

in many cases where there is a welfare problem, investigations are at least getting somewhat nearer to finding the solutions. With the current enthusiasm in agriculture for yet more new and environmentally and welfare friendly systems, a continuation and expansion of welfare work will be called for. There is, however, a need for more co-ordination amongst the researchers and investigations in order to prevent duplication of efforts and ensure a concentration on the most important issues.

Credit is due to the editors Paul Koene and Harry Blokhuis for putting together a publication of a very high standard. It would be worth study not only by research workers and welfare interests in general, but also by the poultry farmer and those designing and building poultry equipment.

D W B Sainsbury
Cambridge, UK

FAB Cat Rescue Manual

Anne Haughie (1998). Feline Advisory Bureau: Tisbury. 104pp. Paperback. Obtainable from FAB, Taeselbury, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6AD, UK (ISBN 0953394204). Price £15.00 (plus £1.50 post and packing in the UK and £5.00 post and packing overseas).

Despite the recent increase in popularity of the domestic cat as a companion animal in many countries, the number of stray, abandoned, feral and unwanted cats and kittens continues to increase, leading to an ever-growing demand on the resources of animal rescue organizations. The *Cat Rescue Manual*, published by the Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB), is the first of its kind to appear in the UK. It brings together information on all aspects of cat rescue work, with the aim of improving the welfare of cats which come into contact with rescue organizations, as well as safeguarding the health and sanity of those involved in caring for these cats.

The first four chapters serve as a detailed introduction to the subject, covering such topics as what is meant by 'rescue' (some cats may be better off left where they are), things to consider before you start (such as the effects of one's rescue work on one's family commitments), and how to enlist the help of others and get organized. The next four chapters deal on a very practical level with the accommodation requirements of cats (including the legal regulations), the vitally important topic of disease control within the rescue facility, how to assess the health (physical and mental) of cats – and the particular needs of 'special category' cats (such as the pregnant or elderly). Three chapters cover management aspects such as acceptance and homing procedures, fostering cats and the special requirements of kittens. The twelfth chapter gives advice to the animal carer on how to cope with people's expectations, how to manage stress and avoid 'burn-out'. The penultimate chapter serves as an introduction to the main legislation of relevance to cat rescue work, and the final chapter offers ideas on fund-raising and marketing. A *Code of Practice* which sets out an agreed minimum standard of care for cat welfare and rescue organizations, is also presented, as well as a list of books for further reading and some addresses of organizations connected with animal care.

This manual presents a vast amount of material on all aspects of cat rescue in a clear, concise and practical way. The need for human carers to develop a sense of humour, adopt a common-sense approach – and even have some fun while helping rescued cats is also successfully conveyed. Every reader should be able to select the information that is

particularly relevant to his/her own situation, and hopefully this will lead to further improvements and refinements in the working practices of cat rescue organizations. My only quibbles are with some of the photographs, where a profusion of pots and flowers makes it difficult to see the cat rescue facility behind the floral display; and on p 17, one veterinary surgeon seems to be operating on two cats simultaneously!

It would be extremely gratifying if this publication could serve as a catalyst for introducing legislation on compulsory standards of care for animal rescue organizations, as well as encouraging debate and dialogue on how best to tackle the ever-increasing problem of unwanted animals in our communities.

Irene Rochlitz
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK

Anthropomorphism, Anecdotes, and Animals

Edited by R W Mitchell, N S Thompson and H L Miles (1997). State University of New York Press: Albany. 518pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, State University Plaza, Albany, New York, NY 12246, USA (ISBN 0791431266). Price US\$21.95.

Anthropomorphism: is it bad, is it inevitable, is it useful? Moreover what actually is it? On these questions, scientists in the field of animal behaviour and welfare hold very different views. The term has something to do with our human perspective on the world, and on animals in particular, but how trustworthy that perspective is remains a cause for heated debate. For some it is trivial that we have a human perspective, for others it is a threat to science, while for yet others it is a legitimate way to approach and know the world. Thus, where you stand on anthropomorphism appears to be related to your views on measurement and scientific objectivity, and these are not easy issues to resolve.

Many fields of scientific research appear not to be overly bothered that a human perspective may underlie measurement, even though perhaps they should. When students in an organic chemistry class were instructed to use 'molecular anthropomorphism' to describe the behaviour of molecules, their scientific understanding of molecular mechanisms actually *improved* (Miller 1992). Nevertheless, we take for granted that molecules do not actually get angry or frustrated, so in this case the distinction between reality and creative fun is easy to make. In case of animals, however, the reality of their feelings matters greatly, and is precisely the point of debate. Radical behaviourists perhaps thought they had the debate dead and buried; however, with the publication of *The Question of Animal Awareness* (Griffin 1976), it re-emerged into mainstream science. The crucial question is: can we come to know an animal's perspective as it really is, or will our human bias always be in the way? This question is pertinent for many different fields – but especially that of animal welfare.

Reading *Anthropomorphism, Anecdotes and Animals* is an excellent way of digging into this question. This book presents a vast range of different perspectives on the problem of anthropomorphism and its many facets. The aim of the editors was to provide a forum for open-minded and thoughtful discussion, rather than to mould the different views into a structured theoretical framework. Thus in 29 chapters, animal behaviour experts, philosophers, psychologists, historians and anthropologists argue their individual views. The result is a highly interesting, stimulating and provocative overview of socio-cultural and historical perspectives, philosophical principles, and various kinds of behavioural evidence. The reader cannot be left unmoved to contemplate his or her own approach.