

Captive Care Working Party

Annual Report 2003

The Captive Care Working Party (CCWP) is happy to welcome three new members: Dr Vicky Melfi, Mr David Buist and Ms Mellissa Nixon. We are sad to say goodbye to Mr Malcolm Welshman and Mrs Sarah Wolfensohn who retired from the Working Party this year – our sincere thanks to them for their input over the years.

Throughout 2003, the Working Party continued to provide advice, and co-ordinate action, on various captive care issues, including acquisition and transport, housing and husbandry, and training with positive reinforcement techniques.

The CCWP revised its web page in order to give more information about the interests and activities of the Working Party and links to the PSGB Captive Care Grants. A poster was produced to complement the web page, and was displayed at the 2003 meetings of the European Marmoset Research Group (EMRG) and Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA), and at the 6th International Conference on Environmental Enrichment.

The CCWP now meets twice yearly. At the last meeting we considered applications for the new Captive Care Grants. We are pleased to announce an award to Ms Avanti Mallapur for a research project titled 'Factors influencing the welfare and reproductive success of captive lion-tailed macaques in Indian zoos'. The next deadline for applications is 31st August 2004 (for projects to be undertaken after that date). For further details see: www.psgb.org/CaptiveCare/

The CCWP has written to Professor Alison Richard, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, regarding the proposed Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience. The letter requests a meeting with University staff to discuss standards of housing and care for primates at the Centre.

The Working Party has begun a report on weaning policy for primates bred and used for research and testing. We welcome any data that compares effects on primates of weaning at different ages.

Mark J. Prescott, Ph.D.
Convenor, Captive Care Working Party