experience carefully collected and compiled the accumulated data for preparing this comprehensive book some of which would otherwise not been written. As a result Dr. McKenzie and other authors have offered the world a

book so important to wildlife capture for translocation. The primary purpose is translocation for repopulation of animals species. I do believe that the future of translocation and caring of animals will remain for wildlife conservation guided by governments's plans, law and policies. Otherwise without appropriate control the techniques described can be used to depopulate and even eliminate wildlife in some places.

The book comprises of two sections; a portion on general capturing, transportation and care and a second part dealing with specific species. This is arranged taxonomically not alphabetically as explained for easy comparisons and logic, however this demand a little more time for search of individual species. The species specific chapters deal with methods for herbivores generally, elephants, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, African buffalo, giraffe, bush pig, warthog, zebra ostrich and crocodile.

The general section describes drugs used in anaesthetizing animals, their history, precautions, human safety, characteristics, legal control, antidotes supplied with references at the end of each paper. A paper appears to be a chapter contributed by an individual or a group of authors. This arrangement is confusing because the sections are not referred as chapters and difficult to quickly determine the end of that section. Furthermore the material covered in one paper may overlap or be repeated

by another paper written by another author with a different experience. This causes considerable repetitions. The merit of this arrangement is however reflected in the practical approach the book takes making this additional material useful.

The experience of authors is reflected in sections dealing with application of the drugs species by species showing how they are used, dosage, time response, symptoms to drug success, advantages and disadvantages, prevention and management of capture drug accidents, injuries to humans and various other precautions.

The methods describe in detail the remote injection equipment, darting antelopes, mass capture in bomas, nets and foot holds, caring immediately after capture, transportation, transit handling and accommodation.

The book is quite detailed in its intended knowledge. Its arrangement in sections without chapters and multi-authored nature especially based on personal experience makes it solidly a guide for wild animal handlers and researchers. It is difficult to read as a text book. It is however very practical and very suitable for reference to interested personnel "a real manual".

Some of the methods described and illustrated with pictures require heavy trucks and accessories or air crafts "very expensive and not accessible to researchers, conservation officers" and cannot be applied in most of African countries.

They may be useful in rare occasions for large species such the rhinoceros, elephant, buffalo and giraffe especially on threat of extinction.

The glossary gives a list of words, either veterinary medical technical or perceived to be unknown to readers who would like to apply the techniques. This part is extremely useful to the reader as it allows a very wide scope of application rather than veterinarians alone.

At the end of the book are blank pages left for notes allowing people who use it to provide their experience or new techniques they have developed that may be included in future editions of the volume. This further expands the scope of application and the community dealing with wildlife conservation.

Conservation in East Africa has been of high priority since pre colonial era, maintained by force and the nature of the local people living together with wild and domestic animals in the same environment. However, the situation is changing very fast, the human population is increasing at the expense of resources. Greater utilization of natural resources including wild animals for food, trophies and other uses has become apparent. At the same time conservation of wild animals by police force cannot be sustained. In these situations the need to allocate land for animals and people is necessary and capture and translocation being part and parcel of this task. This book is therefore the first valuable reference at hand. The experience of authors have led to provision of the most successful capture and transportation methods. They are described in detail both scientifically and practically unlike text books that tend to review available alternative methods some of which may even never been tested. It is worth to have this book if you are dealing with wild animal conservation.

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