



## Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

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Universities Federation for Animal Welfare  
The Old School, Brewhouse Hill,  
Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1582 831818  
Email: [kirkwood@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:kirkwood@ufaw.org.uk)  
Website: [www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk)

British Veterinary Association  
7 Mansfield St,  
London W1G 9NQ, UK

+44 (0)207 636 6541  
[bvahq@bva.co.uk](mailto:bvahq@bva.co.uk)  
[www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk)

## Media Release

### From the **Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) and the British Veterinary Association (BVA)**

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006

**For Immediate Release:**

### **Quality of Life: the heart of the matter. UFAW and the BVA Ethics Committee announce international animal welfare symposium for September 2006**

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), in conjunction with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) Ethics Committee, has announced a major international animal welfare symposium to be held at the Royal Society, London on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2006.

*Quality of Life: the heart of the matter* will feature an international line-up of speakers and will bring together leading scientists, veterinarians, ethicists and others interested in the field to discuss issues and approaches in assessing and promoting the quality of animals' lives, a concern at the centre of care for companion animals. Areas to be addressed include: advances in the science underpinning our understanding of animals' feelings; advances in methods for assessment of quality of life in man and other animals; species variation in factors affecting quality of life; and ethical and practical implications for veterinarians and others of advances in understanding in this field.

Lord Soulsby, Chair of the BVA Ethics Committee, and Dr James Kirkwood, UFAW Chief Executive comment that, "One of the greatest challenges for veterinary surgeons and others involved with the management or keeping of animals is assessment of the quality of an animal's life – its welfare," and "the fundamental difficulty is that whilst we cannot measure how other animals feel we cannot avoid having to make judgements based on inferences or assumptions about this". The Symposium will be looking at how far veterinary research and animal welfare science have helped in developing approaches and methods of meeting this difficulty and at associated ethical dilemmas."

The international line-up of speakers and poster presentations will be addressing many aspects of the subject (details are available at the UFAW website: [www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk)). A reception for all Symposium delegates is planned for the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> September on the Terrace at the House of Commons, overlooking the Thames.

Early registration is at the reduced cost of £235 per person until 1<sup>st</sup> June. Telephone 01582 831818 or email [ufaw@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:ufaw@ufaw.org.uk) to request a registration form.

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Media contacts:

Dr James Kirkwood, Chief Executive and Scientific Director, UFAW. Tel: 01582-831818, email [kirkwood@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:kirkwood@ufaw.org.uk)

Dr Stephen Wickens, Development Officer, UFAW. Tel: 01582-831818, email [wickens@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:wickens@ufaw.org.uk)

Chrissie Nichols, Head of Media, BVA Tel: 020 7636 6541, email [chrissien@bva.co.uk](mailto:chrissien@bva.co.uk)

#### **Note to Editors:**

1. **A copy of the Symposium programme** is pasted below. Further details, including poster presentations, are available on the UFAW website [www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk)

2. **The British Veterinary Association (BVA)** is the national representative body for the veterinary profession. Although membership is voluntary it has over 10,000 members as well as 51 specialist and territorial divisions that represent the whole spectrum of species and interests within veterinary science and its own charity, the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation. The BVA has evolved, over 118 years, into the PR House for the UK profession at home and overseas and as the voice of the veterinary profession aims to promote the interests of its members and the animals under their care. The BVA is concerned about the ethical issues relating to society's use of animals and under the chairmanship of Professor Lord Soulsby, its Ethics Committee takes the lead in bringing relevant matters to the profession's attention and in raising the debate. In addition to the quality of animals' life, matters considered by the Committee in recent years have included organ transplantation, surgical interventions and genetic engineering. On an international scale the BVA is represented on the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe and the World Veterinary Association and has an active Overseas Group.

3. **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.

4. **Members of the Media interested in attending the Symposium or receiving copies of presentations** should contact:

Dr James Kirkwood, Chief Executive, UFAW, Tel: 01582 831818, email: [kirkwood@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:kirkwood@ufaw.org.uk)

or

Chrissie Nichols, Head of Media, BVA, Tel: 020 7636 6541, email [chrissien@bva.co.uk](mailto:chrissien@bva.co.uk)

