



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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Media Release

**From the
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)**

19th April, 2009

For Immediate Release:

International symposium to focus on selective breeding and welfare

There has been a good deal of public interest expressed in recent months in the subject of welfare problems related to selective breeding practices. The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), an independent charity, is bringing together leading scientists, veterinarians and others to address this and related issues in a two-day international symposium to be held at the University of Bristol, June 22nd and 23rd 2009.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species' – an auspicious time to consider the impact of natural selection, and of our selective breeding of animals, on their welfare. What happens to welfare when selection is not for evolutionary fitness but for traits preferred by us in pursuit of the 'ideal' companion animal or of greater farm animal production? Where genetic welfare problems have arisen as a consequence of breeding practices, how can these be tackled? The aim of the symposium, entitled 'Darwinian selection, selective breeding and the welfare of animals', is to consider these major welfare issues, with sessions including companion, farm, zoo and free-living animals and an exciting line-up of eminent speakers from around the world.

If you are interested in attending the symposium, the full programme and other details can be found on UFAW's website (www.ufaw.org.uk) or can be obtained from the UFAW office, telephone 01582 831818, email ufaw@ufaw.org.uk or write to UFAW, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN.

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SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: James K Kirkwood BVSc PhD CBiol FIBiol MRCVS

Secretary: Donald C Davidson

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Note to Editors:

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an internationally recognised, independent scientific and educational animal welfare charity. It works to improve knowledge and understanding of animals' needs in order to achieve high standards of welfare for farm, companion, research, captive wild animals and those with which we interact in the wild.

UFAW improves animal welfare worldwide through its programme of awards, grants and scholarships; by educational initiatives, especially at university and college level; by providing information in books, videos, reports and in its scientific journal *Animal Welfare*; by providing expert advice to governments and others, including for legislation and 'best practice' guidelines and codes; and by working with animal keepers, scientists, vets, lawyers and all those who care about animals.

This work relies on the support of members, subscribers and donors.

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