

human well-being is often a more pressing need. Under the title 'European certification schemes for animal welfare and the veterinary profession', I Ekesbo reviews the then current formal animal welfare commitments of veterinary schools and universities around the developed world, listing chairs, centres and courses. There was a great deal more going on than many people realized – and a great deal less than most of those who wished to promote animal welfare and animal ethics awareness wished. Subsequently, there have been further significant developments in this arena. Lastly, in his paper on 'UK law and European directives', David Wilkins points to a distinct difference between bases for decision making during the formulation of European Union legislation and the declared motivation of the Council of Europe: the first being primarily economic and political in orientation, and the second including a commitment to promoting human values throughout Europe. The first has evidently given little impetus to animal welfare promotion, whereas the second has been more effective via Council of Europe Directives.

In the final section addressing 'The ethical limits of care', Wendy Harrison gives 'A student's view' and Barbara Cooper provides 'The veterinary nurse's perspective'. The former paper is an example of how the questioning and altruism of students can help move professional matters forward, albeit slowly, and of how the inertia of established practices is a problem for each generation. The latter paper examines the role of veterinary nurses in terms of their formal remit. It then provides some personal reflections on issues of concern, including balancing economics with animal care and client preferences with the animals' interests, before considering some difficulties which may occur with veterinarian-nurse interactions when animal welfare issues arise. It was a deliberate decision of the organizers that senior veterinary students and veterinary nurses, who are often acutely aware of the dilemmas of balancing clinical feasibility with ethical desirability, should have the last word in this symposium.

Unfortunately, in an informative, challenging and useful collection of papers, a high proportion of which are quite outstanding, there were an irritating number of trivial spelling, typographical and grammatical errors. Nevertheless, the content enhances understanding, provides breadth and encourages us to think freshly about the role of veterinarians and others in the multifaceted domain of animal welfare and its national and international promotion.

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Proceedings of the Fifth European Symposium on Poultry Welfare 1997

Edited by P Koene and H J Blokhuis (1997). Wageningen Agricultural University and the Institute of Animal Science and Health: The Netherlands. 234pp. Hardback. Obtainable from P Koene, Wageningen Agricultural University, P O Box 338, 6700 AH Wageningen, The Netherlands; or H Blokhuis, Institute for Animal Science and Health, ID-DLO, PO Box 65, Lelystad, The Netherlands (ISBN 9007574868). Price DFL75.00.

This report of the Fifth European Symposium on Poultry Welfare is a fascinating update on the current investigations into poultry welfare taking place at various European centres.

The first symposium was held in 1977 and it is significant that after 20 years of quite intensive work in an assortment of European countries we are not really very much nearer solving the main welfare problems in poultry. Just as fast as new methods of keeping poultry emerge, so new welfare problems are produced. In addition, plenty of the older 'traditional' problems still remain. There are several papers dealing with the hoary old, but very serious,

problems of feather and vent pecking, cannibalism and beak trimming. Yet still there is no complete solution, no total answer to these difficulties which crop up in most systems of poultry keeping.

More work is reported on investigations into stocking densities and group numbers. This work continues to show the strong biological benefits of giving birds more space and keeping them in smaller groups, in floor systems; but the situation is much more complex when it comes to cages for layers – and when birds in these systems have more space some good and some bad things result. This reviewer's contention has always been that, however much you amend a cage, it is really a complete 'non-starter' from the welfare aspect – and perhaps the industry should face up to this conclusion. As the contributions in this volume show, it is not as if there aren't a whole raft of alternatives – even though, it must be admitted, none is quite as good in terms of productivity as the cage system.

The coverage of the symposium was very wide. The papers on the interface between genetics and welfare were very welcome. There are encouraging signs that rewarding results will be obtained by selecting poultry with a principal welfare criteria. For example, leg weakness in broilers is a problem with great welfare implications and, while selection is not the only route towards solving this defect, it almost certainly offers the best long-term solution, along with helpful management, nutritional and veterinary attention. This is a further good example of the complexity of welfare problems – they just do not have the simple solutions that the welfarists often imagine.

It is also good to see the results reported of a survey of consumers' perception of poultry systems. The survey, which was conducted in Great Britain, suggests that people in that country would be willing to pay a significant amount more to support legislation that phased out the use of cages in egg production in the European Union (EU). The public's willingness to pay apparently outweighs the extra costs of producing eggs without using cages. Thus, it would seem that the perceived benefits of legislation are greater than the costs. Unfortunately in the context of EU legislation, the perceptions and wants of citizens from all the other EU member states need to be considered, making progress towards legislation unlikely. The report is most interesting but it still suggests that we are a long way from being able to replace cages, although they are part of a system which is abhorred by many and is probably very harmful to the public image of the poultry industry. Regrettably, the public tends to be badly informed and believe that most chickens of all types are kept in cages.

There is a very useful combined report on the welfare of laying hens presented by workers from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This presents a concise summary of the current situation and is commended to the reader.

No reader of poultry welfare is left out. There are major contributions on the scientific assessment of housing systems, stress and immunology, large-scale killing methods, and the measurement of preferences. I am quite certain that the objectives of the symposium have been admirably achieved: to increase awareness of poultry welfare issues, to disseminate knowledge of research results, to draw attention to current research and to identify gaps in knowledge and, thereby, influence future research. In practical terms too, there is plenty in the symposium of a practical nature and real efforts were clearly made to promote the valid application of the work reported to the actual management and housing of poultry. There is also invaluable information on new techniques and methodologies used in the study of poultry welfare.

The publication is commended to all those interested in current progress on poultry welfare topics and it shows that a great deal of useful work is being done. It can be seen that

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.

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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