

### **Rodents and rabbits in research**

The edited proceedings of a conference sponsored by SCAW and WARDS, held in Washington DC on 21 May 1993 has now been published by the sponsors. The main parts of the publication consist of the full texts of the papers given at the meeting:

Stephens M L 'Request for changes in USDA Regulations' (6pp)

Gebhart G F 'Recognizing stress in rodents and rabbits' (7pp)

Morton D 'Enrichment techniques for rodents and rabbits' (6pp)

Cunliffe-Beamer T 'Transgenic rodents' (9pp)

Wixson S K 'Anaesthesia, analgesia for rodents and rabbits' (29pp)

Brown M J 'Aseptic surgery for rodents' (6pp)

Johnson D K 'Adjuvant comparison in rabbits' (3pp).

The Question and Answer Sessions of Stephens', Morton's, Brown's and Johnson's papers are printed at the end of their contributions.

Much interest has been shown over the last few years in the welfare requirement of carnivores and primates kept for biomedical research purposes – the small laboratory species seem, in a relative sense, to have been somewhat neglected. This is not really true and it is most welcome that the work on the careful use and well-being of rodents and rabbits is now reported in the technical literature. The Proceedings of this SCAW/WARDS meeting on current research issues in rodent and rabbit usage presents some of the important material in a readily accessible form.

*Rodents and Rabbits: Current Research Issues* Edited by Steven M Niemi, Joseph S Venable, Helene N Guttman (1994). Published by Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) and Working with Animals Used in Research, Drugs and Surgery (WARDS): Greenbelt. 81pp. Paperback. Obtainable from SCAW, Golden Triangle Building One, 7833 Walker Drive, Suite 340, Greenbelt, MD 20770, USA. Price US\$30.

### **Laboratory animal welfare and science**

The proceedings volume containing the edited texts of the papers etc presented at the 5th symposium of the FELASA meeting held in Brighton (UK) in June 1993 has been published. A further 69 printed papers based on the posters displayed during the meeting are printed in this substantial book. The material is grouped under several headings – a number of which have obvious animal welfare interest, eg:

Expression and relief of pain (5 papers)

Planning better experiments (3 papers)

Behavioural studies and husbandry (UFAW sponsored session; 10 papers)

Non-invasive remote monitoring (4 papers)

Animal technology (Institute of Animal Technology sponsored session; 10 papers)

Necessity and expectation (RSPCA sponsored session; 9 papers)

On scanning the list of papers it is obvious that there is indeed, as the title of the volume indicates, much interest being taken in the welfare of the laboratory species as well as in their rational use in the biomedical sciences.

It is essential that anyone picking up this volume should spend some time browsing through the list of titles – there is important material scattered all through it. Unfortunately there is no index but no doubt literature searches via the abstracting and indexing journals will in due course locate relevant material.

*Welfare and Science Proceedings of the 5th Symposium of the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Association (FELASA) June 1993, Brighton, UK* Edited by J Bunyan (1994). Royal Society of Medicine Press: London. 505pp. Paperback. ISBN 1 85315 240 4.

### Video dissection guides

A series of video programmes each of which is accompanied by a set of teacher's notes has been prepared by The Television Centre of the University of Portsmouth as an aid to the teaching of 'A' level biology. The programmes examine the fundamental anatomy of the dogfish, frog, pigeon and rat and make use of high quality photographs, graphic overlays and 3-dimensional computer animations and diagrams. The material is clear and well presented and has an obvious use in biological courses. Whether the videos should replace entirely the use of fresh material or act as complementary teaching aids must remain the decision of the course supervisors and teachers. The series has been produced with support from the European Commission and has been endorsed by the Institute of Biology.

*Video Dissection Guides The Dogfish* (53 min); *The Frog* (42 min); *The Pigeon* (50 min); *The Rat* (57 min). Portsmouth Productions: Portsmouth (1993). Obtainable from the producers, The Rotunda, Museum Road, Portsmouth PO1 2QQ, UK. Price £40 each or £120 for the series of four including postage.

### Campaigning against cruelty

Campaigning animal welfare societies tend to produce promotional material which varies from the cheap and sensational to the authoritative and substantial. The new teaching resource pack put out for use in National Curriculum Stages 3 and 4, ie for age range 11 to 16-year-olds, by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) lies clearly in the latter category. It is made up of some 40 colour slides and a fairly substantial accompanying booklet written by John Callaghan of the CIWF Trust. The colour transparencies, all of which are of high quality, illustrate some aspects of intensive farming, of slaughterhouses, of extensively-kept animals and scenes from CIWF campaigns. The booklet is laid out in parallel order to the slide sequence with an explanatory paragraph for each of the slides. The whole is well produced. It is, of course, educational/promotional/campaigning material and largely presents extreme examples of the good and bad, but it is to a great extent accurate in its facts and realistic in its approach to the problem of man's use and misuse of farmed livestock.

*Campaigning Against Cruelty: A Teaching Resource Pack* Produced and published by Compassion in World Farming Trust (1994): Petersfield. 21pp paperback booklet and slidepack. Obtainable from the publishers, Charles House, 5A Charles Street, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3EH, UK. Price £11.50.