

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Animal welfare legislation in Europe

Eurogroup for Animal Welfare - the organization which represents the leading animal welfare societies in the twelve member states of the European Community (EC) - has taken upon itself the tedious task of producing, at intervals, an updated summary of animal welfare legislation at the level of the EC and the Council of Europe (C of E).

The present work is the fourth revision of a document originally produced in 1983 and is correct and up to date as at 1st September 1992.

The volume starts with a detailed table of contents and an introduction to the administrative/legal structure of the Community. This is followed by an account of the establishment of Eurogroup and a list of its constituent societies. There is then an index of the principal EC and C of E legislation.

The main part of the volume follows and is made up of six major sections labelled: Wild Animals; Farm Animals; Experimental Animals; Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; Companion Animals; Animals - General. Each major section is subdivided under further headings - Farm Animals for instance contains subsections entitled: Farm Animal Welfare - General; Yield and Growth Promoters; Transport of Animals; Humane Slaughter; Laying Hens; Poultry Kept for Meat; Veal Calves; Pigs; Game and Game Meat, and Fur Farming. Within each subsection the legislation is laid out under:

Existing Legislation - ie present C of E Regulations, Directives and Decisions;

Work in Progress - on proposed changes in the legislation;

Background - showing historically how the present legislation came out via activities in both the C of E and the EC.

Two separate supplements containing all written questions in the European Parliament related to animal welfare legislation are also available.

Altogether this is a most substantial, thorough and useful work. It covers an immense and complex area of European legislation. Eurogroup should be warmly thanked for their service to the animal welfare community in Europe for producing and keeping up to date this valuable document.

Summary of Legislation Relative to Animal Welfare at the Levels of the European Community and the Council of Europe, 4th revision September 1992 Produced and published by Eurogroup for Animal Welfare: Brussels (1992). 150pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 17 Square Marie Louise, Bte 6, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Summary price BF1,250; supplement prices BF250 each including postage, payable by Eurocheque.

Rio animal welfare congress

In response to the growing interest in animal welfare within the world veterinary community, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 1988 set up an Animal Welfare Committee. At the 24th WVA Congress held in Rio de Janeiro in August 1991, there were a number of papers given on the welfare of animals used and managed by man.

The WVA Animal Welfare Committee decided that in a further attempt to promote the subject within the profession these papers should be published. The present volume is the result.

The twenty-four papers vary enormously in theme and style. They range from general reviews of such matters as the assessment of well-being in animals to detailed accounts of opioid receptors in pigs and the use of alpha-2 adrenergic medication for sedation/analgesia. There are papers on animal use and alternatives in the life sciences and on the horse in Crow Indian culture. All in all this is a fascinating volume - it shows how widespread the concept of animal welfare is and how deeply involved many veterinarians are in the subject.

Animal Welfare Proceedings of the Animal Welfare Sessions, XXIV World Veterinary Congress, Rio de Janeiro 1991 Edited by J H Seamer and F W Quimby (1992). Animal Welfare Committee of the World Veterinary Association: London. 237pp. Paperback. Obtainable from T G Scott Subscription Services, 6 Bourne Enterprise Centre, Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8DG, UK (ISBN 0 9518614 09) Price £25 including postage within UK; overseas surface mail £30; overseas airmail £40.

Blood removal from laboratory animals

In 1989 the British Veterinary Association; the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experimentation; the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare set up a working party to run a series of workshops on the ways in which common scientific procedures could be refined to minimize any pain or distress caused to laboratory animals. Any reduction in these adverse effects not only has the potential to improve the welfare of the animals; it could also improve the quality of scientific research, in that suffering can often result in physiological and other changes which are likely to mask or interfere with the experimental results.

This first report, reprinted from *Laboratory Animals* 1993 27: 1-22, is on the techniques used for the removal of blood from laboratory mammals and birds. In many ways it is an account of best current practice, with emphasis being put on the welfare of the subject animal.

The publication should be basic reading for anyone applying for a personal or project licence under the *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986*. The implementation of its recommendations could, in many cases, ensure that minimum pain and/or distress is inflicted upon the animals that man is using for the acquisition of biological knowledge.

Removal of blood from laboratory mammals and birds First Report of the BVA/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement BVA/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW (1993). *Laboratory Animals*: London. 22pp. Paperback. Obtainable free of charge from RSPCA, Research Animals Department, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG, UK.