

Book review

Animal Welfare. 2nd Edition. Edited by Michael C. Appleby, Joy A. Mench, I. Anna S. Ollson, Barry O. Hughes: CAB International 2011. XII and 328 p. ISBN-13: 978 1 84593 876 3

The reviewed book is the work of 49 authors from 15 different countries, mostly from the UK.

In the introduction the publishers recall the profound global changes that have occurred in animal welfare since the first edition in 1997. That is why the texts are rearranged and new chapters included. Each one has instructive figures, tables and boxes, with added references.

The chapters are arranged in five-theme parts. In the first, which introduces the problem, there is a brief history of animal welfare approaches which now prevail; contractarianism, utilitarianism, the animal rights view, contextual approach view, and respect for a natural view. Attention is called to the fact that present apparent disagreements in animal welfare stem from mixing scientific questions about the actual welfare of animals and ethical questions about how we ought to treat and care for animals, to links between animal welfare and animal health or behaviour. The second part analyzes in detail environmental challenges, hunger, thirst, pain, negative emotions and behavioural restrictions. The third part is centered on the evolution of individual factors concerning health and illness, animal physiological indicators, animal preferences and motives, concluding with practical parameters of access and improving welfare. The fourth part is aimed at describing influences of physical conditions, including feeding technologies, covering specific requirements of species and age,

different social conditions in different breeds. Attention is paid to the fact that in welfare it is necessary to take into consideration the former development of animals, especially the related living conditions between humans and farm animals, and emphasizes the relevance of responsibility of people. The history of breeding is also discussed, priority preferences of aim selection, but, also its negative side, including risks of genetic diseases. In the last, fifth part, global problems of animal welfare are discussed, including its social, economic and cultural pattern. Possibility of interference instruments in animal welfare is divided into eleven group points, from lawful provisions legalized up to private interventions by single breeders and farmers.

The second edition of the reviewed work recalls and agrees with the idea expressed by Mahátma Gándhi "*The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated*". The book widely informs of the changes in animal welfare at the beginning of the third millenium, including its deeper scientific knowledge, and its fertile application in concrete varied living conditions, in a multicultural world with different ways of life. It is a valuable addition to the thesaurus of books about animal welfare. It is not only a concise source of information, but, also an appeal call. Full advantage should be taken of it.

Antonín Holub