

ecosystem to which it is returned.' It is also stated that '...any casualty retained for treatment...should have a reasonable expectation of successful release and long-term survival in the wild'. Key practical points are outlined and relevant legal aspects described in each section.

There is growing public interest in the rescue and treatment of wildlife casualties. Anyone hoping that this might be a detailed manual on running a wildlife hospital will be disappointed – but that is not the purpose of the booklet. It serves a very useful function in helping to establish a framework of standards. Veterinarians are likely to find it very valuable as initial guidance for the rehabilitators with whom they work and in helping to explain the complexities and difficulties of wildlife rehabilitation to enthusiastic but naive members of the public. Although the legal aspects described relate to UK law, much in these guidelines is relevant to wildlife rehabilitation anywhere in the world.

Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation Units. British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (1998). British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council: Chester. 24pp. Paperback. Available from the BWRC, c/o RSPCA Wildlife Department, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG, UK. Free

Introduction to animal welfare issues

Animal Welfare is the third volume in the *Issues* series published by Independence Educational Publishers. The aim of this series is to provide a starting point for obtaining up-to-date information in a readily accessible form for use in a variety of courses including GCSEs and 'A' levels (ie for the 15–18+ age group). This volume looks at three areas: animal research, hunting and animal cruelty. It comprises a selection of articles and essays (24 in total) from a variety of sources including government reports, newspaper reports and features, and literature from lobby groups and charitable organizations. The book presents a fairly well-balanced mix of arguments for and against the issues it addresses. For example, the section on fox hunting includes pieces from the Countryside Alliance, the RSPCA, *The Daily Telegraph*, the Wildlife Network and the League Against Cruel Sports. Contact details, including websites, of various organizations are provided as sources of further information. This book achieves its aim, and will be a useful first stop for school pupils who are looking for an introduction to opinions on some of the causes célèbres in animal welfare.

Animal Welfare. Volume No 3 in the *Issues* series, edited by Craig Donnellan (1998). Independence Educational Publishers: Cambridge. 44pp. Paperback. Available from the publishers, PO Box 295, Cambridge CB1 3XP, UK (ISBN 1861680791). Price £6.45 (plus postage and packing).

Welfare of ungulates used in habitat management

Wild cattle used to be widely distributed through Europe but are now largely missing from its ecosystems. In creating and maintaining clearings in forests and by mowing grassland areas, the wardens of nature reserves have, for many years, played the role that used to be fulfilled by these large herbivores. However, there is now growing interest in putting primitive cattle breeds back to work to help restore habitats to their 'natural' state before extensive human colonization and to maintain them in these states. Debate has followed about how closely such animals should be managed. Should they be treated as domestic cattle and be given supplementary food in winter, parasite control programmes and medical interventions whenever necessary? Should they be incinerated or buried when they die? Or should they become part of the wild, taking their chances with variations in food supply and threats from parasites, competitors and other natural hazards, and lying where they fall to become a food resource for scavengers?