

and welfare of pigs during extended journeys'; 'Welfare implications of outdoor breeding systems'; and 'Handling of broilers: a welfare audit'. The book is a useful source of information on a variety of practical farm animal welfare issues of current importance in the UK and elsewhere.

Practical Solutions to Practical Problems: Practical Farm Animal Research. Cambac JMA Research (1997). Cambac JMA Research: Wiltshire. 80pp. Paperback (ring-bound). Obtainable from the publishers, Manor Farm, Draycot Cerne, Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5LD, UK. Price £20.

Quarantine for pets

Since 1901, protection from rabies in the UK has been based on the quarantining of potential carrier animals, including domestic pets, on import into the UK. In view of the development of possible alternative methods of control (for some types of animals), notably advances in vaccination against rabies, the Government has launched a scientific review of the current policy. This document provides the background to the assessment of possible alternatives to quarantining to be undertaken by independent scientists. It makes clear that there should be no changes to the present arrangements, if these would increase the likelihood of rabies entering the UK.

The document briefly outlines the present rabies controls in the UK, and in other Member States of the European Union (EU). It presents views from the public, the House of Commons Select Committee (1994) and from the Government itself, and identifies six main options to be assessed. These are: (i) make no change; (ii) reduce the period of quarantine; (iii) allow exemption from quarantine for animals for which reliable assurances can be obtained; (iv) as for (iii), but with checks to be carried out at approved centres away from entry points; (v) replace quarantine with vaccination; and (vi), as for (v), but also with vaccination of all dogs resident in the UK. There has been concern about the welfare of pet animals in quarantine which exemption would clearly address. Meanwhile, the Government indicates in this report that it would like to put the *Voluntary Code of Practice on the Welfare of Dogs and Cats in Quarantine Premises* on a statutory basis, and will be publishing a list of premises that have agreed to abide by the voluntary code.

The assessment is unlikely to be concluded before early 1998 and, following its publication, there will be a full public consultation. The Government will also discuss the position with other EU Member States.

Quarantine for Pets. A discussion document. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department; Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland; Welsh Office Agriculture Department (1997). MAFF: London. 18pp. Paperback. Obtainable from MAFF Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX. Free.

Government Response to the Farm Animal Welfare Council Report on the Welfare of Pigs Kept Outdoors

Following consultations on the UK Farm Animal Welfare Council's (May 1996) report on the welfare of pigs kept outdoors, the Government has now published its response. This commends FAWC's recommendations to the industry.

In the introductory paragraphs the Government indicates its stance by making the following points: that the achievement and maintenance of high animal welfare standards in

the UK and throughout Europe is a high priority for the Government; that when EC Directive 91/630 is revised in late 1997 the Government will press for higher welfare standards to be adopted throughout the European Community; and that the Government intends to prepare a revised welfare code for pigs which will take full account of FAWC's recommendations. FAWC's recommendations will also be taken into account when commissioning the Government's research and advisory programmes.

For the most part, the Government's report follows and supports the FAWC line closely. It agrees with FAWC that non-therapeutic mutilation (tail-docking and tooth-clipping) should not be carried out routinely and will be seeking to bring about a reduction in the use of these procedures. It also agrees that there is little, from the welfare perspective, to justify nose-ringing and will recommend against this practice. As regards FAWC's recommendation about modification of set-aside rules – to enable tenant farmers to enter set-aside land in the autumn rather than in January (which is often the worst time, in welfare terms, for moving pigs) – the Government has already received clarification from the European Union that pigs may be put on set-aside from 1st September 1997. However, with regard to FAWC's recommendation that research is commissioned to establish the age at which pigs are best suited (from various perspectives) for weaning, the Government does not propose to fund research on this topic and sees no reason to change from the current 3-week minimum age indicated in the *Welfare of Livestock Regulations (1994)*.

A revised welfare code for pigs is to be prepared (by MAFF) and will be the subject of a full consultation process before being presented to Parliament for approval.

Government Response to the Farm Animal Welfare Council Report on the Welfare of Pigs Kept Outdoors. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, UK (1997). Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: London. 21pp. Paperback. Obtainable from MAFF Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX, UK. Free.

Transport of live animals by air

The latest edition of the IATA *Live Animals Regulations* (effective from 1st October 1997) contains a considerable amount of new material. This includes information on European Union (EU) requirements for the importation of livestock, the handling of shipments, and specific handling procedures for deer. It also contains fully updated information on relevant codes, guidelines and lists, such as CITES Appendices, health and hygiene requirements for personnel, and lists of EU border inspection posts. There are chapters on application of the regulations – specifying shippers' and carriers' responsibilities, government and carrier regulations, reservations, animal behaviour (including matters such as disturbance, segregation, sedation and euthanasia), marking and labelling, and handling procedures. A large part of the book is devoted to detailing requirements for the construction of containers for specific animals (of a wide range of vertebrate and invertebrate species) together with specific information on preparations before despatch, feeding and watering, and general care and loading.

The regulations are accepted by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). The book is absolutely essential for anyone involved in transporting live animals by air – and a very valuable source of information on live animal transport in general. It is an excellent manual.