

relation to these varying and divergent moral views is also discussed. This section concludes with a discussion and number of recommendations (Chapter 15), in which the consensus statement found in the summary is reiterated.

A total of 26 recommendations are made, directed at government, researchers and funding bodies. These include the recommendation that retrospective information about the level of suffering involved during procedures should be made publicly available and that case studies describing procedures classified as 'mild', 'moderate', 'substantial' and 'unclassified' should be included in the annual statistics. A review of the current system of severity banding for project licenses is also recommended, particularly the use of the 'moderate' category. The Council stresses that "all approaches [both anti and pro the use of animals in research] based on violence and intimidation are morally wrong", but that those involved in research need to be more proactive in explaining and describing their research.

A number of appendices are included, including two which present statistics on the numbers of animals used for different purposes in the UK, such as education (zoos, hunting/shooting etc), sport (horse and greyhound racing), pest control, working animals (police and guide dogs) and clothing (wool), as well as the numbers of different species used in different types of research in the UK, EU, USA and Japan. For those requiring more information on this topic a useful list of reports by other organisations is provided. Information relating to the compilation of this report, such as details of the stakeholder meetings, visits to research establishments and public consultation, is also presented.

This publication represents an important body of work and will be of use to anyone with an interest in the topic of research using animals, not just those working or campaigning in this area. The balance of views put forward and the sympathetic nature of the discussion make this an objective and valuable publication, qualities necessary in order to take the debate further and for progress to be made.

The Ethics of Research Involving Animals (2005). Produced and published by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JS. 335 pp A4 paperback (ISBN 1 904384 10 2). Printed copies available from this address or the website <http://www.nuffieldbioethics.org>. An electronic version of the report is available to download from the Council's website.

K Parkes

UFAW

Report on the welfare of farmed animals at gatherings and the welfare implications of farm assurance schemes

The UK's Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), the independent advisory body to the UK government on matters pertaining to farm animal welfare, has recently published two new reviews, one concerned with the welfare of farmed animals at gatherings, and the other with the welfare implications of farm assurance schemes.

The Report on the Welfare of Farmed Animals at Gatherings includes cattle, sheep, pigs, horses and ponies, although its

principles and recommendations are applicable to other species, such as deer, rabbits and poultry, for which such gatherings are much less common. The Council's previous review on the welfare of livestock at markets was published in 1986, and much has changed within the industry in the ensuing 19 years, including the introduction of new EU legislation on transport and new UK animal welfare legislation (eg *The Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990*, *The Welfare of Horses at Markets [and Other Places of Sale] Order 1990*, and *The Animal Gatherings [England] Order 2004*). Changes have also occurred in animal handling systems and market design, and in the aftermath of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak of 2001. The review, which is based on a series of extensive consultations within the industry and scientific evidence, details the welfare challenges at different types of gatherings, including markets and sales, agricultural shows and exhibitions, and horse and pony sales and fairs. The review serves to highlight the disparities in legislation and protection afforded to animals at different types of gatherings, and calls for a single coherent piece of legislation covering all such gatherings.

The review begins by discussing the welfare principles common to all types of gathering and existing legislation, many of which, such as *The Animals Gatherings (England) Order 2004* and the (Wales) *Order 2004*, do not contain any requirements relating to welfare. Currently, different types of gathering differ in terms of whether specific welfare controls exist, who is responsible for the welfare of animals on-site, whether the establishment is licensed or approved, and who is responsible for enforcement. The position adopted by FAWC in the Report is that it is the conditions and level of care given to the animals that is important, not the function of the event or establishment, and thus "consolidating the requirements for animal welfare under one piece of legislation which embraces all animal gatherings would help to harmonise controls and regulate sites and occasions when any farm animals or horses are brought together".

The main body of the Report looks at the welfare of animals at specific types of gathering: (i) livestock markets (including the topics of people, animal handling, minimum levels of care, facilities, and enforcement and supervision), (ii) other gatherings, (iii) shows and exhibitions (including people, animal handling and care), and (iv) the welfare of horses and ponies at markets and other gatherings (including people, handling of horses, care of horses, facilities, and enforcement and supervision).

The Report includes a total of 108 recommendations, many of which are common to all types of gathering although some are more type specific. In general terms, FAWC recommends that:

- "It should be a legal requirement that whilst an animal is at a gathering, the welfare of that animal becomes the explicit responsibility of those operating the gathering, irrespective of the animal's ownership.
- It should be a legal requirement that gatherings have a person formally designated with responsibility for animal welfare, such as an Animal Welfare Officer (AWO), whose

duties and responsibilities should be described in the Codes of Practice”.

