

## FIELD RESEARCH: THE ANIMAL WELFARE VIEW

Anton E. Krag, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance, Brenneriveien 7, 0182 Oslo, Norway.

Field research on wild animals varies greatly in its invasiveness and thus also in its ethical acceptability on animal welfare grounds. Different ethical approaches and various dilemmas are discussed.

Wildlife studies are often carried out on the assumption that they have insignificant negative effects on the animals involved. However, this assumption is often undocumented, thus raising legitimate scientific and animal welfare concerns.

The 3R's approach has mainly been aimed at laboratory experiments. The principles of Replace, Reduce and Refine should be more rigorously applied to field research. In addition the concepts of Rejection and Redirection are discussed.

Other relevant subjects are presented that can contribute to minimizing negative effects of field research and facilitating informed public debate.

All concerned parties (animal welfare groups, field researchers, equipment manufacturers and regulatory bodies) have a role to play in ensuring that field research increasingly meets the growing public concerns for the welfare of wild animals.