

This results in great discrepancies in the technical complexity of the knowledge that students are required to demonstrate between units within each level of the NVQ, and particularly between levels. The skills that need to be demonstrated to achieve the NVQ Level 3, which should roughly be equivalent to an 'A level', are greatly beyond what one might expect from such equivalent qualifications. The workbooks have addressed this problem as far as possible, and gone some way to meeting the still pressing demand for a single textbook which supports those studying for the increasingly popular NVQs in Animal Care.

*Caring for Animals. Learning Support Book N/SVQ Level 2.* Animal Care and Equine Training Organisation (1998). 86pp. Ring-bound. *Animal Care and Management. Learning Support Book N/SVQ Level 3.* Animal Care and Equine Training Organisation (1998). 88pp. Ring-bound. Both books published by and obtainable from: Animal Care and Equine Training Organisation Ltd, Second Floor, The Burgess Building, The Green, Stafford ST17 4BL, UK. Price £15.00 (members) and £20.00 (non-members).

### Transport of pigs

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) has produced a useful information and training booklet for drivers involved in the transport of pigs. This is aimed at supporting the Scottish Pig Industry Initiative by providing up-to-date information on transport legislation. The booklet is a spin-off from a training package developed by the SAC and can be used on its own in the training, assessment and certification of competence of professional livestock drivers (as required under the *Welfare of Animals [Transport] Order 1997*).

The booklet starts with a brief outline of the salient aspects of pig behaviour and biology, then provides a series of single-page, information sheet-like layouts on a variety of topics including: loading and unloading, stocking densities, ventilation, hygiene, vehicle construction and maintenance, health and safety, driving times, driving skills, fitness to travel, paperwork, contingency plans, inspections, finance and exports. The booklet is attractively produced and easy to read. Key points are set out as bullet points and each section is illustrated (although with photogenic rather than informative pictures).

This is a valuable, concise, but comprehensive, booklet on the road transport of pigs. It is aimed at providing drivers with the information they need to meet the requirements of the *Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997*, but would be useful as part of introductory training for pig transporters anywhere. The SAC is planning similar publications on the transport of cattle and sheep.

*Livestock Transport – Pigs: Handle with Care* (1998). Scottish Agricultural College: Aberdeen. 24pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Animal Biology Division, Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9YA. Price £12.00 (or £8.00 per copy for bulk orders).

### Standards for dog breeding establishments (and guidance for licensing UK dog breeding establishments)

In 1996, a Working Group comprising representatives of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the Local Government Association, was set up to substantially update guidance on the licensing of dog breeding establishments. The Group's report was published recently and provides a comprehensive and valuable set of guidelines.

The *Breeding of Dogs Acts* (1973 and 1991) are introduced and their key provisions are outlined in the introductory section of the booklet. Following this, there are sections on guidance relevant to domestic breeders and then, to non-domestic breeders; finally, other relevant legislation is briefly outlined. The guidance notes are well laid out with the requirements of the

1973 Act quoted in a column on the left with interpretative notes describing current best practice listed on the right. For example, where the Act specifies that detailed records should be kept concerning the operation of the breeding establishment but makes no specifications regarding the nature of these records, the guidance notes indicate that these should include full details of all dogs and bitches kept, such as: dates of oestrus, matings and whelpings; identification details and records of sale; health records (including vaccination and worming records); details of vehicles used and of journeys including times, dates and journey lengths; cleaning and disinfection regimes; feeding and exercise regimes; records of environmental temperatures; and details of any cases being managed in isolation. The guidance notes expand in a similar way on the Act's provisions concerning accommodation, management, disease control, emergencies and fire prevention and transport. The advice is mostly well-aimed, concise, practical and specific but occasional points, for example that 'the feeding level required by the bitch after weaning will depend upon her body condition', seem too vague to be of much value in practice.

This booklet is designed as an information resource manual for veterinarians and officers of local authorities involved in inspections of dog breeding premises under the 1973 and 1991 Acts. It is likely to prove valuable in this context. In expanding on the outline standards listed in the 1973 Act it helps to define current best practice and, in this respect, may be of interest to those involved in the management of dog breeding establishments and kennels in other countries. A list of references and other relevant publications would have been a useful addition.

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*Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 and 1991: Guidance and Model Conditions for Local Authorities and Their Authorised Officers and Veterinary Inspectors for the Licensing of Breeding Establishments* (1998). British Veterinary Association: London. 28pp. Paperback. Obtainable from BVA Publications, T G Scott, 6 Bourne Enterprise Centre, Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8DG. Price £5.00 (BVA members) or £7.50 (non-members).

### **Wild birds and the law**

The primary legislation protecting wild birds in the UK is the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*. This basically provides protection to all wild birds and their nests but includes additional special provisions for some rare species. It specifies various exceptions to allow for sport hunting and for the control of certain species which cause conflict with some human interests. The law is quite complex and includes a number of schedules which list various species that are, or are not, covered by various provisions in the Act. For example, provided that they are ringed and have been bred in captivity, birds on Part I of *Schedule 3* (including a variety of finches and the barn owl) may be sold alive at all times, and birds on Part II of *Schedule 3* (only the woodpigeon and coot) may be sold dead at all times. In view of these complexities, this little booklet is a useful aide memoire. Its use is made easier still by listing UK birds, species by species, with brief notes on the legal protection each one is given. The booklet is fully up to date and includes the provisions of the *Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997* and the rules concerning the operation of Larsen (cage) traps in the prevention of damage by some bird species to livestock or crops.

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*Wild Birds and the Law: A Plain Guide to Bird Protection Today*. Rosemary Venner (1998). The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Sandy. 31pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK. Price £3.00.