

reacting and are thus likely to escape and, in some areas, carry domesticated genes into the native polecat population. Considerable concern must also be expressed by the way in which this video seems to recommend the use of antibiotics without veterinary supervision.

While McKay is a real ferret enthusiast, and this comes over in the video, ferrets do need very careful handling and training; their independent and solitary nature generally makes them less rewarding for the average pet owner compared to dogs or cats. In conclusion, it is unfortunate that this video, which contains useful advice and information, is at times rather misleading. Anyone wishing to keep ferrets might be interested to see this video but should regard it with a critical eye. They should also read Porter and Brown's book, *The Complete Book of Ferrets* reviewed in *Animal Welfare* 5(1) to gain a broader perspective.

Ferret Keeping. James McKay (1995). Farming Press: Ipswich. Colour VHS/PAL video, 56min. Obtainable from the publisher, Miller Freeman Professional Ltd, Fenton House, Wharfedale Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 4LG, UK. Distributed in North America by Diamond Farm Enterprises, Box 537, Alexandria Bay, New York 13607, USA. Price £14.95.

Environmental enrichment

Confined animals, whether they be in zoos, in laboratory animal houses or on farms, are often kept in restricted and barren environments. They cannot readily perform many of their natural behaviours. Under these conditions their ethological needs cannot be fully met and their psychological well-being cannot be assured. One possible way to improve their welfare is to enrich their surroundings.

The literature related to environmental enrichment is substantial and is scattered across a variety of publications. It is difficult for those looking for a possible environmental enrichment solution to a welfare problem to quickly locate the appropriate information. The new 294pp book *Environmental Enrichment Information Resources for Laboratory Animals: 1965-1995*, which has been jointly produced by the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) of the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), will help in the search. This book covers birds, cats, dogs, farm animals, ferrets, rabbits and rodents. The exclusion of nonhuman primates is deliberate as they are covered in a separate AWIC publication, *Environmental Enrichment Information Resources for Nonhuman Primates: 1987-1992*.

Each section of the bibliography (see the advertisement at the back of this issue) is introduced by a paper written by an authority on the particular species. There are then lists of resource organizations, suppliers of products, a list of common devices and programmes and an extensive subject index.

This book should act as an excellent starting point for those wanting to initiate an enrichment programme and are looking for guidance from the literature. There is perhaps a need for a similar publication directed towards animals in the zoo and on the farm.

Environmental Enrichment Information Resources for Laboratory Animals: 1965-1995, Birds, Cats, Dogs, Farm Animals, Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents. Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)/Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) (1995). 294pp. Paperback. Obtainable in North and South America from AWIC, National Agricultural Library, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, Maryland 20705, USA; also obtainable from UFAW, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3QD, UK. See advertisement at the back of this issue for prices.