

**Universities Federation
for Animal Welfare
News-Sheet, Spring 2010**



Letter from the Chairman

I am pleased to welcome you to the Spring News-Sheet for 2010 which again looks to be a busy year for UFAW. Following the very successful inaugural conference on 'Recent advances in animal welfare science' in 2008, the second in this series will be held in York in June and before that in May, UFAW will be holding its International Symposium on 'Wild bird care in the garden' in London.

Garden birds have had a hard time of it this winter and no doubt a great many have been helped by the continuing growth in our feeding them. However, there is still much to learn about the effects of this 'wildlife management' – hence the importance not only of the Symposium but also of the continuance of the Garden Bird Health *initiative* research programme. Having received substantial funding from GBHi members, further funds are still needed to ensure the programme continues this year. Your support of the Spring Appeal to this end will be greatly appreciated.

Work is continuing on the development of an information resource to help address the issue of genetic welfare problems in companion animals – the recent APGAW and Bateson Inquiry reports again highlighting, amongst other things, the need for informed choice in acquiring companions.

UFAW's work in these and many other projects would not be possible without your support and I thank you all most sincerely.



Photo: Jana Kollárová

Genetic welfare problems in companion animals

UFAW is continuing to pursue the idea of developing a web-based resource to provide information on genetic welfare problems in companion animals. Efforts to raise significant sponsorship for this are underway – without this, swift progress will not be possible as collecting and collating the necessary information is a very large task. We are very grateful to all those who have been helping with data collection and we will continue to try to find a way forward to develop this project.

We are pleased to note that in a report on this subject published in November 2009 the All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) recommended that an independent group be established to provide advice on breeding strategies for welfare on a

breed-by-breed basis (see <http://www.apgaw.org>). The enquiry into welfare and breeding headed by Sir Patrick Bateson also more recently made the same recommendation. UFAW believes such a body would be very important in the strategy for tackling and preventing further genetic welfare problems in companion animals.



Welfare aspects of rodent control

During 2009 'Guiding principles in the humane control of rats and mice' – the document developed by the UFAW Working Group on this subject – was published on the UFAW website. This outlines, for householders and anyone interested, the various methods that are available for control of rats and mice and also provides information on their welfare impacts to help in the selection of the most humane (or least inhumane) methods under various circumstances. The Working Group is now turning its attention to how best to make this information available to members of the public at the points of sale of rodent control methods. Live-trapping for release elsewhere appears to be becoming a much more popular method of control and there is a need for research into the welfare aspects of this. We are considering how this might be taken forward.





Wild Bird Care in the Garden

A scientific look at large-scale, do-it-yourself wildlife management

UFAW International Animal Welfare Symposium

Zoological Society of London, London UK, 4th May 2010

In recent years, there has been a huge growth of interest in feeding garden birds in many countries. In the UK, the amounts provided make a significant contribution to the annual food requirements of many bird populations. At a time when human changes to the environment are a major threat to many other species, garden bird feeding is grass roots, do-it-yourself wildlife management on a large scale.

Whether we like it or not, in meeting the needs of the vast and rapidly growing human population and in tackling the associated environmental consequences, the whole world is becoming a managed environment. Can lessons learned from caring for free-living backyard wildlife be applied more widely to help conserve biodiversity and to avoid adversely affecting wildlife welfare?

Programme Details

Speakers who will be contributing talks to the symposium in the following areas include:

James Kirkwood (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK) Introduction: the Garden Bird Health *initiative*

Chris Whittles (CJ WildBird Foods Ltd) The history of garden bird feeding

Darryl Jones (Griffith University, Australia) Feeding wild birds: why we need to know more about a global experiment

Jonathan Blount and Stuart Bearhop (University of Exeter, UK) Impacts of over-winter feeding on health and productivity

S James Reynolds (University of Birmingham, UK) Effects of food supplementation in spring and early summer on breeding performance

John Mallord (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK) The RSPB house sparrow feeding trial in London

Mike Toms and David Glue (British Trust for Ornithology, UK) Provision of supplementary food at garden feeding stations and its value to wild birds in Britain and Ireland

