

money on improving their health and management. More than half of the owners reported health problems, with most attributing these to disease, overwork, sores and feed shortages. It was encouraging to note that owners would probably be receptive to low-cost harness and saddle improvements that reduce the incidence of sores and thus reduce the number of lost working days for their donkeys.

Plans for future work include an investigation into longitudinal monitoring of seasonal changes and an assessment of the potential for interventions. The study will address socio-economic issues and determine acceptable pathways for ensuring that the correct recommendations are accepted by those who need them. This report will be of interest to those who work with draught animals and in the field of donkey welfare as well as those with an interest in attitudes towards animals.

---

*Use and Management of Donkeys in Peri-Urban Areas of Ethiopia* (2001) Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Draught Animal Power Technical Report 5 2001. Compiled by Pearson R A, Alemayehu M, Tesfaye A, Allan E F, Smith D G and Asfaw M. Livestock Production Programme Project R7350, University of Edinburgh, Easter Bush, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9RG, UK. 128 pp. A4 paperback (ISBN 0 907146 13 9).

### **Development of European legislation on the use of animals in science**

The Council of Europe is in the process of modifying Appendix A to the Convention ETS 123 which provides recommendations on the care and husbandry of laboratory animals. The revision takes account of the importance of appropriate social contact and enrichment instead of concentrating only on minimum space allowances. The Working Party charged with carrying out the revision has produced new recommendations for some species groups such as rodents, rabbits, cats and dogs; however, further work is required for other species. Unfortunately, all of the work remains in draft stage until it is approved by a Multilateral Consultation, but there is some hope that this could occur in 2003.

Although the Council of Europe Convention can only provide recommendations, the revision will be valuable as it has the potential to influence standards in over 41 member nations. Moreover, the revision has important implications for members of the European Community because the European Commission has recently ratified the Convention and will therefore have to revise the European Directive 86/609/EEC to bring it into line with the Convention. When this occurs, members of the European Union will be required to update their national legislation to incorporate any revisions to the Directive. A Draft Report on the Directive is available on the website (see below), and this suggests that a revision to the Directive might include substantial changes to its Articles and scope as well as to the recommendations on housing and care. For example, it is suggested that the Directive, like the Council of Europe Convention 123, should, in addition to controlling and setting standards for the use of animals in research, cover the use of animals for education and training purposes. It is also recommended that the definition of animals be widened to include embryonic and foetal forms as well as cephalopods and decapods.

---

Council of Europe modifications to Appendix A, Convention ETS 123; draft report available at <http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/committees/envi/20021002/envi20021002.htm>

### **Management guidelines for the welfare of zoo elephants**

A recent report from the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland on the management of zoo elephants aims to set out the current best practice and principles for those zoo keepers and managers who are responsible for their humane care of these animals and also

for the conservation benefit justifying their captivity. The Federation's views are based on some principles stated in the document, including that "elephants are worthy of our respect as another long-lived, intelligent, species. If we cannot look after them properly then we should not even attempt to do so", and that the continued presence of elephants in zoos can only be justified "by demonstrating a conservation benefit to the species". The report also aims to address the concerns of those who question the keeping of elephants in British and Irish zoos.

The Federation believes that the solution to the problem of the ongoing wild population decline resulting from habitat loss, poaching and other factors is most unlikely to be solved by captive breeding *per se*, but that it is "vital to achieve normal breeding in zoos" both to remove any temptation for importation of wild-caught animals and "arguably, to retain such an effective 'ambassador' species on which to base educational conservation messages and thereby enlist real support for direct conservation...".

The introductory chapter sets out the reasons for the production of the guidelines and also includes the Federation's Policy Statement on elephants. The latter makes various stipulations about the rationale for elephant keeping and about their care — for example: "their presence must enable progressive educational activities, and demonstrate links with field conservation projects and benign scientific research leading to continuous improvements in breeding and welfare standards". This is followed by chapters on biology and field data and on management in captivity. The latter includes sections on the captive environment, feeding and nutrition, behaviour, captive breeding, population management, handling and training, transportation, medical management and research. It also sets out standard operating procedures, which are mandatory for zoos that are members of the Federation, on staff training, the use of chains or shackles, voice control, the use of ankus or hooks, and the use of electric goads. The section on the captive environment establishes mandatory standards for Federation zoos. It is made clear that those Federation members who do not currently comply are required to do so within five years.

The literature relevant to the husbandry of animals, which encompasses studies of many aspects of the biology and ecology of wild and captive populations of the species in question and of others also where relevant, grows continually. It is very important that this literature is properly and regularly reviewed, critically assessed and interpreted, and incorporated into updated management guidelines for use by those responsible for animal care. As the number and range of wild species managed in captivity (in zoos, as companion animals, and in other circumstances) grow, so too does the need for detailed husbandry manuals such as this. It is a valuable review that will be of interest not only to everyone responsible for elephant management and welfare but also to many others who are interested in elephant welfare and conservation. A summary document excerpted from the main report that lists the Zoo Federation's mandatory standards and operating procedures is available separately.

---

***Management Guidelines for the Welfare of Zoo Animals: Elephants *Loxodonta africana* and Elephas maximus*** (2002) Compiled by Stevenson M. Published by The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland. Available from The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland, Zoological Gardens, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY, UK. 163 pp. A4 paperback (ISSN 0963-1712).

### **New Zealand Ethics Advisory Committee Annual Report 2001**

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) of New Zealand published their Annual Report for the year 2001 in June this year. The report contains an overview of the animal welfare infrastructure in New Zealand and a list of functions of the NAEAC. It also runs through