Structure and Aims of the European Federation for Primatology

Founded in 1993, the European Federation for Primatology (EFP) rallies national primatological societies as well as groups of primatologists in those countries of Europe where societies could not yet be founded.

Its aims are

- (1) to co-ordinate actions related to primatology between the different European societies including
 - (a) the circulation of information between the different national societies and groups in Europe; Folia Primatologica, published by S. Karger AG, Basel, Switzerland, is the official publication of the Federation;
 - (b) meetings of the national societies, specialist groups and workshops, scientific activities, research and educational projects related to primatology;
- (2) to promote the national management of captive primates and to make studies on primates available to a maximum of students and researchers;
- (3) to participate, through the Council of Europe, in decisions relevant to primate trade and breeding of primates in captivity.

Currently 10 European countries are affiliated to the EFP: Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the UK. The EFP groups people involved in fundamental non-invasive and invasive research, applied biomedical research and zoo management. This accounts for more than 1,400 scientists, graduate students and zoo managers. More than 30 academic institutions are represented in the EFP by membership. The primate colonies which belong to these institutions account for about 2,000 non-human primates.

The aims of all affiliated societies or groups are identical to those of the International Primatological Society, i.e. to encourage all areas of non-human primatological scientific research, to facilitate co-operation among scientists of all nationalities engaged in primate research and to promote the conservation of all primate species. Protection of captive primates is one of the most important aims of the EFP; in practice this means the improvement of the well-being of primates. Therefore the EFP intends to promote the dialogue with all people involved in primatology and to encourage studies providing scientific evidence on primate welfare issues. The EFP will strive to further the implementation of the 'International Primatological Society Guidelines for the acquisition, care and breeding of non-human primates'.

The EFP considers its independence from private interests as necessary for its scientific expertise. Consequently, the EFP will not sponsor any activities related to private commercial interests. However, the EFP provides the scientific experience for all people and organizations interested whenever non-human primates are affected.

During its last board meeting in Berlin on October 4, 1997, a new president and secretary were elected for the period from January 1998 to December 1999.

President: Dr. Paul Winkler

Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry, Am Vogelsang 6,
D-37075 Göttingen (Germany), Tel. +49 551 399543/393908,
Fax +49 551 394556, E-Mail pwinkle@gwdg.de

Secretary: Dr. Bertrand Deputte

Laboratoire de Primatologie – Biologie évolutive, CNRS UMR 6552/
Université de Rennes-I, Station Biologique, F-35380 Paimpont (France),
Tel.: +33 299 61 81 56, Fax +33 299 61 81 88,
E-Mail bertrand.deputte@univ-rennes1.fr

Activities of the European Federation for Primatology

Workshop EFP 1998:

*Diet, Foraging Behaviour and Time Budgets in Non-Human Primates:
How Field Studies May Help Improve the Welfare of Captive Primates*

Organized by Dr. Bertrand Deputte, Dr. Robin Crompton, Dr. Anne Gautier-Hion and Dr. Nelly Ménard, this workshop took place at the Station Biologique de Paimpont between April 16 and 18, 1998. The workshop eventually included 42 participants from the UK, Germany, Belgium, Italy and France. Twenty-one contributions were displayed both as oral presentations (13) and posters (8).

The argument of this workshop was based on the fact that field studies on a large number of primate species highlight a diversity of diets among species, flexibility of feeding and foraging behaviour at a specific level related to differences in vegetation composition between sites and seasonal variations in food availability at a given site. In captivity such wildlife constraints are absent leading to a considerable reduction in the importance of foraging behaviour within primate time budgets; although management in laboratories generally provides primate species with their basic energetic requirements and leads to a normal, or even supra-normal, growth. Whether they live in groups, in pairs or singly, captive primates may show physiological and psychological impairments consecutive to a highly modified and routine time budget and a standardized and monotonous diet.

Therefore the workshop reviewed evidence from field and zoo studies about diet, foraging behaviour and time budgets in different primate species, some of them being those, or closely related to those, commonly used in laboratory experiments.

In his introduction B. Deputte used the time budget approach to remind the audience that in very restricted captive environments social activity and an increased feeding time should be provided in order to stimulate social and cognitive abilities. He also insisted that improvement in feeding and feeding-related activities should be considered in a wider framework including cage design and other enrichments.