Liz Coiffait, Liz Humphreys, Rob Robinson, Becki Lawson and Mike Toms (BTO and Institute of Zoology, UK) Factors influencing disease transmission at garden feeding stations: a national analysis

David Leech and Vivienne Greenough (British Trust for Ornithology, UK) Monitoring breeding success of urban birds: the BTOs nest box challenge

Becki Lawson (Institute of Zoology, UK) Trichomonosis – an emerging threat to garden birds

André Dhondt (Cornell University, USA) Dynamics of mycoplasmal conjunctivitis in house finches

Scott McBurney, Spencer Greenwood, Raphaël Vanderstichel and Maria Forzán (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada) A pilot study to determine epidemiological factors associated with the emergence of trichomonosis in wild finch populations of the Canadian Maritime Provinces

Tom Pennycott (Scottish Agricultural College, UK) Salmonellosis in garden birds in Scotland – a changing picture

Kathryn Arnold, Herborn K and L Alexander (University of Glasgow and WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition, UK) Feeder colour: a tool for reducing competition at garden feeders?

The aim of this symposium is to consider these questions and to share the results of recent research and advances in understanding on various aspects of the feeding and management of garden birds (matters that UFAW and others have been working on together in recent years through the Garden Bird Health *initiative* – see <http://www.ufaw.org.uk>).



Photo: Ali Taylor

The cost of registering for this meeting is £35.00. This price covers attendance at the symposium and refreshments but delegates will have to make their own lunch and accommodation arrangements. A registration form, full programme and further details, including nearby accommodation, can be found on the UFAW website – www.ufaw.org.uk. Contact Stephen Wickens, wickens@ufaw.org.uk, if you have any queries.

Small Project and Travel Awards

Over the past year UFAW has continued to support individuals and organisations in their efforts to advance and promote animal welfare, both within the UK and internationally. A wide variety of awards were made in 2009, including one to support an animal welfare workshop in East Africa, organised by Animal Care Initiative Network International (ACIN-International). The aim of this workshop, attended by lecturers, veterinarians, government workers and others from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda, was to promote animal welfare and sustainable farming within rural East African communities.

Another overseas project supported by UFAW was 'Getting along with elephants'. Prepared by the Zoo Outreach Organisation, workshops were held in three areas of Sumatra that currently experience a high level of human/elephant conflict. These workshops promoted coexistence with elephants by teaching community leaders about elephant behaviour and biology and how humans can change their own behaviour to avoid confrontation. It is hoped that coexistence workshops will result in less injury and death in both humans and elephants and also promote habitat conservation.

Other interesting projects currently underway, and which we are looking forward to receiving reports on once complete, involve: researching the anthropogenic impacts on welfare and health of Galapagos sealions; investigating how to prevent mass geese mortality during the spring migration in northern Ukraine, and a re-launch and update of a comprehensive fish welfare website.

The Professor William Russell Fellowship

Mice are by far the most used animals in scientific procedures worldwide and Dr Joe Garner of Purdue University has been investigating their behaviour and physiology when housed under current temperature guidelines. There is already evidence that the temperatures listed in the guidelines may be too low, but if mice are cold and are provided with the materials to build nests then, just as in the wild, they may be able to control their own microclimate.

When provided with suitable material, laboratory mice perform a complex series of nesting behaviours previously only described in wild house mice. Mice adjust their nest building according to ambient temperature, and thermal imaging showed that nests reduce heat loss in sleeping mice. These findings suggest that nest building could be used as an indicator of how comfortable the mice find their thermal environment. Dr Garner is continuing to investigate these and related issues.

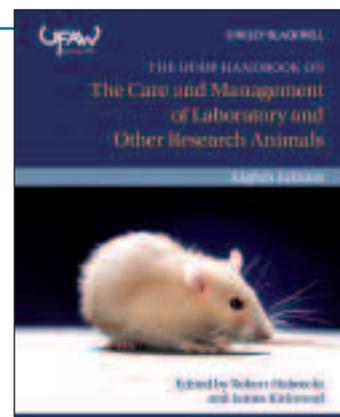


Participants in the Zoo Outreach Organisation's 'Getting along with elephants' workshops learn to use art, drama, roleplaying, games and humour to successfully teach this difficult topic in their communities. Photos courtesy Zoo Outreach Organisation.

