

The report considers a number of other animal welfare issues, such as the degree of suffering that animals are likely to undergo during xenotransplantation procedures, the risk of mutated pathogens infecting animals and whether it is ethically acceptable to genetically modify a pig. The report's conclusion that it is acceptable to genetically modify a pig providing that there is a concomitant benefit to humans and that the pig neither suffers unduly nor ceases to recognisably be a pig, raises some interesting questions of definition!

Finally, it is good news that the Government has accepted the recommendation in the report that there should be a National Committee (the UK Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority (UKXIRA) chaired by Lord Habgood of Calverton) to oversee xenotransplantation and that such a committee should be backed by legislation.

Animal-to-Human Transplants: the Ethics of Xenotransplantation (1996). Nuffield Council on Bioethics: London. 147pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EG, UK (ISBN 0 9522701). Price £10.00 including postage and packing within Europe.

Animal Tissue into Humans. A Report by the Advisory Group on the Ethics of Xenotransplantation 1996. The Stationery Office: London. 258pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT, UK (ISBN 011 32866 4). Price £25.00.

Farmed fish welfare

This report covers the welfare of farmed salmon and trout with some brief references to carp. The report is the published findings of a study carried out by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) to provide advice to Ministers on the development of a Council of Europe Recommendation about the welfare of farmed fish.

The report is in 13 sections and deals with all aspects of fish farming beginning at structure of the industry and site selection. Production-related issues such as feeding, stockmanship and inspection, disease and veterinary care, predators, genetics and slaughter are subsequently covered. At the end of each section there are a series of recommendations of relevance to the welfare of salmon and trout which summarize the main points of the section. A 'quick reference' guide to the main recommendations of the report is also provided. Five appendices are presented which provide information on the FAWC, bodies which gave assistance to the report and also include a glossary of terms, a list of fish diseases and parasites and a full list of references.

This is a detailed report on all aspects of fish farming which contains good, practical recommendations on welfare. Fish have the capacity to experience both stress and pain and guidelines to protect the welfare of these animals, in what is a comparatively recent development in farming, are welcome.

Report on the Welfare of Farmed Fish. Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) (1996). Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: London. 52pp. Paperback. Obtainable from FAWC, Government Buildings, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NF, UK. Free.

Humane control of vertebrate pests

As the editors of this recently-published proceedings point out in their introduction 'The practice of controlling animals perceived as threats to human or environmental interests is uniquely placed on an intersection of various ethical, scientific, economic, social and