Science in the service of animal welfare

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
Letter from the Chairman

An outstanding event in the past year has been the Symposium, ‘Science in the service of Animal Welfare’, held in Edinburgh in April. This brought together over 350 speakers and delegates from around the world, covered a wide range of topics and underlined the essential purpose of the charity. It was hugely successful in every way and all those involved deserve congratulations.

One new initiative this year has been the UFAW ‘Tesco’ Award for published or broadcast work which communicates to the general public the importance of animal welfare research. A distinguished judging panel has assessed the entries and the first award will be made shortly. Also, the Zoo Award Scheme, which has run for over 15 years, has now been extended to include not only captive wild animals but also animals in the wild. Animal welfare research is increasingly moving from studies of nutrition and husbandry towards finding ways of understanding animals’ needs and preferences, and recent requests for support increasingly reflect this trend.

It is impossible in an Annual Report to draw attention to all the activities of the charity, but we hope that readers will at least gain a flavour of the wide range of work which the generous donations and legacies continue to support.

John Sanford
Chief Executive’s Report

UFAW’s motto is ‘Science in the Service of Animal Welfare’. Since its foundation, the charity has worked to bring about advances in animal welfare through promotion of science aimed at determining animals’ needs and how these needs can be met.

UFAW’s activities are focused on the priorities identified in the review of strategy undertaken in 1997, namely:

• Encouragement and support of high-quality research likely to lead to substantial advances in animal welfare;
• Promotion of education about animal welfare, particularly at the tertiary level; and
• Promotion of animal welfare by provision of advice, dissemination of information, development of guidelines and legislation, and organisation of workshops and meetings.

Each year, specific objectives are set within these priority areas, and progress with these objectives is monitored as the year progresses to ensure that targets are met. One of the major objectives for the 2002/03 year, in addition to running UFAW’s various ongoing programmes of research sponsorship, was the planning and preparation of the Symposium ‘Science in the Service of Animal Welfare’ that was held in Edinburgh in April 2003 (see page 9).

Through championing the rational, sympathetic but unsentimental approach charted by UFAW’s Founder, the late Major Charles Hume, the charity continues to play a key role in the development of animal welfare in the UK and internationally. It is able to do this thanks to the generosity and loyalty of its supporters, whose help we most gratefully acknowledge on behalf of the charity.

James K Kirkwood
The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare is an internationally respected animal welfare charity. Its formal objectives are set out in detail in the memorandum of association. The Federation seeks to achieve these by:

**Changing attitudes and perceptions...**
UFAW promotes a humane, caring attitude towards domestic animals and those animals with which we interact in the wild, to reduce any stress, pain or fear inflicted upon them by humans.

**Encouraging care and consideration...**
UFAW encourages consideration for the physical and mental needs of all animals under human stewardship: on farms, in laboratories, in zoos, in the wild, and those kept as pets.

**Providing funds and enlisting expertise...**
UFAW funds animal welfare research and enlists the help of animal handlers and research workers to discover the needs of different species and the ways in which such needs can best be met.

**Publishing and disseminating information...**
UFAW publishes animal care handbooks, videos, leaflets, reports, and the journal *Animal Welfare*, to make information available to people who work with, are responsible for, or simply care about animals.

**Giving balanced and impartial advice...**
UFAW provides balanced technical information and advice about animal welfare matters to other animal charities and organisations, educators, religious bodies, and Government departments.

**Care without confrontation...**
UFAW promotes the use of non-animal alternatives in experimentation, the refinement of techniques to minimise discomfort, and the reduction of the number of animals used. UFAW tries to avoid wasting time in public controversies relating to the general legitimacy of the use of animals in science.
UFAW initiatives this year

UFAW ‘Tesco’ Award for promoting the public understanding of animal welfare science

Believing that a scientific approach is essential for advances in animal welfare, but being concerned that the importance of this is not well understood outside the scientific and technical communities, UFAW launched an initiative last year to encourage better communication. We believe that there is much to be gained by explaining to a wider community the ingenuity of the scientific methods used in animal welfare science and the importance of the findings. The charity, with support from Tesco, announced the availability of a £1000 prize for the piece of published or broadcast work which best communicates to a wide audience the importance and value of animal welfare research. The winner of the year 2003 award has been decided upon, and Professor Lord Winston will present the award at a reception to be held at the Royal Society on the evening of 22 October 2003.

We are most grateful to the following for serving on the judging panel: Mr Alex Kirby, Environment Correspondent with BBC News Online; Dr Gail Vines, consultant for Mr Alex Kirby, Environment Correspondent with BBC News Online; and UFAW staff members James Kirkwood, Robert Hubrecht and Stephen Wicksens.

The closing date for the next UFAW ‘Tesco’ Award is 30 November 2003. Further information about this award scheme and application forms can be obtained from the UFAW Office.

