

cats and understand the satisfaction of such a neat solution. It is also an extremely useful work of persuasion for those still trying to get others to adopt this method — the scientific references are there, the arguments charted and the successes laid out — an excellent tool in the battle for feline welfare.

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### **The Appliance of Pig Science (BSAS Publication 31)**

Edited by JE Thompson, BP Gill and MA Varley (2004). Published by Nottingham University Press, Manor Farm, Main Street, Thrumpton, Nottingham NG11 0AX. 204 pp Paperback (ISBN 1 094761 50 X). Price £37.50.

This book is the published proceedings of a meeting entitled The Appliance of Pig Science held by the British Society of Animal Science in September 2003, at the University of Nottingham's School of Agriculture, Sutton Bonington, UK. It was felt that — to quote from the Preface — “with the British pig industry once again at a crucial crossroads, the need and willingness for better and more effective communication and collaboration between all sectors of the pig industry is greater than ever before”. The meeting “...provided a unique opportunity for those involved in the research and application of pig science, managers of pig enterprises and those in commerce, to unite in discussing the problems and highlighting potential solutions that could lead the industry back to a profitable future”. The subject coverage of this proceedings volume suggests that the intentions of the meeting were largely met.

The publication starts with a nine-page introductory piece by Richard Longthorp, Chairman of the National Pig Association, which provides an overview of the key issues. This interesting and important contribution is, somewhat strangely, acknowledged in the Preface but is not listed in the Table of Contents or included within the main pagination or, seemingly, covered by the otherwise short but useful Index. There follows some 19 papers, varying in length from three pages (with no references) to 16 pages (with 45 references), and then eight fairly substantial written accounts (all with references) of the Workshop and the Posters displayed at the meeting. The Editors, in their Preface, make the point that the papers have “...undergone minimal editorial processes and, accordingly [they] accept no responsibility for their accuracy”. Three of the papers are prefaced with the sentence “The editors have compiled this summary based on the presentation given by the author”. Inevitably then, the material in the different contributions has been covered at various lengths and at various depths. The subject matters range over knowledge transfer, innovation, marketing, commercial competitiveness, nutrition and the environment, and several of the contributions are pertinent to pig health and welfare. Two papers in this latter subject area, by Iain Mortimer on “Regaining a high health status — light at the end of the tunnel” and by Sandra Edwards on “Current developments in pig welfare”, are to be specially commended.

This book contains a very assorted collection of items on various aspects of pig science and production. The wide range of coverage is one of its strengths; much, but not all, of the material is new and original. It is nearly certain that anyone working with pigs will find something of immediate interest, and it is then nearly inevitable that some other paper will catch their eye and lead them on to explore a hitherto unappreciated piece of applied pig science. In many ways this is a book for the information browser. It is to be hoped that the agricultural and veterinary abstracting and indexing services are able to alert the pig industry, as a whole, to the various and often very valuable contents of this volume.

The British Society of Animal Science is to be congratulated on holding the original meeting and for publishing the proceedings.

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### **The Human-Animal Relationship. Forever and a Day**

FH de Jonge and R van den Bos (2005). Published by Royal Van Gorcum, Industrieweg 38, 9403 AB Assen, P.O. Box 43, 9400 AA Assen, The Netherlands. 294 pp Paperback (ISBN 90 232 4082 0). Price €32.50.

The book is divided into 5 parts, presenting a total of 19 essays: (I) Animals and Culture; (II) The Human-Animal Bond; (III) Public Perception; (IV) Ethics and Law; (V) Human-Animal Relationships, Global Economy and Modern Farming.

The vast field of human-animal relationships is slowly gaining greater academic and public awareness. However, the literature still remains comparatively scarce, so any new addition to our knowledge and thinking is a welcome one. Although the 19 essays together give much pause for both thought and re-thinking of many aspects of the human-animal relationship, unfortunately the failure to have most of them either professionally translated or at least proof read by an English language editor, tends to frustrate the reader almost from the outset.

The essays cover a rather random but broad variety of subjects, arbitrarily assigned in a few cases, and with some overlap among them. (Part I) Animals and Culture: (1) Serpell presents a broad survey of the changing cultural and religious approaches to animals among different peoples of the world, from ancient to modern times, with regard to killing and exploiting animals for food, providing a picture of how the ancient world and so-called ‘primitive’ societies related — and some societies still do — to the animals they hunted or kept as a means to survive. (2) van't Hooft and Millar provide a survey of non-Western societies' approach to animal husbandry, with examples from Latin America, India and Africa, and suggest how a modern scientific approach, when combined with an understanding of the local beliefs and practices (cosmovision) regarding nature, can benefit the local human and animal inhabitants. (3) Noske outlines a proposal for alternative methods of