

EDITORIAL

With this edition, *Animal Welfare* enters its ninth year. The journal's circulation continues to increase. Currently, it is taken up in 36 countries and subscribers include 147 university and college departments and libraries. The growth is a reflection of the increasing interest in, and appreciation of the importance of, the scientific approach to animal welfare around the world. There are many important problems but a thorough understanding of animals' needs, and how these can be met in practice, is required if progress is to be made.

As a tribute to the efforts of authors, referees, editorial board and staff involved, it is very pleasing to report that the journal's impact factor has increased again. During the last year it rose to 1.035 and it is now ranked 24th out of 139 journals in the veterinary science category and 32nd out of 116 in the zoology category. This, and the relatively brief submission to publication time, are important for the attraction of high quality papers on which the journal's contribution to the promotion of animal welfare through excellence in animal welfare science depends.

The last issue, Volume 8(4), was the Special Issue on Genetics and Animal Welfare. This was the first time the journal has run an issue focussed on a particular topic. It resulted in an unusually large submission of papers and also in interest from a wider readership. It is likely that we will run special issues on other topics in the future and the next will be announced in due course.

Congratulations to Helen O'Leary, UFAW Publications Officer on whose efforts the journal has depended in recent years, on the birth of a son. Sara Oakeley is standing in for Helen whilst she is away on temporary maternity leave.

February 2000

James K Kirkwood
Editor-in-Chief

Anthrozoös

**A multidisciplinary journal of the interactions of people
and animals**

Anthrozoös is a quarterly, peer-reviewed publication whose focus is to report the results of studies from a wide array of disciplines, on the interactions of people and animals. Academic disciplines represented include: anthropology, archaeozoology, art and literature, education, ethology, human medicine, psychology, sociology and veterinary medicine.

Subscription requests or queries should be sent to: Maureen Horniman, Delta Society Donor Services Manager, 289 Perimeter Road East, Renton WA 98055-1329, USA. e-mail: maureenhorniman@compuserve.com.

Guidelines for authors can be obtained from: Dr Anthony L Podberscek, Editor-in-Chief, Anthrozoös, University of Cambridge, Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ES, UK. e-mail: alp18@cam.ac.uk; fax: +44 (0)1223 330886.