



Universities Federation for Animal Welfare Annual Report 2019–2020

Science in the Service of Animal Welfare

www.ufaw.org.uk



UFAW – the International Animal Welfare Science Society

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, founded in 1926, is an independent charity promoting animal welfare science worldwide, together with high standards of welfare for farm, companion, laboratory and captive wild animals and for those animals with which we interact in the wild.

This report highlights the work undertaken by the charity during the past year which has been possible due to the continued commitment of its members and donors who have supported the charity through subscriptions, donations and legacies. This support is the very heart and life-blood of the charity and enables us to continue to strive for improvements in animal welfare – for which we thank you.

UFAW's vision is simple – to improve animals' lives through research, education, information and advice. It does this by:

- Promoting, funding and supporting animal welfare science and technology that underpins advances in animal welfare
- Promoting and supporting education in animal care and welfare
- Providing information, organising meetings and publishing books, articles, technical reports, information on its website and the journal Animal Welfare
- Providing expert advice to government departments and other bodies and helping to draft and amend laws and guidelines

Cover photo: Lion by Alexas Fotos/Pixabay

In 1954, UFAW's office moved to 7a Lamb's Conduit Passage, Red Lion Square, London. The good, kind lion, protecting others from harm, had for some time been a favourite subject of Fougasse, whose simple yet elegant drawings still form part of UFAW's publications today.



Photo credit: Alexas Fotos/Pixabay

Welcome to the 2019-20 Annual Report for UFAW

As I write this introduction to the annual report, we are still dealing with the impact of Covid-19 on the activities of the charity and adapting quickly in order to be able to continue to support science in the service of animal welfare.

The year has also been one of change and opportunity. In December 2019, we said farewell to our Chief Executive and Scientific Director Dr Robert Hubrecht OBE, who retired after five years of leadership (and prior to that some 18 years as UFAW's Deputy Scientific Director). The Council was delighted to welcome Dr Huw Gollidge to the role. Huw has been a member of the Senior Management Team at UFAW since September 2014 when he joined as the Senior Scientific Programme Manager and you can read his first Chief Executive's report on page 4.

Our first ever virtual conference (see page 12) has given us the opportunity to introduce UFAW and our work to new audiences around the world. Once the decision was made to run the conference as a virtual event in order to reach out to the many scientists, students and others working in the field of animal welfare who were isolated from their colleagues and working from home during the pandemic, our staff worked tirelessly to bring the event to fruition. Although the conference was free to register, many chose to show their appreciation and support by making a donation, for which we are extremely grateful.

Over the past twelve months, we received over 80 applications for funding, more than we can support. In order to ensure our funding goes to those worthy projects which are most likely to have the greatest benefit and impact on animal welfare, we took the opportunity in 2019 to review our funding priorities. You can read about this and some of the projects we have funded on page 5.

As we continue on our journey to understand what truly matters to animals and to benefit their welfare, I am reminded that it is not a path we walk alone. You, our members and supporters, have remained steadfast in your generosity and support. Without this backing, the work summarised in this report, or hoped for in the future, could not take place. In these uncertain times, we need your continued support more than ever in order to be able to continue to make a difference. Thank you for placing your confidence and trust in us to continue using science in the service of animal welfare.

Alick Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS
Chairman of Trustees



“As we continue on our journey to understand what truly matters to animals and to benefit their welfare, I am reminded that it is not a path we walk alone.”



Photo credit: H. Golledge/HSA

“I hope you will consider supporting us or becoming a member of UFAW, our work is just as vital as it always has been and your support is more important than ever.”

This is my first introduction to the Annual Report as Chief Executive of UFAW and as I write this the world is in an extraordinary situation as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

I certainly did not expect my first six months at the helm to involve some of the difficult issues it has, but I'm pleased to say that UFAW and its staff have risen to all the challenges thrown at us. We have adapted rapidly to working from home whilst delivering all the services we normally provide from our offices and staff have worked tirelessly to move our conference, which we originally planned to hold in Birmingham in July, to an on-line event at very short notice. There have even been benefits such as the fact that our conference reached far more people than it would have done as a face-to-face event. Many of those we reached are exactly those people who most benefit from exposure to the latest thinking in animal welfare science; early career researchers and scientists in far-flung parts of the world who would have been most unlikely to be able to travel to Birmingham, even in the absence of a global pandemic. I'm really proud of the work we've done under difficult circumstances.

Most of this report summarises the work done before the effects of the coronavirus pandemic took hold. As you will see, UFAW has had another productive year supporting science in the service of animal welfare through the funding of innovative research projects, support for students and early-career researchers and dissemination of the results of the science through our conferences and publications.

