**UFAW NEWS-SHEET March 2002**

**View from The Chair**

The past year has been a busy and productive one for UFAW. I have room here only to highlight three areas of the Federation's work. 2001 was the 75th anniversary year of the charity's origin (initially as the University of London Association for Animal Welfare). It was a great pleasure to celebrate this at a reception at the House of Lords in June and our thanks go to all who supported this event As one who has spent many years teaching about animal care(as Professor of Animal Husbandry at the University of Liverpool Veterinary School), I am delighted with the success of UFAW's Vacation Scholarship scheme and would like to encourage teachers at universities and colleges to help in drawing their students' attention to this scheme in future years. The journal 'Animal Welfare' has now been running for over ten years and we are very pleased that it has been taken up so widely around the world. I commend it to those members and supporters who do not yet subscribe - it provides an excellent way of keeping up to date with advances in welfare.In an often strident and opinionated world, UFAW plays a vital role in advancing animal welfare through research and provision of cool and rational advice. We are most grateful to all those who support the charity.

*R S Anderson*

Thanks to very generous donations and legacy income, particularly during recent years, UFAW has been able to initiate the Animal Welfare Research Training Scholarship scheme (through which five PhD studentships are currently being supported) and also a Research Fellowship. We would like very much to be able to continue to support scientific advances in animal welfare in these ways. However, because legacy income has been considerably lower this year and income from investments has also declined, we have not been in a position to offer such major awards in this financial year. Income for UFAW's work depends to some extent upon the Federation's profile and we ask all supporters to help us spread the word about UFAW's key role in advancing animal welfare and about the dependence of the Charity's work on donations and legacies.

It is because we believe it important that UFAW becomes more widely known that the News-Sheet is, for the first time, being produced in colour. Although UFAW spends very little on promotion, we cannot afford to ignore the matter completely. The News-Sheet is an important promotional vehicle for the charity and we think it will serve this purpose better in colour. We are committed to keeping costs to a minimum and should point out that advances in printing technology mean that the cost of producing this News-Sheet in colour is only marginally higher than the cost of printing it in black and white.

The items in this News-Sheet illustrate fairly well the range of UFAW's activities. One important element is the journal Animal Welfare, which is now into its eleventh year. Circulation continues to grow, with subscribers throughout the world. In addition to the regular volumes, we aim to produce occasional issues on special topics. Last year, we published the proceedings of the UFAW Symposium on Consciousness, Cognition and Animal Welfare as a supplementary edition of the journal, and we have been asked to publish the proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level, which is to be held at the University of Bristol on 4-6 September 2002. The journal publishes scientific and technical papers and reviews on animal welfare and also papers on related ethical and legal topics. It includes book reviews and commentaries on recent reports, laws and codes of practice. For further details or to become a subscriber, please contact the UFAW Office.



*Professor David Bellamy presented the UFAW Zoo Award 2001 at The Web of Life exhibit, London Zoo*

**UFAW Symposium 2003 - a date for your diaries** UFAW is planning a major three-day international symposium on Science in the Service of Animal Welfare at the University of Edinburgh on 2-4 April 2003. The symposium will include sessions on the following themes:

* The science of animal welfare assessment
* The role of science in making ethical decisions about animal use and care
* The application and transfer of scientific advances for the care of animals
* Public understanding of, and power over, standards in animal welfare
* Education in animal welfare

Following preliminary approaches, the following have indicated that they hope to contribute: Professor Patrick Bateson (Cambridge), Professor Marian Dawkins (Oxford), Professor Paul Flecknell (Newcastle), Dr Linda Keeling (Skara), Professor David Mellor (Massey), Dr Mike Mendl (Bristol), Professor Irene Pepperberg (Brandeis and MIT), and Professor James Serpell (Pennsylvania). If you would like to receive further information about this event and/or if you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster, please fill in and return the form that is being circulated with this News-Sheet or email scioff@ufaw.org.uk.

