

committees or activities of the Animal Procedures Committee are mentioned briefly if at all. Much of this part addresses similar ground to the HMSO publication 'Guidance on the operation of the *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986*' which bears Home Office authority and has been approved by parliament. The authors have elaborated on some of the important issues and direct the reader to further reading. References are arranged by chapter and although most are up-to-date and well chosen, it was distracting to find several re-listed under different chapter headings. The bibliography will be of interest to those working with laboratory animals not only in the UK, but also elsewhere. P A Duffy's chapter on alternatives to animal procedures is brief but very well referenced.

A book of this length cannot be comprehensive, but failure to provide a balanced view of the Act could leave serious gaps in the new licensee's understanding.

Part two comprises three chapters addressing experimental design. These are well chosen and are presented vigorously, if somewhat theoretically. Chapter 6 addresses statistical design in a succinct and very pertinent way although I was rather disappointed by the choice of references which support it.

A more serious omission is the lack of discussion on the background to legislation and its ethical framework. Although mention is made of humane end-points and severity banding, considerably more guidance is appropriate on how these should be assessed and how pain, suffering and distress could be minimized by careful consideration of protocol.

The book itself suffers from attempting to achieve too much in too short a space and I had difficulty in deciding to whom it was addressed. Part one would be of value to intending personal licensees and would form useful supplementary reading to training courses. The second part appears to be addressed to intending project licence holders for whom formal training is still at a relatively early stage. Mr O'Donoghue's excellent article on the European perception of competence, while of general interest, would be of particular value to those establishing training courses and for holders of Certificates of Designation. There is something in this book for everybody. If used on training courses for new licensees it should be supported with carefully chosen additional material. Intending project licence holders should be more thoroughly acquainted with the law than this book pre-supposes but it does contain useful meat - perhaps the starter to a grander repast!

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Deer

Norma Chapman (1991). Whittet Books Limited: London. 136pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 18 Anley Road, London W14 0BY, UK (ISBN 0 905483 88 X) Price £6.95.

Assuming that you have an interest in deer, and a spare £6.95, and cannot answer questions such as 'what is a hart?', 'what is the difference between a huemal and a

hummel?', 'which is the only deer species (if a deer species it really is) that has a gall bladder?' and 'how many red deer are believed to exist in Scotland at the present time?', then this is the book for you.

The Whittet Books series offers accurate, up-to-date and lively accounts of British wild animals. Invariably the authors express their enthusiasm and provide the reader with ideas for observing or conserving particular species or animal groups. Norma Chapman's book is no exception. Written for the non-specialist, anyone would learn something new about deer in Britain from this book - can you, for example, answer correctly all the questions posed in the previous paragraph?

Deer have been observed, hunted and celebrated continuously since the Mesolithic culture period (and intermittently from much earlier). In more recent times they have also been a recreational resource. Inevitably there are bound to be conflicts between hunting and non-hunting usage of deer, and between deer and people. This book goes a long way towards interpreting how humans interact with deer; it is easy to read, factual and topical.

There are 26 main sections. They range in length from the little over half a page 'Longevity' section, where rumours of Monarchs of the Glen living in excess of three decades are quickly dispelled, to the 28 page long section on 'Who's who in Britain', where potted life histories of all the species in Britain - wild or feral - are described. The text is profusely illustrated with apt and accurate (and sometimes humorous) sketches by Diana E Brown.

As an introduction to deer in Britain, this book is difficult to criticize. It fills a niche not currently occupied by other books. Rory Putman's *The Natural History of Deer* is probably too heavy going for aspiring and inexperienced deer watchers, and other non-specialist books are either out of date or confined to one species (such as Norma Chapman's booklet *Fallow Deer*).

The need for good communication between managers of deer populations, deer biologists and the public has never been greater than at the present time. For example, the reasons for culling wild deer; the problem of picked-up 'orphaned' fawns; the welfare of farmed or emparked deer, and the prevention of regeneration of woodlands are all topics for which information should be more freely available. Managers could do no better than take a few leaves out of this book and incorporate them into the interpretative displays about deer that are needed by the public. This book should be on sale at an appropriate outlet anywhere that deer and the public meet on a regular basis.

References

- Chapman N 1984 *Fallow Deer*. Mammal Society Publications: Bristol
Putman R 1988 *The Natural History of Deer*. Christopher Helm: Bromley
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