

reliance on agrochemical inputs is drastically reduced and there is emphasis on sustainability, diversification and rural regeneration”.

After FMD: aiming for a values-driven agriculture (2001) Published by the Food Ethics Council. 40 pp. A4 paperback. Available from the Food Ethics Council, Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0HD, UK (send stamped addressed A4 envelope with 84p or 66p stamp for 1st or 2nd class delivery, respectively). Food Ethics Council website: <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~foodeth>.

Health screening of wildlife for translocation or release

The introduction of infectious agents into ecosystems from which they were previously absent has frequently had catastrophic results on the welfare of animals of indigenous wild species, the viability of their populations, or both. Translocations and releases of wild animals are being increasingly undertaken for conservation, welfare or other reasons, and it is most important that the concomitant risk of accidental release of any infectious agents they may carry is taken very seriously. To help address this problem, Michael Woodford, drawing on advice from many members of the Veterinary Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, has produced and edited a very useful book which sets out quarantine and health screening protocols aimed at minimising the potential disease risks associated with a wide range of vertebrate taxa.

Much of the world's animal health legislation was put in place to protect domesticated production animals and humans, and frequently the statutory controls that exist cannot be relied upon to provide solid protection against the risk of accidental introduction of wildlife diseases. This book, which covers (albeit somewhat unevenly) fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, marsupials, and various orders of eutherian mammals including artiodactyls, primates and carnivores, helps to plug this gap. Its protocols should be read and followed carefully, or further developed, by everyone involved in translocating or releasing wild animals. The introductory chapter includes a section on ethical considerations in which the need to consider the balance of welfare costs and conservation gains, and to minimise any risks of harm to welfare that may arise in conservation projects, is emphasised.

Quarantine and Health Screening Protocols for Wildlife Prior to Translocation and Release in to the Wild (2001) Edited by M H Woodford. Published jointly by the Office International des Epizooties, Veterinary Specialist Group/Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Care for the Wild International and the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians. 104 pp. A5 paperback (ISBN 92 9044 520 3). Available from the Office International des Epizooties, 12 rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France; <http://www.oie.int>.

Attitudes to alternatives among those working with experimental animals

In April 1998, the UK Government circulated guidelines on the introduction of an ethical review process (ERP) to all those involved in the use of animals in scientific procedures. One of the principal aims of the Government's requirement for each organisation to establish an ERP was to promote “the development and uptake of reduction, replacement and refinement alternatives in animal use, where they exist”, and to ensure “the availability of relevant sources of information”. Has the establishment of ERPs achieved these aims? Dr Iain Purchase, of the School of Biological Sciences and Institute of Medicine, Law and Bioethics at the University of Manchester, and Dr Maria Nedeva, of Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology, also at Manchester, have carried out a study addressing this question. One aspect of this work, on attitudes to alternatives among people working with experimental animals, has been published recently (see below).