New UFAW Wild Animal Welfare Award Scheme

As mentioned in the March 2003 News-sheet, during 2003 we are launching a new wild animal welfare award scheme. This is based on the zoo award scheme, initiated in 1986, which was an annual competition for the best new zoo animal accommodation in the UK and also for the best innovations in zoo animal welfare. This year, the competition will be open to applicants who have developed significant innovations for improving the welfare of captive wild animals (in zoos, rehabilitation centres or elsewhere), or for alleviating or preventing human harm to animals in the wild. In applying for this new award, applicants will be required to explain why they believe that their innovation is a benefit from the animal’s point of view and, if possible, to provide evidence in support of this.

If the judges believe that the applications are of sufficient merit, UFAW will present two awards, each of £1000: one for the best innovation for the welfare of captive wild animals, and the other for the best innovation for the welfare of free-living wild animals. In the first year of this new award scheme, applications will be for welfare improvements for wild animals kept or free-living in the UK, but in future years we may expand the scheme to allow applications from other countries. If you are interested in applying for this award, please contact UFAW’s Scientific Officer, Samantha Mills, for an application form.


“Organisations such as UFAW provide a valuable input to ensure that science remains at the forefront of animal welfare. The work of the organisations gathered here tonight is taking forward standards of animal welfare.”

Mr Elliot Morley MP, Minister of State, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, during his after-dinner speech at the UFAW symposium banquet, National Museum of Scotland, April 2003. For a full report of the symposium, see page 9.

Also this year ...

Among various staff engagements this year, James Kirkwood was invited to Lisbon on 11 April 2003 to lecture on the subjects of humane slaughter and zoo and wild animal welfare at an animal welfare course held at the offices of the British Council. During this visit to Portugal, he also spoke on ‘Animal welfare: concern for fellow species on a crowded planet’ at the ‘Nós e outros animais’ Symposium in Porto on 14 April. He was invited to the RSPCA Symposium on the welfare implications of boredom, fear and anxiety, held in London on 6 March, to present a paper on ‘Balancing the interests of humans and other animals: judging the cost of unpleasant feelings’. James was also invited to present a paper on ‘Exotic animals as pets’ at the British Society for Animal Science symposium held in York on 24–26 March. He also spoke on the importance of welfare at the World’s Poultry Science Association meeting in Bristol in July. Robert Hubrecht was invited to lecture on 19 November 2002 in Goiania, Brazil, at the joint 8th Brazilian Congress on Laboratory Animal Science/4th International Congress on Laboratory Animal Science, on ‘Implementing the 3Rs’ and on 20 November on ‘Assessing animal welfare’. He was invited to Kharkov, Ukraine, where he gave a series of lectures at the State Centre for Testing of Drugs and the Pedagogical University on ‘Good welfare = good science’, and ‘Council of European legislation and laboratory animal welfare’. Whilst there he also lectured to the staff and students of the Kharkov ZooVet Institute. Robert has lectured on dog welfare in Boston, USA, on the Charles River Short Course. He was invited to give a presentation at the LASA winter meeting entitled ‘The House of Lords Select Committee: a response from an animal welfare research funding charity’. He was also asked to lecture at the RSPCA Lay Members’ Forum in London on 16 May 2003 on ‘Issues arising in consideration of work involving genetically modified animals: an animal welfare perspective’.

Science in the Service of Animal Welfare    3
The welfare of animals under human care depends upon:
1) first, belief in the sentience of the animals;
2) understanding that this is a morally important matter;
3) having proper knowledge of the animals’ needs;
4) having the ability and resources to meet these needs; and finally,
5) applying these beliefs, abilities and resources conscientiously.

UFAW’s efforts are focussed largely at the third of these points — improving knowledge of animals’ needs. It is now accepted widely, although it was not always so, that a broad range of species of animals are sentient — that is, that they have the capacity to experience unpleasant and pleasant feelings — and that it is important that this is taken into account in our interactions with them. The bottleneck in promoting good animal welfare is now very frequently at the third step — a lack of proper understanding of animals’ needs and of how these can be recognised. For many species, including some that have been kept in very large numbers for very many years, knowledge of environmental and psychological needs remains less complete than is often assumed, and a great deal of both fundamental and applied research remains to be done in these areas.

UFAW supports animal welfare research through its Research Training Scholarships, its Research Fellowships, its project award schemes and the Vacation Scholarship scheme, although the main purpose of the latter is educational. News of a few UFAW-funded projects are outlined here to exemplify the Federation’s current research interests.

Improving the welfare of animals in laboratories

UFAW is well known for its practical, pragmatic approach to improving laboratory animal welfare, working closely with legislators, other welfare organisations and scientists. Experience tells us that this is the most productive way of generating welfare advances. The pioneering work of the UFAW scholars William Russell and Rex Burch led to the development in the 1950s of the 3Rs — Replacement, Reduction and Refinement — a concept that is now accepted worldwide as a framework for improving laboratory animal welfare. Russell and Burch understood that, often, as one alternative is found for a use of animals in experiments, another requirement for animal use emerges. A contemporary example is the rapid development of transgenics, with its concomitant use of animals (mainly mice). Although there has been a substantial reduction in animal use over the last 30 years, in 2001 over 2.6 million procedures using animals were carried in the UK, and any rapid reduction in numbers seems unlikely. It is therefore important to concentrate resources where they are likely to do most good.

