

problems and offers some ideas towards their resolution. It will be of interest to all those concerned with the welfare and ethical aspects of wildlife management and research.

The Use of Wildlife for Research. Proceedings of the Conference Held at the Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia 26-27 May 1999. Edited by D Mellor and V Monamy (1999). Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching: Glen Osmond, Australia. 128pp. Paperback. Obtainable from: ANZCCART, P O Box 19, Glen Osmond, SA 5064, Australia, or E-mail anzccart@waite.adelaide.edu.au (ISBN 0958682127). Price £12.00.

SCAS report on the benefits of keeping animals in schools

The Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) firmly believes that keeping pets is beneficial for the health and well-being of people. Their latest publication, *Animals in Schools: A Teachers' Guide to the Educational and Therapeutic Benefits*, aims to encourage the use of animals in schools by outlining the perceived educational and spiritual benefits for pupils, and the school community, of allowing pets into the classroom; and by giving some ideas of the ways in which pets can be used in the school. Predominantly human-orientated, the focus of the report is less on the health and well-being of the animals being used than on that of the pupils with whom they come into contact. As such, it is perhaps typical of other publications in this field. Many of the examples and suggestions for animal use relate to primary schools and the use of animals to increase pupil confidence and self-esteem. While some basic principles on the selection and introduction of animals are given, readers seeking specific guidance are (correctly) advised to contact veterinary surgeons prior to introducing any animal. Overall, the report is perhaps a little too positive in tone and would have been strengthened by a more detailed discussion of the welfare issues concerning the role of animals in schools and of the associated health and safety issues (particularly if, as the report suggests, schools choose to encourage pupils to bring their own pets to school). Once the positive and upbeat message of the report has been digested, its final list of organizations and publications that can give further guidance about the use of animals is likely to be the most useful part of this publication.

Animals in Schools: A Teachers' Guide to the Educational and Therapeutic Benefits (2000). SCAS: Callander, UK. 13pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS), 10b Leny Road, Callander, Perthshire, FK17 8BA, UK. Tel/Fax +44 (0) 1877 330996. Price: Free, but there may be a charge for large orders.