

Selecting “mammals” from the main menu leads to mustelids in “land carnivores” and then to “otter”, which gives a page of details of the animal’s appearance, biometrics, diet, social behaviour, reproduction and habitat. Then selecting from a list of links to “catching”, “accommodation”, “feeding”, “hand-rearing” and “releasing” leads to sections giving detailed, practical, otter-specific information. Using this system, a detailed description of handling and anaesthetising an otter could be obtained in less than 60 seconds from entering the programme.

In addition to the information on the first aid and care of British wildlife casualties, the CD-ROM also contains comprehensive information on “Disease investigation and management” and “Bird husbandry and management”, which have been taken from the *WILDPro* module “Waterfowl: health and management”. The “Electronic library” contains many useful publications including the Secretary of State’s “Standards for modern zoo practice”, US Geological Survey’s “Field manual of wildlife diseases” and guidelines/codes of conduct published by many organisations including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the Swan Sanctuary, the Federation of Zoological Gardens and the British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Throughout the programme the information is extremely comprehensive and highly relevant to the practicalities of the welfare and treatment of wildlife casualties. It has been designed to be used purely as a source of information and, for those with the necessary skills and equipment, the presentation as a CD-ROM is an ideal format for this task. For those with no formal training and little expertise in modern information technology (which, unfortunately, includes this reviewer) the use of the programme is straightforward and, after a short period of familiarisation, retrieval of information is very simple.

This project has been a massive task and information is still being added; in some parts of the text the details are incomplete and in other sections the information applies mainly to waterfowl. The avian taxonomy is based on the Munroe and Sibley “World checklist of birds”, which is not in general use in this country by amateur naturalists and could be confusing to anyone that is unaware of the new, and sometimes very different, nomenclature — for example, a willow ptarmigan is a red grouse and a mew gull is a common gull.

Any new source of information, especially one that is purely objective, as is this CD-ROM, is to be welcomed. It is an exciting and imaginative use of current technology and will, I am sure, prove to be a valuable tool in the improvement of the treatment and welfare of wildlife casualties.

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Animal Law: A Concise Guide to the Law Relating to Animals, 3rd Edition

J Palmer (2001). Published by Shaw and Sons Ltd, Shaway House, 21 Bourne Park, Bourne Road, Crayford, Kent DA1 4BZ, UK; www.shaws.co.uk. 360 pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 7219 0802 0). Price £29.95.

In the academic world, animal lawyers number but a few and publications by them even fewer. Even though the popularity of animal law courses is growing on traditional law programmes in the UK, it is doing so only very slowly. In the United States the subject is

very well established, with several animal rights centres in major universities¹. Coincidentally, whilst preparing this book review I was approached by an academic looking for some hints on starting the first animal law course in New Zealand! It appears, therefore, that the discipline might be gaining a foothold in the academic legal community of another country.

The dearth of animal law publications written by lawyers can be contrasted with the situation in philosophy. There is a wealth of philosophical analysis of our treatment of animals starting from the ancient Greeks with Plato and culminating with the more recent explosion (no understatement) in literature that appeared from the 1970s onwards spearheaded by Peter Singer² and Richard Ryder³. Students on the Law degree at Liverpool John Moores University constantly point out how their preconceptions of animal law as a small subject are entirely at odds with the vast wealth of publications they encounter when preparing their essays — even though lawyers provide relatively few⁴.

Julian Palmer does not attempt to add any philosophical analysis to the study of animal law. Rather, the book is clearly aimed at providing more of a practical reference source for those either studying black-letter animal law or dealing on a day-to-day basis with legal problems relating to animals. The book is welcome to the extent that it at least provides needed support to a sparsely covered area. Chapters cover: ownership, theft and owner's responsibilities; sale and agistment (grazing); movement and export; pets; horses; dangerous wild animals; animals as game; protection of animals; animal diseases; exhibitions, public performances and zoos; pests; and experiments.

