

EDITORIAL

When the Council of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare agreed to the publication of *Animal Welfare*, it noted that the enterprise had the potential to do much good in the animal welfare field and also to be a constant drain on the financial resources of the Federation. It decreed that after some three to five years a decision would have to be made as to the real value, to UFAW, of continuing to produce the Journal. This decision was to be based on a consideration of whether or not the Journal was practically viable – Was it producible? Did it satisfy a need? – and whether or not its production costs bore a realistic relationship to its earnings from paid subscriptions. The Journal will soon be entering its fourth publication year and the decision day therefore draws near. A strong case can be made that it is indeed producible – a look at the Contents list for this issue demonstrates that this is so. It fulfils a need: we have, for example, a whole queue of manuscripts on offer for publication and we have a modest but steady number of regular subscribers. Its long-term economic viability however, is still uncertain. It is expensive to produce and the academic and animal welfare communities have not, over the last few years, been sufficiently funded that they can readily subscribe to new journals. There is not, as yet, 'a realistic relationship between its earnings from paid subscriptions and its production costs'. A solution to this financial imbalance has yet to be found.

The general layout of this fourth issue of Volume 3 is as in previous numbers. After the Editorial there are three main Articles on the welfare of free-living wild animals (Kirkwood, Sainsbury & Bennett), on swimming as enrichment for captive rhesus macaques (Anderson, Rortais & Guillemein) and on the behaviours and killing times recorded during a pilot whale hunt (Bowles & Lonsdale). There are then two Short Communications on tail-biting in farmed mink (Mason) and on nest choice in caged laying hens (Sherwin & Nicol). The authored/refereed section finishes with a single Technical Contribution on the amelioration of living conditions for laboratory pigeons (Huber). The Reports and Comments cover some eight animal welfare publications and the signed Book and Video Reviews cover six more substantial animal welfare works. There is a list of Books Received for review and/or note, a letter responding to a previous piece of correspondence in the Journal and the Index to the present Volume.

There is authored material in this present number on free-living wild animals (2 papers), on laboratory species (2 papers) and on farmed stock (2 papers). There is, however, no contribution on companion animals. This absence is not unique to this number of the Journal. In the three years of production we have published some 64 papers of which only 3 have been on companion species. It seems strange that while dogs, cats, horses and cage birds are of great importance in the animal welfare arena so little relevant material seems to be offered for publication. This Journal would welcome technical papers in the companion animal area and we would give all possible help to workers in getting their findings placed on record.

I must finish by thanking the Section Editors, the Editorial Advisers, the many Referees, the Development Officer, the Typesetter and especially the Editorial Assistant – Judith Kershaw, who is leaving us for another post in the publishing world – for all the effort and care they have put into the Journal over the year.

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Roger Ewbank
Editor-in-Chief

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UFAW is an internationally recognized scientific and educational charity concerned with the welfare of animals. UFAW adopts an objective and realistic approach to animal welfare by looking at the behaviour and needs of animals, making rational judgements based on the facts available and giving expert advice on how particular species should be cared for and managed.

The Federation holds symposia and workshops; carries out and sponsors scientific research into many aspects of the biology and welfare of farmed, companion, wild, zoo and laboratory animals; produces standard texts on animal care and management and publishes technical reports on animal welfare matters.

UFAW was founded as the *University of London Animal Welfare Society* in 1926, became the Federation in 1938 and was incorporated in 1958 as a company limited by guarantee No 579991. It is registered charity No 207996 and derives its income from membership subscriptions, donations and legacies.