

Book Review: *Doctor in the Zoo*



The Veterinarian is provided by society with an amazingly broad and increasingly diverse range of opportunities to provide service in the practice of the art and science of his profession. A wide variety of challenges to his skills and knowledge characterize each veterinarian's day in whatever special niche of the profession he functions. To many, the epitomy of varied challenge faces the veterinarian responsible for the health of a large zoological collection.

Dr. Emil Dolensek, Staff Veterinarian of the New York Zoological Society, is the "Doctor in the Zoo." For many months Bruce Buchenholz (author-photographer-psychiatrist) followed Dr. Dolensek on his rounds about the famed Bronx Zoo and has recreated with text and pictures a typical week in the zoo veterinarian's life. From a penguin with pneumonia and a gorilla with dystocia to a Gaboon viper with amebiasis and a Beluga whale with a retained fetus the exotic is commonplace.

Had the author's only purpose been to produce an interesting, copiously illustrated narrative of a zoo veterinarian doing his thing, he succeeded. But even more, he has succeeded in using Emil Dolensek, other zoo personnel, and the creatures in their care as a collective model to sensitively illustrate the full range of emotion embodied in man's relationship with other animals.

"Doctor in the Zoo" is a positive statement for man, for good zoos, and for the veterinary profession. It should find its way to your waiting room after you and your family have enjoyed it.

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