

The Report of the Animal Procedures Committee gives details of the membership and activities of this independent statutory body, whose duty it is to advise the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the administration of the 1986 Act. Matters covered within its thirty-seven pages range from a consideration of the operation of the Act, through accounts of infringements of the law and the research sponsored by the Home Office to reduce, refine or replace animal procedures, to a discussion on the use of animals in the safety testing of cosmetics.

It is some six years since the UK's current animal experimentation law came into operation. There has been sufficient time for it to become fully operational. Questions are now increasingly being asked as to how effective is the new legislation in controlling the amount of suffering inflicted on the animals used in experiments, and how restrictive is the working of the new Act to the development of science and the application of knowledge to the relief of human suffering.

The answers to these important questions are not going to be easy to find, but reading these two annual publications is essential for anyone wanting to seriously address the issues involved.

Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals. Great Britain 1991 Cm 2023 (1992). HMSO: London. 49pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 10 120232 6) Price £9.60.

Report of the Animal Procedures Committee for 1991 Cm 2048 (1992). HMSO: London. 37pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 10 120482 5) Price £8.80.

Both publications obtainable from HMSO Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT, UK.

The humane side of human/non-human animal interactions

The journal *Society and Animals*, whose first issue was recently published by The White Horse Press has, in words from the Editor's Introduction, 'The main purpose of fostering within the social sciences a substantive subfield, animal studies, which will further the understanding of the human side of human/nonhuman animal interactions.' The intent is to publish refereed papers which describe and analyse man's experience of non-human animals.

The first issue starts with Introductions by the Editor, Kenneth Shapiro (a psychologist) and the Associate Editor, Arnold Arluke (a sociologist). These are followed by five articles: 'The symbolic role of animals in the plains Indian sun dance' (Elizabeth Lawrence); 'Labels and the treatment of animals: archival and experimental cases' (Rajecki, Rasmussen & Craft); 'Savages, drunks and lab animals: the researcher's perception of pain' (Mary Phillips); 'Dissection as an instructional technique in secondary science: choice and alternatives' (Alan Bowd), and 'Assessment of the effectiveness of a pet facilitated therapy program in a nursing home setting' (Perelle & Granville). There is a six page critical comment by Eric Greene on one of the papers, prepared presumably with the knowledge and comment of the target author (Lawrence), and a review by Harold Takooshian of Jasper and Nelkins' book *'The Animal Rights Crusade'*.

It remains to be seen whether this journal makes a real impact in the sociological field and whether it can survive in competition with similar publications, notably *Anthrozoös* and *Centaur*.

The first issue of *Society and Animals* is, however, a well produced and interesting contribution to our understanding of man's relationships with non-human animals. It deserves well - if for no other reason than the belief held by many people that real progress in improving animal welfare will come about through changes in the attitude of those of us who come in to contact with and use non-human animals.

Society and Animals, Volume 1 (1) Edited by Kenneth Shapiro and Arnold Arluke (1993). The White Horse Press: Cambridge. 110pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 1 Strond, Isle of Harris, Scotland PA83 3UD, UK or PSYeta, PO Box 1297, Washington Grove MD, 20880-1297, USA (ISSN 1063 1119) Subscription price £16 (individuals), £32 (institutions), £12 (students) annually for two issues.

Emergencies on livestock farms

Experienced livestock keepers know full well that they will have to cope, throughout the year, with a whole series of minor and, at times, major emergencies involving their animals. One of the talents of the good stockperson is his/her ability to anticipate trouble and to take early remedial action. In extensive husbandry systems the problems largely revolve around the weather, the provision of shelter and supplementary food. In intensive husbandry enterprises where large numbers of animals are often kept within buildings and are looked after by a relatively small staff, the crises result more from building failures and the breakdown of mechanical and electrical equipment.

One of the fears expressed by livestock farmers and especially those keeping their stock under intensive conditions, is 'what can I possibly do to save my animals if there is a farm fire or a major failure of the power supply?'

The main purpose of the recently published MAFF booklet entitled '*Emergencies on Livestock Farms*' is to alert farmers to these problems and to encourage them to prepare ahead, in the expectation that, sooner or later, some of these emergencies will actually occur on their own farms.

Such matters as alarms and emergency ventilation systems, casualty slaughter, fire emergencies, maintenance of essential mechanical equipment and services, the provision of emergency food/water supplies and the training of staff are covered in some seventeen pages of text.

This is a useful, well prepared publication. It should be read and acted on by all farmers and stock keepers. The advice, if implemented, could result in a considerable reduction in potential economic loss, waste and animal suffering.

Emergencies on Livestock Farms Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1992). 17pp. Obtainable free of charge from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, UK.