

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

New Zealand animal transport

The New Zealand *Animal Welfare Advisory Committee* – a body similar in status and function to the UK Farm Animal Welfare Council, but covering all domesticated animals – has, over the years, published a number of *Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals*.

In November 1994 a Code was issued on the welfare of animals transported within New Zealand. This substantial 32 page document covers air, road, train and sea transport of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, deer, horses, poultry, zoo and circus animals, feral and wild animals and dogs. There are special sections on legal and general responsibilities, on loading, feeding and watering, on minimizing stress, on the transport of pregnant animals and on emergency euthanasia.

The climate of New Zealand is not very different from the UK and the culture, the legal system and the traditions of the people are essentially the same as those found in the British Isles. It is therefore not surprising that the general thrust of the Code is similar to that found in UK equivalents and much of the detailed information is relevant to the UK transport situation.

In the New Zealand Codes, however, there is greater emphasis on stocking densities for all classes of stock. There is also a clear recommendation that mature ruminants should be watered at least once every 12 hours and that non-ruminants and young animals should be watered at least once every 8 hours. Mature animals are to be fed every 24 hours and the interval between feedings for young animals must not be more than 12 hours.

This valuable document should be in the hands of all those working to improve the welfare of animals being transported for whatever purpose. There are many good points in the New Zealand Codes which could be incorporated into the UK transport guidelines.

Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand. Produced and published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries: Wellington (1994). 32pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, ASB Bank House, 101–103 The Terrace, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Price NZ\$5.*

Footnote: All the NZ Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Codes (see *Animal Welfare* 1995 p 64) are now NZ\$5 each.

Dairy cattle lameness

It is estimated that, on average, some 30 per cent of dairy cows in the UK become lame each year. This common disease not only causes pain and distress to the cows themselves, it is also an economic drain on the whole dairy industry.

As an aid to help farmers deal with the problem, the Dalgety Dairy Herd Health and Productivity Service has prepared, as part of Dalgety Agriculture Ltd's Management Guide series of publications, a clear and well written 12 page booklet on lameness in dairy cows. Emphasis is put on understanding the causes – and especially the husbandry causes – of the condition. The treatment, control and prevention then follow logically. The advice given in this publication should – if widely taken up – go a long way towards reducing the incidence of this troublesome and largely preventable condition.

Lameness in Dairy Cows. Dalgety Dairy Herd Health and Productivity Service (1994). Dalgety on Farm Management Services: Bristol. Management Guide D9/94. 12pp. Obtainable from the publishers, 180 Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS12 4TH, UK. Price £3.