

The paper describing the evolution of a policy concerning standards for experimental surgery also makes interesting and instructive reading. The setbacks and frustrations involved in trying to develop a consensus view on such a controversial topic are outlined succinctly, and should be read by anyone involved in similar committee work. Even if it fails to provide shortcuts or solutions, it will at least reassure the reader that their problems are not unique. In addition, the description of the consultative process and the reactions of the various interested parties allows an insight into some of the practical difficulties involved when dealing with animal welfare issues.

Inevitably the proceedings view the various topics from a North American perspective, but this does not detract significantly from their value to a wider audience. As mentioned earlier, the contributions are not comprehensive, but provide useful summaries and are well referenced, enabling the reader to pursue particular topics further. The adoption of modern methods of anaesthesia and high standards of perioperative care represents an important refinement of our use of laboratory animals. These proceedings represent a significant contribution to this aspect of the welfare of laboratory animals, are good value for money, and provide a useful source of information on a range of anaesthesia related topics.

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Fair Game: The Law of Country Sports and the Protection of Wildlife, New revised edition. Charlie Parkes and John Thornley (1994). Pelham Books: London. 287pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ, UK (ISBN 0 7207 2030 3). Price £13.99.

The presentation of this book is excellent – encouraging both use and ownership. The illustrations, often useful in elucidating the text but otherwise compelling illuminations, ensure that the work is teeming with the romance of the countryside. With its carefully written text and its aesthetic appeal; the book is at home hidden amongst the ponderous volumes of Halsbury's Statutes Law of England and yet it would sit happily on a kitchen shelf wedged between cookery books and guides to birds and wild flowers, blazing with hand-painted illustrations. Add an old pair of binoculars and some dried flowers and the image is complete! The book is stated to be a 'Guide for the lay person' but it is also an extremely useful practitioner's map and quick reference textbook; dealing with a subject virtually untouched (in one volume) by other writers.

The authors venture into the subject matter bravely. At the time of writing this review, the field sports versus animal welfare debate is polarized as another Wild Mammals Bill is being debated in Parliament; the wealth of feeling aroused by this debate demonstrates the difficulties faced by those who venture to explore this sensitive area. Nevertheless, the writers, both policemen, follow their overriding mandate to uphold the law as it is and deal with a sensitive subject with admirable objectivity.

The authors are specifically involved in police wildlife liaison – an activity which contributes much to the effective enforcement of the law relating to both the welfare and conservation of wild animals. The book not only demonstrates their knowledge of the relevant law but also their wealth of experience as they often go beyond the obvious letter of the law and the complex codes and regulations, to look at the recommended practices and views of

conservation, welfare and country pursuits organizations. In their efforts to be comprehensive the authors also provide a good deal of practical information.

The book avoids in-depth examinations of theory; the reader who requires an analysis of international conventions, European legislation and the way in which English/Scottish law is partly derived from these sources, should look elsewhere. Nor does the book examine the moral issues behind field sports and cruelty legislation. The book's purpose is simply to map out the legal boundaries in a thoroughly accessible manner for those involved in country sports and those involved in conserving game for that purpose. Do not expect an examination of the question as to whether these activities should be happening in the first place.

In its careful adherence to detail the book deals with both English and Scottish Law, an approach rarely tackled in any law book. This dual coverage is important as the two systems run together for only so long before there is a divergence.

As you would expect from police authors, the book pays appropriate attention to powers of search and seizure and to some extent procedural matters concerned with Magistrates' Courts. In this regard, an important legal lacuna is described in the context of poaching: the fact that there is no modern legal instrument to apprehend a poacher on his way to commit an offence. Faced with this difficulty the authors describe the uniquely English way of dealing with the matter, in which a statute made in 1361 is used to facilitate the unusual, long-winded and unwieldy approach to what should be the simple prosecution of wrongdoing (legislators take note!) This is an important missing link in the law with relevance for welfare because the approach can have implications for dog-fighting, cock-fighting and badger-baiting. However, I would have liked to see an analysis of the practical difficulties faced by those who would be forced to use this archaic device.

The book deals extensively with conservation matters. Occasionally dealing with specific animals: problems with herons taking fish in a pond, bats in the loft and so on.

Direct references to welfare in this book are as few and far between as they are in the legislation. Occasionally, however, there are helpful welfare-oriented suggestions such as those made to ensure that snares are selective and are not likely to capture animals other than the intended prey, and tips on how to ensure that snares trap the animal in the targeted part of the body. If this advice is widely followed there will be an inevitable small step towards reducing the suffering of snared animals. Apart from these sparse references and apart from the fact that it is always hoped that conservation law has, in general, an incidental, beneficial effect on animal welfare; the main parts of the book focusing on this subject are the chapters on cruelty, badgers, cock-fighting and to some extent, hunting. Again, these areas are dealt with objectively: the authors are keen to describe the law as it is without evaluating the rationale. However, at times they illustrate the travesties resulting from the inadequacy of cruelty law as it particularly relates to wild animals. Thus, it is made clear that a wild hedgehog may be beaten to death with a stick legally or a wild vixen may be nailed, alive, to a tree. It is staggering that in the United Kingdom, described so often by other countries in the European Union as idiosyncratically sympathetic to animals, activities like these may persist, untouched by the law. This issue is so often missed when a Wild Mammals Bill enters the Parliamentary arena, as the more contentious matters surrounding the hunting conflict cloud the issue and frustrate the separate and honest purpose of protecting wild animals from cruelty.

In the context of offences now arising out of the 1911 Protection of Animals Act the authors rightly acknowledge that Acts of Parliament are not static. As the culture and public concern for animal welfare increases so too the courts will re-orient their views, and circumstances may give rise to offences which were not previously recognized. Consequently, they state that the very act of putting a dog into a hole to fight a fox may now be regarded as a 1911 Act offence in the appropriate circumstances.

Another area of the law which is so difficult to grasp is the hunting exemption in the 1911 Act. This is explained in a straightforward manner in the relevant chapter. Badgers are dealt with in detail – a wild mammal which caught the public imagination causing it to have consolidating legislation all to itself. Finally, whilst referring to the detail in the book, a short chapter on cock-fighting demonstrates the difficulties of enforcement in relation to this vile activity.

In conclusion, the book is, forgive the cliché, equally useful to lay people and practitioners alike. The text is objective – only rarely moving for changes where the absurdity of the law is obvious. In welfare terms you will be disappointed if you expect an analysis of the problems with the hunting exemption, the defects in the Badgers' Act and so on. However, pragmatically, since the book is so accessible and easy to absorb, it should assist in its own way to educate those involved in field sports (who are not already knowledgeable about these matters) to take a further step towards caring for the welfare of their target and other wild animals. However, the book is not geared to persuade those who participate in field sports to take up other activities.

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Creative Conservation: Interactive Management of Wild and Captive Animals

Edited by P J S Olney, G M Mace and A T C Feistner (1994). Chapman & Hall: London. 517pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 2–6 Boundary Row, London SE1 8HN (ISBN 0 412 49570 8). Price £55.

This volume comprises the proceedings of the Sixth World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species. It represents something of a landmark, as the first conference was held in Jersey in 1972, some twenty years previously. This inaugural meeting was held under the auspices of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust and (as it was then) the Fauna Preservation Society. Sadly this review is being written some weeks after the death of Gerald Durrell, the founder of Jersey Zoo and one of the instigators of that first meeting.

I therefore thought it would be appropriate to review this book, not only for its contents but also for what it represents in showing developments, progress in our understanding and knowledge of the breeding of endangered species.

The proceedings of the first conference (Martin 1975) consisted of some very useful papers, but all were on the methodology involved in captive breeding a variety of species of reptiles, birds and mammals. Only seven of the 31 papers in the present volume of *Creative Conservation* are on individual species, and all of these discuss captive breeding in relation to reintroduction and management of wild populations of the species concerned. For those of us who complain that things are moving too slowly, this is very encouraging as it shows that