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*A Bibliography of References to Husbandry and Veterinary Guidelines for Animals in Zoological Collections.* Compiled by Alastair A Macdonald and Nicola Charlton (2000). The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland: London. 61pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, UK; and conservation.fedzoo@zsl.org (ISSN 1470-7322). Price details on application.

### **The use of animals in research, testing and teaching**

The *Animal Welfare Act 1999*, recently enacted by New Zealand, legislates for the prevention of ill-treatment and inadequate care of animals (see, *Animal Welfare 9*: 208-209 for further comment on the Act). Part 6 of the new Act relates to the use of animals in research, testing and teaching (for the purposes of the Act, an 'animal' means any vertebrate and any octopus, squid, crab, lobster or crayfish). As is now accepted practice, the 3Rs of reduction, refinement and replacement inform Part 6 of the Act and this Guide to it – which aims to assist those individuals and organizations whose activities fall within the remit of Part 6.

The Guide gives advice on the processes by which a Code of Ethical Conduct (basically a licence) can be developed and approved and how the Animal Ethics Committees (AECs), required by the Act to scrutinize and approve all procedures and projects, should operate. This includes how the AECs must be formed and monitored. It is now a requirement under the new Act that AECs must be satisfied that the benefits of the procedure outweigh any harm before they allow work to start and that at least three members of the committee must come from outside the organizations under consideration. The Guide instructs which procedures are covered by the new Act, and which can be regarded as exempt. It also deals with the exceptions that apply to non-human hominids (ie gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos or orangutans). For these animals, any assessment of benefit must be confined to the individual or species – benefits to humans cannot be taken in to account when deciding whether a procedure is acceptable or not. This is a first for a piece of national legislation. Finally, the text of Part 6 of the Act is listed. The Guide is undoubtedly essential to anyone working in this area in New Zealand, and will prove of interest to those in other countries who are involved in amending their own legislation and drafting guidelines.

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*The Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching. Users' Guide to Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.* Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policy Information Paper 33. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2000). 58pp. Paperback. Obtainable from, The Information Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Head Office, ASB House, 101-103 The Terrace, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand; and [www.maf.govt.nz/AnimalWelfare](http://www.maf.govt.nz/AnimalWelfare) (ISBN 047820065x/ISSN 1171-4654). Free.

### **UK Government activity and targets in farm animal welfare**

In line with the UK Government's commitment to greater transparency and openness, both the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) have recently published the second of their annual reports on their activities and future targets. The *MAFF Business Plan* lists the aims and objectives of the government department and its progress with the delivery of the 10 objectives. Objective 8 for MAFF is 'To ensure that farmed animals and fish are protected by high welfare standards and do not suffer unnecessary pain or distress'. To this end, MAFF reports that it has reduced the incidence of unnecessary pain or distress by investigating 94 per cent of reports of poor farm animal welfare within one working day. The second target they list, which they are still working towards, is to introduce a new system for monitoring farm animal welfare and to use it to target cases of poor welfare.

The *MAFF Business Plan* also briefly lists other activities in which the UK Government is involved, such as: the ongoing study into TB epidemiology initiated by the Bourne report; the relaxation of the UK quarantine regulations and the introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme; the development of a strategy for the reduction of antibiotic resistance due to the use of veterinary products; and measures to monitor, control and reduce the incidence of BSE in UK cattle.

Greater insight into the direction of UK concern for farm animal welfare can be found in the FAWC report. FAWC is an independent advisory body concerned with the welfare of farm animals which advises the UK's Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food on any legislative or other changes that may be necessary. The majority of FAWC's efforts during 1999/2000 have been focused on ongoing projects investigating the welfare of animals at slaughter and the welfare of farm animals at livestock markets. One area to which the Council has recently turned its attention, is that of farm assurance schemes and farm animal welfare. FAWC is presently reviewing schemes applying to animals on-farm, at market, in transit and at place of slaughter. As part of this review, FAWC has widened its traditional national focus to one that is more international – in their words taking a 'food chain' approach which will also take into account the welfare of animals whose products are imported into the UK, not simply those produced within the UK. To this end, FAWC has endeavoured to improve its links with those EU committees having remits similar to its own. FAWC expects to publish its review next year. The main R&D priorities highlighted last year – livestock breeding programmes, stocking densities, mutilations, disease, stockmanship and technology transfer – remain unchanged and specific issues of concern are highlighted in the report.

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*Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food: Business Plan 2000-01.* MAFF (2000). MAFF: London. 56pp. Paperback. Obtainable from, MAFF Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX, UK; and [www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk). Free.

*Farm Animal Welfare Council Annual Review 1999/2000.* FAWC: (2000). FAWC: London. 13pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Area 51, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ, UK; and [www.Maff.gov.uk/animalh/welfare](http://www.Maff.gov.uk/animalh/welfare). Free.

### **Report of the Burns inquiry into hunting with hounds**

Anyone turning to the recently published findings of the Committee of Inquiry into Hunting with Dogs in England and Wales, chaired by Lord Burns, and seeking to find a definitive answer as to whether hunting with dogs should be banned will be disappointed. As stated at the beginning of the report, the Inquiry did not attempt to answer such a question, nor to propose a compromise solution. Instead, it stuck to its remit of inquiring into the practical aspects of different types of hunting with dogs and their impact on the rural economy, agriculture and pest control, the management and conservation of wildlife, and animal welfare; as well as considering the consequences of any ban. However, the Inquiry makes clear its preferences with regard to methods of hunting.

Established in December 1999, the Inquiry generated an extensive amount of information during its short existence, receiving over 440 substantial written responses, holding meetings and commissioning research in 12 areas. Three reports, submitted by Bateson and Harris (*The Effects of Hunting with Dogs in England and Wales on the Welfare of Deer, Foxes, Mink and Hare*), Macdonald *et al* (*Management and Control of Populations of Foxes, Deer, Hares and Mink in England and Wales and the Impact of Hunting with Dogs*) and White *et al* (*Management of the Population of Foxes, Deer, Hares and Mink and the Impact of Hunting with Dogs*), contribute the bulk of information which is referred to in those parts of the Report which are of most immediate concern to this journal: the chapters entitled 'Population management and