

### Care of laboratory animals in transit

This publication, which is reprinted from the journal *Laboratory Animals* 1993, 27: 93-107, was drawn up by the Laboratory Animal Breeders Association and the Laboratory Animal Science Association in alliance with the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry; the British Laboratory Animal Veterinary Association; the Institute of Animal Technology; the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare; the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate of the Home Office, and with comments from the Research Animals Department of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. These various organizations had one common aim in mind: the improvement of the condition and thus the welfare of laboratory animals during transit. The guidelines start with an introductory section on the general requirements of animals in transit and this is followed by detailed information on the needs of the various species. The material is clearly presented and there are a number of drawings of transport containers reprinted from the International Air Transport Association's *Live Animals Regulations*. This is a very useful, concise and informative document. The adoption of the recommendations contained within it should help to ensure the welfare of laboratory animals in transit.

*Guidelines for the care of laboratory animals in transit* LABA and LASA in association with ABPI, BLAVA, IAT, MAFF, UFAW, and Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate (1993). Laboratory Animals: London. 15pp. Paperback. Obtainable free of charge from The Honorary Secretary LABA, c/o Froxfield Farms (UK) Ltd, Broadway Farm, Froxfield, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 1DR, UK.

### Life science directory

As stated in the introduction to this new directory, the main aims of *Life Science Pages* are to encourage communication between scientific researchers and to enhance the accessibility of life science information throughout the United Kingdom. It is a comprehensive listing of contact details for scientists in university research departments and other centres in the Kingdom. All the major research areas are covered including agriculture, biology, earth sciences, psychology, veterinary science and others.

*Life Science Pages* has five main sections that are individually numbered, covering universities (including the former polytechnics); life science institutes; societies and professional bodies; grants and awarding bodies, and a classified section of companies that supply materials to life science laboratories with its own index.

The universities section lists the relevant departments with personnel details, their specialities and telephone numbers. There are gaps in the information where the departments concerned have not returned their details but hopefully they will have done so ready for the 1994-95 directory. A comprehensive index covering the whole of the directory or even a list of names at the beginning of each section would add further value to this document.

It is sometimes a particular problem for people working in the field of animal welfare to locate specialist advice: this directory is certainly a step forward in promoting communication and collaboration between scientists, and between the research community and industry, government, non-government organizations and the media. Clear and accurate information about scientific developments needs to be accessible if decisions by politicians, industrialists and the general public are to be made from an informed viewpoint.

*Life Science Pages 1993/94: a Scientific Communication Initiative* David Manning and Tim France (1993). Life Science Press Ltd: Cardiff. c 119pp. Paperback. Available from the publishers, PO Box 267, Cardiff CF2 3YQ, UK. Price of postage only for bona fide educational establishments; £31.60 including postage within UK to companies.

### **Slaughter of pigs, cattle and sheep**

The Compassion in World Farming Trust has recently published a report on the welfare of pigs, cattle and sheep at the time of slaughter. It takes the form of a review of the scientific literature on the subject over the past ten years.

Much of the work that is cited was carried out as a direct result of the Farm Animal Welfare Council's 1984 *Report on the Welfare of Livestock (Red Meat Animals) at the Time of Slaughter*, many of the findings of which have already been incorporated into Codes of Practice. However the report does highlight the current scientific debate on the effectiveness or otherwise of carbon dioxide for stunning pigs and the use and possible misuse of head-restraint devices for stunning cattle. It would have been beneficial, however, if the Trust had recommended ways forward on some of the issues which it highlights.

*The Welfare of Pigs, Cattle and Sheep at Slaughter* A Compassion in World Farming Trust report by Peter Stevenson (1993). CIWF Trust: Petersfield. Paperback. 16pp. Obtainable from the publishers, Charles House, 5A Charles Street, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3EH, UK. Price £2.50 including postage.

### **Heat stress in farm animals**

The UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food publishes a number of free leaflets and booklets on farm animal welfare. Two of the latest ones are on heat stress in pigs and in poultry; they describe the main causes of heat stress in these two types of animals and outline some of the common sense management measures that will help to prevent it. There is also, apparently, a training video on heat stress available at a cost of £8.25 from MAFF Publicity Video Unit, Room 26, Government Buildings, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7NF.

*Heat Stress in Pigs (PB 1316)* and *Heat Stress in Poultry (PB 1815)* Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1993). 12pp each. Paperback. Obtainable free of charge from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, UK.