

**Present and future role of alternatives**

In May/June 1995 the European Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) held a workshop on the role of replacement, refinement and reduction, ie the Three Rs, in biomedical research and testing. A report and the recommendations of this workshop were published in the journal *ATLA* and have now been reprinted with minor amendments. This 29-page document is a most valuable resource of the current situation re the Three Rs. It covers the origins and the evolution of the three Rs concept, the reduction alternatives, the refinement alternatives and the replacement alternatives. Interwoven with these main themes there are a number of more general items on such matters as: considerations of the scientific and ethical justification of using animals for research purposes; on the validations and scientific barriers to the adoption of alternative methods; and on educating, training and informing scientists and the general public about the use of limitation of the Three Rs approach. The whole is finished with some 58 Conclusions and Recommendations and a 112 item list of references.

This report is a well written, wide ranging and in many ways a wise account of the present and future role of the alternatives – the Three Rs – in biomedical research and testing.

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*The Three Rs: The Way Forward*. European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) Workshop Report II. M Balls and 20 others! (1995). Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments: Nottingham. 29pp. Paperback. Obtainable from ECVAM, TP 580, Joint Research Centre Environment Institute, 21020 Ispra (VA), Italy. Free. Reprinted with minor amendments from *ATLA* 23: 838-866.

**Wildlife as a resource for local communities**

*Whose Eden?* is a report to the Overseas Development Administration of the British Government. It presents an overview and analysis of literature on community approaches to wildlife management, with the majority of the information gained from schemes in Africa. The analyses are split into top-down approaches (ownership of wildlife by the state, traditional protected areas, wildlife legislation enforcement) and participatory approaches (involvement of local people and their needs in wildlife management). This latter category is also further broken down into a range from passive participation (donor-funded and compensation schemes) to active participation (community-led generation and distribution of benefits from wildlife utilization). The report also identifies conditions under which uses of wildlife are likely to be sustainable.

It begins with a useful executive summary followed by six chapters: Introduction; Definitions and Background Concepts; Top-down Approaches; Participatory Approaches; Analysis; The Way Forward; and has four annexes which include a list of institutions and individuals working in the field of community wildlife management; and finally, a supporting Bibliography. There are seven tables, 31 boxes and one figure.

The publication defines clearly its use of terminology and is explicit in being utilitarian in its approach. Various uses of wildlife are identified although there are no direct references to the animal welfare implications of wildlife utilization, such as the methods of capture, holding, transportation, killing and disturbance of animals in their natural habitat (Lindley cited in Taylor & Dunstone 1996). They could potentially be encompassed in the suggestions for research and monitoring of human impact on wildlife. Some active participatory schemes

also encourage the resumption of consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife utilization by local communities, so the welfare of affected animals requires consideration under such circumstances.

This is a clear, well-presented document which should provide guidance and be of interest to organizations working in or providing support to wildlife management projects and local communities; also to individual researchers and policy and decision-makers. However, animal welfare concerns should also be considered together with the recommendations from this report.

#### References

Taylor V J and Dunstone N 1996 The exploitation, sustainable use and welfare of wild mammals. In: Taylor V J and Dunstone N (eds) *The Exploitation of Mammal Populations* pp 3-15. Chapman & Hall: London, UK

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*Whose Eden? An Overview of Community Approaches to Wildlife Management.* Produced and published by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED): London (1994). 124pp. Paperback. Obtainable from IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK (ISBN 0 905347 74 9). Price £14.95.

#### Farm animals in research

In August 1995 the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Training (ANZCCART) held a two-day conference in Wellington, New Zealand on *Farm Animals in Biomedical and Agricultural Research*. The 14 papers together with their edited discussions – see advertisement on page 338 for details – have now been published. The material ranges from a keynote address on farm animals in biomedical and agricultural research, through to an ANZCCART student award paper on *in vitro* fertilization technologies in animals and humans, to discussions on consciousness and awareness in farm animals and on human accountability regarding animal use.

This is a well-produced, interesting and important book which will be of great value to those responsible for the use and care of farm animals used in biomedical and agricultural research.

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*Farm Animals in Biomedical and Agricultural Research: Proceedings of the Conference held in Wellington, New Zealand, 18–19 August 1995.* Produced and published by Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART): Glen Osmond (1996). 98pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 19, Glen Osmond, SA, 5064, Australia; or from UFAW (ISBN 0 646 26379X). Price £12.

#### Wild bird welfare

Considerable interest is currently being taken in the treatment of injured or diseased wildlife. The general public feels that something ought to be done to relieve the suffering. As a consequence various voluntary wildlife rehabilitation and treatment centres have been set up, veterinary surgeons have become skilled in treating wild animals and a substantial number of both serious and semi-popular publications on the subject have come on to the market.

Marian Small had published in 1994 (reported in *Animal Welfare* (1995)4: 147) her most useful booklet on the treatment of the diseases and injuries of wild mammals. This has now been followed by a similar booklet on wild birds. It covers the capture, housing, feeding,