Contributions from field workers (Gautier-Hion, Hill, Curtis, Ménard, Heymann) all emphasized that (a) the diversity of available food and the nutritive value of the different plant parts vary seasonally and (b) non-human primates are selective in several

ways, preferring some vegetal species in relation to their availability. Primates shift between different diets in the course of the year, being, for example, more folivorous or frugivorous at certain periods of the year. Individual variability exists as well. Primates are also selective in eating some parts of plants. Macaque species feed on very diversified food items including fruits, leaves, animal matter, flowers, etc. In guenons, especially, females show a significant shift in their diets in relation to their reproductive cycle. Contributions from both field and captive studies in zoos (Dupain, Feistner) and other comparative contributions (Ménard, Deputte) showed the dramatic changes in time budgets under captive conditions. A general significant increase in social interactions correlated with a decrease in feeding and foraging time.

Several contributions (Curtis, Feistner, Hampe, Kaumanns, Wormell) addressed the issue of species-specific diets and considered the diverse nutrients and secondary compounds that compose the diet. The necessity to consider energy requirements in designing a diet for captive subjects was emphasized when examining gut anatomy which conditions the digestion process in relation to the richness of the diet (Alexander). Social influences on feeding behaviour were addressed focusing on opportunities for food-sharing in some species (Vitale) or on competition over food which reflects the social organization of the species (Stahl). Experimental and descriptive studies on devices intended to stimulate cognitive abilities involved in 'foraging' behaviour were presented (Voelkl and Grundmann, respectively).

Perceptive and functional aspects in food processing were discussed. The importance of olfaction was demonstrated in food choice in squirrel monkeys (Hübener). The influence of the texture of the food items in relation to tooth design demonstrated the necessity to consider the oral processing of food when feeding captive primates (Crompton).

The final discussion, which lead to a resolution, emphasized the validity of using field evidence to conceptualize and evaluate modifications of housing and caring conditions intended to improve the welfare of captive primates both in laboratories and in zoos.

The workshop agreed the resolution presented below.

Final Resolution

Considering the efforts of the Council of Europe (1) to protect vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes and (2) to set up rules for improving the living conditions of vertebrate animals, especially non-human primates, acknowledging

- (a) Appendix A (Guidelines for the accommodation and care of animals) of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes (Convention ETS 123),
- (b) the insight to further improve these guidelines, and
- (c) the results of the International Workshop on the Accommodation of Laboratory Animals in Accordance with Animal Welfare Requirements in Berlin 1993,

the EFP passes the following resolution:

We recognize that there is an ongoing use of non-human primates in biology and biomedical research. While non-human primates are used as experimental models, their biology remains the result of adaptation to the complexities of their natural envi-

ronment. Living conditions influence physiological and mental health of captive non-human primates, and the validity of research results may be severely influenced if the issue of mental health is not taken into consideration. We have a duty to maintain, as far as possible, the quality of life of all captive animals. This is particularly difficult in the case of primates because of their cognitive abilities and complexity of behaviour.

Therefore, in order to carry out this duty, captive environments should also allow for the expression of social and ecological skills. These include foraging (the search for food), food processing, both manual and oral, appropriate social interactions and companionship with conspecifics.

With reference to the diversity of natural environments, captive environments should emphasize, in a species-specific manner, complexity, change, choice and control.

Complexity. Diversity of the environment, in particular the content, structure and spatial distribution of food. Food should be presented in various forms, such as encapsulated within edible or non-edible shells, in different places and through different devices.

Change. Variability in food, feeding and foraging conditions which balances predictability and unpredictability for the animals. All the conditions mentioned above should be subjected to random changes or to patterned changes that can be modified during the year.

Choice. Opportunity to select from a variety of food presented simultaneously and caging systems which offer the opportunity to use a three-dimensional environment and to realize social options. In any condition, a subject should be able to choose between different alternatives, such as cage furniture and/or the type of food taken.

Control. Opportunities to affect features of the environment such as presentation of food and other stimuli. Monkeys should be partly able to control the changes mentioned above.

The EFP works vigorously on the realization of these factors on a European level and supports all efforts in this respect.

Multilateral Consultation of Parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes (ETS 123)

The EFP has been participating as an observer since 1994 in this Consultation. B. Deputte has been nominated co-ordinator for an expert group on non-human primates, entrusted with the task of preparing draft amendments to Appendix A of the Convention. This group, together with 3 other groups (dogs and cats, rodents and rabbits, mini-pigs) is responsible for:

- (a) listing – for the species concerned – the main questions to be answered with a view to revising Appendix A, in particular in the areas which were kept for ‘further consideration’ by the Multilateral Consultation when discussing the Resolution on housing;
- (b) examining results already available which could possibly answer these questions;
- (c) investigating what research is being carried out which could provide answers to the questions identified in point (a) and listing the priority areas where research would be necessary; this list would be open for discussion and possible action by the Working Party;
- (d) making proposals for amendments to Appendix A.

Paul Winkler