

- to secure opportunities for trade
- to protect and promote the welfare of animals

It is not clear why 'to protect biodiversity' was not included in this list, as this is surely also an important and valid reason for a national animal disease surveillance strategy.

A strategy for enhancing veterinary surveillance in the UK (October 2003). Produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. 28 pp A4 paperback. Available from Defra Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX, UK. Also available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/veterinary/index.htm>

Best practice guidance on management of wild deer

During the year, the Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS), the body responsible under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 for the conservation, control and sustainable management of wild deer, began publishing best practice guidance on various aspects of management. This guidance is presented on laminated sheets that, as further topics are covered in the future, can be added to the number already produced and published in a loose-leaf folder.

At present, some 35 pages of guidance notes have been published and these cover a range of topics under the headings 'Resources', 'Planning', and 'Deer management'. The folder also includes associated information on deer species, habitat, and law. A number of sections are relevant to welfare. There are guidance notes on deer management plans, aspects of culling, firearms and marksmanship, and on shot placement, and there is a code of practice for night shooting.

On the basis of the clear and succinct guidance notes already available, when complete, this smartly produced publication promises to be an excellent source of information for all those involved in deer management and a yardstick against which the quality of future guidance on the management of other sustainably used wildlife species may be judged.

Best practice guidance (2003). Produced by the Deer Commission for Scotland in partnership with the Association for Deer Management Groups, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the British Deer Society, the Forestry Commission, the LANTRA and the Scottish Gamekeepers Association. Edited by Kirsty Leitch. A4 laminated sheets (currently c 35 pp) in a hardback loose-leaf folder. Published by and available from the Deer Commission for Scotland, Knowsley, 82 Fairfield Road, Inverness IV3 5LH, UK. Also available at: <http://www.dcs.gov.uk/BestPractice/home.asp>