



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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Media Release

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

20th October, 2008

For Immediate Release:

UFAW invites papers for a major international symposium on welfare issues relating to the breeding of animals

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is to hold a two-day international symposium focussing on the effect of selective breeding on animal welfare at the University of Bristol in June 2009, and is now inviting contributions of talks or posters.

Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species' – an auspicious time to consider the impacts 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 ideal companion or laboratory animals, 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 is to consider these and related issues and it is intended to include sessions on farm, laboratory, companion, zoo and free-living animals.

Speakers will include, amongst others: Professor Per Jensen (University of Linköping) '*Domestication, selection, behaviour and welfare of animals – genetic mechanisms for rapid response*'; Dr Paul McGreevy (University of Sydney) '*Challenges and paradoxes in the companion animal niche*'; and Professor Jane Hurst (University of Liverpool) '*On the origin of laboratory mice and consequences for welfare*'.

Those wishing to present a talk or poster are asked to submit a title and abstract to UFAW for consideration by 19th November 2008. Full details of abstract submission and further information about the symposium can be found on the UFAW website (www.ufaw.org.uk).

-ENDS-

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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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