

The control of stray dogs

Dogs make wonderful companions but unfortunately strays are a problem in most urban and many rural environments. Stray dogs may bite; they cause problems of health and hygiene and are an obvious traffic hazard. Moreover, the strays suffer from injury, disease and sometimes inhumane methods of control. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has produced a written guide and video cassette to assist government, municipalities and animal control professionals to achieve effective stray dog control programmes. Their main recommendations are that authorities should implement registration, identification, neutering and education schemes. The video touches on the problem of rabies in countries where it is endemic. WSPA argues for a vaccination programme, as general euthanasia of strays disrupts the stray dog population, increases dog movements and thus increases the risk of spreading the disease. The guide and video compliment each other with the video acting as a useful introduction and outline of WSPA's initiative. The written guide, however, is more informative and practical and includes a series of annexes on, for example: dog control, dog identification systems, housing systems and suggested legislative provisions. WSPA has also put together a conference and practical training programme to help launch their initiative with interested governments.

The video contains footage from various countries including India and the Far East, and it is obviously meant to be used world-wide. WSPA has already translated the video narrative into Chinese and is in the process of translating the narrative and guide into Spanish. The video package is well produced and, if it reaches and influences its audience, will materially improve dog welfare around the world. It is to be hoped that WSPA continue to increase the availability of their package.

Stray Dog Control (1994). World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA): London. Practical guide 49pp and video 35 minutes. Obtainable from WSPA, 2 Langley Street, London SW8 1TJ, UK. Guide £4.50 plus £2 postage overseas and colour VHS video £12.50 plus £2 postage overseas.

The 3 Rs

In 1987 *Foundation Research 3R* was established in Switzerland to promote research on alternative methods in animal experimentation, ie reduction, refinement and replacement. The Foundation, which is funded in equal parts by contribution from Interpharma Switzerland and the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office, has, over the years, initiated some 42 research projects – of which 35 have been completed to date. In 1994 it started publishing a quarterly newsletter *3R-Info-Bulletin*. The first issue (June 1994) covered the history and organization of the Foundation; the second (September 1994) describes a validation study for in vitro production of monoclonal antibodies; and the third (December 1994) covers the scientific activities on behalf of Foundation Research 3R by the late Professor G Zbinden of Zurich.

These newsletters, which are of folded A5 format, are distributed to the biomedical research community, to supporters of the Foundation and to scientists interested in the goals and activities of the institutions. This publication should be a useful source of information to those interested in alternatives to animal usage in biomedical research.

3R-Info-Bulletin. Produced and published in English (only) by Foundation Research 3R: Switzerland (1994). Available free from the publishers, PO Box 149, 3110 Münsingen, Switzerland.