

particular species, such as the lion-tailed macaque; others on more general issues, such as veterinary studies. Many papers focus on the importance being aware of the latest biological knowledge on a species and applying this to their management in captivity.

Some may find that the book covers too many disciplines, but this fact exemplifies the very complexity of captive propagation. The book illustrates how important research is and how much can be learned from captive animals. It is an excellent and useful volume and should have a significant shelf-life.

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### ***Law Relating to Animals***

S Brooman and D Legge (1997). Cavendish Publishing Ltd: London and Sydney. 500pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, The Glass House, Wharton Street, London WC1X 9PX, UK (ISBN 1859412386). Price £26.95.

In recent years in the UK, a number of books have been published on the law as it applies to man's use of animals. These publications, written by both lawyers and non-lawyers, have been largely aimed at satisfying the needs of various groups of animal users for a practical summary of the UK legislation. They have, however, usually had poor coverage of the underlying factors which have shaped the law.

Brooman and Legge's *Law Relating to Animals* is somewhat different. It is written, by two academic lawyers on the staff of the Liverpool John Moores University, as an appropriate textbook for their undergraduate law students taking the Animal Welfare Law course option. The book includes 'opinion' from recognized environmental and animal rights pressure groups who have specific expertise in some areas of animal law, as they can contribute authoritatively on the future development of the law; and it compares the experiences and regulations of other countries with our own as an essential component of its discussions. The authors also, 'incorporate the role of philosophy throughout the text so as to challenge the philosophical basis of the law as it stands'.

The book starts with three general chapters entitled 'Philosophy, science and animals', 'Historical and contemporary legal attitudes to animals' and 'How should the law treat animals?' This is followed by six chapters on the legal coverage of particular areas of animal usage, ie animal experimentation, animals in agriculture, domestic animals (dog, cat, horse), animals in sport and entertainment, wildlife protection and international control of endangered species. The final general chapter is on 'Increasing human consciousness'. Each chapter incorporates extensive quotations from historical, scientific, philosophical and animal welfare/animal rights texts. Legal case histories are quoted where appropriate; references etc are given in footnotes and there are annotated lists of further reading.

The authors claim that 'This is a book about *issues*' and not just an account of the current UK legislation. To a large extent, their claim is correct. The book does concentrate on the underlying factors which have shaped the law. There are arguments put forward concerning the philosophical background to man's attitude to animals; there are accounts of the scientific advances which have altered our understanding of the capacity of animals to feel and suffer; there are historical/social explanations as to why particular forms of legislation were enacted

at particular moments of time; and there are indications as to the changes which perhaps should be made in some of the legislation.

All in all this *is* a book more about issues than details of fact.

If you want details, look at the actual legislation: if you want to understand *why* a particular law is set up in its present form, to appreciate its limitations and perhaps to see how it should be modified, then turn to Brooman and Legge. Readers will not always agree with some of the arguments – but they will nearly always be stimulated to think about the issues underlying the law.

This volume is of particular relevance to those of us who are tactically involved in using the details of the legislation and who should, perhaps, be more knowledgeable about the issues and the strategies underlying the laws. It is a well-written, well-informed and wide-ranging book – which deserves to be extensively read and consulted.

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