My predecessor as Chief Executive, Robert Hubrecht, retired at the end of 2019 after a long career with UFAW first as Deputy Scientific Director, and latterly as Chief Executive and Scientific Director. Robert led the Charity with great diplomacy and expertise and he will be missed by all at UFAW and many in the wider animal welfare world. We wish him a relaxing retirement.

The next few years will be challenging, but unlike many charities we are well placed to continue our work despite the pandemic. However, as is always the case, we rely on our members and supporters to continue our work, perhaps now more than ever. We were delighted by the show of support we received in response to our appeal for funds to support our move to a virtual conference. If you don't already, I hope you will consider supporting us or becoming a member of UFAW, our work is just as vital as it always has been, and your support is more important than ever. Thank You.

Huw Golledge BSc PhD
Chief Executive & Scientific Director



PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE

FUNDING FOR SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE – OUR PRIORITIES

UFAW's programme of grant funding for scientific research and related activities aims to support work to better understand and ideally improve the welfare of animals. We receive many more applications for funding than we can support, so how do we prioritise what to fund? In general, when considering grant applications, we prioritise those applications which are likely to offer a significant animal welfare benefit to a large number of animals. We also prioritise activities which offer training or development opportunities for promising animal welfare scientists, especially those in parts of the world where there has traditionally been less animal welfare science capacity. More specifically, we also regularly review and update a list of areas of research which we would be especially interested in supporting. Our current priority areas were reviewed in 2019 and include:

- Development of approaches to eliminate or alleviate significant welfare problems in farmed animals
- Development of methodologies aimed at elucidation of the neurological basis of sentience in animals
- Development of methods of welfare/quality of life assessment; including detection and alleviation of pain, distress; and the assessment of cumulative lifetime experience
- Development of methods for humane 'pest' control
- Research aimed at improving the welfare of fish – especially those farmed or caught for food
- Systematic reviews/meta-analyses of major animal welfare issues

Our list of priorities is not exhaustive, and we are always very open to exciting, novel projects which do not fit within our priority areas. In the following examples of recently funded research you will see illustrations of both. During the year in review, we received 82 applications for a variety of grants from research and project to travel awards, some examples of which are shown here. Your support enables us to fund this crucial research which will lead to improvements in the welfare of millions of animals.

USING NEUROBIOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF STRESS TO UNDERSTAND THE WELFARE OF FARMED CHICKENS

UFAW's Research Training Scholarships (RTS) provide funding for students to undertake a PhD in animal welfare whilst carrying out cutting-edge animal welfare research, advancing the field of animal welfare science as well as training the next generation of animal welfare scientists.

The most recent recipient of an RTS, Elena Armstrong, is currently nearing the end of her PhD at Newcastle University where she has been studying long-term markers of stress in farmed chickens. Elena has completed her experimental work and is currently analysing her data and writing up her thesis. She has presented her work at a number of meetings recently, not least at UFAW's recent virtual conference, where she presented one aspect of her project, the use of adult hippocampal neurogenesis (AHN - the production of new neurons in the hippocampus area of the brain), to assess welfare in chickens. Negative experiences such as stress or pain can reduce AHN whereas positive ones such as environmental enrichment and exercise can increase it. Elena's work suggests that birds in poor physical condition may show reduced hippocampal neurogenesis. On average neurogenesis did not differ between types of housing systems, suggesting that – irrespective of how they are housed - the most important thing seems to be to minimise negative welfare in individual birds.

GARDEN WILDLIFE HEALTH PROJECT

UFAW has supported this important initiative since its inception and for the last six years by providing grants to the value of £30,000. The project aims to understand more about the diseases that threaten the health, welfare and conservation of British wildlife species and to use that information to mitigate those threats. The current funding is due to end in October 2020 but over the period in review, the team has continued to conduct disease surveillance, disseminate findings to scientific communities, Government and the public and continue their outreach work, including publishing new and updated disease factsheets on their website www.gardenwildlifehealth.org.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF FLIGHT TO CAPTIVE PARROTS

Professor Innes Cuthill and colleagues at the University of Bristol recently received a large grant from UFAW to try to understand whether captivity impacts the welfare of parrots as a result of their ability to fly being curtailed. There are a great range of parrot species from those that are highly flight-dependent (some are even migratory) to those which are largely ground dwelling and rely little on flight. By examining data collected on a large number of parrots by surveying owners of pet parrots and zoos which keep parrots, the investigators hope to understand whether there is a correlation between welfare problems such as stereotypies (abnormal repetitive behaviours) or feather plucking and the flight-dependence of various species. This will provide invaluable information about the suitability of various parrot species to be kept in captivity as well as providing evidence that such a phylogenetic approach may be a valuable way of understanding the impact of captivity on animals.

