

## REPORTS AND COMMENTS

### Good shooting practice

In 1989 the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the British Field Sports Society and The Game Conservancy Trust produced between them, *The Code of Good Shooting Practice*. This has now been reissued in a 1994/5 amended edition.

The Code is based on the principle:

'Rearing and releasing of game for shooting should only be done in order to provide a sufficient stock of healthy game, fully adapted to the wild, which can be sustained without damage to the environment or to the wild stock.'

And on the so-called Four Golden Rules which follow from this principle:

- 1 Game husbandry shall be conducted with all due consideration for the health and welfare of the birds concerned.
- 2 No more birds shall be released in an area of woodland, game cover, or pond than can be sustained without significantly damaging the environment, including farm crops, or leading to detriment in the health of the birds.
- 3 No birds shall be released after the start of annual shooting in the area concerned and they shall not be shot until they are fully adult and well adapted to the wild.
- 4 No bird previously released shall subsequently be caught up during its shooting season for re-release during that season.

It can be argued that it is perhaps inappropriate to use the word welfare when, for sporting purposes, animals are being reared, released and then shot. The shooters, however, maintain – not perhaps without some justification – that most game birds may have a better life and a cleaner, quicker death than many farmed poultry.

Field sports – if they are to continue – must be carried out in a reasonable and disciplined way. The close following of the recommendations in this Code should help to ensure that these requirements are met.

***The Code of Good Shooting Practice: (1994/95) edition.*** Produced and published by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, British Field Sports Society and The Game Conservancy Trust. 12pp. Paperback. Obtainable from BFSS, 59 Kensington Road, London SE1 7PZ (send sae).

### Animals and medical research: discussion packs

Fifteen of the UK's largest medical charities have banded together to produce two discussion packs aimed at helping teachers to introduce the animal rights/animal welfare/biomedical research controversy to school discussion groups. One pack *Animal Rights and Medical Research* is directed towards sixth formers and other advanced students, whilst the other entitled *Difficult Choices* is intended for use with pupils aged 12 or older in their Research and Social Education (PSE) and/or English and Religious Education classes. Both packs are well produced and largely succeed in presenting their material in an interesting, straightforward and balanced manner.

The sixth form pack has five topic sheets covering *Ethics, Alternatives, Drug Side-Effects, Cures and Treatments, and Species Difference*. There is one page of Teachers Notes for the topic sheet on ethics and there is a list of contact addresses of organizations opposing or supporting medical research involving animals. UFAW is listed in the 'middle' *Animal Welfare Charities* section – the other two 'extreme' sections are the *Animal Rights Groups* and the *Medical Research and Patients Organisations*.