



## UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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

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

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

Email: [ufaw@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:ufaw@ufaw.org.uk)

### Media Release

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

**For immediate release:**

**30<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

#### **UFAW Medals presented for outstanding contributions to animal welfare science**

The 2015 winners of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science were presented with their awards at the UFAW international symposium 'Animal Populations – World Resources and Animal Welfare Science', held recently in Zagreb, Croatia. Professor David Mellor of the Animal Welfare Science & Bioethics Centre, Massey University, New Zealand and Professor Georgia Mason of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Canada each received the UFAW commemorative medal and £3,000 in recognition of their exceptional achievements in the advancement of animal welfare over many years.

Professor Mellor has made a significant contribution to the development and recognition of animal welfare science and has played a major role in the application of science to animal ethical analysis and humane animal management. At the Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh David established the foundations for later major contributions to animal welfare science made after he moved to New Zealand 27 years ago. Previously recognised internationally as a contributor to foetal and neonatal physiology, more recently he has become a leading authority on foetal consciousness in utero and during parturition, and his conclusions have been important for informing both new legislation and animal husbandry. Likewise, he extended his prior Moredun studies of pain and stress associated with castration and tail docking in lambs to castration and dehorning of cattle, and his conclusions underpinned sound practical advice to farmers and veterinarians, as well as codes of welfare for painful husbandry procedures.

David has also advanced animal welfare assessment and ethical decision-making through the use of the extended Five Domains Model, which he first introduced in 1994. At an international level, he has had a pivotal role in the establishment of the New Zealand and Australian OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis. He has vigorously promoted animal welfare scholarship, and animal welfare science-based policy development and practice, both domestically and internationally.

Professor Mason is highly regarded for her groundbreaking work on stereotypes in a variety of species, and is now widely recognized as the world authority on stereotypic behaviour. Georgia was also the first to use a multi-species comparative approach to address questions relating to animal welfare. She studied mink motivation in her early research, and has continued to work with mink farmers on practical ways to improve mink welfare, resulting in environmental enrichment now being a requirement for farmed mink in Canada. Georgia has brought a critical quantitative approach to the subject of animal welfare that has drawn admiration from a wide variety of scientists, and is an excellent role model for the next generation of animal welfare scientists.

-ENDS-

#### SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: Robert C Hubrecht OBE BSc PhD FSB

Secretary: Jane Moorman

Registered Charity No. 207996 (Registered in England) and Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991

*Attached photos:*



Professor David Mellor (r) of Massey University, New Zealand is congratulated by Dr Robert Hubrecht, Chief Executive of UFAW, upon his award of the UFAW Medal for outstanding contributions to animal welfare science, presented at the UFAW International Symposium in Zagreb, Croatia, July 2015.



Professor Georgia Mason of the University of Guelph, Canada with Dr Robert Hubrecht, UFAW Chief Executive, at the UFAW International Symposium in Zagreb, Croatia, July 2015 where she was presented with the UFAW Medal for outstanding contributions to animal welfare science.

*Media contact:*

Dr Robert Hubrecht, Chief Executive and Scientific Director, UFAW. Tel: 01582-831818,  
email [hubrecht@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:hubrecht@ufaw.org.uk)

Note to editors:

**UFAW**

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an internationally recognised, independent scientific and educational animal welfare charity. It works to improve knowledge and understanding of animals' needs in order to achieve high standards of welfare for farm, companion, research, captive wild animals and those with which we interact in the wild.

UFAW improves animal welfare worldwide through its programme of awards, grants and scholarships; by educational initiatives, especially at university and college level; by providing information in books, videos, reports and in its scientific journal *Animal Welfare*; by providing expert advice to governments and others, including for legislation and 'best practice' guidelines and codes; and by working with animal keepers, scientists, vets, lawyers and all those who care about animals.

This work relies on the support of members, subscribers and donors.

**SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE**

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: Robert C Hubrecht OBE BSc PhD FSB

Secretary: Jane Moorman

Registered Charity No. 207996 (Registered in England) and Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991