



**Universities Federation  
for Animal Welfare  
News-Sheet, Spring 2012**

*Science in the Service of Animal Welfare*

## Letter from the Chairman

Welcome to the Spring 2012 News-Sheet. One of the most important UFAW activities is the promotion and support of research in animal welfare science, including that of young scientists beginning their work in this field. It is pleasing to note that the Animal Welfare Student Scholarship scheme, the Small Project and Travel Award scheme which has assisted young scientists in presenting their work at important conferences, and the University 'LINK' scheme now with 26 UK and 16 overseas institutions participating, continue to flourish. Also, the very first William Russell Memorial Fellowship project is now complete, making an important research contribution to the 3Rs, and the first UFAW SAWI Fund Studentship in Israel has been awarded for research in dairy cow welfare.

Such important work would not be possible without your interest and support, and on behalf of the staff and Council I offer my sincere thanks.



## The UFAW website on genetic welfare problems in companion animals

During the past 18 months there has been intensive work to develop a website (<http://www.ufaw.org.uk/geneticwelfareproblems.php>) to inform prospective purchasers of pets about genetic welfare problems, so as to help them avoid perpetuating the problems. It now has information, on a breed by breed basis, on the welfare consequences of many genetic conditions that can affect dogs, cats, rabbits and some horses, guinea pigs, fish and birds. A poster has been produced (shown right) and circulated widely to help draw attention to the website. Copies of the poster are available free from the UFAW office. Records of page visits indicate that the website is receiving thousands of visits each month and feedback continues to be very positive. We hope to be able to further expand and improve this web resource (including making translations into other languages) and are seeking funds for this purpose.

### Can you help tackle a major animal welfare problem?

Many pets, including dogs, cats and rabbits, are born with genetic diseases and disorders. Owners often don't know about these diseases, so end up buying a pet that suffers through its life.

If you are thinking of buying a pet, you can find out which conditions you should be aware of at UFAW's Genetic Welfare Problems website:

[www.ufaw.org.uk/geneticwelfareproblems.php](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/geneticwelfareproblems.php)

You may also like to visit [www.dogbreedhealth.com](http://www.dogbreedhealth.com) which shares our concern about the need to tackle these welfare problems.

**How does this help animal welfare?**

If owners buy healthy animals, breeders will breed healthy animals. By choosing a healthy pet, you can help improve the quality of life for many others.

It will also save you the upset of owning a pet with a disease that could have been prevented.

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare  
The Old School, Brookhouse Hill, Wheatthorpes Road, Hertfordshire, AL4 8AN, United Kingdom.  
Tel: +44 (0)1582 251518 Fax: +44 (0)1582 833434 Website: [www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk) Email: [ufaw@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:ufaw@ufaw.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 207966 (Registered in England)

*The genetic welfare problems website now covers over 90 breeds of companion animals with comprehensive information on over 70 conditions. Left: part of the page on Brachycephalic Ocular Syndrome in the Pug.*



Front cover photo: the possible welfare effects of lop ears in rabbits are also described on the UFAW website.

## The UFAW Medal and Young Scientist of the Year Awards

Following a successful first year, the UFAW Young Scientist of the Year Award and the UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science are both being run again this year. Winners of the awards will be announced later in the year.

## Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science III UFAW Animal Welfare Conference York Merchant Adventurers' Hall, 21st June 2012



UFAW is holding the third of its series of one-day conferences on 'Recent advances in animal welfare science' on 21st June 2012 in the medieval Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York. These meetings aim to provide 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. In addition, we hope that they provide a platform on which those who are beginning to contribute to our better understanding of animals and their needs can present their research, as well as those who are more established.

As with the previous meetings, we have kept the registration fee for this conference as low as possible to ensure it is accessible to the widest range of those interested in animal welfare. This year the registration fee is £25. Please note that this price includes refreshments but delegates will need to make their own arrangements for lunch.

Speakers who will be contributing talks to the conference include:

