



**Universities Federation
for Animal Welfare
News-Sheet, Spring 2011**

Science in the Service of Animal Welfare

Letter from the Chairman

As the new Chair of Council I would like to welcome you to the Spring 2011 News-Sheet. One of the strengths of UFAW's approach is its enlisting and working with other organisations and individuals to more effectively find practical ways forward in addressing welfare problems. The work of the Rodent Control Methods Working Group and of the Garden Bird Health initiative, described in this News-Sheet, are good examples of this approach in action. The latter not only includes scientific, welfare and conservation bodies but also large numbers of the public who collect vital data for input into the programme's garden bird surveillance.

UFAW is also rightly known for its informative and well-run symposia, and this year's event will no doubt successfully continue this tradition with a timely look at economic and other constraints and incentives to making improvements in animal welfare.

Such examples of UFAW's work as these, and others described in the News-Sheet, highlight the charity's important contribution to the development of animal welfare science and the improvements in animals' lives that result. On behalf of the Council and staff, my sincere thanks to you for your continued support of this work.



Photo courtesy Rob Wyatt Photography

Garden Bird Health *initiative*

The garden bird health surveillance and research project that arose out of a UFAW working group initiative several years ago has been highly productive. Garden bird feeding has become popular in many countries around the world but there has been little research into what, from welfare and conservation perspectives, are the best foods and into how they should be provided. It has become clear that infectious diseases occur quite commonly and therefore that hygiene is very important.

Shortly after the research project (based at the Institute of Zoology and involving also the BTO, RSPB, Defra, SAC and many other individuals and organisations) began, the first cases of what became a major trichomonosis epidemic in finches in the UK and elsewhere were diagnosed. Because of the system for disease monitoring that had been put in place, it was possible to follow the epidemic closely and to estimate the effect of the disease on the national greenfinch and chaffinch populations. It is thought that mortality exceeded half a million birds (Robinson RA, Lawson B, Toms MP *et al* 2010. Emerging Infectious Disease leads to Rapid Population Decline of Common British Birds. PLoS ONE www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0012215). The factors that led to this outbreak are still being explored.

UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science

As part of its endeavours to support the advancement of animal welfare through high quality science, UFAW has launched a new award to recognise the exceptional achievements of an individual scientist who has made a major contribution to the advancement of animal welfare. The winner of the first UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science will be announced and presented with a cheque for £3,000 and a commemorative medal at the UFAW International Symposium in June 2011 (see opposite).

UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year Award

In 2010 UFAW launched a new award to recognise the hard-work and achievements of young scientists who have significantly contributed to improving the welfare of animals. The Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year Award is aimed at young researchers, in the UK and internationally, who are currently studying for a doctoral degree and to post-doctoral scientists who are within six years of completing their PhD work. Many nominations were received for the inaugural award and two winners have been chosen. Along with the UFAW Medal winner, they will be announced at the UFAW International Symposium, and will each receive £1,000 and a framed certificate.



***Making animal welfare improvements:
Economic and other incentives and constraints***
UFAW International Animal Welfare Symposium
Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth UK, 28-29th June 2011

Plans for the 2011 UFAW International Animal Welfare Symposium continue apace. This meeting, the latest in UFAW's regular programme of themed symposia that bring together leading scientists, veterinarians, policy makers and others, will consider the incentives and constraints, economic and otherwise, to making animal welfare improvements along with the societal attitudes of which these are a reflection.

The meeting is to be held within the Portsmouth Historic Dockyards on the 28-29th June 2011 and will feature a drinks reception on HMS Warrior, the world's first iron-hulled armoured warship. Delegates will also be able to explore the dockyard and its museums, visit Nelson's flagship HMS Victory and be taken on a guided boat tour of the harbour.

A programme of internationally recognised speakers, including Professors David Bayvel (MAF Biosecurity, New Zealand), Ian Duncan (University of Guelph, Canada), Peter Sandøe (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) and John Webster (University of Bristol) among many others, will present a diverse range of topics over the two days (a full programme is available on the UFAW website (www.ufaw.org.uk) or contact the UFAW office.

Presentation of the 2011 UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science and the UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year Award will also take place during the event.

It is intended that the proceedings of the Symposium will be published as a special edition of the UFAW Animal Welfare journal and made available to all delegates and other interested individuals and organisations worldwide.



Website on genetic welfare problems in companion animals

An important part of the approach to tackling genetic welfare problems in companion animals and preventing further problems arising as a consequence of selective breeding, is dissemination of information about these welfare problems.

Work is now underway on drafting descriptions of many common genetic welfare problems in companion animals for the website that UFAW is developing. We hope that it will be a valuable source of information for people who are considering acquiring pets and who need to know what conditions can occur, and whether and how they can be recognised or diagnosed. The nature and physical effects of each condition will be outlined with comments about the way, and how severely, these affect the animal's welfare – its quality of life.

