

EDITORIAL

This issue of *Animal Welfare*, which also includes the Index to Volume 1, successfully completes the first year of our new journal. The layout is largely as before; there are the usual five scrutinized articles and for the first time a short factual communication. There are reports and comments on matters of animal welfare interest and an extended book and video review section, as well as some relevant reaction to previous items in the letters section. This pattern fulfils our aim of publishing a thought provoking and widely based informative quarterly journal dedicated to highlighting the animal welfare implications of scientific and technical investigations and studies.

In his article Gentle makes the point that with regard to anatomical, physiological and behavioural parameters, there are no major differences between mammals and birds and therefore the same ethical considerations should apply. This might be compared with the comment made in Robinson's review of the St Tiggywinkles Wildcare Handbook, that some wildlife rehabilitators, from their often extensive practical experience of handling injured animals, seem to conclude that birds unlike mammals do not feel pain and therefore do not need analgesics. Poultry husbandrymen who beak trim their birds appear to operate on the same premise. There is perhaps a need for assessing and sharing seemingly conflicting information and experiences. A similar exchange of opinions occurs in the *Letters* section where there is a challenge to some of the suggestions put forward in the paper (*Animal Welfare* 1992, 1: 203-220) on the behavioural needs of mammals, and the author's lengthy response. This interplay of differing views and experiences is most welcome; one of the perceived roles of the journal is to encourage this sort of interaction.

The paper on the training of macaques to co-operate with their keepers in the taking of blood samples shows how the use of well established techniques in new situations can help to reduce the animal distress inherent in some biomedical research. Although the macaques were kept in cages of a size above the minimum levels recommended in the United States they are below those required in the UK. There are often going to be variations in the recommended minimum housing standards for laboratory animals that apply in different countries. The size of the cage is not of course the only factor influencing the health and well-being of experimental animals but all those concerned with their day to day care must be aware of their psychological needs.

It has always been difficult to assess the welfare status of animals - and quite rightly the paper by Sandøe and Simonsen asks a question in its subtitle where does science end and philosophy begin? The steps suggested by the authors will only be of real value if they make us ask the right questions, in the right order and at the right time. There is certainly a need for clear thinking in this controversial and important area.

The investigations reported by Scott and Moran on the behavioural responses of hens to carriage on conveyor belts are directed towards solving the considerable welfare problem inherent in moving laying hens into and, perhaps more especially, out of battery houses. The problems of catching and pre-slaughter handling of poultry are also highlighted in a workshop proceedings volume on poultry processing described in the *Reports and comments* section.

There is a strong welfare need for serious consideration to be given to current harvesting practices for both broilers and battery kept birds.

The paper on puzzle feeders for Great Apes is yet another contribution to the now considerable body of information as to how the environment of captive primates - whether in zoos or laboratories - can be improved. In the *Reports and comments* section there is mention of a most useful bibliography recently updated by the Animal Welfare Information Centre of the US Department of Agriculture on the enrichment of primate environments.

The contribution on badger persecution and police prosecution is the first short communication to be published in the journal. Although the results presented incorporate factual material from different disciplines - in this case legal and biological - this approach can indicate another way of looking at welfare problems and possible solutions. It is hoped that the short communication section will attract other such analytical papers.

In the editorial to the first issue of *Animal Welfare*, I said that the intent of the new journal was to publish results of scientific research and technical studies that will have a direct benefit on the welfare of animals kept on farms, in laboratories, in zoos, as companions or as managed by man in the wild. Looking back over the contents of the first four issues it seems that although there is still a long way to go, a beginning has been made to do exactly this.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the help of the section editors and the editorial advisors, without whom UFAW would have had great difficulty in launching this journal.

Roger Ewbank
Editor-in-Chief

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Call for papers

The first issue of *Animal Welfare* has brought together a wide range of quality scientific and technical papers. This current issue includes the first short communication and there is every intention to further broaden the scope of the journal with similar brief technical notes from field workers, technicians or animal keepers, as well as from undergraduates reporting results of relevant course or scholarship research projects.

Animal Welfare will consider manuscripts with implications for improving the welfare of

- companion animals, eg the welfare of breeding stock and show pets;
- farm animals, eg the welfare advantages and disadvantages of outdoor husbandry systems;
- laboratory animals, eg further training techniques to reduce stress during routine procedures;
- zoo and wild animals, eg re-introducing captive bred animals to the wild.

Comprehensive instructions for authors are available from the Editorial Assistant.