



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK.

Tel: +44(0)1582 831818 Fax: +44(0)1582 831414

Website: <http://www.ufaw.org.uk>

Email: ufaw@ufaw.org.uk

Media Release

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

24th May, 2007

For Immediate Release:

Zoos win awards for animal welfare

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) has announced two winners for 2007 in its annual Wild Animal Welfare Award scheme: Bristol Zoo Gardens has won the 'welfare of free-living wild animals' category for its development and testing of a new type of animal-friendly flipper band for penguins; and for its study determining the beneficial effects of botanical visitor barriers on the behaviour and welfare of mandrills, Chester Zoo has won the 'welfare of captive wild animals' category.

Wild Animal Welfare Awards are made annually by UFAW, an internationally recognised scientific and educational animal welfare charity, in recognition of innovations that aim to improve the welfare of captive wild animals or which alleviate or prevent harm from human activities to animals in the wild.

Flipper banding is a practice used by field biologists to enable monitoring of wild penguin populations for conservation purposes. However, traditional metal bands have caused concerns for possible negative impacts, for example on breeding success and for causing drag while swimming, snagging on vegetation and feather wear. A new silicon band, designed by Peter Barham of Bristol University, has been manufactured and tested by Bristol Zoo for the last five years – initially on penguins at the zoo and subsequently on wild birds on Robben Island, South Africa. The silicon bands were found to have successfully addressed these concerns.

By winning this award, Bristol Zoo aims to increase the use of the bands with African penguins in the wild. Fitting fledglings with them each year will provide a group of known individuals that can be monitored with no detrimental impact on the population. In addition, the availability of these bands to the wider zoo community should result in the improved management and welfare of captive birds.

Chester Zoo, in collaboration with Durham University, conducted a 'before and after' study of the effect of using plants as a partial visual barrier between visitors and the glass front of a mandrill enclosure. Significant reductions in stress-related behaviours followed installation of the botanical barrier.

Mandrills, the world's largest species of monkey, were monitored at the zoo and it was found that the presence of visitors caused them to exhibit abnormal and aggressive behaviours such as banging the glass, baring teeth and hair plucking. Planting produced an immediate reduction in these behaviours and an increase in positive behaviours such as playing and feeding.

(more.....)

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



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK.

Tel: +44(0)1582 831818 Fax: +44(0)1582 831414

Website: <http://www.ufaw.org.uk>

Email: ufaw@ufaw.org.uk

Zoos win awards for animal welfare (continues.....page 2 of 2)

Chester Zoo plans to use its award to conduct research into the effects of swing poles on Bornean and Sumatran orang-utans. Swing poles are designed to replicate the movement of trees and branches, and allow the apes to use various natural forms of locomotion as they travel around their enclosures. Swing poles will be trialled in the new 'Realm of the Red Ape' exhibit at Chester Zoo in the coming months.

"Studies of wild animals, in captivity and in the wild, are essential if, as the human population continues to rapidly expand, we are to find ways to co-exist without harming other species. These projects are excellent examples of scientific studies aimed at improving welfare in our interactions with other animals," said UFAW's Chief Executive and Scientific Director, Dr James Kirkwood.

-ENDS-

Media contacts:

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

Rebecca Sawtell, Bristol Zoo Gardens. Tel: 01179 747389, email rsawtell@bristolzoo.org.uk

Rachael Ashton, Chester Zoo. Tel: 01244 389460, email R.Ashton@chesterzoo.org

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.

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