Many of the recommendations are aimed at ensuring high standards of animal handling, for example, through monitoring and limiting the use of sticks and electric goads, separating animals and people where possible, and by ensuring that staff have access to appropriate training and are aware of relevant legislation and specific welfare requirements.

The second Report is concerned with assurance regarding the welfare standards experienced by farm animals from which livestock products are derived. As stated by the FAWC Chairman, Professor Christopher Wathes, in his foreword to the Report “FAWC believes that assurance needs to embrace the full length of the food supply chain if it is to be meaningful” and that FAWC is “...particularly keen to see improvements in the way that animal welfare is assessed, with a greater focus being placed on animal-based measures and welfare outcomes”.

The aims of the Working Party’s review and the subsequent Report include (i) an assessment of whether assurance schemes are able to give credible and reliable guarantees with regard to welfare standards on-farm, during transport, and at market and slaughter, (ii) to assess whether, and how, such schemes are able to affect animal welfare, and (iii) to make recommendations as to how such schemes can incorporate animal welfare issues in order to improve welfare.

There are a total of 8 chapters including ‘Accreditation and Certification’ (the role of UKAS, accreditation of certification bodies, standard setting in farm assurance, national farm assurance schemes, equivalence, World Organisation for Animal Health [OIE], WTO and EU rural development regulations), the ‘Assessment/Audit of Animal Welfare’ (conventional assessment, animal-based parameters, the evolution of science-based animal welfare assessment and audit/inspection protocols), and ‘Animal Welfare Implications of Organic Certification Schemes’ (standards, housing, disease control, parasite control, the use of medicines and vaccines, breeding and stockmanship). ‘Supply Side Issues in Farm Assurance’ (producer attitudes and issues, stockmanship, herd/flock health and welfare planning) and ‘Demand Side Issues’ (the role of retailers as a demand side influence, the role of food service sector as a demand side influence, public sector procurement, the role of consumers, labelling and methods of conveying the message) are also included, as is a section on the unresolved questions and issues such as “What is acceptable welfare?”, “How can ‘appropriate’ welfare standards be achieved?”, and “To what extent can farm assurance really deliver welfare?”

The 29 recommendations are directed at all those involved in the food supply chain and include more detailed guidance for inspectors in order to clearly identify ‘acceptable’ and ‘unacceptable’ welfare, with the presence of any UPUD [unnecessary pain, unnecessary distress] being classified as a major non-compliance. It is recommended that both low and high value animals receive the same treatment and that treatment for cull and casualty animals should be set out in the health and welfare plan. With regard to harmonisation of

assurance standards, FAWC recommends that retailers should apply the same animal welfare standards irrespective of the nature of the product ie fresh, frozen or processed. In addition, the need for assurance schemes in other EU Member States and outside the EU to demonstrate their equivalence to UK schemes is recommended.

The appendices contain details of the principles of science based animal welfare assessment, and a summary of the responses to a questionnaire sent to livestock producers on their attitudes towards farm assurance schemes. A copy of the questionnaire itself is also included.

Report on the welfare of farmed animals at gatherings (June 2005). Produced and published by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC). 75 pp A4 paperback.

Report on the welfare implications of farm assurance schemes (June 2005). Produced and published by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC). 64 pp A4 paperback. Both are available, free of charge, from the Farm Animal Welfare Council Secretariat, Area 511, 1A Page Street London SW1P 4PQ, UK and also from the FAWC website: www.fawc.org.uk

K Parkes

UFAW

Proposed European Council Directive laying down the minimum rules for the protection of chickens for meat production

In 2000 the European Union’s Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Welfare produced a report, *The Welfare of Chickens Kept for Meat Production (Broilers)*, in which a number of areas of concern were identified including leg problems, metabolic disorders, and sudden death syndrome. As a result of its conclusions and recommendations, and in recognition of the concern of European citizens regarding the welfare of broilers and the existence of different national regulations and voluntary quality assurance schemes, the European Commission has announced a proposal for a new Council Directive. Currently, no specific European legislation exists for broilers; their welfare is considered only in the general requirements of Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes.

The aim of the Directive is to improve animal welfare through changes in technical and management requirements on-farm, enhanced monitoring, and an increase in information exchange between the producer, competent authorities and the slaughterhouse based on a welfare-specific monitoring of the chicken carcasses. Specific proposals include making food available continuously (withdrawn no more than 12 hours prior to slaughter), permanent access to dry and friable litter and a light intensity of at least 20 lux during the light period, although a temporary reduction on veterinary advice would be permitted. It is proposed that all birds should be inspected at least twice per day, and that detailed records, which include bird origin, any medical and veterinary treatments administered, daily house temperature, the average weight of the flock at slaughter, the number of birds sent to slaughter and the number that arrive