While it is essential that all three Rs are implemented, some of the most significant recent advances in animal welfare have come from refinement of the housing and husbandry of animals used in research, and this has been a UFAW priority. We fund research, disseminate information, and respond to many requests for practical advice on an individual basis. UFAW staff visit laboratories where animals are used and give advice on welfare issues. UFAW staff also participate in professional animal welfare workshops and meetings. Although UFAW is UK-based, it is important to improve the lot of animals in laboratories worldwide. In the past year, staff have lectured on laboratory animal welfare in Ukraine, the United States, and Brazil. Publications such as The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals continue to have an important influence on the improvement of welfare standards. We also fund a variety of publications and web databases on alternatives to animal use.

UFAW staff continue to work on other committees examining ways of improving housing and husbandry. The Deputy Director chairs a newly formed sub-committee of the Government’s Animal Procedures Committee, which is addressing the subject. UFAW collaborates with the BVA, FRAME and the RSPCA in Joint Refinement Groups which are currently producing recommendations on dog husbandry, remote monitoring, and transgenic mouse welfare. Staff take part in ethical review processes (ERPs) at several UK institutions licensed to carry out animal research, and lecture on ways of improving ERPs. UFAW staff were instrumental in establishing a working party to develop standards for the assessment of the welfare of genetically modified animals, which is now being run under the aegis of the Medical Research Council’s new Centre for Best Practice in Animal Research.

UFAW is one of the very few organisations that fund research aimed at improving the housing and husbandry of laboratory animals. For example, Dr Chris Sherwin, the UFAW (Hume) Research Fellow at Bristol University, has been investigating the preferences of mice for various enrichment resources within their cage (see opposite). Dr Sherwin has also shown that mice housed in standard cages choose to drink more of an anxiety-reducing drug than do mice in enriched cages — a welfare-assessment approach that may prove valuable in investigating many different housing conditions. These results suggest that mice housed in standard cages may be chronically anxious. Appropriate enrichment of experimental animals may have benefits not only for the welfare of the animals, but also for the validity of the experiments themselves.
UFAW (Hume) Research Fellowship

Knowledge of what an animal needs for high standards of welfare is important when planning its environment. And, to gain a full understanding, it is essential to look at the situation from the animal’s point of view. Factors whose importance may often be overlooked by humans may contribute greatly to the quality of life. Dr Chris Sherwin, the UFAW (Hume) Research Fellow at Bristol University, has been conducting consumer demand studies to assess the motivation of group-housed mice for various aspects of the cage environment that might be included in an enriched laboratory cage design, including access to companions, availability of different kinds of bedding material, and provision of burrowing material. Initial results show that social context can have a significant effect on the animal’s motivation for resources, and that this effect is resource-dependent; furthermore, the results indicate that future studies to improve animal welfare using the consumer demand approach should account for social context.

When Dr Sherwin investigated preferences for cage colour, he found that, out of the colours tested, white was the most preferred and red the least. He also found that cage colour had a significant effect on body weight and food consumption.

Preliminary results from Dr Sherwin’s experiment on burrowing in laboratory mice show that all mice will construct a burrow in peat soon after being given access to this substrate, confirming that burrowing has been retained in the behavioural repertoire of laboratory mice. He found also that mice given an intact burrow are motivated to continue digging, indicating that they may have a ‘behavioural need’ to perform this activity.

Pharmaceutical Housing and Husbandry Steering Committee

The Pharmaceutical Housing and Husbandry Steering Committee (PHHSC) was founded in 1996 and is run by UFAW. This committee has raised over £150,000 from pharmaceutical companies and animal welfare organisations since 1998 to support research into the care and housing of animals used in biomedical research. The first project, undertaken by Shirley Seaman at Edinburgh University (supervised by Dr Natalie Waran, a previous UFAW vacation scholar), was completed this year when Shirley successfully obtained her Ph.D. Shirley’s work shows that rabbits are strongly motivated to gain visual access to other rabbits (see graphs, above). Many laboratory cages do not allow such visual contact. This work is likely to influence current practice and possibly future legislation so that, even where full social housing is not possible, housing can be better designed to meet the rabbits’ needs.

