

# Friday's World

BY  
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AS YOU will have read last week, the USA is now sharing Britain's concern about the practice of including rendered animal tissue in animal feed — something which many believe is connected to the outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle.

I am grateful to Cairn enthusiast Don Robbie for literature on the subject, including articles from the *New York Times*.

The whole process of rendering (using slaughtered farm animals etc) is a pretty horrible one when you think about it, though dead animals have to be disposed of somehow, but one aspect of the NYT's claims really did revolt me.

Apparently added to the

## Where do the bodies end up?

chain in the USA are the remains of dogs and cats put down in animal shelters. Six or seven million (yes, million) cats and dogs are killed in shelters each year, according to an American SPCA spokesman, and the article reports that, for example, the city of Los

Angeles sends 200 tons of 'euthanized' cats and dogs to be rendered each month.

It is some relief to know that pet food companies try not to buy meat and bone meal from renderers who grind up cats and dogs, according to the *New York Times*.

I am sure that readers over here would like to be reassured about the fate of companion animals' bodies. It is a distasteful subject, but one of great importance. May I ask the veterinary profession or any of the animal charities or local authorities whose work inevitably at times includes the destruction of pets, what happens to the dogs and cats they put down?