ADVANCES IN ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE
1984

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EDITORS' FOREWORD

This book, the first in an annual series, written by academicians—scientists, philosophers and others—is not intended exclusively for animal welfarists and conservationists. Since it is written* by scholars, it will appeal to a wide range of academic and professional readers who are involved with animals for scientific, economic, altruistic, and other reasons. While this first volume cannot cover the entire spectrum of animal welfare science-related topics, it does, in its diversity of contributions, demonstrate the multi-faceted and interdisciplinary nature of the subject of this new series.

Indeed, animals are as much an integral part of society as we are dependent upon them. The many interfaces between us and the billions of animals under our dominion (as well as the environment upon which the welfare of human and non-human animals alike is ultimately dependent) have their separate features: trapping and wildlife management; laboratory animal research; whaling and fishing; veterinary practice; agriculture and farm animal husbandry; horse racing and the ownership of animal companions; the propagation of captive wildlife and their preservation in the wild; the use of animals as companions and for the purposes of vicarious entertainment.

These interfaces are linked by the science of animal welfare which, by virtue of its interdisciplinary nature, includes such disciplines as ethology, veterinary medicine, psychology, physiology, farm animal production technologies; studies of human attitudes towards animals (including cross-cultural anthropology) and the legal protection of animals; humane education, law enforcement, legislation, and ethics of moral philosophy and enlightened self-interest; practical problems such as predator control, euthanasia of unwanted pets and the transportation and slaughter of farm animals; and such issues and questions as animal sentience, sapience, awareness, needs and rights.

Ethics and philosophy have become divorced from science, as values have from facts. Yet ethics and moral philosophy are an integral

*All articles submitted and solicited are subject to refereeing by members of the Manuscript Review Committee (see *Instructions to Authors*).

part of animal welfare science, as are economics, cultural values, perceptions, and social customs. In sum, the scholarly, as distinct from the "objective"* study of animal welfare embraces all these disciplines and aspects of human-animal relationships. It is a complex and diverse field of inquiry which, through this new annual publication, will gain the international recognition and attention that the subject has long deserved.

*and through the "objectification" of the world, we have achieved considerable power and control over life, yet in the process, have created a multitude of ethical, environmental, social, economic, and other global problems, one major one being the well-being of the animal kingdom.

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