

first name; date; title; edition; complete information on where published; page numbers; ISBN/ISSN and web address.)

A Bibliography of References to Husbandry and Veterinary Guidelines for Animals in Zoological Collections. Compiled by Alastair A Macdonald and Nicola Charlton (2000). The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland: London. 61pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, UK; and conservation.fedzoo@zsl.org (ISSN 1470-7322). Price details on application.

The use of animals in research, testing and teaching

The *Animal Welfare Act 1999*, recently enacted by New Zealand, legislates for the prevention of ill-treatment and inadequate care of animals (see, *Animal Welfare 9*: 208-209 for further comment on the Act). Part 6 of the new Act relates to the use of animals in research, testing and teaching (for the purposes of the Act, an 'animal' means any vertebrate and any octopus, squid, crab, lobster or crayfish). As is now accepted practice, the 3Rs of reduction, refinement and replacement inform Part 6 of the Act and this Guide to it – which aims to assist those individuals and organizations whose activities fall within the remit of Part 6.

The Guide gives advice on the processes by which a Code of Ethical Conduct (basically a licence) can be developed and approved and how the Animal Ethics Committees (AECs), required by the Act to scrutinize and approve all procedures and projects, should operate. This includes how the AECs must be formed and monitored. It is now a requirement under the new Act that AECs must be satisfied that the benefits of the procedure outweigh any harm before they allow work to start and that at least three members of the committee must come from outside the organizations under consideration. The Guide instructs which procedures are covered by the new Act, and which can be regarded as exempt. It also deals with the exceptions that apply to non-human hominids (ie gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos or orangutans). For these animals, any assessment of benefit must be confined to the individual or species – benefits to humans cannot be taken in to account when deciding whether a procedure is acceptable or not. This is a first for a piece of national legislation. Finally, the text of Part 6 of the Act is listed. The Guide is undoubtedly essential to anyone working in this area in New Zealand, and will prove of interest to those in other countries who are involved in amending their own legislation and drafting guidelines.

The Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching. Users' Guide to Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policy Information Paper 33. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2000). 58pp. Paperback. Obtainable from, The Information Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Head Office, ASB House, 101-103 The Terrace, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand; and www.maf.govt.nz/AnimalWelfare (ISBN 047820065x/ISSN 1171-4654). Free.

UK Government activity and targets in farm animal welfare

In line with the UK Government's commitment to greater transparency and openness, both the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) have recently published the second of their annual reports on their activities and future targets. The *MAFF Business Plan* lists the aims and objectives of the government department and its progress with the delivery of the 10 objectives. Objective 8 for MAFF is 'To ensure that farmed animals and fish are protected by high welfare standards and do not suffer unnecessary pain or distress'. To this end, MAFF reports that it has reduced the incidence of unnecessary pain or distress by investigating 94 per cent of reports of poor farm animal welfare within one working day. The second target they list, which they are still working towards, is to introduce a new system for monitoring farm animal welfare and to use it to target cases of poor welfare.