

of technical know-how is 'welfare friendly' in that it disseminates knowledge which may lead to improvements in animal welfare.

The compendium is an animal welfare 'failure' in that, although some individual authors make reference to animal welfare, welfare *per se* is hardly mentioned — it is the maximisation of efficiency and production which is at the core of most of the papers reviewed. The compendium glossary does not contain entries on 'welfare', pain, or suffering, and devotes no section heading or search topic to this area. As an animal welfare resource, the difficulty experienced in unpicking welfare science from the production-oriented reports, and the lack of welfare-related topic headings, makes moving around the compendium looking for welfare-related topics feel like pushing through treacle.

The compendium is attractive, the searches work fast, and, in terms of its remit — to educate in the areas of production and animal health — it works well. The compendium makes no claim 'on the tin' to provide a focus on animal welfare issues, and it doesn't.

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Ruth Plant: A Pioneer in Animal Welfare

J Remfry (2001). Published by J Remfry, 19 Moxon Street, Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 5TS, UK. Obtainable from UFAW, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK. 95 pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 9541869 0 7). Price £9.99.

This book is an account of the life of Ruth Plant, eccentric, a lady who perhaps belonged to a different world as well as a different age. It describes with enthusiasm and respect some of the ground-breaking ideas that Ruth produced and, more importantly, pressed through into the world where the rest of us live. Devoid of circumspection, politically naïve, socially unfettered, and carrying only the dress sense reserved for true eccentrics, Ruth Plant certainly helped change the way our society views animals and their welfare. By inspiring others with her audacious common sense and beliefs, one is left in no doubt that Ruth was a truly remarkable woman.

Yet her influence on the well-being of so many animals both at home and overseas would probably have remained hidden and her name quickly forgotten were it not for her friendship with the author, Dr Jenny Remfry. In writing this account of Ruth's life, Jenny has fulfilled her promise to do so for her friend and early mentor, and has brought so much of Ruth's work, as well as her personal uniqueness, to light. Her account of Ruth's unusual life, including supposed psychic contact with people and animals, her travels and tragedies, and her single-minded pursuit of practical welfare issues, is, as one has come to expect from Dr Remfry, thorough and to the point. She describes in great detail just how Ruth Plant's influence came to bear on the decision-makers in government and society — for example, in the establishment of the UK's national dog-warden scheme. Jenny also describes how Ruth's initially perhaps more philosophical arguments, such as the development of humane control schemes for feral animals to replace control by killing, led to the establishment of extremely active welfare groups such as the Cat Action Trust in the UK, and great action overseas by groups such as Alley Cat Allies (USA) and The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa.

This book is well worth a read, if you are interested in the visions of one of the genuine pioneers of animal welfare causes and the history of animal welfare from the standpoint of someone who had the time and opportunity to care in an age where perhaps only the privileged few had time for such concerns. It is indeed a subject that is worthy of its own study in today's more technically directed world. This book certainly helps to explain how much of the work on feral cat behaviour and control by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare came to be carried out in the 1980s and 1990s, under the direction of the author, who just happens to be my great friend and my own early mentor. And with that in mind, I make no apology for my only criticism of this book. Ruth Plant may have been uniquely and unusually gifted in her ability to identify areas of concern where the lives of animals could be improved. And she was, despite an inability to work personally or practically alongside many of the people she inspired, practically minded enough to see how her ideas could be applied in the real world. But it was often the work of the author herself that ultimately ensured that 'things happened' and Jenny rather modestly, but very seriously, understates her own role in the development of so many of the ideas with which she credits Ruth Plant. I can vouch for the fact that it was so often Jenny's approach as a veterinarian and research scientist, and her own persistence, that facilitated the acceptance and application of so many of Ruth's germinal ideas. It was Jenny who invariably turned Ruth's musings into something realistic, and backed them up by developing proper rationales based on hard data. And it was Jenny who often then bulldozed them through various bureaucratic processes and attracted support where it mattered so that they became internationally accepted norms in our attitude towards, for example, the control of feral cats and the management of stray dogs.

So while the story of how Ruth Plant's ideas may have arisen, and the tale of her life and times by one of the few people who really knew her, is indeed of interest to those who are interested in the 'Great British Eccentric', I would urge readers to be aware that the majority of the book actually describes the pioneering work of another unsung heroine, that of the author herself. I urge Jenny now to write the full story of how she has pursued her own remarkable ideas and achieved so much already in a life of practical devotion to helping animals, rather than leaving us to 'read between the lines' of this book. Tales of Jenny's own determination and professional application would be highly inspirational to coming generations of animal wardens, welfare inspectors, field officers and veterinary students alike and greatly reassure those in society who care for animals just how much can be done to help at the practical and official level if one is applied to the task. To my mind, Dr Jenny Remfry is one of the major pioneering influences in the field of animal welfare over the last decades, and perhaps, unlike her friend Ruth, lives very much in the real world, a place where most of us have to live these days, whether on two feet or four paws.

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The Ethology of Domestic Animals: An Introductory Text

Edited by P Jensen (2002). Published by CABI Publishing, CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE, UK or CABI Publishing, CAB International, 10 East 40th Street, Suite 3203, New York, NY 10016, USA. 218 pp. Paperback (ISBN 0 85199 602 7). Price £22.50/\$40.00.

The purpose of this book is two-fold: first, to introduce the reader to the basic concepts of animal behaviour, and second, to describe the basic behaviours of our common domestic