

These are but two examples from a collection that provides valuable information for those involved, whether academically or professionally, with both human abusers and human and animal abused. The editor lists child-care officers, community carers, law enforcement officers, health visitors, veterinarians, anti-cruelty inspectors, animal protection officers, social scientists, lawyers, psychologists and criminologists as stakeholders in this issue, and there is something for each and all in this collection. Certainly, for those whose major concern is animal welfare, the vulnerability of animals to cruelty through the unjust use of power by those whose motivations, while often understandable are nonetheless inexcusable, makes this collection of papers essential reading.

*Virginia Williams*

*Cheviot, North Canterbury, New Zealand*

### **Improving Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach**

Edited by T Grandin (2009). Published by CABI, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK. 336 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-1-84593-541-2). Price £39.95, US\$79.95, €55.95.

With the welcome expansion of animal welfare as a topic of importance for animal industries, policy-makers and the general public, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of comprehensive and specialised books in the area. Among the latest to arrive, this text aims to assist veterinarians, facility managers and all working with animals to understand, assess and most of all improve animal welfare. Unsurprisingly, for a text edited by Temple Grandin, the emphasis is on providing practical tools for enhancing welfare, and meeting welfare standards in animal production, transport, and at slaughter. The coverage is focused on the major production and draught species — cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, horses and donkeys, with some information on deer and goats.

One challenge for a book such as this, with its emphasis on animal welfare in a practical farming context, is avoiding an undue focus on animal management systems common in one part of the world, to the detriment or frustration of readers elsewhere. Although the majority of chapter authors are based in North America, with some from the United Kingdom and New Zealand, it is clear that the contributors to the book have worked hard to ensure that the information is relevant to professionals and students interested in production animal welfare from a range of localities. A good example is the chapter on practical methods for improving the welfare of draught animals in regions of the world where animals are used in place of mechanised vehicles. Not everything can be covered — from my perspective I was unable to find much coverage on minimising lameness in dairy cows under extensive systems, for example, but someone operating within almost any farming system will find something of value in this book if they are interested in understanding or improving animal welfare.

The chapters are arranged to present firstly the practical and ethical value of measuring animal welfare and imple-

menting standards during animal production. Subsequent chapters present information on handling and stockmanship, and there is a comprehensive chapter on surgical husbandry procedures of poultry and livestock, providing clear descriptions of methods and highlighting techniques and impending developments to optimise welfare. Other chapters examine transport, slaughter, and addressing behavioural needs on-farm. There is one anomaly in the logical sequence, with a separate and well-written chapter by Tina Widowski on the importance of addressing behavioural needs coming right at the end of the book, rather than earlier in the sequence. Another notable chapter, by Becky Whay and David Main, covers the options for implementing change on farms, and the best ways to encourage farmers and farm staff to engage in welfare improvement schemes. The examples are mostly from the UK, but the concepts are almost universally applicable.

The chapter on euthanasia is also extremely valuable in a book with the aim of practical animal welfare. It not only presents the methods, with diagrams, rankings and caveats, but also the criteria for deciding when to euthanase an animal — given that so many severe welfare problems occur when animals that should be euthanased have been handled or maintained to remain in the value chain.

This is a book that is packed with information. Fortunately, the text is supported by a significant number of usefully illustrative diagrams and photographs, and some chapters present the most practical implementation steps in the form of ‘break-out’ boxes — indeed possibly a greater use of these would have been even more helpful. Each chapter has a list of references and further reading, and there is a helpful list of relevant websites preceding the index.

Overall, this book provides a valuable, single first point of reference for those seeking to assess and ensure animal welfare in their own operations, or as a starting point in the development of a welfare assurance process. Tertiary educators will find that the text also serves as a valuable accompaniment to animal welfare courses for animal science and veterinary students studying production animals.

*Andrew Fisher*

*Faculty of Veterinary Science,*

*University of Melbourne, Australia*

### **Exotic Small Mammal Care and Husbandry**

RE Banks, JM Sharp, SD Doss and DA Vanderford (2010). Published by Wiley-Blackwell, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50014-8300, USA. 192 pp Paperback (ISBN 978-0-8138-1022-5). Price £29.99, €41.70.

This handbook on exotic small mammal care is specifically intended for the veterinary technician in small mammal veterinary practices or clinics. However, the target readership is not implicated by the title — only after reading the introduction it becomes clear that this book is neither intended for veterinarians themselves nor animal technicians in the laboratory, ie animal experimentation, nor the