This year also saw the start of the second PHHSC scholarship study in which Kerry Westwood (another previous UFAW vacation scholar), under the supervision of Dr Mike Mendl at Bristol University, is examining the effects of providing different space allowances and enrichment for laboratory mice. Initially UFAW had expected only to be able to award a PHHSC scholarship every three years, but thanks to the generous support of the PHHSC members we have been able to award a third scholarship. Verity Bowell is investigating the practicalities of training primates in laboratories for routine husbandry and experimental procedures, under the supervision of Dr Hannah Buchanan-Smith at Stirling University. Several thousands of procedures are carried out on primates each year, and this often involves capturing them from their cage and subsequent handling, which can be very stressful for them. Training animals to cooperate has long been advocated by UFAW as a means of improving animal welfare, and because the animals are less stressed, such training is likely also to improve the quality of the science.

Understanding the needs of domestic chickens

Increasing knowledge of the cognitive abilities of domestic chickens (Gallus gallus) will help in development of a greater understanding of their needs and is important for improvements in standards of husbandry and welfare. Professor Giorgio Vallortigara and colleagues at the University of Trieste, Italy, have recently received support from UFAW to carry out a project on the development of declarative-like memories in the domestic chick and the implications of this for their welfare. Declarative-like memories (in this case, memory for both the content and location of food caches) have been demonstrated in food-storing birds such as various species of jay. The team in Trieste has been using non-invasive procedures to investigate whether chickens also have this ability. Initial results indicate that chicks as young as five days old can remember both the location and the content of food stores. Out of sight, it seems, is not out of mind in this case.
Lack of information about, and poor understanding of, animals’ requirements, and lack of skill and experience in detecting pain and other aspects of poor welfare, are at the root of many animal welfare problems. A great deal can be done to overcome these difficulties through education. UFAW does not have the resources for running large-scale education programmes and, in view of this, targets its efforts at the tertiary education level — universities and colleges — to help teach those who will become the teachers in the future. UFAW promotes animal welfare education in a variety of ways, including:

1) Publication of the journal, Animal Welfare;
2) Publication of key texts on animal welfare (eg The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals, and Management and Welfare of Farm Animals: The UFAW Farm Handbook);
3) Running workshops and symposia;
4) Lecturing at universities and colleges;
5) Running the Vacation Scholarship scheme, to enable students to develop their interest in animal welfare science;
6) Running the Research Training Scholarship scheme, to provide training in animal welfare research;
7) Providing financial support for other educational initiatives.

Some examples of the educational work undertaken or supported by UFAW are outlined here.

Promotion of UFAW objectives in universities

UFAW has always valued the support it receives from the staff and students of universities and colleges across the UK. This year, we have taken steps to strengthen links with these groups by piloting a new scheme aimed at establishing a network of UFAW representatives at universities, who will help to promote UFAW’s objectives at their establishments and to raise the charity’s profile. It is our particular hope that these representatives will encourage students to form animal welfare science groups and will assist in liaison between students and UFAW. This programme is, of course, in keeping with the charity’s roots, as UFAW originally came into being as a federation of such groups. If successful, it is intended that this pilot programme will be extended.

Animal Welfare journal developments

The journal is now in its twelfth volume, and the number of subscribers continues to grow. There has been a significant increase in the number of papers being submitted for publication in Animal Welfare, and the journal is growing in size, with a greater number of papers being published each year. To maintain this upward momentum, as well as to keep in line with developments in the publishing industry, plans are currently underway to relaunch the journal in a new, more modern style. The journal will be produced with an A4 layout; not only will this allow greater scope for inclusion of tables, figures, photographs and in-depth review papers, but it will also facilitate the eventual addition of the papers to the UFAW website, to allow subscribers the possibility of downloading them from the internet. The redesign is scheduled to take place at the end of this year, with the February 2004 issue (Volume 13 Issue 1) being the first to be produced in the new style. We hope that our efforts will be rewarded with a further increase in uptake of the journal around the world, bringing the results of high-quality research on animal welfare issues to all those with an interest in the subject. If you would like to subscribe to the journal, please contact UFAW’s Publications Officer, Elizabeth Roberts, or the UFAW office.

UFAW/Blackwell Science animal welfare book series

We are looking forward to the publication of the first book in the UFAW/Blackwell Animal Welfare Series, Environmental Enrichment for Captive Animals by Dr Robert J Young. The aim of this series, which is a collaboration between UFAW and the well-known publisher Blackwell Science Ltd of Oxford, is to provide an authoritative source of information on worldwide developments, current thinking and best practice in the field of animal welfare science and technology, in keeping with UFAW’s tradition for intellectual rigour in the pursuit of advances in animal welfare. Among the other books planned for the series are The Physiology and Behaviour of Animal Suffering by Dr Neville G Gregory, and Animal Welfare: Limping Towards Eden by Professor John Webster (a sequel to his popular first book Animal Welfare: A Cool Eye Towards Eden). Anyone wishing to contribute to the series should contact Elizabeth Roberts.