UFAW Handbooks

The revised UFAW Handbooks on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals (8th edition) and the Management and Welfare of Farm Animals (5th edition) are both now with the publishers. The laboratory handbook includes ten new chapters to broaden coverage on the implementation of the Three Rs in research including chapters on experimental design, phenotyping, issues relating to the use of wild animals, enrichment and the assessment of animal welfare. It is expected that the handbook will be published in April 2010, and the publishers (Wiley Blackwell) are already taking pre-orders.

The Farm Animal Handbook, edited by Professor John Webster, deals with the large scale commercial rearing of animals for food. However, special attention has been given to alternative farming systems. There are also, for the first time, chapters on donkeys, game birds, South American camelids and ostrich; and horses are again included. Three new chapters reflect new understanding of animal welfare science, ethics and the role of society in helping to ensure and improve standards of animal welfare.



Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science

UFAW Animal Welfare Conference

York Merchant Adventurers' Hall, 30th June 2010



As all supporters of UFAW know, animal welfare is a cross-disciplinary area of science that is being increasingly widely employed to guide and inform legislation and practice relating to the use of animals. Much, however, still remains to be understood. As part of our commitment to improving the way we understand and care for animals, and following on from the highly successful inaugural conference in 2008, UFAW is holding a second one-day conference in this series on 'Recent advances in animal welfare science' on 30th June 2010 in the medieval Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate, York.

From the first, it was our intention that these conferences should become a regular event providing a forum at which the broad community of scientists, veterinarians and others concerned with animal welfare can come together to share knowledge and practice, discuss advances and exchange ideas and views. As part of this commitment, and to ensure that the meeting is accessible to the widest range of those with an interest in animal welfare, it was our aim that the registration fee to attend the conferences be kept as low as possible, and this year it is just £20.

Speakers will include:

Burton K, Hall C, Wells C and Billett E (Nottingham Trent University, UK)

The validation of infrared thermography as a non-invasive tool to assess welfare in the horse (*Equus caballus*)

Hänninen L, Hokkanen AH, Pastell M, de Passille AM, Rushen J, Hepola H and Raussi S (University of Helsinki and MTT Agri-Food Finland, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada)

Sleep as a welfare measure?

Hothersall B, Caplen G, Murrell J, Nasr M, Nicol C, Waterman-Pearson A and Weeks C (University of Bristol, UK)

Development of new techniques to assess pain in domestic chickens

Ribó O, Candiani D and Alpigiani I (European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Italy)

Development of the EFSA Guidance On Risk Assessment For Animal Welfare

Sherlock L, Cheng Z, Wathes CM and Wathes DC (Royal Veterinary College, UK)

Using microarrays to examine production-based stress and associated welfare problems in the broiler chicken

Silva C, Laing N, Mellor DJ and Ellis K (University of Glasgow and Clyde Veterinary Group, Lanark, UK)

Using abattoir surveillance to quantify welfare problems associated with tagging sheep's ears

Walsh C, Douglas C, Bédoué A, Bateson M and Edwards S (Newcastle University, UK and ENITA de Clermont Ferrand, France)

Tests of cognitive bias can inform on pigs subjective affective state

There will also be a poster session during the lunch break which will feature over 40 presentations.

Further details, including the full programme of speakers and a registration form, can be found on the UFAW website – www.ufaw.org.uk. Places are filling quickly, so anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to book soon. Registration is from 8.30, with talks starting at 9.30 and ending at 17.50. Please contact Stephen Wickens, Development Officer, if you have any queries – wickens@ufaw.org.uk. We hope to see you there.

The UFAW University Links Scheme

From its foundation in 1926, UFAW has always sought to promote and support scientific approaches aimed at gaining insight into what matters to animals, assessing their welfare and improving the quality of their lives. It recognised early on that one of the best ways to achieve this was 'To enlist the influence of university men and women on behalf of animals, wild and domestic' (UFAW Charitable Objects).

The university link scheme, set up by UFAW in 2003, supports diverse activities that engage staff and students at the link institutions with the science of animal welfare. Currently 25 UK and 10 overseas universities are part of the scheme. A warm welcome is extended to the two latest link universities – Cambridge and St Andrews where, respectively, Dr David Williams, Lecturer in Veterinary Ophthalmology and Dr Sue Healy, Reader in Psychology, have kindly agreed to act as links and help UFAW to this end at their respective institutions.