**Vision of UFAW's founder celebrated by the USA's Animal Welfare Institute**



The cover of the Animal Welfare Institute's publication commemorating 50 years since its founding in 1951 shows Major Charles Hume receiving the Albert Schweitzer Medal from AWI President, Christine Stevens. The caption notes: "Major Hume, a brilliant strategist, initiated the first animal protective society to work directly with humane scientists, many of whom were remarkably distinguished. He founded the University of London Animal Welfare Society which grew into the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) Ö AWI sought to replicate Hume's concept in the United States."

**UFAW/Blackwell Science Animal Welfare book series**

UFAW's publications, notably the UFAW Handbooks on The Care and Management of Laboratory Animals and The Management and Welfare of Farm Animals, and the journal Animal Welfare, have a worldwide reputation for providing reliable and up-to-date scientific and technical information. The Charity has also, through its Hume Fellowship scheme, enabled prospective authors to make important contributions to the animal welfare literature. John Webster's Animal Welfare: A Cool Eye Towards Eden and Michael Appleby's What Should We Do About Animal Welfare? were the products of this scheme.

The science and technology of animal welfare is growing rapidly and, associated with this, there is great current interest in the ethics of our interactions with animals and a proliferation of new welfare laws. We are aiming to establish a new series of books in this field that will maintain UFAW's tradition for intellectual rigour in pursuit of advances in animal welfare. These books, commissioned by UFAW, will be published by Blackwell Science of Oxford. Among the first likely to be published in the series are The Physiology of Suffering by Neville Gregory, Environmental Enrichment by Robert Young, and Welfare and Wildlife Management by Ian Inglis.

We would like this series to cover a wide range of aspects of animal welfare and to become recognised worldwide for providing authoritative reviews and scientifically based opinion. If you would like to contribute to this series, please contact UFAW's Editorial Assistant, Liz Roberts, for further details.

**New publications on refinements in animal care**

During 2001, two papers were published in the series on refinements in laboratory animal care that are produced in collaboration with the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation, FRAME and the RSPCA. These are comprehensive and detailed reviews of the best standards and practice. The first was on refining procedures for the administration of substances (Morton et al 2001, Laboratory Animals 35: 1-41) and the second, a very substantial publication, covered refinements in husbandry and procedures for birds used in research (Hawkins et al 2001, Laboratory Animals 35: 1-155 [Suppl]).

Although the focus of these publications is the welfare of research animals, they contain a great deal of information relevant to the care of animals kept for other purposes too. Three further reports are currently being prepared: the welfare of transgenic animals; the use of remote monitoring; and refinements for the care and husbandry of dogs in science.

**Dog enrichment research pays off**



For the last two years, UFAW's Deputy Director has been advising a leading pharmaceutical company in Denmark on their dog accommodation. The company, Novo Nordisk, has now developed and implemented prototypes of its new dog pens, which owe much to UFAW research over the last decade. The enclosures provide the dogs with plenty of choice and environmental enrichment. They include platforms and suspended chews similar to those first developed and tested during a UFAW dog enrichment project. As the Novo staff note, "the dogs like them very much". The same concepts of mounds and shelters to provide choice have also been provided in their extensive outdoor enclosures. Although nobody wants to use dogs for research, as long as there is still a requirement it is essential to house them in accommodation that meets their needs. Novo have taken substantial steps to do so.

**Evidence given to House of Lords select committee on animals in scientific procedures**

In response to a call for evidence, UFAW provided a written submission and was subsequently called upon to give oral evidence. UFAW reminded the committee that the UFAW scholars Russell and Burch developed the widely accepted 3Rs concept (replacement, reduction and refinement), which has had an enormous impact on laboratory animal welfare worldwide. All of the 3Rs are important, but we pointed out that although economic and other factors tend to drive companies to reduce animal use and to find non-animal replacements, there is no similar impetus to develop scientifically based refinement methods, particularly regarding animal accommodation. We informed the committee of UFAW's pioneering work in establishing the Pharmaceutical Housing and Husbandry Steering Committee (PHHSC), which is the only collaborative effort to refine animal accommodation, but pointed to the need for more funding for refinement research to encourage the development of centres of excellence. UFAW also drew attention to the ongoing need to consider the welfare of animals as new technologies such as individually ventilated cages and transgenics are developed.

