



**Robert Berry.
Report for James Rennie Bequest**

ISAE International congress, Prague 13-16 August

The purpose of my attendance at this conference was initially to present some of the findings derived from my PhD. Departmental and MAFF studentship requirements state that it is in a students interests to present and attend at least 1 international conference during the course of a PhD. Unfortunately the funding body only provides half the required amount for international conferences necessitating the request for financial support to the above bequest committee.

The congress covered varied facets of the science of ethology, from methodology and computerised techniques to study behaviour to very applied aspects of domestic, companion and zoo animal behaviour and welfare. This year special emphasis was placed upon the effects of domestication and its extension into the welfare of captive, farm and companion animals. However I was more interested on the paper sessions concerning the applications of optimal foraging and consumer demand theory in ethological studies, although this is not a new area of research the work presented came from a fresh perspective and raised a number of questions for my own research.

The majority of organised workshops were not directly relevant however I attended a workshop on the integrated assessment of farm animals. This provided invaluable information on the perceived state of the welfare problems associated with different farm species and management practices. It was also useful to voice my own ideas on the gradation in the severity specific welfare problems associated with intensive farm management practices.

✓ My presentation attracted some interest and more importantly provided some contacts and possibly the opportunity of some collaborative work. It was productive to have discussions with individuals encountering similar research problems to myself and to have some insight into the various ingenious strategies devised to overcome them.

In summary the conference was useful and also provided a more than welcome break during the writing of my thesis!
