

The report indicates that the difficulties of keeping non-domesticated animals to high standards of welfare are often that: (i) needs may not be known; (ii) where the husbandry of the species has been well studied, the relevant information may not be readily available to owners; and (iii) there may be difficulties obtaining specialist food or equipment. The Report includes various recommendations relevant to these points.

Although a wide range of diseases apparently associated with captive husbandry has been described, the CAWC report stated that there is little information about the prevalence of these diseases. Since such information is relevant to decisions about which species are unsuitable to be kept and also to prioritising preventive efforts, CAWC recommended surveys to investigate the prevalence and epidemiology of husbandry-related disease and welfare problems.

Among the other recommendations are: that a quality assurance scheme should be developed which certifies that animals for sale are, and have been, cared for to certified standards; and that, in view of the scale and diversity of animal importations, the Government should review the adequacy of current biosecurity measures to protect indigenous fauna from introduced exotic infections.

At the launch of the Report at the Houses of Parliament on 9 July, it was noted that the keeping of non-domesticated animals for companionship is a large and complex subject and one to which CAWC expects to return to address specific aspects in greater detail in the future.

---

*The Welfare of Non-Domesticated Animals kept for Companionship* (July 2003) Companion Animal Welfare Council. 45 pp A4. Available from the Companion Animal Welfare Council, c/o The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU, UK.

### **Welfare aspects of shooting foxes**

It is perhaps surprising, considering the widespread use of shooting in harvesting or control of some wildlife species, that there have been few studies of the welfare consequences of shooting. This subject, as it pertains to the fox, is one of considerable interest in the UK at the present time, associated with the current debate about the humaneness of hunting with hounds. A preliminary report (see details below) of the results of a recent study undertaken by Fox and others has been published by the All Party Parliamentary Middle Way Group, which also commissioned the work.

The main body of the report comprises four sections: an introduction and description of the design and methodology of the study (by Dr Nick Fox); two sections, with different authorship (The International Veterinary Group and Dr Douglas Wise), each separately scoring the results; and a concluding discussion (Nick Fox). The study involved target shooting, by unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled shooters, and using various methods of life-sized paper silhouettes of a trotting fox, and inference from the impact positions of the pellets/bullets about the likely outcomes had these shots been fired at live foxes. These inferences were informed, to some extent, by investigations of the depth of penetration of shotgun pellets fired at fox carcasses from various ranges. For the shotgun studies, moving 'foxes' were towed in such a way as to emerge from behind screens into the shooter's visibility for 3 s, and for the rifle studies, each target was hinged up into visibility in a stationary position for 4 s.

From the results of the above study, and also from records from fox shooters, the authors consider that: "... under common field conditions, for every fox dead with a shotgun, at least the same number are wounded and many of these are never found." They call for a principled, science-based and integrated approach to assessing welfare in the killing of wild animals.

In this contentious field, it is important that such valuable studies should be subject to the rigors of peer-review.

---

*Welfare Aspects of Shooting Foxes* (June 2003) A study for the All Party Parliamentary Middle Way Group by N Fox, S Rivers, N Blay, A G Greenwood and D Wise. 48 pp A4. Published by and available from the All Party Parliamentary Middle Way Group, c/o Lembit Öpik MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

### **Proposed European Council Regulation on the protection of animals during transport**

On 16 July 2003, the European Commission in Brussels announced their proposals to improve the current rules regarding animal welfare during transport. The proposed Regulation aims to strengthen existing legislation covering the protection of animals during transport by addressing the quality of transport and changes in practice.

The proposals include new maximum journey times with a maximum of 9 h travelling followed by a minimum of 12 h rest, that specific temperatures should be provided according to species requirements, and that animals should have access to drinking water at all times. Another proposal is to remove the need for staging points since animals will rest in their vehicles to avoid unnecessary loading and unloading. New controls on the transport of very young animals are also detailed along with stricter controls on the transport of horses.

Improved space allowances are proposed based on species and length of journey, as are stricter controls regarding animal transport through registration of transporters. There is also a proposal for more detailed definition of unfitness for travel, for clarification of responsibilities, and for mandatory training for those dealing with animals during a journey. To improve enforcement, the regulation identifies the chain of individuals involved in animal transport and places greater onus on personal responsibility if infringements occur. Enforcement tools, such as checks via tachographs, will also be introduced.

The document also sets out stricter standards for road vehicles used for longer journeys and inspection and approval of these vehicles. If the Regulation is approved, there will be a requirement for the inspection and approval of livestock vessels. Finally, better procedures for cooperation between member states are proposed. Member states will also be encouraged to develop guides of good practice for operators.

The Regulation still requires approval from the Council of Ministers after consultation of the European Parliament; however, it is expected that this Regulation will be in force by the end of 2005.

---

*Proposal for a Council Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations* (July 2003) Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the protection of animals during transport. Published by the Commission of the European Communities. 65 pp A4. Published in the Official Journal of the European Communities and available, free of charge, from the website: [www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/search/en/search\\_oj.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/search/en/search_oj.html)

### **Cost–benefit assessment in the use of animals in research**

The role of the UK's Animal Procedures Committee (APC) is to provide Ministers with independent advice about the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and their functions under it. It is a legal requirement that in determining whether, and with what conditions, to grant a licence to permit scientific procedures on animals, the Secretary of State weighs the likely benefits of the work against the likely adverse effects on the animals used. In response to concerns regarding how the cost–benefit assessment operated in practice, the APC decided in