If you are interested in establishing a link with UFAW (and the Humane Slaughter Association – the charities have worked closely together for many years) we will be pleased to hear from you (wickens@ufaw.org.uk). A full list of link institutions and further information about the scheme and their activities can be found on the UFAW website.

UFAW Vacation Scholarships/Student Scholarships

This year the Vacation Scholarship scheme, first launched in 1983, has been modified. For 26 years the UFAW vacation scholarships have provided opportunities for students at UK, and more recently overseas, universities and educational establishments to pursue and develop their interest in the science of animal welfare. During this time, over 250 scholars have studied a diverse range of species, from hedgehogs, trout and bottle-nose dolphins to domestic cats, laboratory mice, laying hens and dairy cows, with the aim of improving our understanding of the animal and its needs. Many of these studies were of suitable quality to be published in peer-reviewed journals and have acted as the stepping stone for the scholar's further involvement in this field.

This year, two of the scholars have continued in this tradition. Both Clare Walsh (University of Newcastle. 'Cognitive bias as an alternative measure of subjective mental experience in pigs – can affective state be used to reflect quality of environment on farm?') and Richard Jackson (University of Glasgow. 'Prevalence and risk factors for Chlamydia carriage by wild garden birds') have been selected to contribute to the UFAW 2010 meetings on 'Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science' and 'Wild Bird Care in the Garden' respectively. Further details of these meetings can be found elsewhere in the News-Sheet.

The tradition of the scholarships and the opportunities they offer will continue. To reflect the fact that many students now have to work over their vacations to help support their studies, it has been decided that the remit of the vacation scholarships should be widened so that studies can now take place at any time (although the deadline for applications will still be the end of February each year). Accordingly, and to avoid confusion, the modified awards will now be known as the UFAW Animal Welfare Student Scholarships. Thus a change in title, but we trust no change in quality or impact.



12th Annual Vacation Scholarship Meeting – University of Nottingham, 9th December 2009

The University of Nottingham's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science very kindly hosted the 2009 meeting. Held at the impressive new facilities at their Sutton Bonnington campus, a large group of students and academics listened to the scholars present the findings of their studies.

Amongst a host of enjoyable presentations, Sarah Robertson (University of Newcastle, 'The effect of thyme and pennyroyal essential oils, with potential as acaricides for poultry pests, on the behaviour of laying hens') and Carys Pugh (University of Bristol, 'Comb temperature changes in hens: an indicator of stress?') both gave very different but equally impressive talks concerning the welfare of hens. Chemical agents used as acaricides in the past have now been banned and Sarah discussed how her study had shown that whilst both essential oils were effective against red poultry mites, pennyroyal was not likely to be suitable for use as an acaricide because of its effect on appetite and grooming behaviour. However, thyme still seemed to have potential. Carys discussed her findings that, following exposure to a stressor, hens' comb temperatures initially decreased and then increased, reaching temperatures that were significantly higher than was typical for a non-stressed hen. She suggested that this initial temperature decrease might be useful as a new indicator of stress in chickens. Dr Lucy Asher, currently of the Royal Veterinary College but previously Newcastle University, also gave an inspirational talk on 'Animal welfare, mathematics and me' and demonstrated how scholars and students can progress in their chosen area of interest.

We would like to thank all the scholars who presented at the meeting, those who attended and most especially Dr Jon Huxley, Nottingham's UFAW link, for agreeing to host this meeting. We much appreciate your support and input into the day.

Anyone wishing to attend the next meeting – venue yet to be decided – or wanting further details should contact Stephen Wickens, Development Officer (wickens@ufaw.org.uk).

UFAW Student Scholars together with Dorothy Sidley Memorial Scholars from UFAW's sister charity the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) at this years Scholarship Meeting

Photos from some of the 2009 Vacation Scholarship projects: thanks to Frances Dyson-Sutton; Anna Calderon; K Aisa Irvine; Clare Walsh.



