

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.

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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.