

WORKSHOP IN BASIC ELD'S DEER HUSBANDRY AND ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION ON ELD'S DEER

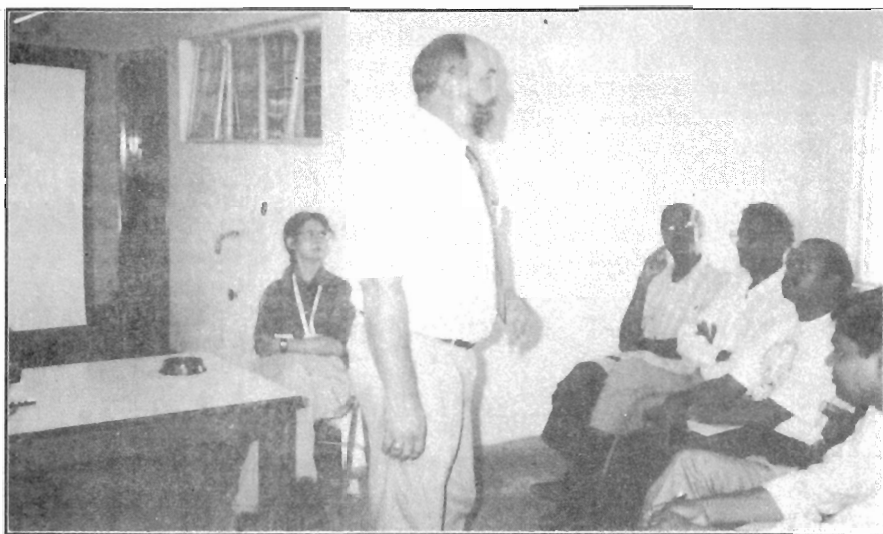
An additional highlight of the Centenary and Sangai events was a unique workshop combination of practical husbandry and high tech reproductive technology by two persons who have been working exclusively with a subspecies of Eld's deer (the Burmese subspecies, *Cervus eldi thamin*) for the last several years.

Lynwood Williamson, biological technician at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center has worked with hoofstock for the last decade. He is supervisor of the Research Centre's Ungulate Research Facility which houses the institution's Eld's deer and he specialises in captive husbandry and handrearing of exotic ungulate species. He has developed a specific protocol for fawn rearing and for manipulating adult deer using only voice commands. These breakthroughs have minimised the need for chemical and physical restraint and the potential for animal injury. His colleagues involved in the research and successful Artificial Insemination of Eld's deer credit Mr. Williamson for their success, as it would not have been possible without his methods of restraining the animals.

Dr. Steven Monfort is a research veterinarian at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Centre in Front Royal, Virginia where Lynwood Williamson works. Dr. Monfort has done his Ph.D. research, with Mr. Williamson's assistance, on the reproductive biology of the Eld's deer with particular emphasis on the seasonal regulation of fertility and the application of artificial breeding strategies to endangered Cervidae. In 1991 his and Mr. Williamson's efforts culminated in the production of 9 offspring from 20 inseminations using frozen-thawed semen.

Mr. Williamson and Dr. Monfort both gave very interesting lectures on their respective subjects using slides and diagrams to illustrate their talks.

The Workshop was well attended and much appreciated by Veterinarians, Zoo



Lynwood Williamson lectures to a fascinated audience on the Husbandry and Handrearing of cervids in general and Eld's deer in particular.



The new, modern Mysore Zoo Hospital made an appropriate venue for the Workshops with a pair of Brown lemurs to add atmosphere.

Directors and other personnel and interested observers from the P.H.V.A.

The Smithsonian Institute contributed the air fare and expenses for Mr. Williamson and Dr. Monfort to come and participate in the P.H.V.A. and conduct the Husbandry and A.I. Workshop.

A third volume of the PHVA Briefing Book was prepared for the Workshop

which contained articles by Mr. Williamson, Dr. Monfort and others on the subject of Eld's deer husbandry and reproductive physiology. This volume was also brought out as an issue of ZOO ZEN later so that more people could avail the useful material. Some copies of this issue are still available at Rs. 50 each: Artificial Insemination and Basic Animal Care for Eld's Deer, Volume VIII, Number IV, November 1992.