

can and cannot be applied, and the means by which animal usage may be reduced.

A new publication *The Use of Alternatives* is currently planned by UFAW, in association with the Fund for Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments, as Section V in its series of *Guidelines on the Care of Laboratory Animals and their Use for Scientific Purposes*. This might help overcome the lack of comprehensive guidance for scientists in the UK.

NHMRC 1990 *An Introductory Guide to Minimizing the Numbers of Animals Used in Research Projects*. 3 Pp. *Background Paper Strategies for Minimizing the Numbers of Animals Used in Research Projects*. 26 Pp. National Health and Medical Research Council: Canberra, Australia.

European Community - common welfare standards

There has been considerable consultative and committee work in the UK over the last 3 years on the transport of animals. Most of this was related to a draft Regulation issued by the Commission in June 1989 and circulated for comment to over 80 interested organizations, by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in 1989 and subsequently in 1990. Earlier in April 1990, the House of Commons Agriculture Committee started an independent inquiry on this subject and in November 1990 the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) set up a working group to look at the EC proposals.

In October 1991 the new EC legislation — now a Directive¹ and not a Regulation — was agreed by the Council of Agriculture Ministers and the text was published in the Official Journal in December that year. The sequence of these events is shown in the diagram.

The provisions of this Directive will now have to be incorporated into UK legislation by 1st January 1993 and this may mean a number of important changes in welfare standards.

Existing UK regulations require that food animals in transit must be offered food and water every 12 hours or exceptionally every 15 hours. The Directive sets a general maximum period of 24 hours, exceptionally 26 hours, although it makes provision for a Scientific Veterinary Committee report by July 1992 recommending maximum journey times for certain types of animal.

Fortunately the existing UK protection of minimum values applicable to the export of horses has been allowed to continue for the time being.

¹ Council Directive on the protection of animals during transport. 91/628/EEC of 19 November 1991, OJ L.340.

The consultation process

June 1989 Draft proposal issued by the European Commission		
	Ministry of Agriculture	
	<i>August 89</i>	
Farm Animal Welfare Council	Seeks views of interested parties	Agriculture Committee House of Commons
		<i>April 90</i>
		Announces inquiry
	<i>July 90</i>	<i>July 90</i>
<i>November 90</i>	Starts 2nd consultation	Publishes memoranda of evidence
Establishes working group and seeks views		<i>June 91</i>
		Publishes Report
<i>September 91</i>		
Publishes Report		
21 October 1991 Directive agreed by Council of Ministers		
	<i>25 October 91</i>	
	Issues explanatory letter	
	<i>November 91</i>	
	Seeks comments on FAWC Report	
19 November 1991 Directive formally adopted		
11 December 1991 Directive published in Official Journal		
	<i>February 92</i>	
	Publishes response to FAWC Report	
1 January 1993 Directive to be incorporated in UK legislation		

Nevertheless the consensus of the House of Commons Report, the FAWC Report and the Government's response as well as the general view of the agriculture industry, the veterinary profession and the animal welfare lobby, is that maximum journey times should still be 12 exceptionally 15 hours. It is feared that the bureaucratic process of European standardization could well lead to lowered UK statutory requirements on the welfare of animals in transit.