

EDITORIAL

The layout of this third part of the second volume of *Animal Welfare* is, in general terms, the same as in the earlier issues. There are five refereed papers, a number of *Report and comments*, seven signed book and video reviews and a letter commenting on an item published in a previous number of the journal.

The range of material that goes into each issue, however, is different and largely depends upon what has been submitted and its fate as it passes through the sometimes lengthy scrutineering, revising and editing processes.

The first of the refereed papers in this number is from Wiepkema and Koolhaas of the Netherlands and is entitled *Stress and animal welfare*. This contribution is, in many ways, a follow-on from the same authors' *The emotional brain* which was published in the first volume (1: 13-18). It is another thought-provoking review and gives a helpful list of relevant stress symptoms classified according to whether they precede, reflect or follow welfare problems. The stress paper is followed by a report by Garrison and White on work done, at Duke University Primate Center in North Carolina, on the behavioural problems which can be associated with the release of previously captive lemurs into more natural extensive enclosures. An interesting point from this work is that they show that the stresses involved may lead to transitory novel (abnormal?) behaviours. There is then an account by Arey, from the Scottish Agricultural College at Aberdeen, on the effect of bedding on the behaviour and welfare of pigs. It appears that, as has been suspected for some time, the main value of straw is not just the provision of a comfortable bed but more allowing pigs the opportunity to root and work-over the straw when it is put into their pens. The article by Manteca and Deag from the Universities of Barcelona and Edinburgh respectively, reviews the evidence for individual differences in temperament in the domesticated animals and considers implications regarding the methodology of behavioural studies and for the welfare of animals controlled by man. Temperament in animals has to be considered against temperament in their human owners/handlers - a subject considered by Hemsworth *et al* in their review of the human-animal relationship in agriculture in Volume 2(1). There is, finally in the refereed papers section, a short communication by Nicol and Pope of the Veterinary School of the University of Bristol on the behaviour of solitary and group-housed budgerigars. Many ornamental and song birds are kept isolated in small cages and this can have a profound effect on their behaviour and welfare. The sooner it is realized that these birds should have the opportunity for social interaction with their fellows and space to fly, the better.

The several items covered in the *Reports and comments* section range from a note on the new *UC ALERT* newsletter put out by the University of California's Center for Animal Alternatives, through a brief mention of a new annotated list published by the USDA's National Agricultural Library on audio-visual aids available in the animal welfare field, a listing of the papers given at an important 1992 animal welfare seminar held in New Zealand to a short description of the Humane Slaughter Association's new booklet which is aimed at helping horse owners face up to the reality that they may need, at some time, to have their horse humanely killed and gives advice on how they may reach a well-informed decision.

The signed video and book reviews cover such items as Barbara James' *The Young Person's Action Guide to Animal Rights*, ABWAK's 1992 *Management Guidelines for Bears and Racoons*, a translation of a French *Manual of Sheep Production in the Humid Tropics of Africa* and the video/booklets produced by MAFF on lameness in farm animals.

The *Letters* section carries a lengthy comment which extends points made in a book review in the last issue. It has always been editorial policy to print constructive comments and criticism of previously published items - the original author(s) having, of course, the right to reply.

It can be seen that the printed matter in the journal ranges across many themes (stress, release into the 'wild', confinement, individual differences in temperament) in many different species (lemurs, pigs, budgerigars) and has its origins in different countries (Belgium, Spain, UK, USA).

The standing of a scientific and technical journal depends upon the range and quality of its authored papers and reviews. *Animal Welfare* is beginning to attract good material from a variety of sources and on a wide range of subjects. The journal is designed to be used by all concerned with the management, care and welfare of animals. The intent is to produce a thought-provoking and widely based informative quarterly publication dedicated to highlighting the animal welfare implications of scientific and technical investigations and studies, and to sharing expertise across different disciplines and areas of work.

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