The project is progressing well and despite the coronavirus pandemic, Professor Cuthill reports that valuable survey data is being accumulated ahead of the start of its analysis.

ASSESSING POSITIVE WELFARE IN PIGS

A major award this year went to Dr Lisa Moscovice from the Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology in Germany who will undertake a project to assess whether concentrations of the hormone oxytocin, measured in the saliva of pigs, can be used to assess positive welfare. Recent years have seen an increasing focus on considering whether animals have 'lives worth living' rather than simply striving to minimise suffering. To test whether farmed pigs do have 'lives worth living' there is a need for ways to measure positive welfare, ideally in a non-invasive manner. Measurement of the hormone oxytocin is one promising approach to assessing positive welfare. Oxytocin levels typically increase when animals experience positive states. Dr Moscovice and colleagues will validate the use of to measure welfare by assessing oxytocin levels from pigs exposed to a variety of positive experiences including social interactions, feeding and exercise. If successful, this method of assessing positive welfare could become a relatively simple and generally applicable technique for testing whether changes to housing and husbandry result in increases in positive experiences, allowing evidence-based improvements to the way we keep pigs.



Photo credit: James Royce/Phaboy

MEASURING AND REDUCING DAMAGE DURING NET HANDLING OF SALMON

Researchers at the University of Stirling used a UFAW grant to assess the damage (and potential stress) caused to Atlantic salmon by handling in nets. Dr Adam Powell examined whether different types of net mesh (rubber coated or standard knotless) and the number of fish per net (capture density) affected the extent of scale loss. For adults, scale loss was significantly lower for single fish moved using rubber mesh, although the difference in scale loss between mesh type, and the overall number of scales lost per fish, was reduced at higher capture densities (two or three fish per net maximum). Smaller smolts (the stage at which the salmon become adapted to salt water) also demonstrated significantly reduced scale loss in rubber mesh compared to knotless mesh, at all capture densities tested, however a reduction in scale loss with increased capture density was not shown. Dr Powell's technique represents a low-tech and rapid approach to quantitatively compare husbandry techniques. Further validation of the technique against existing measures of stress may allow it to be used to quantitatively assess the stressfulness of handling techniques.

SUPPORTING THE ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH NETWORK (AWRN)

UFAW continues to financially support the activities of the Animal Welfare Research Network (AWRN) which aims to bring together the UK animal welfare research community, researchers in related areas and stakeholders with interests in animal welfare to increase collaboration and support and encourage research activities. UFAW staff attended the 2019 AWRN annual meeting to give presentations on UFAW's funding and LINK outreach schemes.

UFAW also agreed to jointly fund a workshop supported by the AWRN on *Cross-fertilisation between neuroscience and animal welfare science* organised by Tom Smulders and Colline Poirier at Newcastle University alongside UFAW CEO Huw Gollidge. Originally planned for June 2020 the workshop has been postponed to 14th-15th June 2021 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The aim of this workshop is to explore potential cross-fertilisation by bringing together neuroscientists and animal welfare scientists whose work would mutually benefit from each other's expertise and, in particular, to examine the possibility of applying cutting-edge neuroscience techniques to better understand animal welfare.

Case study

TRAVEL GRANT AWARDED TO DR OLUWASEUN IYASERE, DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA

UFAW gave a travel award to Dr Oluwaseun Iyasere to enable her to attend our 2019 symposium in Bruges and give a poster presentation. Dr Iyasere reported: "I presented a poster titled **How mating ratio compromises the welfare of Nigerian indigenous chickens**. This is a baseline study to establish the appropriate mating ratio for Nigerian indigenous chickens using several welfare indices such as behaviour, heterophil/lymphocyte ratio and semen quality. At MR of 1:9, the welfare of the birds was compromised despite the fact that cocks had higher successful mating. Hence, MR of 1:6 is recommended for Nigerian indigenous chickens. I want to appreciate UFAW for the travel grant because attending the symposium gave me the opportunity to learn from the scientific presentations, establish potential collaboration and networking."



Photo credit: UFAW



RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT AND ENCOURAGING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ADVOCATES

The 2020 UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science was awarded to the inspiring and influential scientist Professor Daniel Weary.



Dan is a Professor in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia, and an NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) Industrial Research Chair in Dairy Cattle Welfare. In a career spanning more than 30 years so far, he has made major contributions to understanding and improving the welfare of animals including dairy cattle and laboratory rodents, using non-invasive methods to study their behaviour and motivations.

