

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Genetic engineering

There are now 22 titles in the Independence publishing company's series Issues for the Nineties (we reported on *Animal Rights* in Volume 3 Number 1 of *Animal Welfare*). As in previous volumes, *Genetic Engineering* provides a collection of reprinted up-to-date articles on the subject in question from a variety of sources (Government, newspaper and magazine articles and literature from lobby groups and charitable organizations). The target audience is educators and probably college students, but the book would be a useful introduction to the subject for any reader.

The format is popularist rather than technical and as the series title indicates, deals with issues and opinions rather than basic biology. Nonetheless, some of the articles provide excellent sketches of genetic engineering techniques which could save much time with heavier text books. The format works; because all points of view are represented, encouraging the reader to develop a critical sense while at the same time maintaining interest. I would be fascinated to study the response of a class to the book with a before and after survey. Would the book change opinions or merely allow fixed minds to select the facts and notions that support their pre-conceived positions?

Genetic Engineering Edited by Craig Donnellan (1994). Independence: Cambridge. 44pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 295, Cambridge CB1 3XP, UK (ISBN 1 872995 33 0) Price £5.95.

Trapping animals for fur

A recently published, easy-to-read booklet containing many useful items of information will be of interest to those wishing to know more about the trapping issue. Despite the number of animals trapped for their fur being on the decrease for several years, it is a topic that is currently being hotly debated internationally. *Trapping Animals for Fur* comes at a time when the International Standards Organisation (ISO) is developing a standard on Animal (Mammal) Traps. This move by the ISO was prompted by pro-trapping interests aiming to circumvent European Community legislation which in 1995 will ban the import of furs from countries which have not effectively prohibited the leghold (gin) trap, or where trapping methods used do not meet internationally agreed humane trapping standards.

The booklet, published by Care for the Wild in conjunction with the European Federation for Nature and Animals has been written in two parts. The longer section, by Andrew Tyler, provides a general review of the fur trade; the traps used for catching fur bearing animals; the research to find a 'humane trap'; the question of trapping by native American Indians, and details of the European ban. The shorter part, written by Bill Jordan, details the veterinary and conservation aspects of trapping and provides a summary of the physiology of pain and stress involved in trapping.

It is unfortunate that the booklet has no index or more detailed list of contents. This, at times, makes it difficult to locate some of the unique and extremely useful pieces of information contained within it.

Trapping Animals for Fur Produced and published by Care for the Wild and the European Federation for Nature and Animals (1994): Rusper. 42pp. Paperback. Obtainable from Care for the Wild, 1 Ashfolds, Horsham Road, Rusper, West Sussex RH12 4QX. Price £3.50 including postage.