**Animal Procedures Committee appointment**

The Deputy Director, Dr Robert Hubrecht, has been appointed to the Animal Procedures Committee. This is a statutory body that advises the Secretary of State on the operation of the 1986 Act that controls animal experimentation. He joins on the Committee the UFAW Chairman Professor Ronald Anderson.

**Keeping non-domesticated species as companion animals**



The Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) is currently undertaking a review of the welfare of non-domesticated species kept as companion animals. Both the number and the range of species of wild animals being kept as companion animals appear to be increasing. The needs of some species are relatively easy to meet, but caring for others to high welfare standards can present challenges. As part of this review, CAWC is seeking the views of wild animal keepers and other interested parties on aspects of the subject. CAWC has emphasised, at the outset of this review, that it makes no presumption about whether the welfare of non-domesticated animals kept for companionship is good or bad.

The aim is to produce a report that, first, provides information on the keeping of non-domesticated species as companion animals in the UK, and second, makes recommendations for improvements if and where the need for these is identified. If you have any information that you believe would be helpful for CAWC in this review, please write to CAWC, c/o The Institute of Biology, 20 Queensbury Place, London SW7 2DZ. The UFAW Director, Dr James Kirkwood, is chairman of the CAWC Working Party.

**Zoo Animal Welfare Award presentations**

The 2001 Zoo Animal Welfare Award was won jointly by London Zoo for their Web of Life exhibit and by Blackpool Zoo for their Gorilla Mountain enclosure. We were delighted that Professor David Bellamy presented the award, on behalf of UFAW, to Mr Paul Pearce-Kelly, Curator of Invertebrates at London Zoo. Dr Ian Redmond, one of Britain's leading biologists and conservationists, has kindly agreed to present the award on UFAW's behalf to Blackpool Zoo at Easter. The zoo animal welfare awards have been running since 1986. The award scheme for 2002 has been modified to reflect advances in the approach to zoo animal welfare. The awards will now recognise new developments that have been shown to improve the welfare of animals living in zoos across the UK. There are two main modifications to the award scheme:

Rather than separate applications for exhibits and innovations, the awards will be for 'advances in zoo animal welfare'; applications may be entered which highlight new or improved housing or systems of management, new developments in veterinary care, or technological developments.



Applications must include evidence that animal welfare has been improved. This is to encourage an increasingly rigorous approach to the assessment of welfare improvements in zoos.

If you are interested in applying for the 2003 award, please contact Samantha Mills, UFAW's Scientific Officer.

*Left to right: Mr Paul Pearce-Kelly, UFAW's Scientific Officer Samantha Mills, Professor David Bellamy*

**Animal welfare initiative in Chile**

Drs Cristian Bonacic and Jessica Gimpel, past recipients of UFAW animal welfare grants, tell us they have recently established a new organisation to promote welfare and conservation in Chile. Fauna Australis is a conservation research group, based at the Pontificia Universidad CatÛlica de Chile, at Santiago, whose main scientific interest is the understanding of human-induced stress in wildlife. Dr Bonacic, who received UFAW funds for welfare studies whilst undertaking a doctorate at Oxford in sustainable utilisation of South American camelids, has been appointed to a new post with responsibility for creation of an MSc course in wildlife management.

**UFAW Animal Welfare Research Training Scholars**

Congratulations to 1998 Research Training Scholar, Emma Harding of Bristol University, who was awarded the prize for the best graduate student presentation when she presented her work at the meeting of the International Society for Applied Ethology at Davis, California, last August. Emma aims to complete her PhD this spring, and she gave an excellent presentation, entitled 'Is the glass half full or half empty? Novel methods for assessing mental states in laboratory rats' at the Vacation Scholars' Meeting in Liverpool in January (see below).

Congratulations also to 1999 scholar, Kenneth Rutherford, of the Roslin Institute, on the publication of his excellent review 'Assessing pain in animals' (Animal Welfare 11: 31-53).

