

## COMMENTS

# Toward a Common Ground

M.W. Fox

Some members of the biomedical research establishment (and others involved in one form of animal utilization or another) may see this *Journal* as a new front for humane and antivivisection groups to be used to further abolitionist goals (i.e. no animal experimentation or exploitation of any kind regardless of ends justifying the means). Such an interpretation is to be expected, considering the defensive posture that many biomedical researchers have had to take when confronted by certain animal welfare groups. But such an interpretation is now behind the times if not immature: the time has come for all to consider scientific, ethical, moral and other aspects of animal welfare with honesty and integrity. This is a challenge, not a judgment; a scientific and intellectual quest, not a front or subterfuge either to convert humanitarians into accepting the instrumental rationalism of unconditional animal exploitation or to seduce biomedical scientists who work with animals to the antivivisectionist's idealistic and often anthropomorphic abolitionist point of view. This *Journal* represents the middle way, the common ground where the questions concerning the present and future welfare of animals may be explored and debated, and advances made for the benefit of all.

# The History and Impact of UFAW

W. N. Scott

## *Historical Perspective*

At a meeting at Birkbeck College in 1926 Charles Hume started the University of London Animal Welfare Society (ULAWS) with a membership of two. The society was declared open to graduates and undergraduates of the University of London, to senators, officers and teaching staff of the University, and to veterinary surgeons practicing in London.

An objective and realistic approach to controversial animal welfare topics formed the basis of ULAWS' policy. Animal problems should be tackled on a scientific basis with a maximum of sympathy but a minimum of sentimentality. It was considered that the universities provided the best recruiting grounds for the

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right type of person, both scientific and otherwise, with the right sort of information to help with animal welfare activities.

There were eleven members of council with scientific qualifications, among them Kenneth Bird (Fougasse), and eleven members who had graduated in the Arts, including a rabbi and a barrister-at-law. Problems investigated at this time were the fur trade, humane slaughter, oil pollution and the trapping of rabbits. Liaison was also established with societies in France, Holland, Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, North Africa, Canada, Australia and the USA.

By 1938, ULAWS' publications list included over 30 monographs, reports and booklets on various aspects of animal welfare and a series of wall posters illustrated by Fougasse as Honorary Artist. In the same year, in order to widen the scope of the organization and spread its influence outside London, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) was set up, with ULAWS as its first branch. The second world war then intervened and several staff joined the services. Nevertheless, UFAW continued, albeit with a reduction in activities.

## *Post War Research and Growth*

With the cessation of hostilities in 1945 and the return of staff from war work, various projects were developed. Probably the most noteworthy was the preparation of the *UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals* which was published in 1947. At the same time, a research student appointed by UFAW began to study methods of rabbit control in Wales. Papers were published which provided sound arguments for the humane control of wild rabbit populations and the eventual abolition of the gin or leghold trap which became illegal in England and Wales under the Spring Traps Approval Order 1957.

Dr. Phyllis Croft, who had joined UFAW in 1950 and has been working at the Neuropsychiatric Research Centre, Cardiff, defined in a published paper the conditions requisite for ensuring humaneness in the electric stunning of pigs. She also had articles accepted by veterinary and medical journals on the humane electrical stunning of small animals and the effect of electrical stimulation on the perception of pain. Her work laid the foundation for future developments in this field and in 1957 the British Standards Institution's Committee embodied her recommendations in British Standard 2909.57, "Cabinets for the Electrical Euthanasia of Dogs." Subsequently, Dr. Croft, who had become an expert in the field of animal electroencephalography, worked on relaxant and anesthetic drugs in a laboratory provided by the Royal Veterinary College, London.

Other research work by UFAW included the anesthesia of pigs with carbon dioxide before slaughter, the humane killing of crabs and lobsters, and efforts to find a suitable narcotic poison, or a humane acute poison, for the control of rodents. Largely as a result of scientific information supplied by UFAW, the Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962 became law in 1963. This empowers the Home Secretary to prohibit or restrict all poisons which cause undue suffering, provided that alternative methods of destruction are available.

In 1957, Fougasse, who illustrated so many of UFAW's publications, was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors. In the same year, UFAW became incorporated under the Companies Act as a Company limited by guarantee, and by

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special permission of the Board of Trade the word 'limited' after the name of UFAW was not required. Major Hume was appointed Secretary-General and in the 1962 Queen's Birthday Honours List he was awarded the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his work in animal welfare.

