

management: the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), the Humane Society International (HSI), the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals International (RSPCA International), the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) and the Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC). By working together these bodies aim to create a forum in which ideas and data may be exchanged and a common, co-ordinated approach to managing dog populations worldwide developed.

Humane Dog Population Management Guidance is the first publication of the ICAM. It is aimed at both government and non-governmental organisations engaged in dog population management and the key theme running throughout is “the need for a comprehensive programme that is focused on causes and not solely on treating the symptom, namely the roaming dog population”. It is recognised that every situation is different and that there is no one solution. Consequently, a great deal of emphasis is placed on initial collection and assessment of data to facilitate understanding of the population dynamics at a local level. Once this first step has taken place, an evaluation of which factors are of particular importance may be carried out, followed by the development of an integrated population control programme.

Key factors to consider, ideas for tackling certain issues and case studies are used throughout the document to illustrate the Coalition’s ideas. For example, a case study describing the development of a network of dedicated volunteers in one Asian city to help tackle a roaming dog population demonstrates that innovative ways of using existing resources can be very successful. A network of individuals able to take in unwanted animals and the establishment of an internet site to facilitate rehoming of fostered animals proved to be a success in a situation where many other control methods had failed.

An informative read, this document is a useful resource for all those involved in the humane control of roaming dog populations, and for those interested in gaining a wider understanding of the complexities involved in dealing with roaming companion animals.

Humane Dog Population Management Guidance (2008). A4, 22 pages. International Companion Animal Management Coalition. Available for download from: www.icam-coalition.org.

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UFAW

Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research: Expectations of the Major Research Council and Charitable Funding Bodies

A group of major UK-based organisations, active in funding laboratory animal research, have recently collaborated to develop an informative 22 page guide covering the responsible use of vertebrate animals in bioscience studies. Although animals involved in scientific research are protected by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASP), the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement

and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Medical Research Council (MRC), and the Wellcome Trust, have sought to make their own expectations clear. Together they deem that “high standards in the design and conduct of animal research and full implementation of the 3Rs are important for ethical reasons and to obtain the best possible scientific results”. To this end, the guidelines that they have produced briefly cover:

- a summary of the legal control on animal use;
- the responsibilities of the relevant parties;
- the principles and procedures of the funding bodies;
- the requirements for research or collaborations outside of the UK.

Whilst this document is not a comprehensive resource on its own, it does outline areas that should be taken into account by individuals involved in animal research. Topics covered include: breeding and supply; capture, handling, restraint and training of animals; humane endpoints; staff training and animal health and welfare. Within each section a background explanation is given together with link(s) to website pages providing more detailed information and also containing further links and information resources of their own.

Implementation of the principles outlined in these guidelines is now a condition of receiving funding from the NC3Rs, BBSRC, NERC, MRC and the Wellcome Trust. This booklet therefore provides a useful, single point of reference for researchers hoping to gain support from these organisations for projects involving the use of animals. The document is also expected to be of use to veterinary and animal care staff, ethics committees, referees, and Board and Committee members involved in reviewing research proposals.

Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research: Expectations of the Major Research Council and Charitable Funding Bodies (2008). A4, 22 pages. Joint publication by the NC3Rs, BBSRC, NERC, MRC, and the Wellcome Trust. Available for download from the NC3Rs website at: www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility.

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Welfare Quality®: Project Update

Reliable, science-based, on-farm animal welfare assessment systems are key to improving the welfare of farmed livestock species. For a number of years, the Welfare Quality® project has been developing and trialling a number of extensive on-farm assessment systems and observations are now complete for dairy cows, beef cattle, laying hens and broilers. It is expected that trials for sows, fattening pigs, and veal calves will be concluded by the end of this year. Over 600 farms across the EU are involved in the testing of these comprehensive systems and it is hoped that the subsequent analysis of farm trials will reveal relationships between different animal-based measures and facilitate the development of a simplified version of the full assessment system for each species.

In addition to the on-farm assessment research that is taking place, there are also a number of other initiatives, focused on practical strategies to improve farm animal welfare, in progress. In particular, lameness in dairy cattle and lameness in broiler chickens have been targeted. Following research in cattle, a DVD- and web-based programme is now being developed for dairy farmers and will be available in the autumn. The aim of this DVD will be to assist dairy farmers with the implementation of a strategy to monitor and control lameness in their herds. Broiler research currently underway involves a new combination of diets supplied in a sequential fashion. The new feeding regime reduces speed of growth during the first few weeks, when

bone development is most rapid, and uses standard broiler diet from day 29 onwards. Results are looking promising with birds being reared on the new diet showing reduced prevalence of lameness when compared with birds fed a standard diet throughout. Other research work within the Welfare Quality® project includes preventing social stress among cattle when feeding and the automated measurement of foot pad lesions in broiler chickens.

Welfare Quality®: Project Update (April 2008). Electronic newsletter available from the News section of the Welfare Quality website at: <http://www.welfarequality/net/everyone>.

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