

authorities vary in their approaches to zoos. Although, they do not have powers to ban circuses from operating within their districts, some refuse to allow them to operate from council-owned parks.

The Circus Working Group were unable to visit any winter quarters and recommended further investigation in this area. In addition, the Group were able to acquire little information on travelling conditions during the touring season but expressed the view that existing legislation under the relevant EU Transport Directive, and industry guidelines, should provide an adequate framework. The Report indicates some differences of opinion between Group members about the adequacy of circus animal accommodation. Thus: 'whilst some... felt that accommodation was restrictive in space and complexity, circuses argue that such restriction is balanced by the stimulus of training and performance'; and others took the view that 'circuses, by their very nature, cannot provide what the animal needs in terms of space and complexity and that training cannot overcome a lack of environmental enrichment'. Similarly, there were clear differences of perspective between members of the Group on the training of circus animals. The lack of any formal structure for training the trainers was highlighted as a constraint on the development of consistent standards. On the subject of physical and psychological stress, the Report states that the Group 'found clear evidence of both physical and psychological abnormality in some circus animals, whereas others appear to be comparatively unaffected'.

The Group were able to agree some important conclusions. First, that current legislation is inadequate to ensure that best practice welfare standards for circus animals are met. Second, that circuses should not impose any significant or unnecessary physical or mental suffering or distress on animals. Third, that acts should not be allowed which put physical or mental condition at risk; and, finally, that performances should not demonstrate unnatural behaviour.

Of the three options considered for the way forward – no change, complete ban, or new legislation – the Group were able to agree on discounting the first but did not reach a consensus on the others. However, it is clear that there is a strong case for tighter control and for a licensing system based on inspections to standard guidelines.

A Report into the Welfare of Circus Animals in England and Wales (1998). The Circus Working Group, c/o RSPCA: Horsham. 34pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12, UK. Free.

References:

Kiley-Worthington M 1990. *Animals in Circuses and Zoos: Chiron's World?* Little Eco-Farms Publishing: Basildon, UK

Welfare implications of cloning farm animals

The birth of Dolly, the first mammal cloned from an adult cell, at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh in 1997, prompted worldwide debate about the ethics of this technology. Conscious of public concerns about its welfare aspects, the UK Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food asked the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) to advise on the matter. In the foreword to this, the last report produced before his recent retirement from the FAWC Chairmanship, Professor Sir Colin Spedding reported the Council's view that no aspect of cloning was 'intrinsically objectionable to the extent that it might be considered something not to be done at all'. However, the Report identifies a variety of potential welfare risks and proposes a number of safeguards.

FAWC recommended adopting the ethical framework developed by the 1995 'Banner' Committee (on the ethical implications of emerging technologies in the breeding of farm

animals), for the assessment of present and future uses of animals. The principles of this framework are that: '(a) Harms of a certain degree and kind ought under no circumstances to be inflicted upon an animal. (b) Any harm to an animal, even if not absolutely impermissible, nonetheless requires justification and must be outweighed by the good which is realistically sought in so treating it. (c) Any harm which is justified by the second principle ought, however, to be minimised as far as is reasonably possible.' Considering the nature of procedures that could be considered intrinsically objectionable, FAWC's view was that animals were certainly deserving of respect as individuals, that they should not just be the means to humankind's ends and that: 'It is not clear that a radical distinction between human and non-human is now defensible, either biologically or ethically, nor that any such disjunction is sufficient to warrant the treatment of other living creatures merely as means'. The Committee felt that, while no aspect of cloning was intrinsically objectionable, the potential for violating integrity and naturalness which might result in insult to the nature and welfare of animals, meant that controls were needed.

In its Report, FAWC considered the welfare implications of the procedures involved in cloning and the welfare risks arising from associated problems such as aged DNA and the oversized offspring phenomenon that has occasionally been observed following bovine and ovine embryo manipulations. Many of the procedures, for example recovery of super-ovulated embryos from ewes, involve surgery and therefore carry welfare costs to the individuals involved. FAWC also expressed concern about the high levels of wastage of life (losses of embryos, foetuses and mature animals) associated with this technology and recommended research into the scale and causes.

FAWC proposes that several controls should be put in place to regulate this technology. i) That regulations, similar to those which protect research animals, should be put in place to protect the welfare of cloned farm animals. ii) That procedures are carried out under direct veterinary supervision and by adequately trained personnel. iii) That the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons should be consulted about the suitability of any of the procedures involved for delegation to trained lay operators. iv) That a National Standing Committee should be established to oversee the developing technology and to determine the time when it might be appropriate for the technology to be used into commercial agriculture. v) That international liaison should be established to ensure similar controls are in place wherever the technology is applied.

FAWC Report on the Implications of Cloning for the Welfare of Farmed Livestock (1998). Farm Animal Welfare Council: Surrey. 30pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NF; or MAFF Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX. Free.

Code of Practice for Animal Rescue Organisations: Caring for Cats and Dogs

This *Code* sets out suggested minimum levels of care for cats and dogs kept by rescue organizations, and is written with the aim of raising standards. Touching on issues associated with animal welfare, rehoming practice, legal requirements of shelters and the setting up and administration of charities, the booklet acts as a useful starting point for anyone thinking of setting up a shelter. However, its usefulness is limited by its surprising brevity (only four pages of A5 are allocated to address all the issues associated with the care and management of animals in shelters, and only one page to rehoming practices) and its tendency (perhaps not surprisingly given the organization which compiled it) to refer to dogs in preference to other species.