

section on vaccinations describes the five diseases for which vaccinations are available (influenza, equine herpesvirus, equine viral arteritis, strangles and tetanus), with information about the infectious agent, symptoms, which animals will be most at risk and vaccination programs; there follows a list of notifiable diseases. Details are also given on how to treat casualties, carry out humane destruction and dispose of fallen stock.

The section on management outlines requirements with regard to shelter, horse passports, identification and handling as well as issues relating to fencing, noxious weeds and tethering practices. Pregnancy and foaling are also covered in detail. The section on housing requirements goes into further detail about what kind of space allowances, lighting, ventilation, mechanical equipment and emergency precautions should be in place, and how these should be maintained. This is followed by sections on the export and transportation of horses, and the main body of the book concludes with guidance aimed at those who work with horses in livery yards, riding schools, circuses and entertainment.

**Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys (2nd Edition).** 2005. Copies are available from the National Equine Welfare Council, Stanton, 10 Wales Street, King Sutton, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 3RR, UK. Telephone: 01295 810060; email: secretary@newc.co.uk; website www.newc.co.uk

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### **UK Working Group Report on Assessing the Welfare of Genetically Altered Mice**

A UK working group established to investigate assessment of the welfare of genetically altered mice published a report detailing their findings and recommendations in April 2006. The term 'genetically altered' (GA) encompasses genetically modified mice and mice generated by mutagenesis (spontaneous and induced). The number of procedures that are carried out on genetically modified animals is increasing each year and the vast majority of these procedures involve mice. Understanding the effects of genetic alterations on the welfare of mice is therefore important from a "scientific, ethical and legal" perspective.

It was found that although GA mice do not necessarily experience compromised welfare, there is the potential for some genetic alterations to result in mice having a predisposition to health and welfare problems. Twelve specific recommendations are made in the report, under two primary themes. First is that a standard welfare assessment scheme should be adopted so that the welfare of all new lines of GA mice is routinely and systematically assessed in a non-invasive way. Any welfare concerns should be recorded and reported appropriately. Second, a 'mouse passport' scheme is proposed, whereby a document

containing information relevant to a particular line of GA mice is compiled and maintained, to be passed to animal care staff when mice are moved between research establishments. Templates for the passport, and for a welfare assessment checklist, are provided as appendices to the report. It is emphasised that information gained from welfare assessments should be disseminated within and between establishments to ensure that husbandry practice and humane end-point decisions can be informed.

**Assessing the Welfare of Genetically Altered Mice Working Group Report.** April 2006. Copies available from the NC3Rs website: [www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=231](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=231)

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### **European Code of Good Practice for Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Organisations**

A Code of Good Practice for Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Organisations in Europe was launched in March 2006. It is intended for use throughout Europe as a tool for clarifying and implementing good practice, as well as increasing the transparency that exists between the activities of such organisations and the general public. Uptake of the code is voluntary, and it will be updated every two years by the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB). EFFAB is made up of a number of animal reproduction and selection organisations, and was previously known as the Farm Animal Industrial Platform. These organisations are interested in "pre-competitive research at the European level", and in disseminating information regarding relevant technologies to a wider audience. Areas covered by the code include food safety and public health, product quality, genetic diversity, efficiency, environmental impact, animal health and welfare, and breeding and reproduction technologies. These are arranged in three sections: 'General Statements', 'Sustainability' and 'Technology'. The general statements refer to national and European legislation, biosecurity measures, and animal health and welfare, and organisations must comply with these if they take up the code. The section on sustainability examines all the issues that must be balanced in an economically viable way in order for breeding and reproduction to be sustainable, and finally examples of breeding and reproduction technologies are outlined. These are to be used without reducing the welfare of the animals involved and should be improved upon to increase sustainability.

**Code of Good Practice for Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Organisations.** 2006. European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders. Copies of the code and further information are available on the website: [www.code-efabar.org](http://www.code-efabar.org)

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