

Editorial

As this number goes to print, plans and programme for the Barcelona Symposium are rapidly taking shape. Bearing in mind the importance of making out a clear cut case for the justification for keeping marine mammals in captivity, three sessions are going to be arranged to cover the vital criteria to this argument—education, breeding and research. Remembering the difficulties which colleagues in Australia and USA are meeting, it is hoped to invite speakers from these two continents to discuss the problems we face in Europe. The United Kingdom Government's advisor should be reporting on the British situation shortly so with the Australian Government's Select Committee already published, by the time we meet in Barcelona a useful international consensus of advice and action could be agreed upon.

On the breeding of marine mammals, progress at last seems to have been made worldwide. A Commerson's dolphin has been born at Seaworld, San Diego, California, a killer whale at Seaworld, Florida, and there are five recent Tursiops birth in Europe. To some of us, maybe, the birth of live marine mammals' offspring is a logical conclusion to the keeping of healthy adults to sexual maturity, but to the outside world nothing can generate interest and mark progress better than these live births. Perhaps, with the developments such as those being carried out at Vancouver, British Columbia and with those being proposed at Windsor, United Kingdom, this work may rapidly increase, and result in surplus captive-born animals.

Sadly Professor Duguy from La Rochelle has reported recently on the presence of oils as pollutants in the intestines of seven out of thirty-six seals autopsied in France, and comments, in detail, on the pathological damage associated with the findings.

I would like to draw readers' attention to the article by Lockyer and Morris in this issue, and in particular, their reference on page 11 to evidence of a wild dolphin's aggression towards an apparently known and previously accepted person. Perhaps, this is the time when warnings ought to be given to the general public that dolphins are wild animals, and that by swimming with them, man is invading their territory so should not complain of the consequences until the causation of this activity is understood.

May I finish with a plea to all subscribers who have not yet responded to the reminder sent out in Volume 11, No 3 and forward their subscriptions as soon as possible so their Journal 'Aquatic Mammals' may be continued and expanded. It is intended in the next issue (Summer 1986) to publish at least some of the Barcelona papers, but room can always be made for interesting and stimulating reports from elsewhere, and the Editor always welcomes letters from subscribers for publication.

V. J. A. Manton,
Editor