

both are examples of man's use of animals where it is known that many of the animals are going to suffer pain and/or death. Animal experimentation and field sports certainly generate extreme views and these are mirrored in some of the pieces printed in the booklet. Some people will maintain that the selection is biased and in effect presents a one-sided case for a particular view. The accusation is perhaps inevitable in any publication of this sort.

The booklet will certainly provide background information and at times ammunition for class discussion. In the hands of well-informed teachers, it should prove a valuable aid in encouraging students to seriously consider the social and ethical issues involved in the use of animals in biomedical research and field (blood) sports.

Another booklet in the series, *The Vegetarian Choice*, was reviewed in *Animal Welfare* 4 (1995): 155.

Do Animals Have Rights? Edited by Craig Donnellan (1995). Independence: Cambridge. 40pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 295, Cambridge CB1 3XP, UK (ISBN 1 872995 50 0). Price £5.95.

Welfare labelling of food

It is widely held that one way to quickly improve the welfare of at least some farm animals is to label food on display in the shops with animal welfare criteria. This usually means identifying to the customer, products which have been produced in welfare friendly husbandry systems. The discerning and welfare oriented consumer can then purchase – often at an increased cost – the welfare friendly food and in effect discriminate against the non-welfare friendly products. Some critics have cynically suggested that this just allows the affluent middle classes to indulge in their fantasies of how animal agriculture ought to be. Practical experience with the somewhat flawed, free-range egg labelling system in the UK has suggested that the share of the market is only some 15–20 per cent, and even this low figure tends to fall when hard economic times hit the consumer.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has recently brought out a most timely and instructive report on the whole complex subject of animal welfare criteria for the labelling of food. The report examines labelling schemes in France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK; it discusses the relevant Economic Union (EU) legislation and it highlights the difficulties of welfare labelling in relation to 'free trade'. There is a summary of recommendations for the future development of this important welfare tool.

Food Labelling Schemes with Animal Welfare Criteria. Produced and published by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA): London (1995). 37pp report. Obtainable from WSPA, 2 Langley Street, London SW8 1TJ, UK. Price £5.

Animal experimentation

Criticisms of the use of animals in biomedical research come from many different groups in society. Particular attention has to be paid to these criticisms if they are put forward by physicians, research scientists and health workers. These are the very people who should have well-informed views about the value of animal experimentation. They should be the ones able to answer the question: does the knowledge so gained really help in reducing human and/or animal suffering?

The *Medical Research Modernization Committee* – a New York based, non-profit organization made up of health care professionals – has now produced a 3rd edition of its booklet *A Critical Look at Animal Experimentation*. This publication concludes that the value of animal experimentation has been grossly exaggerated by those with a vested economic interest in its preservation, and that the massive financial resources so used would be better employed on clinical and epidemiological research and public health programmes. It might be argued that this booklet is somewhat selective in its evidence, but many practical, scientific and ethical arguments are put forward in a serious attempt to force a reconsideration of some of the assumptions underlying the use of animals in biomedical research.

A Critical Look at Animal Experimentation. Prepared by Kaufman S R, Cohen M J, Cramer M, Contard P C, Hahner K and Todd B (1995). The Medical Research Modernization Committee: New York. 17pp (112 references). Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 2751, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-2751, USA. Price US\$0.50.

Use of animals in research

Each year the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) holds an Animal Welfare Forum. The papers presented at this annual event are published in the *Journal of the AVMA* and are collectively reprinted as a 'proceedings of the meeting'. In 1994 the Forum met in Rosemont, Illinois and the subject was *Veterinary Perspectives on the Use of Animals in Research*. The following seven papers were given and are now published, together with a brief 'Opening remarks' by the then President Elect of the AVMA in the February 15th issue of the AVMA journal.

An ethical perspective on animal research. *Carl Cohen*.

The role of attending veterinarians in laboratory animal welfare. *Fred W Quimby*.

Innovations in research animal care. *Denna M Benn*.

Development of a natural-habitat breeding facility for nonhuman primates. *William R Morton et al*.

Private practitioner's perspective on animal research. *Thomas E Vice*.

Consistency in treatment and moral concern. *Nedim C Buyukmihci*.

The future of animal research. *Bonnie V Beaver*.

This collection of well-written and calmly presented essays is essential reading both to veterinary surgeons involved with biomedical research, and to others interested in new thoughts and developments in this important animal welfare area.

AVMA Animal Welfare Forum: Veterinary Perspectives on the Use of Animals in Research (1995). Reprinted from the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 206(4): 457-482.

The killing of wild animals in Britain

Each year very large numbers of wild mammals and birds are killed by man. Some of this killing is for sport; some is for pest control; and some is accidental. A report based on an investigation carried out by N C Fox on behalf of the Hawk Board – a component body of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the Department of Environment – into the nature and extent of animal suffering caused by current methods of pest control and field