A string of accomplishments include over 260 peer-reviewed publications, three prominent international awards for scholarship and research impact, over \$12 million raised in grant funding, invitations to distinguished named lectures in Canada, Sweden and Norway and guest scholar/professor in Brazil, Sweden, Germany and Australia.

Georgia Mason, Professor of Animal Welfare at the University of Guelph, Canada, who nominated Professor Weary for the award said: *“For a field where true impact means changing how people treat animals, Dan’s work has improved the lives of millions of animals. In particular, thanks to his meticulous research using specific vocalisations and other carefully-validated indicators of pain and hunger, Canadian dairy calves are now typically fed to satiety, instead of left hungry as had been the industry norm, and they also now receive pain relief when their horn buds are cut or burnt away. The tails of millions of cows are now left on, instead of cut off. His work with Lee Niel has also led to a recognition of the inhumaneness of carbon dioxide as a killing method for laboratory rodents.”*



Photo credit: Irene Camerlink

Dr Irene Camerlink, Assistant Professor at the Department of Animal Behaviour, Institute of Genetics and Animal Biotechnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, was awarded the 2020 UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year Award in recognition of her exceptional work to improve the welfare of pigs.

Amongst the letters of recommendation which accompanied her nomination was one from Dr Simon Turner, Senior Researcher in the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Team at SRUC who said: *“Irene has been instrumental in supervising work on farmer attitudes, perceptions and willingness-to-pay for welfare benefits. The field of welfare science has rarely interacted with the fields of human behavioural change and agricultural economics. Bringing together these areas is essential. As an academic community, our failure to bring together these fields is at the root of why so many recommendations that ought to improve animal welfare are not implemented by farmers. Irene has been a champion of efforts to understand constraints to farmer behaviour and how we can overcome these to encourage implementation of management techniques that will improve welfare. She recently proactively identified the lack of a farmer-focused accessible book describing the current state-of-the-art recommendations on improving common pig welfare related problems. As a result, she is now the editor of a book that I believe will be a go-to resource for farmers.”*

The standard of nominations was extremely high and the judging panel also awarded a Highly Commended to Dr Fay Clark in recognition of her excellent work in the field of zoo animal welfare. Dr Clark is a Lecturer in Animal Behaviour and Welfare at Bristol Zoological Society.

Dr Huw Golledge, UFAW’s Chief Executive said: *“One of UFAW’s missions is to help encourage the next generation of animal welfare scientists and I am delighted that we have been able to acknowledge the work of these inspiring early-career researchers. Both Irene and Fay are excellent examples of researchers who really are using Science in the Service of Animal Welfare, I look forward to following their careers.”*

Professor Weary, Dr Camerlink and Dr Clark were presented with their awards at UFAW’s *Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science VII* virtual conference on the 30th of June 2020 (see page 12).

LINK SCHEME

The LINK scheme is UFAW’s international educational outreach initiative that seeks to promote and encourage interest with participating universities and institutions in animal welfare science. Represented by a named individual with whom we liaise and who disseminates information to staff and students on the charity and our activities from meetings to awards. Over 120 establishments in some 40 countries are now part of the scheme. These LINK individuals are also able to ask for support for novel activities within their institution - usually student focussed - to promote engagement with and better understanding of the science of animal welfare.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus has impacted on the activities we had agreed to support via the scheme this year, with the closing of universities around the world to students and restrictions on social gatherings and events. Interest in the LINK scheme hasn’t abated though and we have been able to add to the network – most notably several African universities – the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; Obafemi Awolowo University and Bowen University in Nigeria as well as universities in Brazil, Canada, the USA and the UK. As universities begin to re-open, we look forward to being able to support activities at these and all other LINK universities.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the LINK scheme or becoming part of it should contact Dr Stephen Wickens - wickens@ufaw.org.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (PROFESSOR DAVID FRASER)

The 4th annual University of British Columbia (UBC) Animal Welfare Conference was held on 6th March, 2020 with support from the UFAW LINK scheme. Organised by students from UBC, the conference featured five very well received talks on welfare issues relating to companion animals including the use and regulation of shelter medicine and its benefits for cat welfare (Dr Emilia Gordon, BC SPCA), psychological reasons behind hoarding behaviours and the welfare of the animals involved (Dr Christiana Bratiotis, UBC) and Megan Arant, a graduate student, on the welfare for therapy dogs. Keynote speaker was Dr Clive Wynne (Arizona State University) who discussed his research on canine behaviour and the indication of underlying welfare issues behind it. The meeting was judged to be a great success by the UBC Animal Welfare Club, with over 70 staff and students in attendance.