Dr Young’s book, Environmental Enrichment for Captive Animals, includes chapters entitled ‘Environmental enrichment: an historical perspective’, ‘Designing an enrichment device’, ‘Enrichment for different categories of animals’, and ‘Designing and analysing enrichment studies’. The book also contains a chapter giving information sources about environmental enrichment programmes. If you wish to order the book, please complete the enclosed advance order form or request one from the UFAW office. Alternatively, the book may be ordered direct from Blackwell; please email your request to direct.order@marston.co.uk.

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20 years of Vacation Scholarships

The Vacation Scholarship scheme provides opportunities for students to develop their interests in animal welfare and their abilities in welfare research. The scheme has now been running for 20 years. Since its inception in 1983, almost two hundred students have taken advantage of the award to pursue a diverse range of studies aimed at improving our understanding of animals and their needs. The results of a number of these studies have been published in the scientific literature, and a growing number of UFAW Vacation Scholars have gone on to pursue careers in promoting animal welfare through science. Among other topics, the welfare requirements of laying hens, laboratory mice, free-ranging goats, deer, dogs, hedgehogs, rabbits, tethered sows, chimpanzees, zebra finches, stall-housed horses and dolphins have all been addressed. Congratulations to the winners of the year-2003 scholarships, who are listed on this page.

It is rewarding to observe the growing population of ‘second-generation’ scholars: escholars Dr Natalie Waran (1987), Dr Alison Hanlon (1990), Dr Deborah Wells (1991) and Dr Victoria Melfi (1997) are among those now supervising vacation scholars themselves. Many scholars have gone on to undertake masters degrees or doctorates in the field and to advance the cause of animal welfare. For example, Dr Lesley King (1997), who now works for the Humane Society of the United States, presented a paper on ‘Ethics and welfare of animals used in education: an international perspective’ at the UFAW Symposium ‘Science in the Service of Animal Welfare’.

In recent years, the scholars have been asked to present their findings at an annual meeting, held at a university or college within the UK. These free-to-all, popular meetings have proved to be very enjoyable and successful. The Royal Veterinary College, London, has kindly agreed to host the 2003 vacation scholars meeting, which will take place on 10 December. If you would like further information about the meeting, please contact UFAW’s Development Officer, Stephen Wickens. We would especially like to encourage past vacation scholars to attend, to celebrate the twentieth year of this scheme with us.

Some examples of the work carried out by the 2002 vacation scholars

Rachel Eager, University of Edinburgh — Most male horses in the UK undergo castration in the early years of their life. Although this is a relatively routine procedure, a recent debate in the journal Veterinary Record about the level of pain associated with castration and whether painkillers should be provided has shown a lack of consensus within the veterinary profession. Motivated by this, Rachel Eager undertook a study on the evaluation of pain and discomfort associated with equine castration, under the supervision of Dr Natalie Waran. Rachel examined the behavioural and physiological responses to castration in a group of racehorses. She concluded that castration does result in pain and discomfort for horses and that analgesia should be considered in order to improve equine welfare during this routine procedure.

Lindsay Whistance, University of Lincoln — Handling of primiparous dairy heifers prior to first milking may have long-term benefits for cattle and stockpersons in terms of increased workperson efficiency, animal productivity and welfare, and stock and handler safety. In her vacation scholarship project, Lindsay Whistance, under the supervision of Dr Jonathan Cooper, undertook three experiments to measure the differences in behaviour between handled and non-handled groups of Friesian–Holstein heifers post-parturition. She looked at behaviour during milking, behaviour during an approach by an unfamiliar person, and response to a novel object. The results showed a significant decrease in the ‘flight zone’ (ie the proximity to the animal that the handler can achieve before the animal moves away) of the handled group compared to the non-handled group. The welfare benefits of this are increased ease of handling of the heifers and also improved stock and handler safety.
UFAW provides information and advice on aspects of the biology, management, health, welfare, and ethics of use of domestic and wild animals to government departments, non-governmental organisations, universities and others. The Federation is consulted on draft legislation, guidelines and codes of conduct relating to animal welfare, and staff serve on several national and international advisory committees and working groups including the Animal Procedures Committee, the Zoos Forum, the Companion Animal Welfare Council, and the Boyd Group. Some examples of these aspects of UFAW’s work are outlined here. Staff also make visits to animal facilities to advise on best practice in animal care and welfare.

Developing legislation and guidelines

Over the course of the year, UFAW was consulted on a variety of legislative issues. In the early part of 2003 the UK Government, in conjunction with the Scottish Executive and National Assembly for Wales, distributed a consultation document entitled ‘Preparing an animal health and welfare strategy for Great Britain’. Part of UFAW’s response to the consultation outlined four principles upon which UFAW believes this new strategy should be based. These are:

• human health and welfare — some diseases of animals must be controlled because of the risks that they pose to human health and well-being;

• economics — some diseases of animals must be controlled because they have serious economic impacts (eg through loss of animal production, through precluding international trade, etc);

• protection of biodiversity — some diseases (which may be irrelevant to the above two categories) may pose threats to biodiversity (eg accidentally introduced infectious diseases that may seriously affect the viability of wildlife populations);

• animal welfare — some diseases of animals (which may be irrelevant to the above categories) may need to be controlled because they cause pain and distress (sometimes prolonged) to a large number of animals.