Whether the book will be of use to law or other students will depend upon the approach being taken in your institution to the study of animal-related legal issues. Approaches to the teaching of animal law tend to vary between institutions, and this is reflected in the approaches of the few academic law texts that have appeared on the subject. First, there is a black-letter approach to animal law — problem solving, such as discussing the liability of Miss X for her errant horse or the legal requirements for setting up a dog-breeding establishment, for example. Second — and this is the approach taken at Liverpool John Moores University School of Law — is an examination of the ethical and moral issues dealing with our legal relationship with animals. For example: does international regulation of whaling work? Is the UK law relating to animal experimentation adequate? And (certainly in the public domain at the moment), should hunting with hounds be banned? On these types of courses the underlying polemic is to examine how the law *should* treat animals. Is there a rational and coherent explanation for radically different treatment of different species of animals, or animals kept in captivity as opposed to wild animals? How is the law criticised and can specific laws be improved? To my mind, animal law provides a perfect platform for the examination of such issues and is a fascinating and often controversial example of the interface between law and morality. The development of the animal law course at Liverpool John Moores University led to the publication of a textbook reflecting our approach as there appeared to be none available on the market for us to recommend to our students⁵.

¹ See, for example, Gary Francione (1996) *Rain Without Thunder: The Ideology of the Animal Rights Movement*. Temple Press: Philadelphia, USA

² Peter Singer (1990) *Animal Liberation, 2nd Edition*. New York Review of Books: New York, USA

³ Richard Ryder (1933) *Victims of Science*. National Anti-Vivisection Society: London, UK

⁴ For a recent example, see Mike Radford (2001) *Animal Welfare Law in Britain*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, UK

⁵ Brooman and Legge (1997) *Law Relating to Animals*. Cavendish Publishing: London, UK

It is with this in mind that I view the production of such a directly black-letter animal law book, containing no attempt at critical commentary, with a certain sense of disappointment at an opportunity lost. For those dealing with problem-solving in animal law, requiring a text to tell the law as it is without too much comment, then Julian Palmer's text is a useful addition to your armoury. Don't expect to have the pros and cons of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 examined or to find information on the Environmental Investigation Agency's investigation into the trade of endangered species. What you can expect is, exactly as the title suggests, a concise legal companion to practical problem-solving.

What is missing is the critical examination of laws relating to animals. I prefer to adopt a more critical approach to the law relating to animals supported by a much broader range of sources than appear in a black-letter law book such as this. This involves an examination of wider sources of information and criticism such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the National Farmer's Union, Compassion in World Farming, the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the Research Defence Society, the Institute of Medical Ethics, evidence from other legal systems, governmental bodies' reports and critical academic work.

However, there is much to be said for a concise 'dictionary' of animal law. Sometimes though, Palmer's book does tend to be a little too concise. For example, in the chapter on scientific experimentation there is no mention of the need for ethical review committees in the UK. This is a recent yet crucial requirement of institutions conducting animal experiments and is certainly something I would have expected to see that would be of crucial significance for those working in that area.

Animal Law has its obvious limitations and is not for those who are interested bystanders with a need for stimulating analysis. If you are in search of critical awareness of the core philosophical challenges to existing law you may have more success elsewhere. However, I will probably refer to Palmer's book myself from time to time and find it very useful as an easily accessible quick desktop guide to existing law.

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Public Concerns, Environmental Standards and Agricultural Trade

Edited by F Brouwer and D E Ervin (2002). Published by CABI Publishing, CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK, or CABI Publishing, 10 E 40th Street, Suite 3203, New York, NY 10016, USA; www.cabi-publishing.org. 384 pp. Hardback (ISBN 0 85199 586 1). Price £49.95/\$90.00.

There is great concern among the public in general, and among consumers in particular, about the quality of the environment in relation to agriculture. These concerns focus on issues such as pollution from agriculture, the quality of landscapes, animal welfare and food safety. As a result, many countries have developed a range of standards, codes of good practice and other policy measures. This book reviews these issues and relates them to agricultural trade and competition. Features include chapters on world trade and trade liberalisation as well as individual chapters on the situation in the European Union, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and developing countries.

Public Concerns, Environmental Standards and Agricultural Trade is a successful attempt to compare the key environmental issues arising from agricultural policies and practices globally and to consider the implications that these have for agricultural trade on the world