

EDITORIAL

The contents of this second issue in Volume 2 of the UFAW journal are mainly directed towards three areas of animal welfare concern: commercial poultry production, captive primates and the use of animals in scientific research.

The Articles section contains a contribution by Hansen, Braastad, Storbråten and Tofastrud on the levels of fearfulness shown by laying hens housed in aviaries and battery cages and a paper by Savory, Maros and Rutter on hunger in broiler breeders kept on a restricted feeding programme. It has been suggested in earlier issues of the journal (1: 203, 309) that birds, perhaps, do not have the same capacity to suffer as mammals. Notwithstanding this thought, the mere size of the commercial poultry industry suggests that if things are wrong the total amount of suffering could be immense. Studies which increase our understanding of how birds do or do not adapt to the husbandry systems imposed on them by man will surely in the long run result in better systems being set up. One of the functions of *Animal Welfare* is to put such studies into the public arena.

It is clearly recognised, however, that primates have a high capacity to suffer and the papers on stereotyped rocking and on pre-feeding agonism in captive chimpanzees, by Pazol and Bloomsmith of the University of Texas and by Howell, Matevia, Fritz, Nash and Maki of the Primate Foundation of Arizona could both result in improvements in the keeping of these intelligent and sensitive creatures. Victor Reinhardt's contribution on the use of food puzzles for caged rhesus macaques is a direct example of the application of a behavioural concept - environmental enrichment - to improve the well-being of a captive primate.

The laboratory animal material in this issue of the journal is largely made up of reports and reviews which describe and assess a number of recent relevant educational and technical publications. Some of these publications are designed to inform young people, students and others about the use of animals in biomedical research, others have been written for the scientific community and cover such matters as the recognition and alleviation of pain in animals and the ethics of using animals in behavioural research. The quantity of published material produced each year on the use/misuse, husbandry, treatment and control of animals used in laboratory investigations is immense: what we seem to lack at times is the will or resources to put this information into practice and thus improve both the value of the science and the welfare of the animals.

It has been stated in several of the previous editorials that the main purpose of the journal is to have a scientific and technical publication covering both factual and interpretative aspects of animal welfare. A particular aim has been to record field material that might otherwise not have been published. Workers who are able to offer such contributions are encouraged to submit articles no matter how raw their data; they will be given all possible help to get their findings placed on record in this journal.

May 1993

Roger Ewbank
Editor-in-Chief