

## EDITORIAL

This, the second issue of the new UFAW journal continues to extend the range of published material that is intended to have direct benefit on the welfare of animals used or managed by man. Conformity of layout has been maintained apart from the welcome addition of a correspondence page. This sort of positive response is to be encouraged, and should cover informed comment, constructive criticism and, if possible, ideas or suggestions for new material. It is recognized that lively correspondence adds value to the general debate and understanding of animal welfare issues.

Once again there are five refereed articles; these include both an interpretative review and some substantial reports based on original scientific research. The subject of head-restraint of cattle for pre-slaughter stunning and for religious slaughter methods has been taken up comprehensively by Grandin, who is an internationally recognized authority on slaughterhouse and animal handling design. A letter on head-restraint and the impending change in the UK legislation from the Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is also published.

Following the thought-provoking paper by Wiepkema in the first issue, there is another challenging article, this time by a group from the State University of Utrecht, on the use of analogous reasoning for assessing discomfort in laboratory animals. It makes the important point that where there is scientific uncertainty the animal must be given the benefit of the doubt.

The scope of the journal has widened; in addition to a paper on environmental enrichment devices for chimpanzees, the current issue includes a report on measurement of transportation stress in broiler chickens and a fully illustrated paper on group housing of rabbits. Both of these latter articles deal with the welfare problems of animals that are used in great numbers and yet about which there has been little or no real welfare progress. The rabbit in particular is used widely as a source of food and fur, as an experimental animal and also as a pet companion animal or a specialist breeders' hobby. Legislators recognize the behavioural needs of primates but appear so far to have failed to recognize those of other animals such as the rabbit.

In future the journal will also welcome short technical notes from field workers and undergraduates. There is without doubt much unique factual information accumulated by practical animal welfare workers and by students carrying out small research projects that is not readily available to others who could make good use of it to the benefit of animals in general. This sort of material could include experience gained from pest control operations, eg of rodent infestations in food stores, or feral cat control schemes in and around hospitals, to the results of surveys such as dog registration methods, horse slaughterings on farms, foot-rot in sheep or lameness in cattle caused by excessive wet or dry weather conditions. The area of interest is unlimited and this journal will provide an outlet for such technical material to be relatively easily and speedily published.

Roger Ewbank  
Editor-in-Chief

## **Universities Federation for Animal Welfare**

UFAW is an internationally recognized scientific and educational charity concerned with the welfare of animals. UFAW adopts an objective and realistic approach to animal welfare by looking at the behaviour and needs of animals, making rational judgements based on the facts available and giving expert advice on how particular species should be cared for and managed.

The Federation holds symposia and workshops; carries out and sponsors scientific research into many aspects of the biology and welfare of farmed, companion, wild, zoo and laboratory animals; produces standard texts on animal care and management and publishes technical reports on animal welfare matters.

UFAW was founded as the *University of London Animal Welfare Society* in 1926, became the Federation in 1938 and was incorporated in 1958 as a company limited by guarantee No 579991. It is a registered charity No 207996 and it derives its income from membership subscriptions, donations and legacies.

## **International Academy of Animal Welfare Sciences**

The object for which the Academy is established is to promote humane behaviour towards animals on an international basis and in furtherance of this object its purposes are:

- ★ To coordinate and develop activities relating to the welfare of animals, in particular the activities of scientists and technologists.
- ★ To liaise with and offer advice to the regulatory and legislative authorities.
- ★ To act as a focal point for the collection, dissemination and exchange of information and views relating to animal welfare and the humane treatment and use of animals.
- ★ To maintain a register of individuals and organisations relevant to animal welfare science and technology.
- ★ To receive donations, subscriptions, endowments, bequests and legacies for the purposes of the Academy.
- ★ To do all such other lawful things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the object of the Academy.

The Academy is established and supported by resolution of the Council of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare.