

Current Events

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

International Conference on the Human/Companion Animal Bond: October 5-7, 1981, Philadelphia, PA. Sponsored

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by the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society and the Delta Croup of the Latham Foundation. Contact the Center (above), School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 3800 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Society for the Study of Ethics and

Animals: Third Annual Meeting, December 27, 1981 (tentative), Philadelphia, PA. Contact Professor Harlan B. Miller, Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

American Association for the Advancement of Science:

Annual Meeting, January 3-8, 1982, Washington, DC. Contact AAAS Meetings Office, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Southwest Foundation:

Symposium on "The Use of Nonhuman Primates in Exotic Viral and Immunologic Diseases," February 28-March 3, 1982, San Antonio, Texas. Sessions will include general considerations (husbandry, spontaneous diseases, primate viruses, alternative methodologies, and germ-free and SPF non-human primates), immunology and immunologic alterations (including blood diseases and genetic aspects and viral diseases), comparative medicine (animals other than simians for the study of disease) and biohazards. Attendance will be limited to 250 persons. Abstracts will be required from speakers. All reports will be published. Contact Dr. S.S. Kalter, Southwest Foundation for Research and Education, P.O. Box 28147, San Antonio, TX 78284.

Humane Research Trust:

The Role of Animals in Scientific Research and their Effectiveness as Substitute Models for Man, April 21-23, 1982, Manchester University, Manchester, UK. Scheduled speakers: Dr. H. Muir, Prof. C. Marsden, Prof. M. Panigel, Mr. R.N. T.-W.-Fiennes, Air Commodore J. Malcolm, Mrs. R. Clayton, Dr. E. Carson, Prof. D. Davies, Prof.

D. Parke, Prof. P. Turner, Dr. J. Fry, Dr. S. Vine, Prof. J. Bridges, Dr. T. Connors, Dr. J. Parry, Dr. M. Dawson. Registration fee is £50, including accommodation and meals. Contact the Conference Organizer, Humane Research Trust, Brook House, 24 Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2DN, UK.

2nd European Conference on Farm Animal Welfare:

May 1982, Strasbourg, France. The first part of the Conference will involve a review of progress made in farm animal welfare since the first European Conference, which was held in Amsterdam in 1979. The second and major part will be devoted to the transportation and handling of farm animals production to slaughter. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe has agreed to the Conference being held in the Council's Assembly Chamber and therefore the exact date in May will not be determined until the Council and the European Parliament have settled their own meeting dates for 1982.

Zoological Society of Philadelphia and the Institute for Cancer Research:

Symposium on Animal Counterparts of Human Disease, With Particular Reference to Hepatitis B-like Viruses, May 16-20, 1982, Franklin Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact Theresa Mullarkey, Philadelphia Zoological Garden, 34th St. and Gerard Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

International Primatological Society:

IXth Congress, August 8-13, 1982, Atlanta, CA. The annual meeting of the American Society of Primatologists will be held jointly with the Congress. Contact Dr. Frederick A. King, Director, Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Emory University, Atlanta, CA 30322.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IRLG Guidelines

The Interagency Regulatory Liaison Group has been working since 1977 to

produce one set of guidelines for toxicity testing which could be applied to the various government agencies responsible for regulating chemical substances affecting health and the environment. The following *Recommended Guidelines* are now in print: *Acute Eye Irritation Testing*; *Acute Dermal Toxicity Test*; *Acute Oral Toxicity Testing in Rodents*; *Teratogenicity Studies in the Rat, Mouse, Hamster or Rabbit*. Copies of the guidelines can be obtained from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Consumer Communications Staff, Office of Consumer Affairs, 5600 Fishers Lane (HFE-88), Rockville, MD 20857.

Campaign Against LD50

On 23 May, at an Animal Aid rally in Birmingham, England, Jean Pink (Animal Aid) and Henry Spira (Coalition to Abolish the Draize Test) announced the formation of an international coalition to campaign for the abolition of the LD50 (lethal dose- 50%) test. This toxicological test is designed to determine the single dosage level of a substance which will kill 50% of the laboratory animals receiving it. Two recently published papers detail some of the scientific and technical shortcomings of the test, which has long been under attack by animal protection organizations (*Pharmaceutical Technology* 5(4):65, 1981; *Archives of Toxicology* 47:77, 1981). Persons interested in the campaign should contact Ms. Pink at Animal Aid, 111 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, UK, or Mr. Spira at 1 West 85th Street, New York, NY 10024.

Vegetarian Times Goes Monthly

Effective with the September 1981 issue, *Vegetarian Times* will increase its publishing frequency from 10 issues a year to become a monthly publication. The magazine will be on sale the 15th of the month preceding the date of issue. *Vegetarian Times* is the only national consumer magazine geared toward the vegetarian lifestyle. Each issue contains listings of restaurants, recipes, people

profiles, and in-depth articles of interest to vegetarians and health-conscious people. Circulation of the magazine has tripled over the past three years from 20,000 to 60,000. Costs for *Vegetarian Times*: Single copy \$1.95; one-year subscription \$19.95; two-year subscription \$36.00; three-year subscription \$50.00.

Program in Applied Animal Behavior

The Department of Animal Science, in cooperation with other departments at the University of Maryland and the USDA research station at Beltsville, is developing a graduate program in applied animal behavior. Graduate students are being sought who wish to investigate behavior and production relationships among domestic farm animals. Research facilities are available for the investigation of behavior of beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, horses, poultry, sheep, rabbits, and wildlife. Graduate Teaching Assistants receive \$4,800 per year (10 mos.) and Research Assistants receive \$5,760 per year (12 mos.). Tuition is waived for assistantship recipients. For information and application forms contact: W.R. Stricklin or T.G. Hartsock, Dept. of Animal Science, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

SCAW Conference: Science and Animal Welfare

The First Conference on Scientific Perspectives in Animal Welfare will be held at the National 4-H Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland (in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area), on November 11-13, 1981. The conference is sponsored by the Scientists' Center for Animal Welfare.

The intent of the meeting is to discuss scientists' responsibilities in animal experimentation. Participants will assess the state of the art, identify areas for special consideration, and make recommendations in the four topic areas of responsibility: investigator, institutional, funding agency and review groups, and editorial.

Book News

Invited speakers, who represent a wide range of scientific interests and viewpoints, include: Thomas Malone, Ph.D., Acting Director, National Institutes of Health; Franklin M. Loew, D.V.M., Ph.D., Director, Division of Comparative Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Harlyn O. Halvorson, Ph.D., Director, Rosensteil Basic Medical Sciences Research Center, Brandeis University; Marc E. Weksler, M.D., Wright Professor of Medicine; Director, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, Cornell University Medical College; Harold Feinberg, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmacology, University of Illinois School of Medicine; Frederick W.L. Kerr, M.D., Professor of Neurosurgery and Neuroanatomy, Mayo Medical School; Carlos E. Eyzaguirre, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Physiology, University of Utah College of Medicine.

The program chairman is W. Jean Dodds, D.V.M., Division of Laboratories and Research, New York State Department of Health, Albany, New York.

Attendance will be limited to scientists. Preregistration is required; the registration fee is \$85.00 before September 15 and \$100.00 thereafter. For registration materials and further information please contact: Ms. Marcia Feinleib, Scientists' Center for Animal Welfare, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Suite 221, Potomac, Maryland 20854, (301) 983-0544.

FRAME Plans New Journal

The Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) is changing the format and title of its bi-annual publication, *ATLA Abstracts*, from a compendium of research abstracts, which report on the development of alternative techniques, to a journal called *ATLA*, which will include original and review research articles, technical news, book reviews and information on meetings of interest. Further details can be obtained from FRAME, 312a Worpole Road, London SW20 8QU, UK.

THE LAYING HEN AND ITS ENVIRONMENT, R. Moss, ed. (Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague, The Netherlands, 1980, \$42.20). This is a timely publication, considering the growing world-wide interest in the welfare of farm animals. Contributions from an international group of poultry physiologists and ethologists, assembled by the Commission of the European Communities, provide some indices of the normal physiological and behavioral range of the laying hen and also demonstrate intrinsic problems with existing intensive husbandry systems and point up areas for further research and development.

Some scientists in the U.S. have gone so far as to suggest that the greater productivity of various livestock species (compared to production records of 10 and 20 years ago) is a clear indication of improved welfare, ignoring the fact of genetic improvements. One contributor to this publication, G.C. Brantas, pointed out the limitations of using productivity as a basis for determining welfare and adaptation. For example, laying hens may be less productive in one farm or husbandry system compared to another because of a difference in feed, lighting, energy requirements, or genetic lineage and not because their adaptability or welfare is in jeopardy.

In spite of the potentials for genetically modifying poultry, scientists in this symposium generally agreed that environmental modifications, rather than genetic ones, would be more practical and quantifiable for improving welfare and adaptability.

8.0. Hughes' paper on the assessment of behavioral needs provided a good theoretical basis for this symposium. Hughes stated that it is *desirable* to make provisions for certain categories of behavior such as dust bathing and avoidance of aggression, and *essential* for such categories as nesting, sleep-