**Vacation Scholars' Meeting at Liverpool University**

The fourth UFAW Vacation Scholars' Meeting was held on 23 January 2002 at the University of Liverpool Veterinary School. Eight of the vacation scholars presented papers and 75 students and staff from various UK universities and colleges attended. The quality of the talks was very high (brief outlines of a few of the projects are given on pp 5-6).

UFAW Research Training Scholar Ms Emma Harding, and Ms Shirley Seaman, recipient of the first award from the UFAW-initiated Pharmaceutical Housing and Husbandry Steering Committee, also gave presentations on their work. Emma has been looking at novel ways of assessing the mental state of animals. She outlined the development of a methodology in which rats report their predictions of outcomes of various events and, in so doing, perhaps indicate optimistic or pessimistic (possibly depressed) states of mind. This is a new approach to exploring the impact of housing and environment on an animal's mental state.

Shirley, whose studies are aimed at improving laboratory rabbit husbandry, described her studies of their housing preferences. The rabbits indicate what they think is important by pushing through increasingly weighted flaps to gain access to a range of choices -extra food, visual contact with another rabbit, a shelf (a common piece of rabbit cage furniture), or an empty enclosure. Preliminary analysis of the results suggests that rabbits regard both social contact and access to shelving as particularly important features of their laboratory environment. Further work is being undertaken to find out what aspects of the shelf are attractive to rabbits -is it the extra, raised, surface on which to lie, or the potential for shelter?

Professor Jane Hurst (UFAW Council member 1996-2001 and Professor of Animal Science at the University of Liverpool) gave the plenary presentation on her work on scent communication and its implications for the welfare of animals and their housing and husbandry. In an interesting and inspirational talk, Professor Hurst explained how her work on mice had shown the importance of scent marks in maintaining stability and indicating social status and ownership in mouse society. Through a series of ingenious experiments, she showed that subordinate mice suppress their scent marking when in, or close to, a dominant mouse's territory. This behaviour helps to avoid aggression, as mice that left scent marks in territories other than their own were the subject of attack from the territory owner. She went on to discuss her more recent work on identifying the urinary chemicals that enable mice to distinguish individuals. Professor Hurst's findings are important for welfare because they show that hitherto little regarded factors such as scent can have a profound impact on the nature and stability of social relationships between animals, and can influence the amount and intensity of aggression displayed. She ended her fascinating talk by giving an overview of her career to date and discussing how students wishing to pursue a career in animal welfare science could go about it.

UFAW is most grateful to these guest speakers and also to all the Vacation Scholars who presented the results of their projects at the meeting. We thank also the project supervisors, and the staff and students of the veterinary faculty of Liverpool University who gave us such a warm reception and helped to make the day a success. The next Vacation Scholars Meeting is planned for December 2002. Further details will be available in due course.



The results of the 2002 Vacation Scholarship competition, for which the closing date was 28 February, will be announced in the Annual Report. For information about the Vacation Scholarship Scheme please contact Samantha Mills, Scientific Officer.

*Vacation Scholars' Meeting, January 2002. Back row, left to right: UFAW's Development Officer Dr Stephen Wickens, Kerry Westwood, Gillian Perkins, Christopher McGaughie, Cara McCusker, Anja Schmidt. Front row, left to right: Emma Harding, Shirley Seaman, Jaquetta Sergeant, Joanne Young, Fiona Cathcart.*

**Year 2001 Vacation Scholarship Projects**

The principle aims of the Vacation Scholarship scheme are to enable students with particular interests in animal welfare to develop these interests, to gain experience in using the scientific approach and specific methodologies to solving welfare problems, and to take a substantial step toward becoming a well-informed animal welfare scientist and perhaps toward a career in the field. (Congratulations, in this regard, to 1997 Vacation Scholar Joseph Barber who, following the completion of his PhD at Oxford, has recently taken up the post of Enrichment Research Fellow at Disney's Animal Kingdom.) We accept that there may be limitations as to how far the frontiers of knowledge or technology can be advanced in brief vacation projects but we have often been very impressed by the quality of the work done. The range of subjects pursued by the year 2001 Scholars was as wide as ever, as the following examples illustrate.

