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Title: Second Nature: Environmental Enrichment for Captive Animals

Author(s): Marc Bekoff .

Source: BioScience.

Document Type: Book review

Article Preview :

David J. Shepherdson, Jill D. Mellon, and Michael Hutchins, eds. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC, 1998. 347 pp., illus. \$32.50 (ISBN 1-56098-745-6 cloth). Second Nature is a gold mine of information for those who want to enrich the lives of the numerous nonhuman animals (hereafter referred to simply as animals) who are held in captivity for one of any number of reasons (e.g., eventual reintroduction to the wild, research, entertainment, amusement, or food). Its goal is "to provide an overview of the evolving art and science of environmental enrichment and to define and expand upon its theoretical framework as well as its practical applications" (p. 334). The book deals mainly with animals who are maintained in zoos and aquaria and considers numerous vertebrate taxa. The editors are leaders in the field, and the 38 contributors represent an all-star cast. Second Nature has three main sections - "Theoretical Bases of Environmental Enrichment"; "Environmental Enrichment in Animal Conservation and Welfare"; "Environmental Enrichment in Captive Management, Husbandry, and Training" - and 19 chapters. Nearly all of the contributions emphasize practical, real-world

applications of environmental enrichment and the primacy of empirical data over anecdotes and common sense (e.g., folk views that bigger cages translate into happier animals and better lives). Clearly, if animals are to be kept in captivity, it is essential that researchers make serious attempts to improve the situation. As Donald Lindburg reminds the reader, "The history of animal-keeping is a sobering reminder of the ease with which quality living can be denied to even the most sentient and developmentally sensitive animals" (p. 262). Although the topic of environmental enrichment presupposes that animals will be kept in captivity, restricting their freedom and compromising other aspects of their lives raise many difficult and contentious issues that have been hotly debated by researchers, including zoologists, psychologists, and philosophers (see Jamieson 1995, Bekoff 1998, and discussions in...

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