We are grateful to veterinarians David and Rosie Godfrey who have been preparing drafts for this project and also to all the others who have submitted material or commented on drafts. Acknowledgements will be included to the people who have been involved in the drafting and preparation of each case description.

Our initial aim is to make this material available on the web as text files but, as the project progresses, we hope to be able to develop, or work with others to develop, the sophistication of the site to make it more attractive and user-friendly.

Many of the conditions being described are those which occur in dogs, but work is also underway on some genetic problems in cats and rabbits, and the aim is for the website to cover all companion animal species.

Small Project and Travel Awards

2010 proved to be another busy year for the UFAW Small Project and Travel Award scheme and UFAW supported a number of projects covering a wide spectrum of animal welfare issues. One of the interesting projects in the farm animal sector was carried out by Dr Charles Deeming and Dr Jonathan Cooper who investigated the welfare of breeding pheasants. Their research looked into the effects of providing sight barriers in pheasant breeding pens and the effects that it had on bird welfare and performance. Their study indicated that the presence of barriers was associated with reduced aggressive interactions and improved feather scores. Additionally, females in barrier pens produced more fertile eggs resulting in higher hatchability rates.

Another research project supported by UFAW was undertaken by Miss Ashleigh Lutz as part of her MSc research project and looked into the effect of environmental variables on the behaviour of polar bears housed in European zoos. Ashleigh's study explored how climate, management and environmental variables (such as temperature, humidity, feeding schedule, training, enclosure size and visitor numbers) affected the stereotypic behaviour of eleven polar bears in five zoos across the European Union.

UFAW also supported the attendance of Ms Catriona Ryan at the 17th International Conference on Comparative Cognition. Ms Ryan, a Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer and Teaching Fellow at Exeter University, gave an oral presentation entitled: 'The shape of things to come? Sorting strategies in the domestic dog'. The research presented by Ms Ryan examined how dogs discriminate between multidimensional stimuli and her results indicated that when dogs were asked to choose between two objects that differed in shape, colour and texture, that shape was the most important feature.



One of the projects supported by UFAW in 2010 involved an investigation of the effects of environmental variables on the behaviour of polar bears in five European zoos.



The Management and Welfare of Farm Animals – the 'farm animal handbook'

Because of the huge numbers of farm animals that are bred raised and slaughtered each year, the use of animals as food is an extremely important area in which to concentrate efforts to improve animal welfare. In 1971 UFAW first published a handbook to, in the words of Charles Hume, 'put the case for the humane treatment of farm animals in as rational a way as possible' Since then UFAW has published various revisions of this textbook on farm animal husbandry and welfare, which both describes current practice but acts as a signpost for future welfare improvements. The latest edition of the handbook has been edited by Professor John Webster, Emeritus Professor of Animal Husbandry at the University of Bristol, and UFAW is very grateful to him and the authors of the various chapters. The handbook is particularly aimed at students of agriculture and veterinary science, those who are most likely to go on to be able to influence the welfare of farm animals either on the farm or through the development of legislation and codes of practice. We are delighted to announce that the 5th edition of the handbook is now completed. It will be published as part of the UFAW animal welfare series by Wiley Blackwell at £38.50 and will be available to purchase from April 2011.

Vice-Chair awarded MBE

Dr Lydia Brown, UFAW Council Member since 2006 and, since October 2010, its Vice-Chair, has been awarded an MBE in the 2011 New Years Honours List for services to the veterinary profession.

Dr Brown served on the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Council from 1991 to 2007 and was President of the RCVS in 1998/99. She was instrumental in the establishing of the Veterinary Surgeons Health Support Programme, launched in 1999, and became a Director of the Veterinary Benevolent Fund in 2005 and its President in 2006.

Positive reception for 'lab animal handbook'

Since its publication in April 2010, the 8th edition of the *UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals* has received very positive reviews. One example (Lucy Whitfield, *Veterinary Record* Jan 15 2011) concludes 'In summary, this is a must-have book for those working with research animals. However, it is much more than that: the principles of thoughtful use and care of animals are widely applicable to other veterinary relationships too, whether pet, farm or zoo animals. I recommend it to vets, nurses and students with an interest in and concern for the ethical use of all non-human animals.'

Humane rodent control

We are exploring with industry how to make leaflets providing information about welfare aspects of rodent control available at points of sale of rodent control products. In this context, we are pleased that B&Q has included in its customer information sheet 'How to control pests in the garden', reference to the 'Guiding principles in the humane control of rats and mice' that is available at the UFAW website (<http://www.ufaw.org.uk/rodents.php>), and which was developed by the UFAW working group concerned with this subject.