The above principles are distinct, although overlapping, issues of fundamental importance that encompass all animal health and welfare issues, and UFAW suggested that it is important, in promoting clarity of thought in the prioritisation process, that all of these issues be explicitly addressed. This is necessary because although some disease entities are relevant to all four of these concerns, others are not. For example, some diseases do not rank highly as threats to livestock economics or human health but may, nevertheless, be important as threats to animal welfare or to biodiversity.

UFAW also gave written evidence and responded to the final report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animal Experimentation, and is involved in revisions of Appendix A to the Council of Europe’s (CoE) Convention ETS 123 which provides recommendations on the care and husbandry of laboratory animals. The importance of appropriate social contact and enrichment is being emphasised. While the CoE Convention can only provide recommendations, the new document will be valuable as it has the potential to influence the 41 member nations. Moreover, the revision has important implications for members of the European Community, as the European Commission has recently ratified the CoE Convention and will have to revise the European Directive 86/609/EEC to bring this into line with it. Once this occurs, members of the European Union will be required to update their national legislation to incorporate any revisions to the Directive. The Working Party charged with carrying out the CoE revision has produced new recommendations for various animals including rodents, rabbits, primates, cats, dogs and ferrets; however, further work is required for other species. Unfortunately, all of the work remains in draft stage until it is approved by a Multilateral Consultation, and there may be further delays because of the movement of key secretarial staff in Strasbourg to other duties connected with international concerns about terrorism.

Feeding garden birds: what is best for their welfare?

The scale of garden bird feeding has increased dramatically in recent years. This is likely to promote greater population densities through supporting greater reproductive success, through changing age-related mortality and, perhaps, through increasing over-wintering by some species. However, there may be some adverse consequences also. Feeding stations may facilitate transmission of some infections, and the incidence of some diseases (both infectious, eg salmonellosis, and non-infectious, eg aflatoxicosis) may have increased with the scale of provisioning.

Little is known about the impact of provisioning of garden birds on the dynamics of their populations or on the welfare of the individuals. UFAW organised a workshop in July 2003 to review the possible benefits and disadvantages to birds and to consider if there is a need for research, technological developments, or educational initiatives in order to bring about improvements in current practices. It was agreed that best practice guidelines are required and plans are being made to produce these during the year.
In the first four days of April, 374 animal welfare scientists, ethicists and policy makers from 24 countries around the world gathered in Edinburgh to attend UFAW’s symposium on ‘Science in the Service of Animal Welfare’. Opening the symposium, Dr James Kirkwood drew attention to the words of Sir Peter Medawar, the Nobel Prize-winning immunologist and Chairman of UFAW’s Scientific Committee 44 years ago: “Improvements in the care of animals are not now likely to come of their own accord, merely by wishing them: there must be research ... and it is in sponsoring research of this kind and making its results widely known, that UFAW performs one of its most valuable services”. The scale of this symposium and the high calibre of the presentations from leading authorities around the world were striking evidence of the remarkable development of this important branch of science and of its crucial influence in animal care and on animal welfare ethics and policy.

In his after-dinner speech at the symposium banquet held in the great hall of the Royal Museum (left), Elliot Morley, DEFRA Minister for Fisheries, Water and Nature Protection, congratulated UFAW on its work in pursuit of animal welfare with, in the words of UFAW’s Founder Major Charles Hume, “maximum sympathy and minimum sentimentality”. Professor Aubrey Manning, Emeritus Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh University, who welcomed delegates to the Reception held at the National Gallery of Scotland on the first evening of the symposium, also spoke highly of UFAW’s remarkable record of achievements (photographed with James Kirkwood, above).

The programme covered the science of animal welfare assessment, the use of science in ethical decisions, the application and transfer of scientific advances to the care of animals, and public understanding and other factors influencing animal welfare policy. Among the 36 speakers were Marian Dawkins, Oxford (Using behaviour to assess animal welfare); Peter Sandøe, Copenhagen (Scientific uncertainty — how should it be handled in scientific advice about animal welfare issues?); James Serpell, Pennsylvania (Factors influencing public attitudes to animals and their welfare); David Mellor, Massey (Using science to support ethical decisions promoting humane livestock slaughter and vertebrate pest control); and Irene Pepperberg, Brandeis (Meeting cognitive requirements: enrichment materials for captive and companion animals). In addition, 71 posters were presented at the symposium on an array of topics such as ‘Moving from animal welfare assessment into improvement’, ‘Light quality and lameness in broiler chickens’, ‘Zoo animal welfare: challenging assumptions and misconceptions’, and ‘An integrated approach to assess nociception and pain in the rainbow trout’. Poster sessions encouraged further discussion and education on matters of animal welfare science. The proceedings will be published as a supplementary issue of the UFAW journal Animal Welfare. UFAW is most grateful to Procter & Gamble, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, DEFRA, The Wellcome Trust, and WSPA for sponsorship of the symposium.
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

