

## REPORTS AND COMMENTS

### **Animal welfare legislation in Europe**

Eurogroup for Animal Welfare - the organization which represents the leading animal welfare societies in the twelve member states of the European Community (EC) - has taken upon itself the tedious task of producing, at intervals, an updated summary of animal welfare legislation at the level of the EC and the Council of Europe (C of E).

The present work is the fourth revision of a document originally produced in 1983 and is correct and up to date as at 1st September 1992.

The volume starts with a detailed table of contents and an introduction to the administrative/legal structure of the Community. This is followed by an account of the establishment of Eurogroup and a list of its constituent societies. There is then an index of the principal EC and C of E legislation.

The main part of the volume follows and is made up of six major sections labelled: Wild Animals; Farm Animals; Experimental Animals; Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology; Companion Animals; Animals - General. Each major section is subdivided under further headings - Farm Animals for instance contains subsections entitled: Farm Animal Welfare - General; Yield and Growth Promoters; Transport of Animals; Humane Slaughter; Laying Hens; Poultry Kept for Meat; Veal Calves; Pigs; Game and Game Meat, and Fur Farming. Within each subsection the legislation is laid out under:

*Existing Legislation* - ie present C of E Regulations, Directives and Decisions;

*Work in Progress* - on proposed changes in the legislation;

*Background* - showing historically how the present legislation came out via activities in both the C of E and the EC.

Two separate supplements containing all written questions in the European Parliament related to animal welfare legislation are also available.

Altogether this is a most substantial, thorough and useful work. It covers an immense and complex area of European legislation. Eurogroup should be warmly thanked for their service to the animal welfare community in Europe for producing and keeping up to date this valuable document.

*Summary of Legislation Relative to Animal Welfare at the Levels of the European Community and the Council of Europe, 4th revision September 1992* Produced and published by Eurogroup for Animal Welfare: Brussels (1992). 150pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 17 Square Marie Louise, Bte 6, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Summary price BF1,250; supplement prices BF250 each including postage, payable by Eurocheque.

### **Rio animal welfare congress**

In response to the growing interest in animal welfare within the world veterinary community, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 1988 set up an Animal Welfare Committee. At the 24th WVA Congress held in Rio de Janeiro in August 1991, there were a number of papers given on the welfare of animals used and managed by man.