The live trapping and release elsewhere of rodents is becoming an increasingly popular method of rodent control by the public and is seen as being a more humane option than alternatives. However, it appears that little is known about the fate of live-trapped and released mice. It seems very likely that the welfare of translocated and released mice would depend on many factors including the place and time of release. We are seeking funding to support research at Reading University into the behaviour and fate of such released mice.

Anticoagulants are the most widely used rodenticides but there are growing concerns about their use because of: (a) declining efficacy due to the evolution of resistant strains, (b) their risks to non-target species, and (c) their adverse welfare consequences. These three factors all pull in the same direction and UFAW is encouraging the development of new and more humane methods.

Species bias

The Deputy Scientific Director gave a plenary presentation on the subject of our biases to treat animals differently at a Laboratory Animal Science Association meeting. People often tend to be more favourably inclined towards some species such as dogs, cats, horses, whales, monkeys, etc and are often less concerned about others such as rodents and snakes. Unfortunately, these biases are often not based on scientifically established differences in ability or likelihood of suffering and can be unhelpful when considering the harms that might be caused to the animal, or which species of animal should be used in the experiment. Dr Hubrecht argued for a more rational approach based on the behaviour, physiology and other adaptations of the animal. However, his presentation was nearly not given at all. The conference was held during the first of the heavy snowfalls, with the result that his train stopped overnight in a field in Surrey, and a 3 hour rail journey took on this occasion 18 hours.

3Rs presentations

At the same meeting UFAW also helped to organise a 3Rs session, at which two speakers funded by UFAW - Claire Richardson of Newcastle University and Claire Watson of Stirling university gave presentations on methods of refining techniques of assessing pain in rodents, and the husbandry implications of common marmoset vocal behaviour.



Photo courtesy Katlife.org

'Snow show'

UFAW animal welfare student scholarship meeting, University of Glasgow

Despite the hostile weather conditions, the 13th of these annual meetings where animal welfare student (previously vacation) scholars present their findings, took place at the University of Glasgow on the 8th December 2010, albeit in a truncated form. With Scotland and parts of the UK experiencing travel chaos caused by unusually heavy snow, and arctic temperatures of -12°C and below, and with many airports and roads shut, UFAW was forced to advise scholars not to travel to the meeting unless they had already set out. Nonetheless, five brave souls managed to battle through the conditions and the 'select' audience that had been able to join them were treated to some excellent presentations. Indeed, two of those who talked had the furthest distance to travel of all, with Josep Subirana flying in from Barcelona to talk about his work on assessing pain in dogs in neutering programmes in developing countries and Saara Maria Hiippala, a student at the link institution the Estonian University of Life Sciences, talking about the assessment of diagnostic methods for canine monocytic ehrlichiosis amongst the stray dogs of Sri Lanka.



UFAW Student Scholars together with Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholars from UFAW's sister charity the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) at this years Scholarship Meeting

We would like to extend our thanks to all the UFAW animal welfare student scholars who were able to attend and to the staff and students of the Veterinary School at Glasgow who provided an audience for the talks. A special thanks to Dr Dorothy McKeegan whose warm welcome and hospitality was much appreciated.



The UFAW University Links Scheme

UFAW continues to grow this scheme which seeks to promote interest in animal welfare science amongst staff and students at the link institutions by supporting related activities. Examples include the regular programme of UFAW animal welfare science seminars hosted by the Universities of Stirling and Lincoln. Others use the link as a means of allowing their students to attend meetings or participate in events that otherwise they could not, for example in November 2010, new link Professor Mike Cockram (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada) sent some of his veterinary students to Michigan State University where they participated in the 10th Annual Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest. These contests utilize the traditional livestock judging contest framework to teach students how to assess and critique the welfare of animals used for food production, research, companion, and other purposes. Student team members evaluate how well a given situation suits an animal species' evolutionary biology and meets its biological needs.

Other new links include Dr Rob Thomas (University of Cardiff), Professor Ekaterina Rivera (Federal University of Goiás, Brazil) and Kate Williams (Berkshire College of Agriculture). A warm welcome is extended to them all and we look forward to similarly reporting on their activities. A full list of link institutions and further information about the scheme and their activities can be found on the UFAW website.

We encourage institutions that are interested in establishing a link with UFAW to contact us (ufaw@ufaw.org.uk).

Animal Welfare, the Journal

With the publication of the first part of Volume 20, *Animal Welfare* is now in its 21st year and is continuing to grow. Although the number of manuscripts published each year has increased from 21 in 1992, to 69 in 2010, the number submitted has increased to a much greater extent (and, during 2010 was greater than ever before) so competition for acceptance is intensifying. In addition, there is growing demand for the journal as a vehicle for publishing the proceedings of animal welfare-related international conferences.

