

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Game rearing practice

In 1989 Britain's leading game shooting organizations joined forces to produce the *Code of Good Shooting Practice*. Its purpose was to set out an agreed standard to which shooters should adhere. Amongst the many issues addressed in the Code was that of the release of hand-reared game birds, but little was said about the actual rearing of the birds themselves. This omission has now largely been remedied through the publication of *The Code of Good Game Rearing Practice* by The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, The British Field Sports Society, The Game Conservancy Trust and the Game Farmers Association. This small booklet covers the care, husbandry, handling and health of game birds being reared for subsequent release into the wild. It is essentially a series of guidelines based on the principle that 'Game husbandry shall be conducted with all due consideration for the health and welfare of the birds concerned'.

The rearing of game birds, their release and the subsequent shooting of many of them for sport has been much criticized by many animal welfarists. If, however, it is going to be done it should be done well. Following the guidance in this booklet should at least ensure that the health and well-being of the birds is seriously considered during the rearing process.

The Code of Good Game Rearing Practice Produced and published by The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, The British Field Sports Society, The Game Conservancy Trust and The Game Farmers Association (1994). 12pp. Paperback. Obtainable free from any of the four organizations.

Proceedings of ANZCCART conference

In April 1994 the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) held a conference at the School of Medicine, Christchurch (NZ) on '*Animal Welfare in the Twenty-First Century: Ethical, Educational and Scientific Challenges*'. The proceedings volume, containing the printed texts of the papers given at this important meeting, has now been published. The subjects covered ranged from 'Ethical challenges' (one paper), through 'Educational challenges' (seven papers), Scientific challenges (five papers), Challenges posed by the three Rs' (five papers) to 'Protecting the New Zealand Environment – vertebrate pest control'. For details of some of the paper titles see the notice on page 2.

To quote words in the last paragraph of D J Mellor's *Introduction* to this proceedings volume: '*Ethical, educational and scientific issues were raised, directly and indirectly, in most of the papers presented at this conference. The conference itself was most thought provoking. It also demonstrated the strength and diversity of animal welfare thinking and expertise to which we in Australia and New Zealand have access. These proceedings . . . will be a valuable addition to the library of anyone with an interest in animal welfare, whether that interest is predominantly professional, private or political, commercial or recreational, educational or investigatory, or is designed to support, modify or ban some current practices involving animal use in our society.*'

Animal Welfare in the Twenty-first Century: Ethical, Educational and Scientific Challenges. Edited by Robert R Baker, David J Mellor and Alistair M Nicol (1994). ANZCCART: Glen Osmond (Australia). 129pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, PO Box 19, Glen Osmond SA, 5064, Australia (ISBN 0 9590540 6 5). Price A\$20.