

In reality such practices may occur, although ultimately, as the booklet describes, 'it is the consumer who dictates the shape of the industry' with pressure on producers to provide vast quantities of meat at 'trash-cheap' prices.

Whilst there can be no excuse for causing unnecessary cruelty, it should be made clear that this is one-sided propaganda made by an animal rights organization intending to shock the consumer into rejecting poultry. It cannot be denied that the industry does indeed have difficulties in producing such large volumes of cut-price birds under ideal welfare conditions. However, whilst this video and booklet bring the issues to the public's attention, they do little to solve the real welfare problems or ultimately improve the practical situation for the birds.

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***Research Animal Anesthesia, Analgesia and Surgery***

Edited by Alison C Smith and M Michael Swindle (1994). Scientists Center for Animal Welfare: Greenbelt. 170pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Golden Triangle Building One, 7833 Walker Drive, Suite 340, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, USA. Price US\$55, three or more US\$35.

These collected papers are the proceedings of a conference organized by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, in Atlanta, in 1994. Their rapid publication means that the majority of the papers are refreshingly up-to-date, providing a timely review of their respective fields. The proceedings do not attempt to provide a comprehensive text on anaesthesia, analgesia and surgery, but focus on specific subject areas. The main body of the book comprises a series of papers dealing with anaesthesia on a species by species basis. The approach of each author varies, but all have provided concise reviews of the relevant literature. I particularly liked the section on dog and cat anaesthesia, which departs from the conventional approach to the subject by providing a series of case-studies to illustrate the major factors involved in developing humane and effective anaesthetic regimens. In addition to more familiar laboratory species, brief consideration is also given to fish, birds, reptiles and amphibia. Each of the species papers provides useful dose rate tables, although as with any such listing, the data provided should be used with care, given the considerable strain variation in drug responses which can occur amongst laboratory species.

The species specific sections are augmented by a number of more general reviews. Concise guidance on intraoperative monitoring and coping with cardiopulmonary complications and emergencies is included. The physiologic effects of anaesthetics and analgesics are reviewed by Professor Heavner, who provides some interesting examples of the comparative effects of different anaesthetic regimens on body systems. A further general review examines the problem of pain and distress in animals, and additional practical guidance on this topic is given in a summary of the main considerations for post-surgical care of animals.

The book does not restrict itself to mainstream or conventional topics. Contributions on laparoscopic surgery training courses, cardiopulmonary bypass and xenotransplantation are included. I found the latter review particularly interesting since it addresses some of the ethical issues involved, rather than concentrating solely on the technical aspects of the subject.

The paper describing the evolution of a policy concerning standards for experimental surgery also makes interesting and instructive reading. The setbacks and frustrations involved in trying to develop a consensus view on such a controversial topic are outlined succinctly, and should be read by anyone involved in similar committee work. Even if it fails to provide shortcuts or solutions, it will at least reassure the reader that their problems are not unique. In addition, the description of the consultative process and the reactions of the various interested parties allows an insight into some of the practical difficulties involved when dealing with animal welfare issues.

Inevitably the proceedings view the various topics from a North American perspective, but this does not detract significantly from their value to a wider audience. As mentioned earlier, the contributions are not comprehensive, but provide useful summaries and are well referenced, enabling the reader to pursue particular topics further. The adoption of modern methods of anaesthesia and high standards of perioperative care represents an important refinement of our use of laboratory animals. These proceedings represent a significant contribution to this aspect of the welfare of laboratory animals, are good value for money, and provide a useful source of information on a range of anaesthesia related topics.

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***Fair Game: The Law of Country Sports and the Protection of Wildlife, New revised edition.*** Charlie Parkes and John Thornley (1994). Pelham Books: London. 287pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, 27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ, UK (ISBN 0 7207 2030 3). Price £13.99.

The presentation of this book is excellent – encouraging both use and ownership. The illustrations, often useful in elucidating the text but otherwise compelling illuminations, ensure that the work is teeming with the romance of the countryside. With its carefully written text and its aesthetic appeal; the book is at home hidden amongst the ponderous volumes of Halsbury's Statutes Law of England and yet it would sit happily on a kitchen shelf wedged between cookery books and guides to birds and wild flowers, blazing with hand-painted illustrations. Add an old pair of binoculars and some dried flowers and the image is complete! The book is stated to be a 'Guide for the lay person' but it is also an extremely useful practitioner's map and quick reference textbook; dealing with a subject virtually untouched (in one volume) by other writers.

The authors venture into the subject matter bravely. At the time of writing this review, the field sports versus animal welfare debate is polarized as another Wild Mammals Bill is being debated in Parliament; the wealth of feeling aroused by this debate demonstrates the difficulties faced by those who venture to explore this sensitive area. Nevertheless, the writers, both policemen, follow their overriding mandate to uphold the law as it is and deal with a sensitive subject with admirable objectivity.

The authors are specifically involved in police wildlife liaison – an activity which contributes much to the effective enforcement of the law relating to both the welfare and conservation of wild animals. The book not only demonstrates their knowledge of the relevant law but also their wealth of experience as they often go beyond the obvious letter of the law and the complex codes and regulations, to look at the recommended practices and views of