

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Research animal well-being

This volume contains the published proceedings of a conference held in late 1991 on institutional compliance with USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) regulations for the well-being of canines and non-human primates in research. The regulations have been criticized and were the subject of legal proceedings even before they were implemented. In February 1993, Judge Richey ruled that the sections concerning dogs and non-human primates were unlawful. So this is a publication that is, not only specific to the United States legal requirements but also, has to some extent been overtaken by events. Some of the papers review the available literature to support their theses, while others are reports of management practices at various institutions. After each paper there are transcripts of question and answer sessions which often suffer from a lack of structure and style. The first half of the book considers dogs, and in this section the emphasis is on the USDA requirements for space and exercise. These are important matters, particularly when the legislation only requires that the cage should be the square of the dog's length plus six inches! Having said that, in the introductory paper Wolfe points out, quite correctly, that far more is known about the social needs of dogs, and that these seem to be more important than small differences in cage or pen size.

The second half of the book primarily addresses the USDA requirement that primate caging and husbandry should provide for the animals' social needs and promote their psychological well-being. The first papers discuss the requirements but also include a contribution which considers the problem of zoonoses, particularly B-virus, as the risk of infection may be greater when enrichment results in increased handling by the staff. The USDA rules have resulted in an explosion of research into various primate enrichment strategies, some of which are reported or discussed here. Conference proceedings are often like the curate's egg, and this one is no exception. After the judge's decision, some of the papers may be of limited value even within the United States. However, if animal house managers wish to draw on others' experiences, this may be a good place to start.

Implementation Strategies for Research Animal Well-Being: Institutional compliance with regulations. Proceedings of a conference held by Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) and Working with Animals used in Research, Drugs and Surgery (WARDS). Edited by Lee Krulisch (1992). SCAW: Bethesda. 178pp. Obtainable from SCAW, 4805 St Elmo Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA. Price US\$20 plus US\$5 for postage abroad.

Refinement alternatives

In November 1991 the UC Center for Animal Alternatives was established within the nine campuses of the University of California. It is sited at the School of Veterinary Medicine on the Davis campus and is headed by Dr Lynette Hart. The stated aim of the Center for Animal Alternatives (CAA) is to build on the concept of the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) of Russell and Burch but, as replacement and reduction are being widely tackled in several other places, to concentrate on refinement factors which may affect the well-being of the animals being used by man.

This approach is most appropriate at the Davis campus for not only does it contain the veterinary school it also has a large number of staff members engaged in the study of animal behaviour.

The Center has now started producing the UC ALERT newsletter and the first issue (Spring 1993) describes how the CAA was set up and details the use of animal alternatives in the UC campus system. There are also short Law Briefs, a News Brief section and short descriptions of recent relevant publications.

This publication seems as though it is going to be a useful source of information for anyone working in the alternatives and especially the refinement alternatives field.

UC ALERT (UC ALternatives in Education, Research and Testing) Volume 1 (Number 1) Spring 1993. 8pp. Obtainable from UC Center for Animal Alternatives, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, USA.

Audio-visuals on animal welfare

This most useful annotated list of some 237 audio-visual presentations (video-cassettes and slide sets with associated audio-cassettes) relating to animal care, use and welfare has been prepared by D'Anna J Berry of the USDA National Agricultural Library's Animal Welfare Information Center. Audio-visual material can be produced for instruction, for education and for indoctrination and there are numerous examples of each of these in this catalogue. The subjects covered range from animal welfare/rights through research techniques used on animals, the care/husbandry of farm, companion and laboratory animals, to alternatives and the justification for biomedical research. The items listed were produced mainly in the 1980s and 1990s; each is described and commented on and the name and location of the producing organization is given (as in a book reference) but the detailed postal address is not. This makes it a little difficult for non-US residents - the material listed can, apparently, be borrowed by any US library but not by potential overseas users - they would have to approach the producing organizations directly. Nevertheless, this is a useful and informative catalogue of the audio-visual material available in the animal welfare field.

Audio-Visuals Relating to Animal Care, Use, and Welfare Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) US Department of Agriculture (1993). Paperback. 76pp. Obtainable free from AWIC, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351, USA. (ISSN 1049-202X).

Non-human primate use

In 1989 the International Primatological Society (IPS) published an outline of general principles relating to the welfare and use of primates. These were followed in 1993 by very much more detailed codes of practice specifying requirements for physical and psychological welfare. The two sets of guidelines are complimentary, and to improve ease of access have now been published together as one volume. However, in the process a few typographical errors have crept in. Most of the use of non-human primates still