

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Three new information leaflets on cat rescue and welfare from the Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB): *Setting up a Shelter for Rescued Cats*, *Setting up a Neutering Project for Feral Cats*, *Starting a Boarding Cattery – What You Need to Know*

The Feline Advisory Bureau has published three new information sheets which offer advice and guidance for those seeking to work with rescued or feral cats, or who wish to start their own boarding cattery. *Setting up a Shelter for Rescued Cats*, written by Anne Haughie (author of FAB's *Cat Rescue Manual*) provides a useful and comprehensive overview of the issues covered within her larger manual. It addresses the initial planning and equipment needed to ensure a successful shelter, and gives practical advice on accommodation, management and husbandry routines. The second leaflet, *Setting up a Neutering Project for Feral Cats*, also by Anne Haughie, details step-by-step how to set up and implement a feral cat neutering project, from its advance planning through to the trapping, handling and re-release of the now neutered ferals. It identifies the veterinarian support that is likely to be needed and stresses the importance of formulating an euthanasia policy prior to trapping. The last leaflet *Starting a Boarding Cattery – What You Need to Know* answers some of the common questions asked by people considering this option.

Setting up a Shelter for Rescued Cats 1999. Feline Advisory Bureau. 6pp. Paperback. Obtainable from FAB, Taeselbury, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6LD, UK. Free.

Setting up a Neutering Project for Feral Cats 1999. Feline Advisory Bureau. 6pp. Paperback. Obtainable from FAB, Taeselbury, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6LD, UK. Free.

Starting a Boarding Cattery – What You Need to Know 1999. Feline Advisory Bureau. 2pp. Paperback. Obtainable from FAB, Taeselbury, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6LD, UK. Free.

Humane killing of day-old chicks

Live cockerels are an unwanted by-product of the egg production industry. On the day of hatching, chicks are sexed, the females are sent on for rearing as layers and the males are disposed of. The numbers killed are vast and methods of killing and standards of humaneness vary considerably around the world. In 1989 the Humane Slaughter Association, with the cooperation of the industry, carried out a survey of practices at UK hatcheries and was asked subsequently to produce a code of practice on humane disposal.

Although the Code, which was written in consultation with the British Poultry Meat Federation and the Pullet Hatcheries Association, is based on industry practices in the UK and the provisions of the UK's Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995, it provides a framework that is relevant anywhere in the world. The Code sets minimum standards based on current UK legislation, scientific evidence and best practice. It covers humane disposal of chicks of all commonly reared types of poultry. Following a brief review of hatchery procedures, the responsibilities of the hatchery welfare officer are listed and methods for the humane handling of chicks are described. Key points to ensure the humane despatch of chicks by the various methods used currently in the industry for routine and emergency killing are presented. The Code emphasizes that since carbon dioxide is no longer considered acceptable, CO₂ systems should be phased out in favour of mechanical or other gas systems.

This is a valuable document. All hatcheries should have a copy and everyone involved in the despatch of chicks should be familiar with it.

Code of Practice for the Disposal of Chicks in Hatcheries 1999. Humane Slaughter Association. 13 pp. A5 paperback. ISBN 1871561124. Obtainable from the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK (E-mail: info@hsa.org.uk). Price £2.00.