

EDITORIAL

The main aim of *Animal Welfare* is to present to readers a selection of refereed original articles describing the results of scientific research/technical studies or intellectual debate on the welfare of animals kept on farms, in laboratories, in zoos, as companions or managed by man in the wild. Ideally each issue of the journal should range over the whole field. This, of course, is not always possible but Volume 3 Number 2 does contain material on a wide variety of topics.

There is, firstly, a lengthy closely-argued piece by Bekoff on cognitive ethology and its influence on the way in which man treats the non-human animals. This is followed by an account by Walker and Kilpatrick of the behaviour of pregnant sows housed in various designs of indoor pens. There is then a paper by de Cock Buning and Theune on a comparison of three models for the ethical evaluation of proposed animal experiments. Then there are two Short Communications: one by Simonsen on skin stimulation of mouth movements in cattle and the second by Luttrell and colleagues on the training of rhesus macaques to co-operate in being caught.

The refereed articles are followed by a Reports and Comments section which describes a number of recent booklet-type animal welfare publications and by the signed Book Reviews which cover some of the more substantial and important contributions to the animal welfare literature. The Books Received list briefly notes a number of publications submitted for possible later review in the journal.

There is, finally, a letter on the need to protect the underground setts of badgers in the United Kingdom. The Letters section of a journal such as *Animal Welfare* can have at least three functions. It can be the place to:

- draw attention to animal welfare problems (as in the current letter of Hancox)
- comment on the material published in the journal
- briefly present scientific/technical findings.

It has been stated in several previous editorials that a particular aim of the journal is to publish factual animal welfare field material that might otherwise go unrecorded. As yet there seems to have been little attempt by authors to offer papers of this type. This is a pity – there is much useful factual information that has been accumulated by field operatives which could, if more widely known, be most useful in advancing the practices of animal welfare.

Workers who are able to offer such contributions are encouraged to submit articles, no matter how raw their data: they will be given all possible help in getting their findings placed on record in this journal as a full Article, a Short Communication, or a Letter.

May 1994

Roger Ewbank
Editor-in-Chief

MODIFIED CAGES FOR LAYING HENS
*Proceedings of a symposium held at Nobel House, London
on 18th January 1993*

Edited by C M Sherwin

The symposium 'Modified Cages for Laying Hens' was attended by agricultural scientists, animal welfarists, ethologists and veterinary surgeons. Each of the participants was interested in improving the welfare of caged laying birds by modifying the cage environment.

The proceedings volume is now available and contains the text of the eleven papers submitted by the authors after their oral presentations; edited versions of the questions and comments taken after each paper, and the two general discussions. The papers are as follows:

Origins and development of modified cages for laying hens. *B O Hughes*

The use of aversive barriers to quantify nesting motivation in domestic hens.

J J Cooper and M C Appleby

Designing a nest for a battery cage. *H J Reed*

The Edinburgh system for laying hens. *M C Appleby*

Effects on production, health and behaviour in three SCWL strains in an EMC

model in comparison with other modified and conventional cages. *R Tauson and*

P Abrahamsson

Cage design and laying hen welfare. *D Alvey and S Tucker*

Results and experiences with laying hens in Get-Away cages. *H W Rauch*

Do perches reduce nest soiling in modified cages? *C M Sherwin*

An experimental investigation into the causes of floor-laying by hens housed in

cages with nests. *C J Nicol and C M Sherwin*

The economics of modified enriched cages (MEC) compared to other systems of

egg production. *A Elson*

Modified cages for laying hens: future prospects. *M C Appleby*

Publication of the proceedings was undertaken in the belief that the wide dissemination of the material covered at the symposium could result in a much greater interest being taken in the modified cage approach to improving the welfare of laying birds.

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