UFAW’s activities, highlighted in this annual report, are dependent on the generosity and kindness of the charity’s members and supporters — to whom we are most grateful. The charity spends very little on advertising and promotion and depends considerably on its members and supporters to assist with this by recommending the charity to others likely to share UFAW’s commitment and philosophy. If you would like copies of this report to hand on to friends and relatives please let us know. The annual membership subscription remains a modest sum at £10, or £5 for students. The value of donations made to the charity is maximised when given through the Gift Aid Scheme; details of this and advice on how to make provision for the charity in a Will can be obtained from the Secretary and are also available on the website (www.ufaw.org.uk). The budgeted expenditure for the 2003/04 year is £597,450 and whilst Council is satisfied that the Federation’s reserves are adequate to enable the costs of the planned activities to be met, the charity is seeking to be able to support a more extensive programme of animal welfare research and education in the future. Can you help?

Annual General Meeting 2002

The AGM was held at the Women’s Institute Hall, Wheathampstead, on Tuesday 8 October 2002. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the AGMs of the Society for Animal Welfare in Israel (SAWI) and the Humane Slaughter Association and Council of Justice to Animals (HSA & CJA). The members of UFAW Council also act as Trustees for these societies. Joint meetings are held to save time and money. The notice convening the meeting had been sent to all subscribers and was taken as read. The meeting agreed the Minutes of the AGM of 2001 and resolved to receive the Accounts and Auditor’s Report for the year ended 31 March 2002. There were no questions on the Report of the year’s work and the meeting resolved that the Report and Accounts be received and that Alexander, Neil & Co, Registered Auditors, be appointed as auditors to UFAW and its associated Trusts and that their remuneration should be fixed by Council.

One new member was elected to Council: Dr J M Dewdney, Deputy Director of AdProTech plc and past European Vice-President and past Director of Biotechnology at SmithKline Beecham. Dr Richard Bennett and Mr Mike Radford were re-elected.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2003

The AGM will be held at 3.00pm on Tuesday 7 October 2003 at The Women’s Institute Hall, Mead Lane, Wheathampstead. The formal notice and agenda have been sent to all members and are available from the Secretary at the registered office.

Summarised accounts

The summarised accounts set out opposite have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission’s (2000) Statement of Recommended Practice — Accounting by Charities, and were approved by the Directors/Council and signed on its behalf on 10 July 2003.

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 7 October 2003. Full accounts and the audit report can be obtained from the UFAW Secretary, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN.

Staff Publications 2002–2003

Finance and Accounts

The Federation’s income during the 2002/03 year was £999,743. This increase of 109% on the income of the previous year (£477,775) was due largely to very generous legacy income. This source of funds varies greatly and unpredictably from year to year. Investment income fell from £146,971 in 2001/02 to £118,663 in 2002/03. Overall expenditure during the 2002/03 year (£402,613) was less than in the previous year (£494,290). This was largely because no new research fellowships or scholarships were budgeted for in 2001/02 because of the unfavourable stock market situation prevailing at the time. We are planning to offer a ‘Hume’ Research Fellowship in the coming year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summarised Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2003</th>
<th>BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions, Donations &amp; Grants</td>
<td>Tangible Fixed Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38,365</td>
<td>49,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeals</td>
<td>3,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92,533</td>
<td>116,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Bank Deposits</td>
<td>3,267,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26,130</td>
<td>30,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications, Royalties &amp; Lecture Fees</td>
<td>Debtors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41,598</td>
<td>40,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recoveries</td>
<td>4,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>792,566</td>
<td>225,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Incoming Resources</td>
<td>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>999,743</td>
<td>477,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources Expended</strong></td>
<td>Net Current Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Charitable Expenditure</td>
<td>(212,165)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>256,435</td>
<td>334,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenditure</td>
<td>269,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146,178</td>
<td>159,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Resources Expended</td>
<td>3,536,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>402,613</td>
<td>494,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Recognised Gains &amp; Losses:</strong></td>
<td>(16,515)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on Disposal of Assets</td>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8,889)</td>
<td>(12,040)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year</td>
<td><strong>Restricted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>558,450</td>
<td>(8,969)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on Revaluation of Tangible Fixed Assets</td>
<td>Unrestricted (includes £224,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131,461</td>
<td>57,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Realised (Loss)/Gain on Investments</td>
<td>3,181,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(31,761)</td>
<td>20,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Unrealised Losses on Investments</td>
<td>(153,533)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(258,231)</td>
<td>(153,533)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Movement in Funds</strong></td>
<td>228,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>432,919</td>
<td>(104,256)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Brought Forward</td>
<td>2,980,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balances Carried Forward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,410,242</td>
<td>2,980,323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The summarised accounts were approved by Council and signed on its behalf on 10 July 2003

John Sanford BVSc PhD FRCVS
Chairman UFAW Council

Norman J Reed BSc FCA
Treasurer UFAW Council

Independent auditors’ statement to the Council of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

We have examined the summarised financial statements which 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 10 July 2003.

