

Badgers and developers

Builders and property developers sometimes carry out construction work which may interfere with the lives of badgers resident and living adjacent to the development site. This booklet is intended as a basic guide for developers, so that they can understand the basic problems and the possible methods that can be used to overcome or limit the damage which may be done to the badgers.

Quite correctly the booklet starts with a two-page section on badger biology and lifestyle; this is followed by pieces on badgers and the planning system, on badgers and the law, on organizing site work, on badger disturbance, on possible badger translocation, and on how to obtain a licence for work which will cause damage to setts, or disturbance to badgers. The whole complex situation is neatly summarized in a two-page spread, centre piece, flow diagram which illustrates the various stages involved in developing land which contains badger setts.

It is repeatedly stated that professional advice should always be sought when badgers are going to be affected by development. The very valid point is made that this advice should be obtained early in the process and a strong recommendation is made that the developers should liaise (before the event) with any local badger conservation groups – if such exist.

This is a useful and well-written basic guide on how to face up to and overcome the problems inherent in the development of land occupied by badgers.

Badgers: Guidelines for Developers. Produced and published by English Nature (1995). 13pp booklet. Obtainable from the publishers, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA, UK (ISBN 1 85716 203 X).

Dog and cat welfare

This booklet, which is actually a special one-time-only edition of PAWS NEWS, is labelled on its front cover as 'Everything you should know to make the world a better place for dogs and cats'. It is designed to be customized, ie have individual organizations place their name and address etc on it, for distribution by other shelters and animal groups in the United States.

It covers a wide range of dog and cat welfare issues. There are sections on establishing local animal shelters, on the desirability of having pet dogs and cats neutered, on changing local legislation, on influencing the local media and opinion makers, on first aid for animals, on getting cats down from trees (!), on feral cats, on neighbourhood dog and cat welfare/nuisance problems and what ought to be done to alleviate them etc etc.

This is a very American-style publication – all the way through, the underlying concept is that you, the reader, should get up off your backside and do something.

The booklet is full of information and ideas and, although it has been developed for use in the United States, it has many excellent concepts which could be applied to community dog and cat welfare/nuisance problems worldwide.

The Hands-On Handbook. Edited by R Fox (1995) 24pp. Paperback. Produced and published by The Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), 15305 44th Avenue West, PO Box 1037, Lynnwood, Washington 98046, USA.