

The *Medical Research Modernization Committee* – a New York based, non-profit organization made up of health care professionals – has now produced a 3rd edition of its booklet *A Critical Look at Animal Experimentation*. This publication concludes that the value of animal experimentation has been grossly exaggerated by those with a vested economic interest in its preservation, and that the massive financial resources so used would be better employed on clinical and epidemiological research and public health programmes. It might be argued that this booklet is somewhat selective in its evidence, but many practical, scientific and ethical arguments are put forward in a serious attempt to force a reconsideration of some of the assumptions underlying the use of animals in biomedical research.

A Critical Look at Animal Experimentation. Prepared by Kaufman S R, Cohen M J, Cramer M, Contard P C, Hahner K and Todd B (1995). The Medical Research Modernization Committee: New York. 17pp (112 references). Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 2751, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-2751, USA. Price US\$0.50.

Use of animals in research

Each year the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) holds an Animal Welfare Forum. The papers presented at this annual event are published in the *Journal of the AVMA* and are collectively reprinted as a 'proceedings of the meeting'. In 1994 the Forum met in Rosemont, Illinois and the subject was *Veterinary Perspectives on the Use of Animals in Research*. The following seven papers were given and are now published, together with a brief 'Opening remarks' by the then President Elect of the AVMA in the February 15th issue of the AVMA journal.

An ethical perspective on animal research. *Carl Cohen*.

The role of attending veterinarians in laboratory animal welfare. *Fred W Quimby*.

Innovations in research animal care. *Denna M Benn*.

Development of a natural-habitat breeding facility for nonhuman primates. *William R Morton et al*.

Private practitioner's perspective on animal research. *Thomas E Vice*.

Consistency in treatment and moral concern. *Nedim C Buyukmihci*.

The future of animal research. *Bonnie V Beaver*.

This collection of well-written and calmly presented essays is essential reading both to veterinary surgeons involved with biomedical research, and to others interested in new thoughts and developments in this important animal welfare area.

AVMA Animal Welfare Forum: Veterinary Perspectives on the Use of Animals in Research (1995). Reprinted from the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 206(4): 457-482.

The killing of wild animals in Britain

Each year very large numbers of wild mammals and birds are killed by man. Some of this killing is for sport; some is for pest control; and some is accidental. A report based on an investigation carried out by N C Fox on behalf of the Hawk Board – a component body of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the Department of Environment – into the nature and extent of animal suffering caused by current methods of pest control and field