### *Recent Accomplishments*

The following years saw many changes in UFAW staff due to retirements, resignations, marriages and deaths. I joined as Scientific Director in 1964 and worked with Major Hume until his retirement in 1965. Fougasse died in the same year. He had been UFAW's honorary artist for nearly forty years and his numerous drawings contributed much to its success.

Various research projects were undertaken during the 1960's and 1970's by staff which included biologists, educational theorists and veterinary surgeons. Investigations into seals, otters, foxes and badgers suggested the necessity for more humane methods of control and, indeed, led eventually to legislation which afforded some protection to these species.

The behavior of sheep and poultry kept under intensive systems of husbandry was studied in depth and scientific papers were published. Research into humane methods of killing poultry provided basic information for the Government to implement the Slaughter of Poultry Act in 1970. Work on tissue culture techniques which might provide suitable alternatives to the use of laboratory animals was also initiated.

In 1967, Mr. Stewart Huston of Coatesville, Pennsylvania approached UFAW for assistance in the protection of feral goats on Holy Island in the Firth of Clyde, which he owned. Mr. Huston made annual visits to the island and took a great interest in safeguarding both the animals and the archeological features. He also gave UFAW great help and encouragement in establishing a Field Study Centre for use by members and visiting scientists. When Mr. Huston died in 1971, his trustees offered the island to UFAW and it became the Federation's own property the following year. Progress has since continued and facilities developed to maintain Holy Island as a sanctuary for animals and a place where their activities can be studied.

UFAW has probably exerted the most influence through its publications. The *Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals* had established an international reputation. Further enlarged editions appeared in 1957, 1967, 1972, and 1976. The *Handbook on the Care and Management of Farm Animals* was published in 1971 with a second edition in 1978. The technical publication *Humane Killing of Animals* was translated into Arabic, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish and Thai and distributed in the various countries concerned. From 1968 to 1978, twelve symposia were held on animal welfare subjects and the proceedings made available. Over twenty papers were also published in scientific journals.

### *Balance and Change*

Opinions vary widely in different sections of the community as to morally acceptable standards for animal welfare. Conflict exists between the emotionally

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desirable and the economically practicable and a solution is not always possible. UFAW's advice and policies have been consistently rational and practical, striking a balance between the humane treatment of animals on the one hand and human needs on the other. This approach may not attract those who feel that achievements are possible only by dramatic and sensational means. Yet, as this very abbreviated history demonstrates, some success has been achieved.

In many ways UFAW has acted like a catalyst, producing effects without undergoing any change in itself. Nonetheless, UFAW welcomes new ideas and looks forward to a productive future under the new directorship of former Liverpool University senior lecturer in animal husbandry, Roger Ewbank. □

### Profile

**Roger Ewbank** was appointed Scientific Director of UFAW in June 1979. He qualified from Liverpool Veterinary School in 1957 and after 3 years in practice returned to Liverpool as Lecturer in Animal Husbandry. Ewbank's work has evolved from an interest in health and disease of farm animals to a more specific interest in farm animal behavior. He was instrumental in establishing applied ethology as a serious subject for study in Britain, and was awarded the M.V.Sc. for his thesis on "Nursing and suckling behavior in sheep and its relation to lamb growth." Since then Ewbank's main interest has been the social behavior of cattle and pigs. The significance of this basic work to the welfare problems posed by modern farming methods has been widely recognized. In 1970, Ewbank was appointed by the Minister of Agriculture to his Farm Animal Welfare Committee and to several other advisory committees and study groups. In 1978, he was appointed to the British Veterinary Association Welfare Sub-Committee and to the Scientific Committee of the International Society for the Protection of Animals (ISPA).

### Profile

**Major Walter N. Scott** served as Scientific Director of UFAW from January 1964 to June 1979. Scott joined UFAW at a time when his expertise was particularly valuable in preparing UFAW's evidence to Government Committees set up to investigate animal experimentation, intensive farming and the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture. His notable achievements include the editing of the 4th and 5th editions of the *UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals*; the 1st and 2nd editions of the *Handbook on the Care and Management of Farm Animals*; and the establishment of annual symposia to which established scientists came and spoke freely about welfare problems in their particular fields, such as the control of pests, toxicology, and the transport and slaughter of food animals.