Photo credit: UFAW

UFAW'S JOURNAL ANIMAL WELFARE - UPDATE

This year *Animal Welfare* has continued to enlighten the scientific community with an eclectic mix of peer-reviewed papers, something it has done since its very first issue in February 1992. From game birds to green anole, from underwater noise to ferrets' toys, the 44 published papers encompassed all eleven designated categories, originating from all four corners of the globe.

The journal continues to embrace the world of social media and, back in November 2019, Twitter became particularly enthused with a paper we published by Dr Lauren Dawson and colleagues at the University of Guelph intriguingly entitled *Humans can identify cats' affective states from subtle facial expressions* (LC Dawson, J Cheal, L Niel and G Mason 2019 *Animal Welfare* 28: 519-531). This fascinating study looked into the ability of people to read the emotions of this apparently inscrutable species, inviting readers to test their own capabilities into the bargain. Participant scores in the study, although low, were still above chance with women being found to be more adept than men and younger participants more so than older. Those with professional feline experience (eg veterinarians) were more successful while personal contact (eg cat ownership) was found to have little effect. The authors concluded cats' affective states were able to be inferred via subtle aspects of their facial expressions and that certain people were especially gifted at doing so.

According to Altmetric the paper received more social media attention than any paper in *Animal Welfare's* history and is in the top 5% of all scientific papers ever tracked by Altmetric. This engaging piece of research created the potential to optimise feline care and welfare and, along with every other paper we've published, strives to improve the welfare of animals everywhere.

Further information on the journal can be found on our website www.ufaw.org.uk/journal

Throughout the year UFAW runs a range of scientific meetings to disseminate the latest research and thinking about various animal welfare issues as well as supporting meetings organised by others.



Photo credit: Mimim977/Phatboy

RSPCA/UFAW RODENT MEETING 2020 – CUMULATIVE EXPERIENCES

The 2019 RSPCA/UFAW Rodent Welfare Group meeting was held at the University of Birmingham and was attended by over 60 delegates. The themes were sentience, positive welfare and psychological well-being and Dr Huw Golledge from UFAW spoke on the issue of sentience (the capacity of animals to have feelings that matter to them). He argued that we shouldn't wait for hard scientific proof of sentience (or even its enshrinement in law) before working very hard to improve the welfare of animals such as rodents and rabbits which most people already assume are sentient. The 2020 event will be held as a virtual on-line meeting on 7th October <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/rodentmeeting2020>, and we hope to achieve similar success in growing our audience as we saw with our recent virtual conference (see page 12)

THE UFAW/LASA (LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION) 3RS MEETING 2019

As reported in the Spring 2020 newsletter, a UFAW/LASA meeting was held on 25th September 2019 on the topic of pain assessment and control for animals, with speakers discussing how the effectiveness of analgesics could be established. The meeting concluded that, while progress had been made in controlling pain experienced by animals, researchers still needed evidence so they could choose effective analgesics compatible with their research programmes.

ANIMAL WELFARE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2020

In these extraordinary times UFAW's attention turned to supporting its students and grant recipients whose work and studies have been impacted by Covid-19. UFAW's CEO Dr Huw Golledge said: "We understand that some of our grant recipients will experience problems carrying out the research and other activities which we support, and we are keen to help you overcome these issues. If your work is impacted by Covid-19 please feel free to contact us to discuss how we can help. We can offer no-cost extensions to grants in many cases and will consider any other adjustments which may help UFAW-supported activities to continue. We wish all of you the very best at this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions."

Despite the challenges to carrying out research posed by the closure of universities and restrictions on travel, we have still been able to award student scholarships this year – although unfortunately (but understandably) a few students who had submitted applications had to withdraw them as their projects were cancelled.

Congratulations to the following students, who have managed to overcome these hurdles:

Urša Blenkuš, University of Porto, Portugal: *Can we use infrared thermography for assessing emotional states in mice? - A comparison between stress-induced handling by different technique*. Supervised by Dr Nuno Henrique Franco, University of Porto (IBMC).

