

The alternatives – sources of information

This summer's issue of the Johns Hopkins CAAT newsletter is, in effect, a 20-page guide to information resources on alternatives and animal welfare. It comprises an introductory 5-page paper by Ken Boschert on 'International networking and computer resources'; an inventory of 'Electronic mailing lists of interest to laboratory animal specialists'; an annotated roll of 'Institutional resources – North America'; lists of 'Institutional resources – overseas' and 'Other sources of information'; an annotated directory of 'Technology resources' (largely commercial organizations etc in the United States which supply off-the-shelf alternative tests or material for use in alternative test systems); a short list by F Barbara Orlans and Amelia Tarzi of the 'Top ten sources of funding for alternatives (US)', and a 7-page article by Krys Ungar and David C Anderson entitled 'An inventory of databases and other sources of information on alternatives to the use of animals in science and education'.

The present publication is an updated and much expanded version of a Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing newsletter originally produced in the summer of 1990. In its new form, this CAAT publication is a most useful guide to sources of information on the use of alternatives in biomedical research, teaching and testing.

Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing Newsletter, Volume 11 No 3 Produced and published by CAAT (1994): Baltimore. 20pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, 111 Market Place, Suite 840, Baltimore, MD 21202-6709, USA. Price US\$30.

New Zealand Animal Welfare Committee

The New Zealand Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), which was established in September 1988, has recently published its third report.

The publication briefly describes the background to the setting up of the Committee, its present membership and its mode of operation – it then goes on to cover its activities in 1993. Much work was done on a proposed new Animal Welfare Bill and new Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards were issued which covered the welfare of bobby calves, the care of animals in boarding establishments and the welfare of horses (noted in *Animal Welfare 1994, 3: 236-237*). These bring the total number of Codes issued to nine. It was recommended to the Ministry of Agriculture early in 1993 that research priority should be given to 'an evaluation of extensive outdoor pastoral management systems for livestock in New Zealand, with special reference to animal welfare.'

Other issues which were covered during this year included: the welfare of birds in battery cages, a possible international standard on leghold traps for the capture of wild animals, kosher killing with special attention to the use of the Weinberg crate and live sheep export to Saudi Arabia. This report, which is available from the NZ Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, is a short, clear and informative account of the work of a successful national animal welfare advisory committee.

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Report for 1993 AWAC (1994). 8pp. Paperback. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries: Wellington. Obtainable from the publishers, ASB Bank House, 101-103 The Terrace, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand.