

both are examples of man's use of animals where it is known that many of the animals are going to suffer pain and/or death. Animal experimentation and field sports certainly generate extreme views and these are mirrored in some of the pieces printed in the booklet. Some people will maintain that the selection is biased and in effect presents a one-sided case for a particular view. The accusation is perhaps inevitable in any publication of this sort.

The booklet will certainly provide background information and at times ammunition for class discussion. In the hands of well-informed teachers, it should prove a valuable aid in encouraging students to seriously consider the social and ethical issues involved in the use of animals in biomedical research and field (blood) sports.

Another booklet in the series, *The Vegetarian Choice*, was reviewed in *Animal Welfare* 4 (1995): 155.

Do Animals Have Rights? Edited by Craig Donnellan (1995). Independence: Cambridge. 40pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 295, Cambridge CB1 3XP, UK (ISBN 1 872995 50 0). Price £5.95.

Welfare labelling of food

It is widely held that one way to quickly improve the welfare of at least some farm animals is to label food on display in the shops with animal welfare criteria. This usually means identifying to the customer, products which have been produced in welfare friendly husbandry systems. The discerning and welfare oriented consumer can then purchase – often at an increased cost – the welfare friendly food and in effect discriminate against the non-welfare friendly products. Some critics have cynically suggested that this just allows the affluent middle classes to indulge in their fantasies of how animal agriculture ought to be. Practical experience with the somewhat flawed, free-range egg labelling system in the UK has suggested that the share of the market is only some 15–20 per cent, and even this low figure tends to fall when hard economic times hit the consumer.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has recently brought out a most timely and instructive report on the whole complex subject of animal welfare criteria for the labelling of food. The report examines labelling schemes in France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK; it discusses the relevant Economic Union (EU) legislation and it highlights the difficulties of welfare labelling in relation to 'free trade'. There is a summary of recommendations for the future development of this important welfare tool.

Food Labelling Schemes with Animal Welfare Criteria. Produced and published by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA): London (1995). 37pp report. Obtainable from WSPA, 2 Langley Street, London SW8 1TJ, UK. Price £5.

Animal experimentation

Criticisms of the use of animals in biomedical research come from many different groups in society. Particular attention has to be paid to these criticisms if they are put forward by physicians, research scientists and health workers. These are the very people who should have well-informed views about the value of animal experimentation. They should be the ones able to answer the question: does the knowledge so gained really help in reducing human and/or animal suffering?