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 31 March 2003.
UFAW’s top priorities are promoting high-quality science that will lead to substantial advances in animal welfare, and promoting education in animal welfare — particularly at the tertiary level. Funds permitting, awards are given to support a wide range of project types. For those considering making an application to UFAW, these are outlined below. For further details of the awards listed here, please contact the UFAW office or refer to the UFAW website: www.ufaw.org.uk.

**Hume Animal Welfare Research Fellowship**

This scheme aims to promote high-quality animal welfare science. These awards are to support post-doctoral research at UK universities and are offered on an occasional basis only (funds permitting). Calls and application details for this award are published in the scientific press.

**Animal Welfare Research Training Scholarships**

Projects must aim to address issues likely to lead to substantial advances in animal welfare. Five of these awards were given between 1998 and 2001 to support promising young graduates to undertake three-year research projects leading to PhD or equivalent degrees at UK universities. Calls for initial concept notes, to be submitted by supervisors, will be advertised in the scientific press when these opportunities are available.

**Vacation Scholarships**

This scheme provides opportunities for students to develop their interests in animal welfare, encourage a scientific approach to the issues, and establish a starting point for further, longer-term research into improving the lives of animals. The scholarships provide for living expenses and research costs to enable students at UK universities/colleges to carry out projects lasting up to eight weeks during a summer vacation. Funds permitting, about 12 scholarships are awarded annually. Scholars must submit a report of their studies to UFAW and will be asked to present their work at a Vacation Scholars’ meeting. These awards are advertised via university and college departments in the last quarter of each year.

**Research and Major Project Awards**

UFAW occasionally makes more substantial awards (over £3500) for research or other animal welfare projects (eg for educational initiatives or publications). Judging criteria are as for the Small Project and Travel Awards. Further information and application forms are available from the UFAW office. Brief concept notes must be submitted for preliminary comment before making applications for awards of over £5000.

**Small Project and Travel Awards**

UFAW makes a limited number of awards to support travel in connection with advancing animal welfare, and makes a number of other small awards (up to £3500) to support welfare research or other projects. These awards are open to persons in the UK and overseas. Applications are judged on their merits for animal welfare, their scientific quality (in the case of research applications), and also in relation to the other applications received. UFAW particularly welcomes applications for pilot studies where there is a likelihood of successful completion leading to further, more substantial work. Applications must be made using the standard form available from the UFAW office.

**Wild Animal Welfare Award**

This prize is awarded to the winner(s) of a competition for the best innovation for the welfare of captive wild animals (in zoos, rehabilitation centres or elsewhere) or for alleviating or preventing human harm to animals in the wild. If the judges believe the applications are of sufficient merit, UFAW will give two awards, each of £1000 — one for the best innovation for the welfare of captive wild animals, and the other for the best innovation for the welfare of free-living wild animals. The deadline for receipt of applications is 31 October 2003.

**UFAW ‘Tesco’ Award for promoting public understanding of animal welfare science**

For a second year, UFAW, with support from Tesco, offers a £1000 prize for the piece of published or broadcast work which best communicates to a wide audience the ingenuity of the scientific methods and the importance and value of animal welfare science. The deadline for applications is to be announced, but is likely to be around 30 November 2003.

**Stop press ...**

We are delighted to hear that the results of a UFAW-funded project on carnivore welfare and home range size, undertaken by Dr Georgia Mason and Dr Ros Clubb of the Department of Zoology at Oxford University, has been accepted for publication in Nature.
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK
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Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991
Registered Charity No. 207996

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Professor R S Anderson** BVMS PhD MRCVS

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Professor R S Anderson* BVMS PhD MRCVS
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J H Pratt BVM&S DVM FRCVS‡
M Radford LLB
E Wright
*to 08.10.02, **from 08.10.02, †Member of the Grant Panel, ‡Member of the Finance Panel

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Stephen M Wickens BSc PhD
Publications Officer:
Elizabeth A Roberts MA MSc
Secretary:
Donald C Davidson
Office staff:
Samantha Griffin
Wendy L Goodwin

Registered Auditors:
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Alliance & Leicester Girobank, Bridle Road, Bootle G1R 0AA
Bank of America, P O Box 37176, San Francisco, California 94127-0001, USA

Solicitors:
Bignalls, Balderton, Warren & Co, 11 Whitehorse Street, Baldock, Herts SG7 6PZ
RadcliffesLeBrasseur, 5 Great College Street, London SW1P 3SJ

Investment Advisers:
NCL Smith & Williamson, 9-12 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5NS
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