

the auditor has outlined the methods and commented on the humaneness. In comparing humaneness of dispatch by shooting and overdose of anaesthetic it was concluded that “both methods are humane”. The blood sampling procedure was undertaken under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and the Report discusses the reasons for this and recommends that, in any future work, discussions with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate should include the trapping arrangements and the likely effects on the animals.

The RBCT ended in October 2005 and the results are being assessed by the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG). The ISG’s final report and recommendations to Ministers are expected in early 2007.

TB in cattle: The fifth Independent audit on the humane-ness of dispatch procedures used in the randomised badger culling trial and Defra’s response (2006). Defra Publication number PB 11908. 27 pages, A4. Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and available from Defra Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX, UK and at the Defra website: www.defra.gov.uk

J Kirkwood

UFAW

South Asian Edition of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy

The Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) of Coimbatore, India and the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation (SAZARC, the administrative office of which is based at ZOO) have produced and published a summary document (see details below), which provides an introduction to the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy (available at www.waza.org) that is specifically tailored for South Asian readers. The need for long-term thinking and planning is neatly introduced by drawing attention to the great success of the Przewalski’s horse conservation and reintroduction scheme and then to the highly endangered status of the Indian wild ass (*Equus hemionus khur*): “there is no coordinated management programme for Indian wild ass in S. Asian zoos so captive breeding will not save this species...unless...”.

There are a variety of brief illustrated articles including: ‘Why Develop a New Zoo Strategy?’, ‘From Menageries to Conservation Centres in South Asia’, and ‘The Role of Modern Zoos and Aquariums in South Asia’. The importance of good welfare standards is emphasised strongly and the piece on ethics and animal welfare states: “Well-meaning zoos and aquariums follow ethical principles and maintain the highest standards in wildlife welfare and management and breeding.” and, under the heading ‘WAZA’s main goals’, “All institutions permanently strive after an improvement of methods and professional techniques. If the killing of surplus animals is not justifiable and reproduction cannot be prevented without causing health problems, then institutions should not have these animals in

their collection”. The need for balancing conservation aims with animal welfare needs is also outlined, and attention drawn to the importance of animal welfare education for zoo visitors.

SAZARC has member zoos in India, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. This well-written and illustrated publication provides an interesting summary and introduction, with a South Asian perspective, to the World Zoo Conservation Strategy and is likely to help in getting zoos to work together internationally for wildlife conservation and high welfare standards.

Building a Future for Wildlife: The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy- to help zoos and zoo visitors understand animals and protect them in South Asia (2006) Dollinger P & Walker S (Eds). ISBN 81-88722-15-4. 21 pages, A4. Published by the World Association for Zoos and Aquariums, the Zoo Outreach Organisation and the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation. Available from the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation; www.zooreach.org

J Kirkwood

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NC3Rs Guidelines on Primate Accommodation, Care and Use

The UK’s National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), in partnership with the Medical Research Council, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and the Association of Medical Research Charities, has produced new guidelines on the accommodation, care and use of non-human primates used in research which is funded by these organisations or their member charities (see details below). These guidelines set out best practice in the use of primates in biomedical, biological, veterinary and behavioural research.

In the introduction it is made clear that researchers and their host establishments are responsible for applying the guidelines and it is recommended that institutional ethical review processes (ERPs) should be central to their implementation. The booklet includes sections on the source of primates, experimental design, accommodation and environment, capture, handling, restraint and training, veterinary care, staff, fate of animals, and implementing the 3Rs. There are four pages of references.

This is a neatly produced and illustrated piece of work. The guidelines are clearly laid-out, numbered, and stated pithily and unambiguously. Amongst the points that are likely to help drive progress in this field are in the section on ‘Implementing the 3Rs’: “Developments in the 3Rs should be widely disseminated to colleagues and peers, ideally through publication...” and “The funding bodies encourage their researchers to work with animal welfare

scientists and ethologists to develop a programme of primate welfare research”.

These guidelines will be useful to all primate researchers. For some, they will be required reading because questions on compliance with them may be asked as part of the peer review process for grant applications.

NC3Rs Guidelines on Primate Accommodation, Care and Use (August 2006.) A5, 21 pages. Published by National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research, 20 Park Crescent, London W1B 1AL, UK. www.nc3rs.org.uk

J Kirkwood

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