

EDITORIAL

This edition of *Animal Welfare* marks the 10th year of the journal. It was launched in 1992 ‘...in the belief’, as was noted in the Editorial of the first volume, ‘that a quality technical journal dealing specifically with scientific and factual aspects of animal welfare will, by the dissemination of knowledge, lead to an improvement in the health and welfare of animals used or controlled by man’. It was by no means certain how this venture would turn out, and in the same Editorial, the then Editor-in-Chief Roger Ewbank, presented a rather grim review of the unhappy outcomes of a number of previous attempts by various publishing houses to establish a journal in the field. However, he emphasized his belief in the project at the outset and it is very gratifying to report that thanks to his efforts and those of all who have been involved – contributors, section editors, referees, advisers and staff – that the journal is doing well. There are subscribers in 38 countries, the number of manuscripts submitted each year is increasing, and the circulation is continuing to rise.

The journal’s ISI Science Citation Index impact factor rose for the fourth consecutive year: the latest (2000) figure being 1.211. This places the journal at 13th of 129 titles in the veterinary sciences category and 23rd of 106 titles in zoology. The impact factor is an independent index of journal quality which is calculated from the number of times papers published in *Animal Welfare* have been cited in other core scientific journals. While we are very clear that the journal exists, not to win high citation index scores but to promote animal welfare, we are pleased with this result because it provides an independent indication that papers published in *Animal Welfare* are being increasingly ‘heard’ and influential in the world. It is also good for our authors, as current assessments of the quality of university research depend, in part, upon scientists being able to provide evidence that they have published in high-quality journals.

From an early stage, the journal began to broaden its scope from being purely a ‘technical journal dealing specifically with scientific and factual aspects of animal welfare’ to include papers dealing with ethical and legal aspects of the subject. In animal welfare, science, ethics and law are often closely interwoven – and it seems appropriate that the journal should continue to encourage papers from across the breadth of this field.

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Editor-in-Chief