

Animals, Ethics and Trade: The Challenge of Animal Sentience

Edited by J Turner and J D'Silva (2006). Published by Earthscan, London NW1 0JH, UK. 286 pp Paperback (ISBN 184407255) Price £16.99.

This interesting book contains a selection of papers from the successful Compassion in World Farming Trust conference 'Darwin to Dawkins: the Science and Implications for Animal Sentience'. The key feature of this conference and also this book is the diversity of the 25 well-respected contributors including ethicists, religious scholars, academics, international industrialists and regulators. Jane Goodall sets the scene with a discussion of the "blurred line" between animals and humans. The contrast in styles of the authors is well illustrated by the difference between the careful methodical review of scientific literature concerning sentience from James Kirkwood and the "non-traditional essay" from Marc Bekoff, who asks questions such as: "If one loves animals how can she or he eat them...?" There is much discussion of the interaction between science and ethics. Peter Sandøe and others use a great analogy of scientists peering through their narrow windows onto the world whilst applied scientists are "blind people" dependent upon communicating with these basic scientists. We hear about the importance of educating scientists about ethics from Michael Reiss. Chapters from Andrew Linzey, Tom Regan, Steven Wise and Ben Mepham explore the interesting ethical arguments concerning sentience. Fascinating chapters from Song Wei and Peter Li give insight into the growing and potentially very significant welfare debate in China and Mahfouz Azzam highlights the protection of animals as an "integral part of Islamic history".

How these ethical arguments relate to farming in several different countries are discussed by John Webster, Michael Appleby, Ros Clubb and Vandana Shiva. An indication of progress in animal welfare is the surreal juxtaposition of an overview of McDonald's global standards in animal welfare (Keith Kenny) with a discussion of the welfare features of organic farming (Patrick Holden). The recurring theme of many of these articles is the importance of the consumer and the marketplace in bringing about change. Since consumers are also concerned about other issues, Kate Rawles argues that the "sustainability triangle" (social justice, economic development and environmental protection) should now be adapted to a "diamond" by including animal welfare as a fourth dimension.

The international dimension is addressed by optimistic reviews of progress in welfare legislation that has been achieved in Europe (David Wilkins) and an indication of what may be achieved in China (Paul Littlefair). The potentially critical roles of financial institutions and the Office International des Épizooties are discussed by Oliver Ryan and David Bayvel respectively. Finally Tim Lang reminds us of the complexities of achieving access to ethical foods.

The editors Jacky Turner and Joyce D'Silva have done an excellent job in bringing this collection of disparate articles

together in a thought provoking format. This book should be recommended to all those that have either have an *interest in* or, perhaps more importantly, an *influence on* animal welfare standards.

David CJ Main,

University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

The Welfare of Dogs

K Stafford (2006). Published by Springer, Heidelberg 69121, Germany. 280 pp Hardback (ISBN 9781402043611) Price £88.50.

Consider the following fact-based imaginary scenario. A team of researchers publishes a series of studies on the reproductive behaviour of the cougar. This stimulates interest from other researchers, who then conduct additional research on the cougars' mating and parenting behaviour, while others study its habitat range and hunting strategies. Additional work by other investigators adds to this body of knowledge, and soon there is a book published on cougar biology and behaviour. While this is all happening, researchers elsewhere have received grant money to study the behaviour and biology of the puma. Numerous publications by additional research teams follow, exploring the pumas' feeding habits, genetics, natural history, and such, and interest in the species expands so rapidly that in a very short time an announcement goes out about the First Annual International Conference on Puma Biology. Meanwhile, over the same period of time there have been a few published journal articles on the mountain lion, but because of several recent attacks by these animals on humans in Southern California there has been a recent explosion of research on this species. Public outcry leads local and state government agencies to rush to form task forces and, because of the human welfare implications, no financial constraints exist as multiple teams initiate studies on the habitat, hunting and feeding behaviour, and population control methods for the mountain lion.

Over the ensuing years some of the puma researchers catch wind of what's going on in the field of cougar research and not long after that the mountain lion researchers start seeing some similarities of their research with that of the puma studies. As time goes on, some astute investigators begin to notice that all of the time, effort, resources, and funding being devoted to these three species has resulted in very similar findings. The pieces begin to come together and in a few more years it becomes clear that all of the research has been looking at a single species – *Felis concolor* – and had each group of researchers known what the others had been doing, the knowledge about the species could have progressed far faster than it had.

Enter animal welfare science. The concepts currently snagged in the wide net of this field are familiar to all: well-being, psychological well-being, subjective well-being, quality of life, happiness, life satisfaction, contentment, peace of mind, living the 'good life,' and welfare itself. The question is, of course: Is *welfare* another *Felis concolor*?