Animal Welfare, the journal

The number of manuscripts submitted to the journal continues to increase and the total during 2009 was greater than in any of the 17 years since the journal began. The October edition was a special issue comprising the papers presented at the Fourth International Workshop on the Assessment of Welfare at Farm and Group Level held in Ghent in 2008, and we are most grateful to the Guest Editors: Frank Tuytens, Dominiek Maes, Nicoline Geverink, Paul Koene and Bas Rodenburg for their work on this. During the 2010 year, the journal will include a special issue on wildlife conservation and welfare (Guest Editor David Fraser) comprising the proceedings of an international workshop held at the University of British Columbia, and a supplement comprising the Proceedings of the UFAW International Symposium held in June 2009 on 'Darwinian selection, selective breeding and the welfare of animals'.

We are most grateful to the Section Editors, Guest Editors, all those who peer-review manuscripts, and contributors to the journal. Special thanks to Professor Joy Mench of the University of California for her work over many years for the journal as Section Editor for poultry, as she retired from this task at the start of 2010.



UFAW SAWI Fund

As mentioned in the 2009 Annual Report, we are seeking an opportunity to help contribute to the development of animal welfare science in Israel by part-funding the establishment of a university lectureship or research post. This idea has been received very positively in Israel and we are in discussions about how to take this forward. We hope to be able to give news of this later in the year.

Animal welfare advice and consultancies

UFAW staff provide animal welfare advice to various institutions. In the last 6 months, UFAW has provided advice to commercial and academic organisations in the UK and the US, and to UK Government and the Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC). The House of Lords Inquiry into the revision of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, has completed its report (available at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldselect/ldcom/164/164i.pdf>). The Committee accepted the case made by UFAW, that explanatory text which accompanied the housing standards as first embodied in Council of Europe guidelines should be restored, and it seems likely that this text now will be adopted in the final document.

Notification for election to Council at the 2010 AGM

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the 2010 AGM must reach the UFAW office between 4th August and 1st September 2010. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary.

2010 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the afternoon of Wednesday 13th October 2010 at the UFAW office (The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts). Full details of the time and business of the meeting will be sent to members in due course.

Spring Appeal

Support the Garden Bird Health initiative research programme

The GBHi has been very successful over recent years in conducting large-scale surveillance, monitoring and research into the health of garden birds, including new and emerging diseases such as trichomonosis and other possible effects of changes in environment, such as the growth in bird feeding. Through the programme it was possible to detect the outbreak of trichomonosis in 2006 and subsequently plot its course and spread. It is now widespread in the UK, affecting very large numbers of birds. Current work includes both epidemiology and pathology of this disease and others, and the possible effects of feeding practices on bird health and welfare.

Substantial funding has been committed by GBHi members for the coming year but there is still a shortfall in funds needed to ensure the programme's continuation.

Your support will help ensure the continuation of the GBHi disease surveillance, monitoring and research programme for the next year; vital to protecting the health and welfare of garden birds.

If you would like to contribute please send a donation to the Spring 2010 Appeal at the UFAW office address. Many thanks!

Other ways you can support the work of UFAW

UFAW's work relies on the support and generosity of members and donors, and this support is greatly appreciated. In addition to our Spring and Autumn Appeals, here are some other ways you can help promote animal welfare and animal welfare science:

Become a member

Individual membership is just £10 a year (£5 for students). Corporate membership from £20 a year.

Recruit a member

If you are already a member, why not recruit a colleague or friend?

Support the University Links

There are currently 35 academic institutions worldwide represented. You can participate in their activities and help promote UFAW's objectives.

Subscribe to 'Animal Welfare'

The quarterly scientific and educational journal now has full online access and back issue search facility for subscribers.

Join our Regular Giving Programme

Regular monthly donations greatly help us to plan UFAW activities.

Pledge a legacy

Over the years legacies have been extremely important to UFAW's work. An information leaflet on leaving a legacy is available free from UFAW.

Sponsor an activity

There are frequent opportunities to sponsor particular activities, events or projects of interest to institutional or corporate organisations.

Shop at UFAW

Choose from our exclusive range of clothing, stationery, gifts and cards that also help promote UFAW. Ask for a brochure or visit www.ufaw.org.uk

For more information on any of these contact the UFAW office.



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