

Through the newsletter, an enrichment video library has been set up in the United States which should be of practical help to those working in the field of animal care.

*The Shape of Enrichment* brings together current work in environmental and behavioural enrichment and is recommended to all involved with the keeping of animals in captivity.

*The Shape of Enrichment: a Quarterly Source of Ideas for Environmental and Behavioral Enrichment, Volume 1(1 and 2)* Edited by V J Hare and K E Worley (1992). 10pp and 16pp respectively. Obtainable from The Shape of Enrichment, 1650 Minden Drive, San Diego, CA 92111-7124, USA. Price US\$8 annually for four issues.

#### **UK farm animal welfare law**

The statutory provisions relating to the welfare of animals on the farm are somewhat complex and are scattered throughout a large number of Acts and Regulations/Orders. They may not therefore be easily understood and followed by the average farmer or stock keeper. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) is to be congratulated on producing a much needed, short, clear summary of the main points covered in the various pieces of legislation. The summary of the law relating to certain routine surgical operations eg castration is particularly well done. Details of who may carry out which operation, on which particular species and age range of animals, and under what anaesthetic regime (if any) is clearly laid out in a series of seven detailed species-orientated tables.

The warning is made that the summary of legislation given in the booklet is not a substitute for the legislation itself, which should be consulted directly when detailed knowledge is needed on particular points of law. Even so, this MAFF publication on the legislation relating to farm animal welfare will be most helpful to farmers and stock keepers, veterinary surgeons, animal welfarists and to the law enforcement agencies as a readily available source of accurate legal information.

*Summary of the Law Relating to Farm Animal Welfare* Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1992). 31pp. Paperback. Obtainable free of charge from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, UK.

#### **The workings of the *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986***

Each year, Her Majesty's Stationery Office (the UK government's official printer) formally publishes two Command Papers on the working of the 1986 *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act*. These two publications - '*Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals*' and '*Report of the Animal Procedures Committee*' - are presented by the Secretary of State for the Home Department (the government agency responsible for the control of animal experimentation) to parliament, and at the same time they are offered for general sale, ie they become public documents.

The statistics booklet contains fifteen pages of Introductory Notes followed by twenty-nine tables showing, in detail, such matters as the numbers of animals used, their species, the types of procedures (experiments) to which they are subjected and the use, or otherwise, of anaesthetics. A somewhat overwhelming mass of factual information is given and, as is the nature of many statistical presentations, it seems at times to conceal more than it reveals. A careful study, however, often shows that the supposed hidden facts are actually there or, at least, can be deduced from a comparison of the material in several of the tables. It is not always an easy booklet to use and perhaps the Home Office, in future volumes, should consider simpler, clearer ways of presenting some of the complex data.

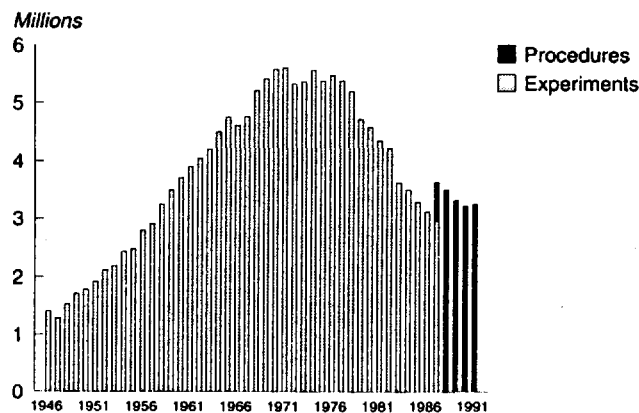


Figure 3 Numbers of experiments (or procedures) started each year, 1946-1991.

(modified from HMSO Cm 2023)

The actual number of animals used has, over the last twenty or so years shown a fairly regular decline from a peak of some 5½ million in the 1970s to just over 3 million in the late 1980s (see Figure above). The change in the overall heights of the histogram columns from 1988 onwards compared with the previous period, is the result of certain scientific uses of animals, eg their employment for the routine production of antibodies - a technique which had not been covered by the old legislation - being brought under the new Act.

The decline over the last few years seems to be levelling off and the 1990 figure actually shows a small (c1%) rise compared with that of 1989. It has been suggested (Home Office News Release 173/92) that this is partly due to an increase in the application of genetic engineering techniques to the production of therapeutic substances and partly the result of the implementation of new rules to control the number of times that individual animals can be used in experiments.

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'*.