

Mechanical stunning of livestock

Captive-bolt pistols have been used for many years by slaughtermen and veterinary surgeons for the stunning of livestock prior to them being killed by having their throats cut or their brains destroyed by the use of a pithing rod.

Surprisingly, there seems to have been little technical literature, apart from that supplied by the manufacturers, on the care and use of the captive-bolt pistol. This omission is now largely overcome by the publication of '*Captive-Bolt Stunning of Livestock*' by the Humane Slaughter Association. The booklet covers such matters as the physiological effects of stunning, how captive-bolt pistols work, the restraint of animals for stunning, the actual stunning itself, bleeding out, safety aspects and routine maintenance. There are annexes on UK legislation; available equipment; cartridge sizes and air pressures; routine maintenance, and the recommended positions (aiming points) for captive-bolt stunning of different livestock.

This is a detailed, much needed and useful technical booklet.

Captive-Bolt Stunning of Livestock Produced and published by The Humane Slaughter Association: South Mimms (1993). 24pp. Paperback. Obtainable from HSA, 34 Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3PA, UK (ISBN 1 871561 07 08) Price £3 including postage.

Welfare of birds of prey and owls

'A realisation of the time and costs involved in keeping, looking after, training or breeding birds of prey and owls is crucial; they cannot be a passing fancy. The time, facilities and funds available to the potential keeper should be carefully assessed before a bird is obtained'.

The above statement is printed on the inside front cover of the newly-published *Code of Welfare and Husbandry of Birds of Prey and Owls*. Compiled by a subcommittee of the British Field Sports Society Falconry Committee and the Hawk Board, the Code is to be made available to all interested parties. Its aims include giving assistance to potential beginners to falconry or bird of prey/owl keeping; reminding and aiding those already involved; informing interested parties of the Societies' own guidelines, and showing those who may not approve of or understand the reasons for keeping birds of prey or owls, that the Societies always have the birds' best welfare and husbandry in mind.

The document contains sections such as how to begin in falconry or bird of prey/owl keeping, veterinary care, transport of birds, their training and breeding. It is recommended for those people keeping, flying or breeding birds of prey and owls and those considering so doing.

Code of Welfare and Husbandry of Birds of Prey and Owls Produced and published by the British Field Sports Society (1993). 12pp. Paperback. Obtainable free of charge from BFSS, 59 Kennington Road, London SE1 7PZ, UK on receipt of an A5 stamped addressed envelope.