Atharva Rajesh Kelkar, University of Chester, UK: *Refining routine handling for the common laboratory frog *Xenopus laevis**. Supervised by Dr Kelly Gouveia, University of Chester

Eva Katile Mutua, University of Edinburgh, UK: *The effect of maternal investment on milk yield in dairy cattle*. Supervised by Professor Marie Haskell, SRUC

Alexandra Paraskevopoulou, Newcastle University, UK: *Acute effects of water control on Rhesus macaques' behaviour*. Supervised by Dr Colline Poirer, Newcastle University

Cracie Anderson, Virginia Tech, USA: *Impact of environmental complexity and stocking density on affective state of trout*. Supervised by Dr Leonie Jacobs, Virginia Tech

Catarina Da Silva Miranda, Universidade do Porto, Portugal: *A novel approach for non-invasive monitoring and signalling of humane endpoints using infrared thermography, tested in a murine of sepsis*. Supervised by Dr Nuno Franco, Universidade do Porto

Ayaji Oreluwa Doyinsola, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria: *Effect of environmental enrichment on sleeping behaviour of Nigerian indigenous chickens*. Supervised by Dr Oluwaseun Serah Iyasere, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta

Rosa Schimmel, Utrecht University, The Netherlands: *Early-life interventions to improve laying hens welfare: impact of light during incubation and genetic background on stress responsivity of laying hens*. Supervised by Professor Bas Rodenburg, Utrecht University

Chloe Wilson, The University of Sydney, Australia: *Efficacy of sustained release meloxicam formulation for mitigating pain of cauterisation in dairy calves*. Supervised by Dr Sabrina Lomax, The University of Sydney

Sean Sugasawa Yamada, Western University of Health Sciences, USA: *A survey of the veterinary community's view on the ethicality of cardiocenteses on snakes*. Supervised by Dr Curtis Eng, Western University of Health Sciences

21ST ANIMAL WELFARE STUDENT SCHOLARS MEETING, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The meeting was held on the 11th December 2019. An appreciative audience of staff and students listened to an excellent set of talks which showcased the students' work over the year and addressed issues as diverse as dental health in cattle, broiler chicks' preferences for different litter management practices and how puppy purchasers choose a dog.

One of the speakers was Isabel Izquierdo-Hall (Royal Veterinary College, UK) who was awarded this year's Farm Animal Care Trust scholarship, given in memory of Ruth Harrison, for her project *Evaluation of housing for laying hens: An on-farm comparison of comfort behaviour expression between colony-cages and indoor barns.*



Photo credit: UFAW

UFAW VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2020 – RECENT ADVANCES IN ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE VII

As detailed in the Spring 2020 newsletter, it was our intention to hold the seventh of our series of one day conferences on *Recent advances in animal welfare science* at the University of Birmingham, UK on the 1st July. When it became clear that this was not going to be possible because of the coronavirus pandemic, and after canvassing the views of those who were scheduled to speak at the meeting, we decided to transition the physical conference into a virtual one – our first. It was also decided because of the logistics of running the conference on-line that it would now run over two days – 30th June and 1st July and that we would make it a free event.

These meetings are intended to provide a platform at which both established animal welfare scientists and early career researchers can discuss their work and a forum for the broader community of scientists, veterinarians and others concerned with animal welfare to share knowledge and practice and discuss advances. We felt that, with many scientists isolated from their colleagues and working from home during the pandemic, these goals were more important than ever.

Indeed, we found that an upside of moving to a virtual conference was that it proved very popular and allowed us to reach out to our largest global audience for such an event. There was a limit to the number that could watch the conference live and 1000 people registered in advance to watch the event from over 47 countries; additionally, over 700 people registered to watch recordings of the talks post the event. Whilst there was no cost to register for the conference, we did ask those doing so to consider making a donation to help with the costs associated with staging such an event.

The conference featured both on-line presentations from 18 international speakers and 60+ posters. Speakers on day one included Professor Cathy Dwyer (SRUC, UK) *Assessing the welfare impacts of disease: an example with sheep scab*, Dr Lauren Finka (Nottingham Trent University, UK) *Has anthropocentric breed selection disrupted animals' abilities to communicate? (specifically in relation to cats)* and a fascinating and engaging talk from the UFAW 2020 Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Animal Welfare Science winner, Professor Dan Weary (University of British Columbia, Canada) on *A Bayesian conception of animal welfare.*

Talks on day two included a call for better planned science from Professor Adrian Smith (Norecopa, Norway) - *Improving animal welfare and scientific quality: Guidelines for planning animal studies* and finished with Dr Dan O'Neill (RVC, UK) outlining the welfare challenges of keeping rabbits in his talk *What's up Doc? – Exposing pet rabbit welfare issues using VetCompass veterinary clinical records.*

If you would like to watch recordings of the conference and read the posters, then you can do so by following the link at www.ufaw.org.uk/bham20, where an abstract booklet listing all the talks and posters can be found too.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the conference, as speakers or as poster presenters and whose willingness to take part in an on-line meeting made the event possible, to all those who attended the event and watched the recordings and to the University of Birmingham for waiving any fees due for the hire of their facilities for the physical conference. A special thanks to all those who very kindly donated to help us with the costs of running the conference - your generosity made it possible.



