



## UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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### Media Release

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

**25th January, 2010**

**For Immediate Release:**

### **UFAW and HSA animal welfare scholars present their work**

The twelfth annual Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) and Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) student scholars' meeting was held recently at the University of Nottingham's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. The meeting featured presentations from UFAW's Animal Welfare Student Scholars and from the HSA's Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholars.

Scientific and educational animal welfare charity UFAW and sister charity HSA fund short research projects under the Animal Welfare Student Scholarship (formerly known as Vacation Scholarship) and Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholarship schemes respectively, designed to encourage and develop interest in animal welfare science. Projects are up to eight weeks in duration and the annual meeting provides a platform for scholars to present and discuss the findings of their studies.

At this year's meeting staff and students from surrounding colleges and universities enjoyed a wide range of presentations. Topics included the prevalence and risk of *Chlamydophila* carriage by wild garden birds, cognitive bias as a measure of subjective mental experience in pigs (which involves 'asking them if the glass is half full or half empty'), reducing pain and fear in cattle at the point of slaughter, and the effects of pre-stun shocks in broilers.

Applications are currently invited for the 2010 UFAW and HSA scholarships, valued at £1600 and £2000 respectively. The closing date for receipt of applications is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Further details are available at the UFAW and HSA websites ([www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk) and [www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.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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Photo attached:

UFAW and HSA scholars, with UFAW's Development Officer Dr Stephen Wickens (second from left), at the recent meeting held at the University of Nottingham's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science.

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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

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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