

1973 Act quoted in a column on the left with interpretative notes describing current best practice listed on the right. For example, where the Act specifies that detailed records should be kept concerning the operation of the breeding establishment but makes no specifications regarding the nature of these records, the guidance notes indicate that these should include full details of all dogs and bitches kept, such as: dates of oestrus, matings and whelpings; identification details and records of sale; health records (including vaccination and worming records); details of vehicles used and of journeys including times, dates and journey lengths; cleaning and disinfection regimes; feeding and exercise regimes; records of environmental temperatures; and details of any cases being managed in isolation. The guidance notes expand in a similar way on the Act's provisions concerning accommodation, management, disease control, emergencies and fire prevention and transport. The advice is mostly well-aimed, concise, practical and specific but occasional points, for example that 'the feeding level required by the bitch after weaning will depend upon her body condition', seem too vague to be of much value in practice.

This booklet is designed as an information resource manual for veterinarians and officers of local authorities involved in inspections of dog breeding premises under the 1973 and 1991 Acts. It is likely to prove valuable in this context. In expanding on the outline standards listed in the 1973 Act it helps to define current best practice and, in this respect, may be of interest to those involved in the management of dog breeding establishments and kennels in other countries. A list of references and other relevant publications would have been a useful addition.

Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 and 1991: Guidance and Model Conditions for Local Authorities and Their Authorised Officers and Veterinary Inspectors for the Licensing of Breeding Establishments (1998). British Veterinary Association: London. 28pp. Paperback. Obtainable from BVA Publications, T G Scott, 6 Bourne Enterprise Centre, Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8DG. Price £5.00 (BVA members) or £7.50 (non-members).

Wild birds and the law

The primary legislation protecting wild birds in the UK is the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*. This basically provides protection to all wild birds and their nests but includes additional special provisions for some rare species. It specifies various exceptions to allow for sport hunting and for the control of certain species which cause conflict with some human interests. The law is quite complex and includes a number of schedules which list various species that are, or are not, covered by various provisions in the Act. For example, provided that they are ringed and have been bred in captivity, birds on Part I of *Schedule 3* (including a variety of finches and the barn owl) may be sold alive at all times, and birds on Part II of *Schedule 3* (only the woodpigeon and coot) may be sold dead at all times. In view of these complexities, this little booklet is a useful aide memoire. Its use is made easier still by listing UK birds, species by species, with brief notes on the legal protection each one is given. The booklet is fully up to date and includes the provisions of the *Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997* and the rules concerning the operation of Larsen (cage) traps in the prevention of damage by some bird species to livestock or crops.

Wild Birds and the Law: A Plain Guide to Bird Protection Today. Rosemary Venner (1998). The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Sandy. 31pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK. Price £3.00.