INTRODUCTION

While this book emphasises the various techniques used for the efficient capture and restraint of wild animals, the care and management of the animals post capture is equally important. Whether the animals are to be held temporarily in a boma before release or for sale, or be retained for captive breeding, the principles of management and care remain the same. The humane treatment and care of animals, and safety of the personnel working with the animals are paramount.

It must be emphasised that this discussion deals with very basic principles and the reader is encouraged to read other publications when considering species-specific requirements.

Figure 16.1: Kudu (Tragelaphus strepsicerus) group, well adapted to boma confinement in a well-designed facility built to high standards. Malilangwe, Zimbabwe
16.5 DISEASE PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE

All wild animals carry various internal and external parasites, the treatment of which is comprehensively discussed in Chapter 14: Ancillary Treatments in Wildlife Capture and Care. Ticks are unlikely to constitute a problem in bomas but all animals entering the bomas should be treated for ticks as a matter of routine.

Internal parasites such as *Haemonchus* spp. (wire worm) can be a major problem, especially in species such as sable. Care must be taken to clean the floor of bomas daily to avoid the accumulation of faeces and subsequent worm build-up. Avoid allowing stagnant water to lie in pools on the ground, as wet ground conditions can predispose to a further build-up of worms (nematodes).

Moist conditions in the boma can also cause the build-up of coccidia parasites in the faeces causing clinical coccidiosis, which can occur in any species but is especially a problem in captive buffalo calves. Coccidiosis manifests as a haemorrhagic diarrhoea leading to dehydration and death and can be treated with drugs such as diclazuril (Vecoxan®, Janssen) once the disease has been positively diagnosed by a veterinarian.

Parasite build-up, especially in the summer months, can be monitored using faecal egg or oocyst counts, which can be carried out using egg flotation test kits.

Outbreaks of clostridial infections can be precipitated by feeding wildlife excessive amounts of lucerne and cubes or sudden changes in feed, and can cause high mortalities. These infections can be prevented by avoiding feeding high quantities of concentrates and by using appropriate clostridial vaccines such as Multivax P® (Intervet) or Covexin® (Afrivet). Vaccinate at capture and give a booster vaccination six weeks later and repeat annually.

Annual vaccinations against anthrax and botulism should be essential in endemic areas.

Flies are a problem in summer, particularly just after rain. Avoid accumulations of manure in the pens and...