

Is there a future in Captive Animal Management?

By Kevin Stafford

Kevin Stafford graduated from Dublin with a veterinary degree in 1976. He spent 12 years working in the Middle East, Africa and Central America. Kevin arrived in Palmerston North in 1990 to work in the Veterinary Faculty at Massey, where he teaches Animal Behaviour and Welfare. His research interests are in parental investment, feeding behaviour, the behaviour of companion animals and animal welfare (particularly farm animals). Kevin's favourite animals are cats, dogs, sheep, horses and wallabies

Captivity

- ❖ There is no future for large land mammals outside captivity
- ❖ The majority of endemic birds, mammals and reptiles in New Zealand will be held in captivity within 50 years

Captivity

- ❖ Confined to specific fenced areas
- ❖ Social and sexual opportunities controlled by humans
- ❖ Feeding, disease and environment managed by humans

Captivity

- ❖ Increased longevity
- ❖ Improved reproduction
- ❖ Improved health

Captivity in New Zealand

- ❖ Primary Focus
 - Predator Control
 - Improved reproduction
- ❖ Secondary Focus
 - Tourism
 - Biodiversity

Captivity - targets

- ❖ Fencing
- ❖ Predator control
- ❖ Knowledge reproduction
 nutrition
 health
- ❖ Behavioural needs ??

Species Survival

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| ❖ Biological | Human Needs |
| ❖ Usefulness | basic |
| ❖ Quality of life | pleasure |
| ❖ Totemic | Pollution |
| ❖ Mutual Survival | Ignorance |
| ❖ \$ Return | Costs in \$ |

Survival in wild depends on

- ❖ Wilderness - none left within a century
 Antarctic
 Ureweras
- ❖ Money - insufficient available
 Kiwi - North Island?
- ❖ Future - captivity in large enclosures

CMG Role

- ❖ Generate knowledge
 Nutrition/reproduction/health
- ❖ Facilitate extensive captivity
- ❖ Provide the livestock

The Future

- ❖ Captivity - farming - business
- ❖ Captivity and Gradual Domestication
 Or
- ❖ Rapid Elimination

- ❖ You are the future

The Future of captive animals

- ❖ Islands, Mainland Islands
- ❖ Reserve (Karori)
- ❖ Specialised collections (suburban)
- ❖ Zoos (suburban)

Financial support

- ❖ Tourism
- ❖ Sales of animals
- ❖ Government

Displays

- ❖ Visitor
- ❖ Animal/s
- ❖ Establishment

Tourism

- ❖ Displays attractive
 interesting
 educational
 entertaining
 interactive
 enthusiasm
- ❖ Support activities

Interesting

- ❖ Multi-species versus single species
- ❖ Natural or pseudo-natural appearance
- ❖ Complex yet easy to view
- ❖ Large with internal viewing paths
- ❖ Active - artificially induced

Education

- ❖ Key information (school children)
 Computers the way to go
- ❖ Voice information
- ❖ Noise of the bush / animal
- ❖ Feel & touch
- ❖ Show the violence of predation and the joys of sex

Interactive

- ❖ Internal versus external viewing
- ❖ Feeding equipment
 - Visitor supply it / Easily viewed
- ❖ Toys ???
- ❖ Photography (through cages aaagh)
- ❖ Seats (sit and view - interesting sites)

What would I love to visit?

- ❖ A large walkthrough aviary of New Zealand bush birds with feeders and nest boxes with video monitoring plus bats (?)
- ❖ A skink and gecko house with and internal walk and with set areas of viewing with seat and good photography sites
- ❖ A predator house with all the important imported mammalian predators on display
- ❖ A falcon breeding and display unit
- ❖ An easily reached reserve with bush song not silence (Karori again)

New Zealand Wildlife is unique - tell the World

Target Audience

- ❖ Local (age groups)
- ❖ General tourist
- ❖ Specialised tourist