

These basic animal needs are essentially the same as the UK Farm Animal Welfare Council's 1992 so-called 'new Five Freedoms'. In many ways the NZ Animal Welfare Advisory Committee seems to work in a similar manner to the UK Farm Animal Welfare Committee, although the UK's Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock do not include in their titles the words Minimum Standards. Minimum standards in the UK would be set more by statutory regulations and not by a code of recommendation.

The *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Horses* is a substantial and somewhat unique document which covers most aspects of horse use and care in New Zealand. There are sections on legal responsibilities; grazing; feeding; housing; husbandry; agistment (the commercial keeping of horses belonging to other people for grazing, education, conditioning, training or breeding); lease hire premises; equine events; transport, and humane slaughter.

The *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Bobby Calves* – defined as a calf which is at least 4 days old and is destined for slaughter for human consumption – is shorter than the horse code but is laid out in the same general way. There are however special sections on 'Maturity and acceptability for slaughter', 'Calf diseases and drug residues' and on 'Emergency humane destruction'.

The *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments* deals briefly with the housing, management, feeding and health of dogs and cats kept in commercial boarding kennels and catteries. There is information here that could be useful to the current UK revision of boarding establishments' standards.

*Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Horses* Code of Animal Welfare No 7. 43pp. ISBN 0 478 07310 0.

...*Bobby Calves* Code of Animal Welfare No 8. 11pp. ISBN 0 478 07328 3.

...*Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments* Code of Animal Welfare No 9. 11pp. ISBN 0 478 07332 1.

All paperback. AWAC (1993). Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries: Wellington. Obtainable from the publishers, ASB Bank House, 101-103 The Terrace, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Free of charge for the first five copies, subsequent copies NZ\$4.

### **Rearing pheasants for shoots**

The rearing of pheasants for release and the subsequent shooting of them for sport has been much criticized by animal welfarists. Many of the arguments, however, have been made without the non-specialist critics knowing much about the practicalities of the operation. A short booklet published by the Farm Animal Welfare Network (FAWN) – an organization originally set up as Chickens' Lib – will largely fill this information gap. The publication briefly covers such matters as the number of birds reared to be shot; the method of rearing; the use of 'bits' and 'spectacles' to control aggression; the health of the birds, and their legal protection. It will be argued by some that the material in this FAWN document is presented in a somewhat one-sided manner but, at least, the booklet does bring many of the practicalities of rearing pheasants for shooting out into the open.

FAWN suggests that further information on shooting birds for sport can be obtained from the League Against Cruel Sports, 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG, UK.

***Rearing Pheasants for Shoots: The Disturbing Facts*** Produced and published by FAWN: Huddersfield (1994). 8pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 40, Holmfirth, Huddersfield HD7 1QY, UK. Price 50p (plus a second class stamp for UK requests).

### **Welfare of sheep**

The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) – the independent advisory body to the UK Agriculture Ministers – has, over the years, issued a number of important reports on the welfare of farm animals. The latest in the series, the *Report on the Welfare of Sheep*, was published in April 1994 and is based upon a two year investigation carried out by the seven members of the FAWC Sheep Advisory Group. Particular attention was paid to the extensive husbandry component of the sheep industry although all types of systems – extensive, intensive, and mixed (intensive parts of the year, extensive at others) – were examined. Sixty-nine recommendations to improve the welfare of sheep are made. Some of these recommendations will require alterations to the legislation; others might be addressed by changes in the Codes of Recommendation for the Welfare of Sheep made under the *Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968*; others are more advisory and may influence the sheep industry to modify some of its husbandry practices.

The recommendations *re* castration and tail docking are the ones that are most likely to have an immediate impact, and a few of them have been given a mixed reception in some quarters. It is suggested that surgical castration with the knife should be banned at any age except when carried out by a veterinary surgeon using an anaesthetic; that the use of rubber rings and bloodless castration should be allowed on lambs up to 6 weeks of age only, and that tail docking when performed by a non-veterinarian should be limited to lambs less than 6 weeks of age. Over this age docking must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon for therapeutic purposes only, and only then with the use of an anaesthetic. Combined castration and tail docking should not be carried out on lambs less than 24 hours old.

This detailed, sensible and well written Report should be compulsory reading for all farmers, agricultural scientists/advisers and veterinary surgeons who are involved in any way with sheep.

***Report on the Welfare of Sheep*** PB 1755. Produced and published by FAWC: Surbiton (1994). 40pp. Paperback. Available free of charge from FAWC, Room 2107A, Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DX, UK.

### **Vivisection controversy**

A new booklet, *'How to Win Debates with Vivisectors'*, which is based upon Vernon Coleman's 1991 book *Why Animal Experiments Must Stop* (see Books received), is '...designed to help all anti-vivisectionists understand exactly HOW to argue when faced with the false arguments put forward (often with apparent scientific logic) by the Vivisectors and those who defend vivisection'. The booklet is laid out as a series of paired statements and rebuttals – two or three to a page – each starting 'The Vivisectors say:...' and followed by 'The truth is:...'.