

It is with this in mind that I view the production of such a directly black-letter animal law book, containing no attempt at critical commentary, with a certain sense of disappointment at an opportunity lost. For those dealing with problem-solving in animal law, requiring a text to tell the law as it is without too much comment, then Julian Palmer's text is a useful addition to your armoury. Don't expect to have the pros and cons of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 examined or to find information on the Environmental Investigation Agency's investigation into the trade of endangered species. What you can expect is, exactly as the title suggests, a concise legal companion to practical problem-solving.

What is missing is the critical examination of laws relating to animals. I prefer to adopt a more critical approach to the law relating to animals supported by a much broader range of sources than appear in a black-letter law book such as this. This involves an examination of wider sources of information and criticism such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the National Farmer's Union, Compassion in World Farming, the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the Research Defence Society, the Institute of Medical Ethics, evidence from other legal systems, governmental bodies' reports and critical academic work.

However, there is much to be said for a concise 'dictionary' of animal law. Sometimes though, Palmer's book does tend to be a little too concise. For example, in the chapter on scientific experimentation there is no mention of the need for ethical review committees in the UK. This is a recent yet crucial requirement of institutions conducting animal experiments and is certainly something I would have expected to see that would be of crucial significance for those working in that area.

Animal Law has its obvious limitations and is not for those who are interested bystanders with a need for stimulating analysis. If you are in search of critical awareness of the core philosophical challenges to existing law you may have more success elsewhere. However, I will probably refer to Palmer's book myself from time to time and find it very useful as an easily accessible quick desktop guide to existing law.

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Public Concerns, Environmental Standards and Agricultural Trade

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There is great concern among the public in general, and among consumers in particular, about the quality of the environment in relation to agriculture. These concerns focus on issues such as pollution from agriculture, the quality of landscapes, animal welfare and food safety. As a result, many countries have developed a range of standards, codes of good practice and other policy measures. This book reviews these issues and relates them to agricultural trade and competition. Features include chapters on world trade and trade liberalisation as well as individual chapters on the situation in the European Union, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and developing countries.

Public Concerns, Environmental Standards and Agricultural Trade is a successful attempt to compare the key environmental issues arising from agricultural policies and practices globally and to consider the implications that these have for agricultural trade on the world

market. In this instance, the term 'environment' has its broadest definition, encompassing human health and animal welfare as well as ecological and environmental quality issues. The book states three primary aims and divides its chapters into three parts covering topics relevant to each aim.

The first objective, and that of Part I of the book, covered by chapters two and three, is to compare the main environmental issues arising from agricultural practices in the developed world, giving particular attention to Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. In Part II, this concept is taken a stage further within chapters four to nine, where farm-level standards are compared whilst looking also at the key measures that are affecting the agricultural sectors in the developing world exporting to the world market. The final objective of the book is to examine the implications of such standards and policies for agricultural trade with reference to competitiveness, impacts on developing countries and the importance of public concerns. This objective is covered by Part III, chapters ten to twelve.

The first chapter, provided by the editors, summarises the contents and objectives of the book, the goal being to debate the challenge facing policy makers on how to devise and implement trade and environment policies which work in harmony rather than conflict. The second chapter seeks to examine global agricultural policies in the context of trade liberalisation and considers the process of agricultural policy reform. The authors compare the varied approaches taken by Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. They conclude that the policy reforms achieved to date have had mixed results and that the further reforms under way or currently being considered hope to reconcile domestic and international interests whilst seeking sustainability for the sector.

The third chapter reviews international trade issues and concern for environmental protection in the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the main body regulating world trade. It discusses the main areas of contention, including the WTO's inability to distinguish products based upon their production methods and potential life-cycle impact on the environment. The author concludes that the primary challenge for international policy development in the future will be to satisfy the needs of developing countries, allowing them to improve their market access, whilst not compromising the public demands of the developed world for environment protection.

Part I provides a broad yet clear and concise account of approaches within the developed world. It is supported by informative, well-presented data and it deserves to be read by a much larger and broader audience than the book is likely to attract.

Part II is in many ways the core of the book, looking at world trade and covering the topic in reasonable depth. Chapter four considers the topic from the European perspective. It discusses the major products and their European markets shares. It also looks at the impact and influence that capital-intensive and geographically specialised farming methods have had on the structure of the countryside. The following chapters discuss much the same issues but with respect to other major countries in the developed world, namely the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Each of the chapters in Part II also looks at environmental and human-health legislation, national standards and their impact on world trade. The final chapter in Part II investigates in greater depth environmental and human-health standards and their influence on competitiveness.

Part III considers environmental standards in developing countries. Chapter 10 provides a comprehensive overview of the political and legal debate on standards from the WTO's perspective. There have been major concerns that where standards differ between countries they have the potential to hinder trade and that the differing costs of compliance could also

have major impacts on competitiveness. However, the chapter concludes that these fears appear unjustified and that eco-labelling schemes, which are already in place in many developed countries, could offer farmers in the developing world considerable opportunities for trade, rather than hindering trade as was previously expected.

Chapter 11 addresses public concerns and consumer behaviour in Japan. It states in its conclusions that public health issues play a more significant role in the decisions taken by Japanese consumers to buy products than the environmental and animal welfare issues that are high on the public agenda in Europe, the USA and Canada. Consequently, in Japan, a product's freshness, appearance and place of origin have a considerable influence on Japanese trade, industry and commercial opportunities.

Overall, *Public Concerns, Environmental Standards and Agricultural Trade* is a very readable book. It is also very well referenced — something sadly neglected by many recently published reference books. There are a lot of useful trade data embedded in the chapters and if I have any criticism it is that some of the chapters may have benefited from more figures and tables. Readers looking for a specific detailed debate on animal welfare may well be disappointed. The issues are not neglected — Part II of the book does cover animal intensification, legislation and animal health and welfare issues for each of the countries discussed. However, 'environment' as defined within this publication is very broad and consequently all of the subject areas tackled are done so without the possibility of achieving a great deal of depth. The book does, however, provide a good overview and I can thoroughly recommend it.

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BSAVA Manual of Exotic Pets, 4th Edition

Edited by A Meredith and S Redrobe (2002). Published by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, Woodrow House, 1 Telford Way, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4AB, UK. Distributed by Marston Book Services Ltd, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN, UK. 300 pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 905 21447 1). Price £65.00.

'Exotic pets' is a difficult term to define. The word exotic commonly refers to things that are imported (not native), extraordinary or glamorous, and yet the veterinary world has included rabbits, rats and pigeons in this group. Today, many people keep a much wider range of species as pets and information on them is scattered amongst many texts and journals. Sadly, the veterinary curriculum still devotes very little time to many of these smaller animals, so it is unlikely that every vet and nurse will know all about their husbandry, physiology, disease and treatment and even more unlikely that they will have quick access to specialist texts and journals. Even those that have experience and knowledge in treating one exotic species may need a helping hand when it comes to a less familiar one.

This BSAVA manual of exotic pets, like previous editions, gathers a huge amount of accurate information into one place in a format that is useful for veterinary surgeons, students and nurses alike. In my mind it merits a place on the practice bookshelf. Like previous editions, most chapters concentrate on a genus or a group of related species. The chapters provide an overview of anatomy, biology, husbandry, handling techniques, clinical examination, common diseases, surgery and treatment in more depth than previous editions. This edition has several improvements including extra chapters on normal anatomy and imaging and an updated chapter on British legislation. It also incorporates several new