

consumer under the banner of ‘higher quality’ as fish which are captured and dispatched swiftly and more humanely produce a better quality flesh.

It finishes by calling on animal welfare and environmental groups to become more involved in raising awareness of the welfare issues concerning fishing and lobbying retailers, fisheries and governments to develop and adopt more humane and sustainable practice.

This important report is not without fault however. It is at its weakest when dealing with the issue of fish sentience. Here, the author lays out some of the evidence in support of the fish’s ability to feel pain and suffer. Too much of what is cited here comes from secondary rather than primary sources, and is dated. For example, an RSPCA report from the early 1980s is cited as evidence that fish feel pain, as are the BBC news website and a report from a UK national newspaper, the *Daily Mail*; this despite the fact that there is more up-to-date research on the issue. Nonetheless, few would argue that fish don’t at least deserve the benefit of doubt on these matters. More problematic is when the author addresses the issue of fish feeling fear and panic as the supporting evidence is somewhat superficial. Certainly its brevity distracts from the otherwise persuasive arguments and evidence offered elsewhere in the report.

It is to be hoped that this report marks an important turning point in our use of fish — a sea change in our attitude towards them if you will — and that all those involved in their capture and harvesting take note of it. As it points out, at present, the sentience of fish is little acknowledged by the commercial fishing industry; similarly the concept of fish suffering is not covered by existing codes of practice, including the laudable Marine Stewardship Council standards for well-managed fisheries. This report, one trusts, should help to change this.

**Worse Things Happen at Sea: Report on the Welfare of Wild-Caught Fish** (August 2010). A4, 139 pages. By Alison Mood, fishcount.org.uk. Available to be downloaded from: <http://fishcount.org.uk>

*S Wickens*

UFAW

### **Good Practice Guide for animals used in scientific purposes**

The aim of this Guide is to promote the humane and responsible use of animals for scientific purposes and to encourage the highest standard of husbandry and animal care. It encompasses all aspects of the care and use of animals in medicine, biology, agriculture, veterinary and other animal sciences, industry and teaching. Split into 8 sections, covering the acquisition of animals, facilities, responsibilities of investigators and teachers amongst others, it is well written and clear and incorporates the latest thinking and recommendations on animal use. Grounded in the principle that animals should always be given the benefit of any doubt concerning pain relief, and with a specific appendix

that addresses the pain, this guide can perhaps be regarded as a model for others looking for guidance on this subject or seeking to draft their own guide.

**Good Practice Guide for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching** (2010). A4, 40 pages. National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. Copies of these documents can be obtained from: The Secretary, National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140 New Zealand. It is also available for download from: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/animal-welfare/pubs/naeac/guide-for-animals-use.pdf>

*S Wickens*

UFAW

### **New Zealand Code of Welfare for dogs**

For those of us concerned about companion animal welfare, this Code of Welfare for dogs from the New Zealand Government will be of interest. Following, as it does, the recently published England, Wales and Scotland Codes, it provides an opportunity to compare the issues of concern between these countries and look at how they have been addressed.

Under New Zealand legislation, any individual or organisation can draft a code of welfare, and this one was drawn up by a group convened by the New Zealand Companion Animal Council, which included representatives from the Royal New Zealand Society for the Protection of Animals, New Zealand Veterinary Association and Vet Nurses Association, Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Companion Animal Society, Unitec, New Zealand Kennel Club and the Institute of Animal Control Officers.

The Code is split into 10 sections and details 21 minimum standards that New Zealand dog owners must meet. In addition, each section and sub-section of the Code thereof, contains an introduction to the area of concern and further outlines recommended best practice and other general information deemed relevant.

Amongst the minimum standards are those that address expected issues such as food and feeding, access to water, euthanasia and ill-health and injury. Other standards are more specific and cover concerns that include debarking, removal of dew claws and aids for behavioural modification; as such these may be less anticipated but perhaps no less welcome.

In drawing up this Code, the group have also been able to incorporate some of the recommendations that recent reports, such as the UK’s Bateson Inquiry (see Reports and Comments, *Animal Welfare* 19[ii]) have made regarding the better safeguarding and regulation of the genetic health of dogs. The Code therefore requires that:

- ‘Breeders must make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the genetic make-up of both sire and dam will not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of known inherited disorders.’ (Minimum standard No7 — Breeding); and
- ‘.....(b) People supplying puppies must, at the time of supply, disclose to persons receiving them, any known