

equipment, rifles and shotguns. It should be noted that there are some discrepancies between the advice given here and the corresponding section in the Code of Animal Welfare No 10, which applies to animals slaughtered at licensed and approved premises.

The code covers cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, deer and horses. It differentiates between the emergency killing of farm livestock and the commercial situation, but emphasizes the absolute necessity for preventing further suffering at all times. This is reiterated at regular intervals throughout the publication. Recommendations are defined in terms of 'shall', 'must' and 'should', making clear which are statutory requirements, minimum standards, or strongly recommended. Legislative responsibilities are outlined, with relevant quotes from the animal welfare and firearms laws. A broad description of the situations in which emergency killing might be required is given, along with the principles of emergency slaughter and the methods of killing available. Also listed are the places (eg farms, saleyards, shows etc) in which designated persons should have the means and competence to carry out emergency killing, should the need arise.

This is a very worthwhile publication which should be freely and widely distributed to all New Zealand livestock keepers. The British Ministry of Agriculture would be well advised to produce similar guidance, especially with the current confusion surrounding the use and ownership of firearms. However, much of the practical advice in this publication is applicable to Great Britain, with one notable exception: the methods of killing listed include the use of a sledgehammer, or the back of an axe – these instruments may not be considered appropriate under UK law. One other shortcoming, from the UK point of view, is that there is no mention of a single-shot humane killer (handgun) in the section on shooting methods.

Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock. Code of Animal Welfare No 19. Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (1996). Ministry of Agriculture: Wellington. 18pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand (ISBN 0 478074 31 1, ISSN 1171 090X). Price \$5.

Care of primates

Primate Care is a guide for those who either keep or plan to keep primates in their care. As the authors point out in the introduction, primates generally do not make good pets. They are wild animals, and as such can be aggressive, destructive and even dangerous. Indeed, in the UK it is necessary to have a licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act in order to keep any monkeys other than marmosets as pets. However, if monkeys are to be kept as pets then their owners should be both forewarned of the difficulties and have access to information on good housing and care. The handbook certainly warns of the problems, and is a source of easily accessible basic information. It includes chapters on New and Old World primates, housing, enrichment, reproduction, nutrition, health and socialization. It also provides a useful address list of suppliers of information, enrichment devices and diets. The layout is friendly and varied, with abundant illustrations. This is a publication that will be useful for shelters that take primates, those who keep primates as pets, and might find a place on the bookshelves of the laboratory animal technician.

Primate Care. Ivester K and Crowley Dittmar E (eds) (1996). Produced by the Simian Society of America. 281pp. Paperback. Obtainable from Erin Crowley Dittmar, Information Coordinator, SSA, 6616 North Desert View Drive, Tucson, AZ 85743, USA.