



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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Media Release

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

4 January, 2008

For Immediate Release:

Animal welfare science students present their work at the tenth annual UFAW Vacation Scholarship Meeting

The tenth annual Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) Vacation Scholarship Meeting was held on 12th December 2007 at Moulton College, Northampton, and featured presentations of the work of eight of the year's UFAW vacation scholars and two Dorothy Sidley Award winners from the Humane Slaughter Association, UFAW's sister charity.

Scientific and educational animal welfare charity UFAW and sister charity HSA fund short research projects under the Vacation Scholarship and Dorothy Sidley Award schemes respectively, designed to encourage and develop students' interest in animal welfare science. These projects are funded for up to eight weeks and the annual meeting provides a platform to present and discuss the findings of their studies.

Hosted by Dr Hannah Gaucci and her team in the Moulton College Animal Welfare and Veterinary Health Group, this year's meeting covered a diverse range of topics including factors affecting lameness and milk yields in dairy cattle, the effects of milk supplementation on naturally suckled piglets, the effect of human interaction on feral ponies and the effect of human contact on the parasite burden of a species of wild living macaque monkey.

In addition to the vacation scholar presentations, UFAW's Research Training Scholar Jessica Mettam (University of Liverpool) talked about her pioneering research into pain detection in fish and its possible welfare implications – work that has the potential to fundamentally change the way we view and use fish. UFAW's Three R's Liaison Group student Verity Bowell (University of Stirling) also discussed her work on reducing the stress of capture in laboratory primates through positive reinforcement training.

Since its launch in 1983, over 230 students at British universities and academic institutions have taken advantage of the UFAW vacation scholarship awards, and a large number have gone on to undertake further study and pursue successful careers in animal welfare. Applications are currently being received for the 2008 vacation scholarship awards. The closing date for applications is 28th February 2008.

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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

Registered Charity No. 207996 (Registered in England) and Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991



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If you would like further information about the UFAW Vacation Scholarship, please contact UFAW's Development Officer, Stephen Wickens (wickens@ufaw.org.uk)

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Photos attached



Some of the 2007 UFAW Vacation Scholars with James Kirkwood, UFAW's Chief Executive (third from left) at Moulton College



The annual UFAW Vacation Scholars Meeting provides students with an opportunity to present the results of their studies

Background Notes:

1) The **Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)** founded in 1926, is an internationally recognised, independent, scientific and educational animal welfare charity concerned with promoting high standards of welfare for farm, companion, laboratory and captive wild animals, and for those animals with which we interact in the wild. UFAW works to improve animal lives by:

- promoting and supporting developments in the science and technology that underpin advances in animal welfare
- promoting education in animal care and welfare
- providing information, organising meetings, and publishing books, videos, articles, technical reports, and the leading quarterly scientific journal *Animal Welfare*
- providing expert advice to government departments and other bodies and helping to draft and amend laws and guidelines
- enlisting the energies of animal keepers, scientists, veterinarians, lawyers and others who care about animals

2) The **UFAW Vacation Scholarship award** scheme was initiated in 1983 and aims to provide opportunities for students to develop their interests in animal welfare, encourage a scientific approach to the issues, and establish a starting point for further, longer-term research into improving the lives of animals. Over 200 undergraduate students have been awarded scholarships through this scheme, and submitted reports on their wide-ranging work to UFAW. Applications are now being sought for consideration for the 2008 awards. The closing date for applications is 28th February 2008.

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3) Examples of the some of the wide range of species and issues that have been investigated since 1983:

- Investigation into the “bird table effect” and salmonellosis in British garden birds (Rosie Allister, 2003)
- Stone chewing in outdoor pigs: a stereotypy arising from food restriction and frustrated foraging or boredom due to lack of novelty? (Jayne Stamp, 2000)
- Does attaching bells to domestic cats reduce their predatory threat to wildlife (Jessica Windham Wright, 1999)
- Can mirrors reduce the incidence of stereotypic “weaving” in stabled horses? (Lisa MacDonald, 1998)
- Factors predisposing dogs to separation problems. (Alexander Christians, 1993)
- The effect of releasing captive hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) into the wild. (Sam Munn, 1990)
- A comparison of the welfare of laying hens in battery cages and in a perchery. (Kirsty McLean, 1985)

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