**You shouldn't hand it to them on a plate...**



Fiona Cathcart (Queen's University of Belfast) investigated the effects of food presentation technique on the behaviour and welfare of captive Asian elephants at Belfast Zoo. The experiment comprised two four-week-long phases. During the first phase, the elephants received their food, as normal, in a single pile at 0900h. During the second phase, the location and timing of food was randomised through the day. Behavioural observations were conducted during both phases, and levels of general activity, feeding behaviour and social behaviour were recorded. Fiona found that the elephants in her study spent significantly more time feeding and foraging during the second phase compared to the first phase. General activity levels, including walking, also increased during the second phase. Altering the elephants' feeding pattern changed the proportion of time that elephants spent in feeding and other behaviours. Fiona concluded that this had a positive effect on welfare.

**Horse health and welfare in Mexico**



Anja Schmidt (Royal Veterinary College, London) studied the prevalence of gastrointestinal nematodes in several populations of horses in Yucat·n State, Mexico. She investigated management systems and sampled 176 animals at 19 sites, examining physical condition, faecal egg counts, and treatment histories. She also checked for evidence of the development of resistance by the worms to the anthelmintic commonly used against them. Anja found that the majority of the animals' coats were in good health, but only 57 per cent of the subjects had a normal tail condition -many had broken hairs and/or were rubbed down to bare skin because of itching caused by the worms. 21 per cent of horses had faeces that were softer than normal. Gastrointestinal nematode eggs were present in 31 per cent of the sample population, although prevalence varied greatly among the 19 establishments visited. Anthelmintic resistance was not detected. Many owners were found to use anthelmintics regularly despite very low worm burdens, and this could lead to the emergence of resistant strains. Better education is needed.

**What light intensity is right for fish?**

Three-spined sticklebacks Gasterosteus aculeatus are widely kept for behavioural studies. Joanne Young (University of Aberystwyth) suspected that illumination levels of tanks could be a cause for concern and carried out a series of experiments to determine sticklebacks' preferences for light intensity. Sticklebacks placed in a series of three interconnected tanks subjected to graded illumination spent the least time in the most brightly illuminated of the tanks. She concluded that the fish preferred illumination at 400 lux but that this preference varied according to their circumstances -whether foraging or hiding from potential predators. In addition, Joanne assessed whether the identified preferred light intensity provided sufficient illumination to allow detailed and reliable behavioural observations, specifically of feeding on natural prey, and found that this was indeed possible at 400 lux. This study raises questions about light intensities for optimum welfare of domestically kept fish. The results suggest that similar work on light preference in aquarium fish may be worth pursuing, as most aquaria are illuminated at levels designed to promote plant growth with little account being taken of the fish housed in them.

**Other vacation scholarship projects**



Other Vacation Scholarship projects included: raising awareness of animal welfare in Sabah, Malaysia, by Gillian Norbert-Tikun (Edinburgh University Veterinary School); development of in vitro alternatives for canine reproductive studies, by Christopher McGaughie (University of Glasgow Veterinary School); and prevention of avian malaria in captive penguins in the UK by Arthur Donald (Aberdeen University). Reports of some of the other 2001 projects will be included in the Annual Report.

**Some projects recently supported by UFAW**

Amongst the recipients of recent UFAW grants are: Professor Pat Monaghan (Division of Environmental and Evolutionary Biology, University of Glasgow) -£3050 towards the cost of a study entitled 'Evaluation of the effect of visitor pressure on the welfare of breeding seabirds'; Professor Vince Molony (Department of Pre-Clinical Veterinary Sciences, Royal [Dick] School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh) -£3500 towards the development of a web-based program entitled 'Guidelines for the recognition and treatment of animal pain'; and Professor Adrian Smith (Laboratory Animal Unit, The Norwegian School of Veterinary Science) -£500 per annum for three years towards the cost of development and maintenance of the NORINA database, a readily available source of quality-controlled information on alternatives/supplements to animal use, in the spirit of the 3Rs.

UFAW-funded projects undertaken in UK universities and elsewhere are, along with the work carried out by the Federation staff, an important part of the Charity's programme for advances in animal welfare. All of UFAW's work is dependent on the generosity of its supporters.

**Obituaries**

**Dame Olga Uvarov DSc HonCBiol FIBiol FRCVS**



*The photo shows UFAW council member Dr John Sanford, Dame Olga Uvarov and Dr Trevor Poole*

Olga Uvarov was born in Russia. She had no true record of her birth date as most of her family perished in the Revolution of 1917, when she was a young girl. She was rescued and brought to England by her uncle, Sir Boris Uvarov. She studied at the Royal Veterinary College, graduated in 1934 and rose to the highest level in her profession, being voted President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1976-1977 (the first female president of the RCVS). She worked for many years in the pharmaceutical industry and was keenly interested in animal welfare and the ethics of animal use. She served on UFAW's Council from 1983-1986, was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Charity, and became Vice-President from 1986-1992. Dame Olga died on 29 August 2001. She will be remembered fondly by the Charity for her sharp intellect and her long and very loyal support.

**Dr Trevor Poole BSc**



It is with sadness that we record the death of Dr Trevor Poole. Trevor was a highly respected mammologist who had a breadth of research experience not common today. He studied the behaviour of polecats, ferrets, mink, mice, rats, as well as polar bears, elephants and orang-utans. In the late 1970s, he developed an interest in South American primates, founded one of the first university common-marmoset colonies at Aberyst-wyth, and rapidly became an acknowledged expert in marmoset biology. He joined UFAW in 1983 to edit the sixth edition of the UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals. He then became Director of Research and subsequently Deputy Director of UFAW.

Trevor strengthened UFAW's links with the research community and developed research programmes to improve the housing of primates and dogs. At the same time, he worked closely with zoos and used their experiences of environmental enrichment to advance the acceptance of the concept in laboratories. Trevor published extensively in the field of animal welfare, and had a major impact in encouraging the acceptance of scientifically based welfare ideas around the world. Trevor's family recently accepted, on his behalf, the Charles River Award for a lifetime's service to animal welfare.

Supporters' email addresses

In line with our increasing use of email and the Internet for correspondence, we are hoping to expand our contacts database to include email addresses for our members. If you have an email address and would like to inform us of it, please email us at ufaw@ufaw.org.uk, including your name and address, and we will add it to our records. We hope in the future to have the option, where applicable, of sending out regular correspondence to our members by email.

**Council changes at the 2001 Annual General Meeting**

Mr Barrie Hart and Professor Jane Hurst retired from Council at the AGM in October 2001. We extend our gratitude to them both for their time and service to UFAW. We welcome Margaret Parry BSc PhD (Principal Lecturer in Animal Science at Harper Adams University College) and Bryan Howard BVMS PhD MRCVS (Director of Animal Welfare at the University of Sheffield) who were elected to take their places. Dr Barry Hughes was re-elected to Council. Following the retirement of Mr Barrie Hart, Mr Norman Reed has been appointed Treasurer.

**Notification for election to Council at the 2002 AGM**

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the 2002 AGM must reach the UFAW office between 30 July and 27 August 2002. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary.

**2002 Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 8 October 2002 in Wheathampstead. Full details of the time and business of the meeting will be sent to members in due course.

**Donations and legacies**

Thank you to everyone who returned a completed Gift Aid form. This enables UFAW to claim tax back on your donation or subscription providing that you are a UK taxpayer. Higher rate taxpayers can personally claim relief on the difference between their higher rate tax and basic rate on the self-assessment form. UFAW relies on such generosity and income from legacies to fund its ongoing charitable work. Advice on how to leave a gift to UFAW in your Will is available on our website or upon request from the UFAW office -please tick the reply form to receive a leaflet.

**Response to the Autumn Appeal**

We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported our Autumn Appeal, which raised £2011 to fund initiatives to promote public understanding of the role and importance of animal welfare science.

**Stationery, promotional products and publications**

A number of promotional products are available from UFAW, including badges, paper and envelopes, tea towels and T-shirts.