Photo credit: University of Ulster



Photo credit: Pixabay

Under normal circumstances we regularly travel to meetings around the world to contribute to training and teaching in animal welfare science. Clearly our ability to do so in recent months has been impacted/impaired by Covid-19. In 2019/20 we travelled to China to help develop an English translation of China's new guidelines (<https://doi.org/10.1002/ame2.12111>) on the use of animals in research at a workshop which we partially funded. Chinese and international experts collaborated to produce a translation of the guidelines which reflected the intentions and nuances of the original Chinese document. The translated document will help international experts to collaborate with Chinese colleagues on the implementation of the 3Rs in China.

We had hoped to return to China this year to continue our outreach work. Sadly, as with many meetings, this work has been postponed until 2021 but we look forward to resuming our very productive work in China as soon as possible.

Also in abeyance is UFAW's session at the planned 2020 International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) meeting in Bangalore, which has also been postponed to 2021. In the absence of many of our planned face-to-face meetings we will be working hard to spread the message about science in the service of animal welfare through virtual meetings, seminars and conferences. The first of these will be the annual joint RSPCA/UFAW Rodent Welfare meeting which UFAW will be hosting as a virtual event in October. As with UFAW's annual conference the upside of this forced move to an on-line meeting is that we hope to have more attendees from further afield and, similarly, are also able to invite speakers who would have been unable to present in person. Happily where some of these meetings were converted to on-line events we have been able to contribute. For example we contributed a session entitled *How can science be used to benefit animal welfare?* to a three day training workshop that took place in March for postgraduate students working on stress in chickens.

Our international symposium *Animal welfare: Emerging challenges and solutions* planned for the 29th-30th June 2021 will now also be an on-line event.

Consultations included:

- Scottish Government *Guidance on the Welfare of Pigs*
- Evaluation of the *EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015*
- OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission



Photo credit: UFAW

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE



Finance and Accounts

The following summarised accounts have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, which were approved by the Directors/Council and signed on its behalf on 22nd July 2020.

The full accounts have been audited and the auditors' opinion was without qualification. The accounts will be filed with the Companies Registry and the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting on 21st September 2020.

Full accounts, and the audit report can be obtained from the Charity Secretary, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Council of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

We have examined the summarised financial statements that comprise the summary statement of financial activities and summary balance sheet.

Respective Responsibilities of the Council and Auditors: You are responsible as the Council for the preparation of the summarised financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised financial statements' consistency with the financial statements, on which we reported to you on 22nd July 2020.

Basis of Opinion: We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion: In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020.

22nd July 2020

S Munday FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young (East) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

UFAW Summary of Financial Activity Year Ended 31st March 2020

| | 2019/20 £ | 2018/19 £ |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| Incoming Resources | | |
| Voluntary Income | 146,307 | 63,433 |
| Charitable Activities | 142,973 | 110,336 |
| Investment Income | 217,189 | 215,917 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 506,469 | 389,686 |
| Resources Expended | | |
| Costs of Generating Funds | 103,488 | 100,735 |
| Charitable Activities | 431,451 | 331,471 |
| Other Resources Expended | 199,393 | 171,259 |
| Total Resources Expended | 734,332 | 603,465 |
| Operational (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources for the Year | (227,863) | (213,779) |
| Other Recognised Gains & Losses | | |
| Net Gain on Property Revaluation | 55,000 | - |
| Net Realised Gain/(Losses) on Investments | 198,628 | 420,514 |
| Net Unrealised Gains/Losses on Market Value of Investments | (1,154,943) | (92,633) |
| Net Movement of Funds | (1,129,178) | 114,102 |
| Balance Brought Forward | 8,467,296 | 8,353,194 |
| Balances Carried Forward | 7,338,118 | 8,467,296 |

The summarised accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on the 22nd July 2020.

