

## REPORTS AND COMMENTS

### **Bibliography on laboratory animal welfare**

This publication in the (US) National Library of Medicine's renowned Current Bibliographies in Medicine, is the ninth in a continuing series produced each year since 1984 on laboratory animal welfare. The current issue, which has been prepared by F P Gluckstein, is made up of eighty-six selected and annotated citations and covers the period January to December 1991. The entries are classified under some ten headings ranging from Historical Aspects through Replacement, Reduction, Refinement, and Biomedical Education and Training, to Monographs and Bibliographies.

The fourteen page booklet is a useful entry point to the extensive literature on laboratory animal welfare. It covers the ethical/legal/moral/philosophical/political aspects of man's use of animals for scientific purposes: it does not cover the practical care, husbandry and management of the animals themselves.

The publication will be of considerable value to veterinary surgeons and animal care professionals and also to the more general enquirer who needs to gain access to general information on the welfare of laboratory animals.

*Laboratory Animal Welfare. Current Bibliographies in Medicine (CBM 92-2)* Published in 1992 US Department of Health and Public Services. Obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington DC 20402, USA. Price US\$3.32, US\$4.06 overseas.

### **Environmental enrichment for captive animals**

A new quarterly newsletter, *The Shape of Enrichment* focuses on environmental and behavioural enrichment for captive animals. In an easy to read, desk top published format, the newsletter is produced on double-sided A4 and stapled, with black and white photographs, line-drawings and clip art throughout. *The Shape of Enrichment* has feature articles on general enrichment topics and regular columns on browse, feeding programme, behaviour and exhibit design and construction. The 'Shorts' section includes brief practical advice on particular enrichment techniques and the Letters section adds to the sharing of ideas that this publication promotes.

This newsletter is an important step towards putting environmental enrichment on a level with proper veterinary care for animals in captivity - not as an optional extra but as an essential component of animal welfare. Environmental enrichment is not a remedy for bad enclosure design - various enrichment techniques, however, may help to alleviate some of the problems of old enclosures. This newsletter also addresses the importance of designing future enclosures with the behavioural needs of the animals in mind.

It is useful to read about new or established successful enrichment techniques but perhaps there is scope in this new publication for brief mention of unsuccessful efforts so as to avoid wasteful duplication.

In these first issues, attention has mainly been given to the needs of captive zoo animals but the implications of environmental enrichment can be extended to cater for the needs of companion and laboratory animals as well.

Through the newsletter, an enrichment video library has been set up in the United States which should be of practical help to those working in the field of animal care.

*The Shape of Enrichment* brings together current work in environmental and behavioural enrichment and is recommended to all involved with the keeping of animals in captivity.

*The Shape of Enrichment: a Quarterly Source of Ideas for Environmental and Behavioral Enrichment, Volume 1(1 and 2)* Edited by V J Hare and K E Worley (1992). 10pp and 16pp respectively. Obtainable from The Shape of Enrichment, 1650 Minden Drive, San Diego, CA 92111-7124, USA. Price US\$8 annually for four issues.

#### **UK farm animal welfare law**

The statutory provisions relating to the welfare of animals on the farm are somewhat complex and are scattered throughout a large number of Acts and Regulations/Orders. They may not therefore be easily understood and followed by the average farmer or stock keeper. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) is to be congratulated on producing a much needed, short, clear summary of the main points covered in the various pieces of legislation. The summary of the law relating to certain routine surgical operations eg castration is particularly well done. Details of who may carry out which operation, on which particular species and age range of animals, and under what anaesthetic regime (if any) is clearly laid out in a series of seven detailed species-orientated tables.

The warning is made that the summary of legislation given in the booklet is not a substitute for the legislation itself, which should be consulted directly when detailed knowledge is needed on particular points of law. Even so, this MAFF publication on the legislation relating to farm animal welfare will be most helpful to farmers and stock keepers, veterinary surgeons, animal welfarists and to the law enforcement agencies as a readily available source of accurate legal information.

*Summary of the Law Relating to Farm Animal Welfare* Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1992). 31pp. Paperback. Obtainable free of charge from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, UK.

#### **The workings of the *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986***

Each year, Her Majesty's Stationery Office (the UK government's official printer) formally publishes two Command Papers on the working of the 1986 *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act*. These two publications - '*Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals*' and '*Report of the Animal Procedures Committee*' - are presented by the Secretary of State for the Home Department (the government agency responsible for the control of animal experimentation) to parliament, and at the same time they are offered for general sale, ie they become public documents.