Aquatic Animals

Introduction
The welfare of aquatic animals around the world has been subject to increasing attention over recent years, and this trend is set to continue. Veterinarians play an important role in dealing with a diverse range of aquatic animal species including marine mammals. In fish, amphibians and invertebrates such as molluscs and crustaceans. With the increasing use of aquatic animals for farming, in research and for entertainment purposes, understanding the welfare of these species is important. The following case studies will provide examples of how veterinarians play a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of aquatic animals.

Salmonid welfare

Salmonid welfare is an important aspect of fish welfare. Salmonids are sensitive to environmental factors, such as temperature, food availability, and water quality. Veterinarians can play a crucial role in ensuring the health and welfare of salmonids by providing advice on best management practices and disease control. This includes monitoring for the presence of parasites, ensuring adequate water quality, and implementing effective vaccination strategies. By doing so, veterinarians contribute to the overall welfare of these aquatic animals and help maintain their health.

Invertebrates and fish welfare

Fish farming has rapidly expanded over the past 30-40 years. As the popularity of fish in human diets increases, so does the demand for sustainable and ecologically friendly fish farming. However, this rapid expansion has led to some concerns regarding the welfare of farmed fish. Veterinarians can contribute to addressing these concerns by providing advice on best management practices, disease prevention, and the implementation of sustainable practices. This includes monitoring for health and disease, ensuring adequate water quality, and implementing effective vaccination strategies. By doing so, veterinarians contribute to the overall welfare of farmed fish and help maintain their health.

References


Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching. The views in this project do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching.