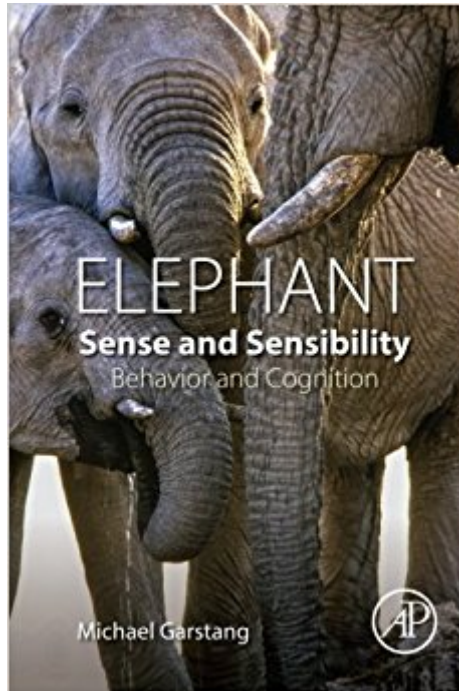




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Elephant Sense And Sensibility



Synopsis

Elephant Sense and Sensibility is a comprehensive treatment of the full range of elephant behavior. Beginning with chapters on evolution and the elephant's brain, this book is an integrated presentation of the elephant's capacity for memory, morality, emotion, empathy, altruism, language, intelligence, learning and teaching. Grounded primarily in scientific research, the book also draws upon anecdotal and visual evidence showing elephants thinking, acting, feeling and behaving in ways that we, as humans, recognize. This complete treatment of elephant behavior supported by the extensive literature, along with anecdotal and photographic material, provides an overview not available in any other text. Covers a variety of aspects that relate to behavior, ranging from brain function and sensory input to communication, learning, and intelligence. Features a comprehensive treatment of elephant behavior supported by the extensive literature, anecdotal information, and striking photographic material, providing an overview not available in any other text. Features an interdisciplinary approach to behavior, with vital information included and integrated from several key disciplines.

Book Information

Paperback: 152 pages

Publisher: Academic Press; 1 edition (February 25, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0128022175

ISBN-13: 978-0128022177

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,189,078 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Animal Psychology #476 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Animal Rights #928 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Ecology

Customer Reviews

"Overall, this is an interesting and worthwhile read. The science presented is accessible to the non-specialist yet informative for the more expert reader and the book is full of interesting facts." --Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Elephant Sense and Sensibility "...an important read for conservation practitioners, not only in South Africa, for undergraduate and postgraduate

students who are developing their world view, and for academics who may be set in their ways, as a means to think outside the box." --South African Journal of Science

This book cost \$60.00. I was extremely disappointed that it could be read in about 30 minutes. Paperback - about 1/2 inch thick. Content left a whole lot to be desired. Very expensive disappointment. Would have returned it but Christmas gift which took awhile to get and no time to return. Wasted \$60.00.

The man lived there, with them, knows his stuff, so his view is insightful and cannot be dismissed as romantic or fanciful. It is based on personal experience, direct observation, years of reflection, and repeated confirmation -- and yes, love. This book is an international wildlife treasure. Joseph Harned

Great book.

This is a short book chock-full of information about elephants. Much of the information is a bit heavy on science, particularly the section on elephant communication (time of day, humidity, wind currents, and more are involved, for example). Most of the science is accessible, so it should not be a problem. Garstang is a scientist, but despite his professional objectivity in this book, he is also passionate about elephants. An unexpected plus is that Garstang included some of his pen and ink drawings of elephants, and they are extremely good, absolutely professional in quality. Don't expect a book of photographs--I did and was surprised. The photographs in the book are very good, but there are not many of them. The book has chapters on such things as evolution (this is the duller part), morality, emotion, communication and more. Garstang blends anecdote and scientific reports (including some of his own). The book is equally good on the elephant brain and in describing elephant behaviors--which suggest superb memory, fairly complex social interactions, mourning, and that being an elephant is partly learned behavior. Discussion of elephant morality and ethics may seem to be over the top, but this is the best discussion I have seen on the subject, and the mix of scientific objectivity and reporting of telling anecdotes is quite unusual, and unusually interesting. Among other things that struck me, in a shotgun approach, are: The Angolan civil war killed hundreds of thousands of people, but also 100,000 elephants, and unsettled conditions are impacting elephants all over Africa. The prospect for elephant survival in Africa is not at all good. I was unaware that elephants are premier at seed dispersal--one study says one elephant in the

savanna distributes 2,000 seeds per hour, of very many species. There is some indication that elephants are in effect gardeners. Young male elephants may develop a buddy sort of relationship with older males, the younger elephant termed an "askari." Elephants seem to be able to detect land mines (millions are left over from the wars of the last generation), how is not known. Elephants seem to be able to hear low-frequency sounds made by storms or tidal waves, considerably before they hit, as was described by some survivors of the Sumatran tsunami. Other readers might be struck by other things. Garstang credits elephants with extraordinary hearing and excellent smell, and capable of a quite wide range of sound production. Alas, elephants captive in zoos have considerably shorter lives than those in the wild, which is sad because zoos are likely going to be the last places these wonderful animals exist.

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