A G Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS
Chairman

The summarised accounts set out here have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

UFAW Balance Sheet Year Ended 31st March 2020

| | 2019/20 £ | 2018/19 £ |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tangible Fixed Assets | 414,760 | 364,841 |
| Investments | 6,737,357 | 7,882,067 |
| | 7,152,117 | 8,246,908 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | 36,104 | 37,225 |
| Money Market & Deposit Accounts | 233,868 | 287,060 |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand | 42,772 | 32,631 |
| | 312,744 | 356,916 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year | (126,743) | (130,996) |
| Net Current Assets | 186,001 | 225,920 |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | 7,338,118 | 8,472,828 |
| Creditors: Amounts Falling Due after More than One Year | - | (5,532) |
| Net Assets | 7,338,118 | 8,467,296 |
| Funds | | |
| Unrestricted | 6,842,762 | 7,850,494 |
| Restricted | 495,356 | 616,802 |
| | 7,338,118 | 8,467,296 |

C L McCann BSc ACA
Hon Treasurer



Annual General Meeting 2019

The AGM was held at the Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead on the 16th October 2019. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Humane Slaughter Association (CIO). The members of UFAW Council also act as Trustees for the HSA. Joint meetings are held to save time and money.

The notice convening the meeting had been sent to all members and was taken as read. The meeting agreed the Minutes of the AGM of 2018 and resolved to receive the Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2019. Questions on the Report of the year's work were answered by the officials present and the meeting resolved that the Report and Accounts be received.

It was resolved that UHY Hacker Young, Registered Auditors, be appointed as auditors to UFAW and its associated Trusts and their remuneration should be fixed by Council.

Professor R Bennett, and Dr B North, stood down under the rules regarding rotation, both offered themselves for re-election, and were re-elected. Following the resignation of Ms C Reid, Dr A Enticknap, a new candidate was proposed, Dr Enticknap's nomination had the full support of Council, and she was duly elected.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare will be held at 12.30pm on Monday 21st September 2020. This meeting will be held as a video conference, in line with Covid-19 restrictions, and in line with the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020. The formal notice and agenda have been sent to all members and are available from the Secretary at the registered office.

Vice-Presidents

Professor R S Anderson BVMS PhD MRCVS
 Professor P M Biggs CBE DSc DVM FRCPATH FRSB FRS FRCVS
 L A Brown MBE BVSc BA PhD FRSB MBA FRCVS
 Professor P H Holmes OBE BVMS PhD FRCVS FRSE
 B Howard BVMS PhD FRCVS
 J H Pratt BVM&S DVSM FRCVS
 G D Sales BSc PhD AKC MRSB DipTCDHE

Council (who are the Directors of the Limited Company)

Chairman

A G Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS ^{1 2 3}

Vice Chairman

M Radford OBE LLB ¹

Honorary Treasurer

C L McCann BSc ACA ^{1 3}

Members

S Abeyesinghe BSc MSc PhD
 Professor R M Bennett BSc MSc PhD ^{1 2}
 J Downes BVSc MRCVS
 A Enticknap PhD² (from 16.10.2019)
 Professor A Nolan OBE MVB DipECVA DipECVPT DVA MRCVS
 B North MBA MSc PhD ¹
 A Olsson MSc PhD ³
 D Pritchard BSc BVetMed MPH MRCVS ²
 C Reid (to 16.10.2019)
 D R Sargan MA PhD ^{2 3}

Staff

Chief Executive/Scientific Director
 Robert Hubrecht OBE BSc PhD FRSB (to 31.12.2019)
 Huw Golledge BSc PhD (from 01.01.2020)

Senior Scientific Programme Manager
 Huw Golledge BSc PhD (to 31.12.2019)

Secretary

Jane Moorman

Scientific Officer

Elizabeth Carter BSc MSc

Development Officer

Stephen M Wickens BSc PhD

Managing Editor

Steven Weddell BSc BVSc MRCVS HND

Sub Editor

Claire Richardson BSc(Hons), BVM&S, CertLAS, MA (ODE) (Open), PhD, FHEA, MRCVS

Fundraising/Communications Manager

Tracey Woods MCIPR

Office staff

Samantha Griffin
 Wendy L Goodwin
 Tina Langford

¹ Member of the Finance Panel

² Member of the Fundraising Panel

³ Member of the Grant Panel

If you no longer wish to receive information about the charity's activities or support our work, then please contact the office. (Members should be aware that notification of future Annual General Meetings is provided in the Annual Report).

Principal Office

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 E-mail: ufaw@ufaw.org.uk

Registered Auditors

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 The Nexus Building, Broadway,
 Letchworth Garden City,
 Herts, SG6 9BL

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 31 Chequer Street,
 St Albans, Herts, AL1 4YN
 Barclays Bank plc, 33 Darkes Lane,
 Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 1BA
 Santander UK plc, Bridle Road, Bootle L30 4GB

Solicitors

Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7EG

Investment Advisers

Smith & Williamson,
 25 Moorgate, London, EC2V 5NS



Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

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