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Animal handling key is experience

By STANTON RAY
Battalion Reporter

When a veterinarian is handling a tiger or a mamba snake, the most important tool is knowledge of how to handle the beast, according to Dr. Murray Fowler, a veterinarian from California who specializes in zoo and wild animal medicine.

Fowler gave a two-hour presentation, titled "Non-domestic Clinics and Zoo Animal Problems," to a public meeting of the student chapter of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians at Texas A&M University Monday night. His slide show was devoted mainly to various techniques of handling and restraining animals.

Fowler said that of the thousands of species of animals on the earth, there are only about 35 that are domesticated, including two insects: honeybees and silkworms. But man keeps more than just those 35 in captivity, and the veterinarian must be prepared to deal with the others.

Fowler, who said that he has learned much of what he knows from hard experience, said that suc-

cessful restraint of animals requires three things: knowledge of the species' biology, proper use of the correct tools, and self-confidence, which comes with experience.

"There is no such thing as common sense," Fowler said. "Common sense is experience. It may be direct or vicarious, but it is experience."

Respect also plays an important role, Fowler said. The veterinarian must have respect for an animal's strength, speed, reach and agility. Animals defend or attack by biting, clawing, striking, goring, bunting, squeezing, crushing, spitting and regurgitating.

Fowler said that four factors must be kept in mind, in the proper order, when a veterinarian is selecting a restraining method:

- Safety for the veterinarian and his or her coworkers.
- Safety for the animal.
- The possibility of the use of the procedure in that situation.
- The successful recovery of the animal.

A veterinarian's hands are two of his most important tools; therefore the veterinarian must be keenly aware of the danger of an animal's teeth.

"There is not one adult carnivore with a full set of teeth that can't bite through a leather glove," Fowler said.

Many veterinarians think of chemical restraint with dart guns as a catchall, but Fowler said that such procedures require special care for the safety of all involved, including the animal.

Thatcher candidacy doesn't faze Britons

United Press International
LONDON — Even if Britain's Thursday election makes Margaret Thatcher the first woman to head a government in the Western world, there won't be much dancing in Britain's streets on that account.

There are many reasons. Britain, after all, has had a queen on the throne for 27 years. The reality of a woman running the country goes back at least as far as the first Queen Elizabeth, an absolute ruler — literally with power of life or death — 400 years ago. England has had many queens before and since.

Nor are women political leaders in Thatcher's own time all that novel.

Any random poll before this campaign probably would have found as many people mentioning Jennie Lee, Barbara Castle or Shirley Williams as Thatcher

in that category.

Furthermore, Britain's long and intimate involvement in the wider world has left a solid awareness of precedents.

Voters here know about earlier woman prime ministers within the British Commonwealth, like Indira Gandhi of India and Sirimavo Bandaranaike of what was then Ceylon and is now Sri Lanka, and outside it, like Golda Meir of Israel.

The hit musical "Evita" and its razzmatazz publicity has even given many Britons some idea of Eva Peron's role in Argentina, though that of Gen. Juan Peron's widow Isabel, who succeeded him as president, is much hazier.

Besides all this, the British still cherish the idea that it is parliament which rules, not a prime minister. Thatcher herself stressed that "we are not electing a president." For most British voters, the party matters more

than the person.

With 27 women in the ruling parliament, more women than ever before — some of them — are fighting for seats.

In Rochester, one woman candidate battled another newspaper interviewed woman candidates and a voter choice "has everything to do with her politics and not to do with her sex."

For all these reasons, feminist issues are playing little part in Britain's election campaign. Parties deliberately play down.

That was easier to do there is no really feminist movement here. It is not to say that there are feminists.

"It is so terribly important to get a woman really to the top," said one. "Women will not quite so looked down on as

Carter, Soviet dissident attend worship services

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Attending church services with a newly freed Soviet dissident, President Carter said Sunday it is not treason to object to government injustice in the United States or elsewhere, but it is "sinful to be silent."

Georgi Vins, one of five Russian activists released a few days before, came to Washington from New York to worship with the president and attend the Bible class Carter taught at the First Baptist Church of Washington.

The president called Vins a courageous man who was persecuted "because of his belief in Christ."

A Baptist leader in the Ukraine, Vins was accused of "defaming the Soviet state" in 1975 and sentenced to five years in a labor camp and five

years of internal exile.

He was released Friday, along with four other political prisoners, in exchange for the freedom of two Soviet spies convicted last year of trying to buy U.S. Naval secrets.

Carter, telling the group Vins said he was being transported across Siberia on a cattle train only four days earlier, said people have an obligation to speak out when they see their government doing wrong.

Noting that some equate the words "My country, right or wrong" with patriotism, Carter said "I doubt that God would approve of that statement."

"The first time we had to face that in my lifetime was in the Vietnam War," the president said.

Describing the public attitude during the war as being "If my president says bomb Cambodia, so be

it," Carter said "My country is not right." He told the people attending the class that "it is an obligation 'to try to change it.'"

"This is not treason," he said. "A human being has the right to question the law and sometimes the consequences," Carter said.

"The accumulated influence of courageous human beings correct defects in government," Carter told the group "sinful to be silent in the face of it."

Carter avoided direct attacks on the Russians — who have been repeatedly jailed Vins — but did mention the "pressures inflicted on him by the state."

Vins, dressed in a dark suit, sat in the second pew, directly in front of Carter, as the president led the class in the balcony at the church.

He stared directly at Carter, his head tilted slightly to the left, words of the interpreter at his side. Vins closed the regular service with a prayer.

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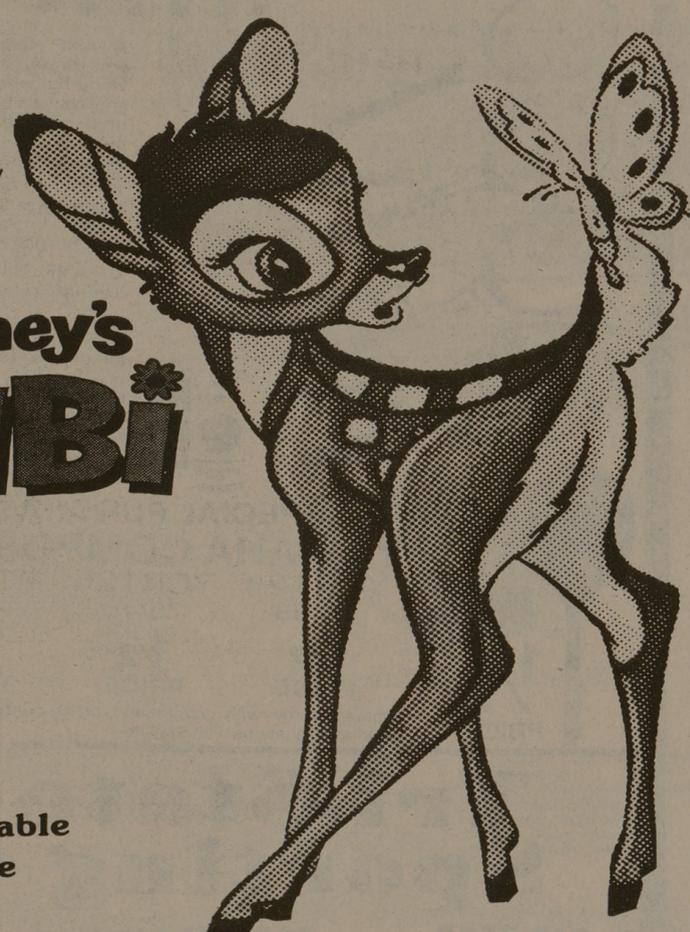
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