We are most grateful to all of the Section Editors, peer reviewers, authors and others involved in this international project.



New UK legislation regulating research using animals

On the 8th September 2010 the European parliament voted in revised legislation on animals used for scientific purposes, as a result of which, member states, including the United Kingdom, have 24 months in which to adopt national legislation to transpose the provisions of the Directive. The Directive will require some member states to adopt higher standards and thus should be beneficial. While for the UK there are some improvements, there are also a number of areas where the new Directive has, or dependent on interpretation may have, lower standards than those currently in force under our 1986 legislation.

There will be a consultation early in 2011 on the Government proposals but UFAW staff have already been taking part in a number of meetings and initiatives to discuss aspects of the Directive and feed back initial thoughts to the Home Office and other stakeholders. We shall be keeping a close eye on this in the coming year.

New Animal Welfare Research Training Scholarship

UFAW intends to award an Animal Welfare Research Training Scholarship in 2011. These are highly prestigious awards that are given with the aim of developing a young veterinary or science graduate's career in animal welfare science. They are also valuable in that they can lead to new insights into animal care or welfare assessment. Past winners have carried out research that has, for example, led to advances in our understanding of the emotional states of animals, and the capacity of fish to feel pain. Applications for this 8th award in the series are now closed and we hope to be able to make an announcement of the winner later in the year.



Photos from some of the 2010 Animal Welfare Student Scholarship projects: thanks to Sue Fowler; Kotono Shikano; Jamie Dallaire; Josep Subirana; Dan Woodward; Nika Vorster.

UFAW SAWI Fund

UFAW SAWI funding is being made available to support a suitable candidate to undertake a PhD in animal welfare science at the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and also to develop teaching in the subject to undergraduates. This opportunity has now been advertised by the Veterinary School.

Notification for election to Council at the 2011 AGM

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the 2011 AGM must reach the UFAW office between 2nd September and 30th September 2011. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary.

2011 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the afternoon of Tuesday 11th October 2011 at the UFAW office (The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts). Full details of the time and business of the meeting will be sent to members in due course.

Spring Appeal *to support the UFAW Animal Welfare Student Scholarships*

The UFAW Vacation Scholarship scheme was renamed last year to reflect changes – that the Scholarship could now be undertaken at any time of the year as part of term work, and its further extension overseas as the number of University ‘Links’ grows. The aim of the programme remains the same: to encourage and support interest in the scientific approach to animal welfare amongst students. Around 300 students have participated since the scheme’s inception in 1983. For many it has proved to be the starting point for further study and professional involvement in animal welfare science. As such, the Scholarships are an important part of UFAW’s work, the future of animal welfare science and the improvement of animals’ lives.

Your support will help ensure the Animal Welfare Student Scholarships continue to play this important role.

If you would like to contribute please send a donation to the Spring 2011 Appeal at the UFAW office address. Many thanks!

Thanks to all those who contributed to the Autumn 2010 Appeal in support of the UFAW Research Training Scholarship.

Other ways you can support the work of UFAW

UFAW’s work relies on the support and generosity of members and donors, and this support is greatly appreciated. In addition to our Spring and Autumn Appeals, here are some other ways you can help promote animal welfare and animal welfare science:

Become a member

Individual membership is just £10 a year (£5 for students). Corporate membership from £20 a year.

Recruit a member

If you are already a member, why not recruit a colleague or friend?

Support the University Links

There are currently 39 academic institutions worldwide represented. You can participate in their activities and help promote UFAW’s objectives.

Subscribe to ‘Animal Welfare’

The quarterly scientific and educational journal now has full online access and back issue search facility for subscribers.

Join our Regular Giving Programme

Regular monthly donations greatly help us to plan UFAW activities.

Pledge a gift in your Will

Over the years legacies have been extremely important to UFAW’s work. An information leaflet on leaving a gift in your Will is available free from UFAW.

Sponsor an activity

There are frequent opportunities to sponsor particular activities, events or projects of interest to institutional or corporate organisations.

Shop at UFAW

Choose from our exclusive range of clothing, stationery, gifts and cards that also help promote UFAW. Ask for a brochure or visit www.ufaw.org.uk

For more information on any of these contact the UFAW office.

‘Careless Talk Costs Lives’

Many of you will be familiar with the cartoons and drawings of Fougasse (real name Kenneth Bird) who was Chair of UFAW Council from 1949 to 1964. He created many drawings for UFAW which are still in use (including the logo). Famed for his World War II work for the Government (including the ‘Careless Talk Costs Lives’ and ‘Dig for Victory’ campaigns), and for the London Underground and Punch magazine, a book has recently been published celebrating the life and work of Fougasse: James Taylor *Careless Talk Costs Lives*, Conway 2010 (www.conwaypublishing.com).



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