

and welfare of pigs during extended journeys'; 'Welfare implications of outdoor breeding systems'; and 'Handling of broilers: a welfare audit'. The book is a useful source of information on a variety of practical farm animal welfare issues of current importance in the UK and elsewhere.

Practical Solutions to Practical Problems: Practical Farm Animal Research. Cambac JMA Research (1997). Cambac JMA Research: Wiltshire. 80pp. Paperback (ring-bound). Obtainable from the publishers, Manor Farm, Draycot Cerne, Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5LD, UK. Price £20.

Quarantine for pets

Since 1901, protection from rabies in the UK has been based on the quarantining of potential carrier animals, including domestic pets, on import into the UK. In view of the development of possible alternative methods of control (for some types of animals), notably advances in vaccination against rabies, the Government has launched a scientific review of the current policy. This document provides the background to the assessment of possible alternatives to quarantining to be undertaken by independent scientists. It makes clear that there should be no changes to the present arrangements, if these would increase the likelihood of rabies entering the UK.

The document briefly outlines the present rabies controls in the UK, and in other Member States of the European Union (EU). It presents views from the public, the House of Commons Select Committee (1994) and from the Government itself, and identifies six main options to be assessed. These are: (i) make no change; (ii) reduce the period of quarantine; (iii) allow exemption from quarantine for animals for which reliable assurances can be obtained; (iv) as for (iii), but with checks to be carried out at approved centres away from entry points; (v) replace quarantine with vaccination; and (vi), as for (v), but also with vaccination of all dogs resident in the UK. There has been concern about the welfare of pet animals in quarantine which exemption would clearly address. Meanwhile, the Government indicates in this report that it would like to put the *Voluntary Code of Practice on the Welfare of Dogs and Cats in Quarantine Premises* on a statutory basis, and will be publishing a list of premises that have agreed to abide by the voluntary code.

The assessment is unlikely to be concluded before early 1998 and, following its publication, there will be a full public consultation. The Government will also discuss the position with other EU Member States.

Quarantine for Pets. A discussion document. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department; Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland; Welsh Office Agriculture Department (1997). MAFF: London. 18pp. Paperback. Obtainable from MAFF Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX. Free.

Government Response to the Farm Animal Welfare Council Report on the Welfare of Pigs Kept Outdoors

Following consultations on the UK Farm Animal Welfare Council's (May 1996) report on the welfare of pigs kept outdoors, the Government has now published its response. This commends FAWC's recommendations to the industry.

In the introductory paragraphs the Government indicates its stance by making the following points: that the achievement and maintenance of high animal welfare standards in