### **Quality of Life: the heart of the matter.**

**UFAW and the BVA Ethics Committee international animal welfare Symposium**

#### **Programme of Speakers as at 12th May 2006**

##### **Day One:**

###### Introduction:

**Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior:** Introduction and welcome to the symposium

**Dr James Kirkwood (UFAW, UK):** Quality of life: the heart of the matter

**Baroness Warnock (House of Lords):** Sympathy towards animals: anthropomorphism revisited

###### Quality of life measurement and its application in humans

**Professor Keith Kendrick (Babraham Institute, Cambridge, UK):** Quality of life and the evolution of the brain

**Professor Sam Ahmedzai (University of Sheffield, UK):** Quantifying the indefinable — progress in measuring quality of life in people

**Professor Marian Scott (University of Glasgow):** Can we really measure animal quality of life?

**Dr Lesley Wiseman (Glasgow University, UK):** Applying human quality of life measurement methodologies to measure quality of life of companion animals

Quality of life: Making inferences about animals' feelings

**Professor Marian Dawkins (Oxford University, UK):** An ethologist's/animal welfare scientist's views on approaches to assessment of quality of life in companion animals

**Dr Françoise Wemelsfelder (SAC, Edinburgh, UK):** To what extent does science currently make use of qualitative judgements of the animal's experience: are we justified in doing so or in denying this approach?

**Dr Melissa Bateson (University of Newcastle, UK):** Ethologically-inspired cognitive bias tasks as novel measures of mood in animals

**Dr Alain Boissy (INRA Saint-Genes-Champanelle, France):** Assessment of positive emotions in animals to improve their welfare

Quality of life measurement in companion animals

**Professor Donald Broom (University of Cambridge, UK):** Concepts, assessment and use in decision making: quality of life in relation to welfare, health and feelings

**Professor Daniel Mills and Dr Katy Taylor (University of Lincoln, UK):** Quality of life in companion animals - useful concept or reinvented wheel?

**Dr Johanneke van der Harst (University of Utrecht):** Tools to measure and improve animal welfare: reward related behaviour

**Professor David Morton (University of Birmingham):** A system for the objective evaluation of animal well-being

## **Day Two:**

Quality of life measurement in companion animals

**Dr Freda Scott-Park (BVA)**

**Dr Richard Timmins (University of California, USA):** Enhancing quality of life for dogs and cats in confined situations

**Dr Ely Hibby (WSPA) & Dr Caroline Hewson (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada):** Assessing quality of life in companion and kennelled dogs: a critical review

**Dr Rachel Casey (University of Bristol, UK):** Assessment and enhancement of quality of life in domestic cats on entering a rescue shelter

**Professor Andrea Nolan (University of Glasgow, UK):** Development of a short form of the Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale (CMPS) as a measure of acute pain in dogs

**Dr Virginia Williams (Unitec Institute of Technology, New Zealand):** Cats are different from dogs! Developing behavioural indicators of pain in cats

Ethical issues

**Professor Peter Sandøe & Dr Stine Christiansen (Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark):** The value of animal life — how should we balance quality versus quantity?

**Mrs Sarah Wolfensohn (University of Oxford, UK):** Lab animal, pet animal, farm animal, wild animal: who gets the best deal?

**Dr Paul McGreevy (University of Sydney, Australia):** Breeding for quality of life

Assessing quality of life - issues and dilemmas in the veterinary practice

**Professor Bernard Rollin (Colorado State University, USA):** Cultural differences of opinion about what quality of life impact is acceptable in veterinary care of companion animals

**Carol Morgan (University of British Columbia, Canada):** Autonomy and paternalism in quality of life determinants in veterinary practice

**Dr John Bradshaw (University of Bristol, UK):** Anthropomorphism and anthropocentrism as influences in the assessment of quality of life in companion animals

**Dr Franklin McMillan (Medical Director, VCA Miller Animal Hospital, USA):** Quality of life assessment and its use in decision-making in veterinary practice in the USA

Quality of life and education

**Dr Alison Hanlon (University College Dublin, Ireland):** Animal ethics dilemma - an interactive learning tool for university and professional training

**Dr David Main (University of Bristol, UK):** Guidance on quality of life for the veterinary profession and the pet-owning public

Quality of life and the law

**Mike Radford (University of Aberdeen, UK):** How does the law decide when this duty has not been met?

There will also be two poster sessions.

Access to the Royal Society is from 8.00am, with the symposium starting at 9.20am on the 13th and 8.30am on the 14th. In addition to lunch there will be a morning and afternoon refreshment break each day. Delegates attending the meeting can register at the Royal Society between 6.00-8.00pm on the evening of the 12th or from 8.00am on the first day of the meeting.

A drinks reception will be held at the House of Commons for all delegates attending the symposium on the evening of 13th September.