



Media Release

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

**21st November, 2005
For Immediate Release:**

Improving Zoo Primate Welfare: Paignton Zoo wins 2005 UFAW Wild Animal Welfare Award

Paignton Zoo Environmental Park has received the 2005 Wild Animal Welfare Award from the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) for their work with Colobus monkeys. The Wild Animal Welfare Award is 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.

The presentation of this year's Award was made on behalf of UFAW on Tuesday November 15th at Paignton Zoo by Dr Miranda Stevenson, the Director of BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums). Dr Robert Hubrecht, Deputy Director, represented UFAW.

Paignton Zoo Research Associate Dr Vicky Melfi received on behalf of the Zoo a cheque for £1000, a plaque to put up by the Colubus enclosure and a certificate. Her work involved training individual Colobus monkeys to take fruit juice from syringes, so providing a more welfare-friendly method of delivering medication.

Dr Melfi's study looked at the impact of training on the welfare of Colobus monkeys. The results showed that training as part of the husbandry regime made for healthier animals and had no adverse effect on natural behaviours. It meant staff could perform routine health checks and deliver medication without having to catch and tranquilise individual animals.

Dr Vicky Melfi said "Our results showed that training Colobus monkeys at Paignton Zoo led to significant welfare benefits. It is important to remember that different species may respond differently, so more research in this area is vital. This project was highly collaborative, involving science, mammal and veterinary staff at the zoo."

The judges considered her work to be important to the advancement of zoo animal welfare, describing the project as "A model of how to apply science to a practical issue."

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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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Dr James Kirkwood, UFAW's Chief Executive and Scientific Director, said "What stood out about this application was their rigorous and well-thought out approach to a practical problem that they had encountered with their Colobus. Not only did they identify that training the Colobus would improve the health of the animals by facilitating regular veterinary inspections, but that it also presented an opportunity to collect information about the impact of training on the welfare and behaviour of the animals. Such information is a valuable addition to the on-going debate about the role of training in improving captive wild animal care."

The money from the award will be used to support further research at Paignton Zoo and contribute towards the cost of hosting a second mammal training workshop for other zoo professionals. (the first was held in 2003).

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Photo attached: Dr Vicky Melfi of Paignton Zoo (l) is presented with the 2005 UFAW Wild Animal Welfare Award by Dr Miranda Stevenson of BIAZA and Dr Robert Hubrecht of UFAW.

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Paignton Zoo is a member of the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA). BIAZA represents its member collections and promotes the values of good zoos and aquariums. For further information please telephone 020 7449 6351.

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.

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