

down in specialized ethology or physiology that is beyond the grasp of the interested general reader.

The most interesting chapters are the ones on the Three Rs (reduction, refinement and replacement) and on the emerging challenges from genetically modified animals. This is where the reader can find more intriguing detail about why certain experimental procedures or animal production processes compromise welfare and raise the stakes in the cost–benefit wager. The author lays out some very real problems in applying the Three Rs in practice, such as the potential conflict between reducing animal numbers and minimizing the severity of pain felt by any one animal in the same study.

I would have liked to see some discussion on why it is often automatically assumed that using a “phylogenetically lower” species is a form of refinement. This notion is mentioned several times throughout the book, but there is certainly not universal agreement on this. Most ethics committees would probably agree with this principle if the “lower” species in question are invertebrates, but many would be less certain when considering between two species of mammals. Should an experiment be deemed more acceptable when done on a rat than on a dog, even though the phylogenetic margin here, relative to capacity to suffer, may be slim to none?

The book is honest in presenting the likelihood of more “inevitable suffering” for more animals during the production of transgenic animals for bioreactors, organ transplant donors, or specialized disease models. It predicts that things may “get worse before they get better” because of the current imprecision of these new technologies and the pressures to speed up production.

This book should stimulate informed dialogue among all readers and will be a worthwhile addition to any animal welfare and ethics library.

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Compassionate Beasts — The Quest for Animal Rights

Lyle Munro (2000). Praeger Publishers, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881, USA. Distributed by The Eurospan Group, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU. 231 pp. Hardback (ISBN 0 275 96883 9). Price £46.50.

Lyle Munro is a sociologist at Monash University in Australia with particular interests in social movements and animal rights. In 1996, he spent a short sabbatical visiting the UK and the USA to interview animal rights activists. This book uses these interviews as the basis for discussing animal rights activism and the animal rights movement. However, I feel that the end result adds only a little to the existing literature in this area.

Munro says he approaches his task as an academic, but is honest enough to admit that he is writing from the perspective of someone who “is on the side of the animal liberationists”. He explains that he has sought to take the position of “critical friend of the movement” in presenting his observations and analysis. I failed to find any criticism of the animal rights movement in the book. There was no recognition at all that many people would disagree with what “the movement” is trying to achieve and how they seek to achieve it. Some of the book’s sub-headings (*The experience of animal rights activism: sacrifice and satisfaction; Working with the Devil himself: universities, career scientists and vets; Animal aid: uninhibited advocacy for all animals great and small*) convey a flavour of the uncritical view taken in this book.

As with so many other analyses of the animal rights movement, Munro's book makes no distinction between animal welfare, animal rights and animal liberation — they are all lumped together under the title “animal protection” or “the movement”. Although the history, philosophies, campaigns and sociology of the animal rights movement have been written about by many American and British authors, the novel aspect of this book is that the author is from outside those countries and cultures.

The book is divided into three parts, the first being a short history of the animal welfare and animal rights movements and a discussion of the positions taken by its philosophical architects. Although Munro presents the information quite nicely in fifty pages, the same subjects have been explored in much greater depth, and with the greater insight that more space permits, by several other writers over the last decade.

The second part of the book examines different styles of activism within the animal rights movement, another subject covered in some depth by other authors. Munro's unique contribution, the focus of one chapter and several short sections throughout the book, is to try to map the Australian animal rights movement onto this picture. He divides activism into two styles: first, (direct) activism, and second, advocacy, or activism “in the streets and in the suites”. He argues that advocacy dominates in the USA, and activism in the UK, with Australia striking a balance between activism and advocacy. I am not sure I would agree with his assessment of activism in the UK and the USA. I know relatively little about the animal rights movement in Australia, and I found the wealth of detail he presents to be very interesting. However, I came away unconvinced by his argument and wondering whether all the discussion about differences in style masked more obvious and simpler differences in size and effectiveness.

The final part of the book deals with both the organisation of various parts of “the movement” and some of their main issues, including animal experimentation, hunting, pets and performing animals. The selection of the campaigns and the aspects of the issues discussed are rather idiosyncratic and they are, obviously, considered from a very one-sided view. I found the analysis somewhat limited.

This book appears to be aimed at those sociologists and others who write about the animal protection movement from within it. I am sure that it will be well received by them. However, I think that it is unlikely to appeal to a wider audience.

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The Meat Business: Devouring a Hungry Planet

Edited by Geoff Tansey and Joyce D'Silva (1999). Earthscan Publications: London. Obtainable from the publishers, Earthscan Publications Ltd, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK. 249 pp. Paperback (ISBN 1 85383 603 6); price £12.99. Hardback (ISBN 1 85383 623 0); price £35.00.

This book presents the edited proceedings of a conference convened by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), which was then called *Agriculture for the New Millennium — Animal Welfare, Poverty and Globalisation*. These are three powerful and controversial themes. CIWF are to be congratulated, first on devising the structure of this conference, and then on persuading world authorities to argue each case from different points of view. Inevitably, the case against globalisation and industrialised agriculture has been given more time than the case for these things but both sides have been allowed to have their say. Thus, the title is catchy but rather misleading, as it implies an entirely one-sided argument.