- de Haas EN, TB Rodenburg, J ten Napel and B Kemp (Wageningen University, The Netherlands) *Behavioural development of feather pecking in commercial laying hens – the past or the present?*
- Ellwood SA, RPD Atkinson, DW Macdonald and SE Baker (University of Oxford, UK and The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, USA) *The mechanical performance of currently unregulated spring-traps for use with rats, mice and moles*
- Hothersall B, G Caplen, CJ Nicol, AE Waterman-Pearson, CA Weeks and JC Murrell (University of Bristol, UK) *Challenges of determining links between pain and lameness in broiler chickens*
- Packer RMA, A Hendricks and CC Burn (The Royal Veterinary College, UK) *How long and low can you go? A preliminary investigation of exaggeration of back length and reduction in leg length as a risk factor for intervertebral disc herniation (IVDH)*
- Part C, J Kiddie, W Hayes, D Mills, DB Morton and LM Collins (Queen's University Belfast, Royal Veterinary College, University of Lincoln and University of Birmingham, UK) *Dogs at home: A comparison of welfare physiology and behaviour at home and in a boarding kennel environment*
- Rowan AN and M Jones (Humane Society International, USA and UK) *Developing benchmarks for assessing the success of dog management approaches around the world*
- Smulders TV, BA Robertson, O Rhys, L Holmes, MS Turner, RB D'Eath, PW Wilson, IC Dunn and T Boswell (University of Newcastle, Scottish Agricultural College and University of Edinburgh, UK) *Food-restricted broiler breeders: Does chronic hunger lead to chronic stress?*



*At the 2010 'Recent Advances' Conference, also held at the same venue in York*

In addition, there will be a poster session during the lunch break which will feature over 50 presentations. Further details, including the full programme of speakers and a registration form, can be found on the UFAW website <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/conference2012.php>. Registration is from 8.30, with talks starting at 9.30 and ending at 17.10.

### Venue

The conference is being held in York, in the medieval Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate. Located next to the pedestrianised centre of York and built in 1357, the timbered Hall and Undercroft make up one of the best preserved medieval guild halls in the world.

## 13th Annual Animal Welfare Student Scholars Meeting, University of Cambridge

Whilst it is an exaggeration to say that the sun shone on those who attended the Animal Welfare Student Scholarship meeting on 7th December 2011, certainly the balmy conditions were a world away from the snow of the previous year. An audience of sixty or so listened to a very interesting and diverse range of high quality talks on topics from dental pain in captive Sun bears to the immunological response to canine atopic dermatitis. Amongst those presenting were two previous scholars: Dr Louise Buckley (2003) of Harper Adams University College who, in addition to reporting her work on trying to unpick the food choices of hungry broiler breeders – those hens who have to have their food intake restricted to ensure that they are able to produce the next generation of meat birds, also brought along a minibus of her students to experience the day. The other, Rowena Packer (2008), talked about some of the work she has carried out as part of her doctoral research at the Royal Veterinary College investigating whether owners of brachycephalic dog breeds, like bulldogs, recognised the clinical health signs of breathing distress in their dogs, caused by their shortened muzzles. (A: They do as an abstract issue but tend to downplay it in practice in their own pet, regarding it as ‘normal’).

This year the prize for the scholar who travelled furthest to attend the meeting went to Randy Do, student at the Canadian UFAW ‘LINK’ university, the University of Guelph. Randy discussed the impact on mortality rates of providing food and water to shrews, *Soricomorpha soricidae*, live-trapped as part of a survey of small mammal population levels in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. She found that whilst provision of water did not reduce overnight mortality rates, provision of food, in the form of mealworms, did.

Thanks to all the past and present scholars who talked at the meeting and who helped to make the day so enjoyable, and to those who attended and provided a receptive audience. Special thanks also to Dr David Williams and the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, for hosting the meeting and making all so welcome. These free meetings are open to all, so if they sound of interest why not come along to the 2012 meeting (see UFAW website for further details or email Dr Stephen Wickens, [wickens@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:wickens@ufaw.org.uk)).

*Photos from some of the 2011 Animal Welfare Student Scholarship projects: thanks to (clockwise from top left) Hazel Evans; Marianne Gansow; Mhairi Fleming; Robert Hyde; Katy Major; Owain Rhys; Randy Do; Lisa Morgans.*



### The UFAW University ‘LINK’ Scheme

The UFAW ‘LINK’ scheme was launched in 2003 with the aim of encouraging interest and engagement in the science of animal welfare, and with UFAW and its objectives, amongst the staff and students of academic institutions. Initially trialled with UK universities, membership of the ‘LINK’ scheme has now been extended to other countries. Presently it consists of a network of 26 UK and 16 overseas universities and colleges to which UFAW offers support, and who distribute literature and information on UFAW’s behalf.

If you are interested in becoming a ‘LINK’ person for your university and assisting UFAW in this way, then we would be interested in hearing from you. Please contact [ufaw@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:ufaw@ufaw.org.uk).

Further information about ‘LINK’ universities and about the ‘LINK’ scheme can be found on the UFAW website (see [www.ufaw.org.uk/links-news-events.php](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/links-news-events.php)).

## Small Project and Grant Awards

UFAW continues to support and promote animal welfare through its Small Project and Travel Awards and the Research and Project Awards. Both of these schemes are available to individuals and organisations within the UK and overseas and offer support for a wide variety of projects seeking to advance the welfare of animals.

Successful student applicants during the year have included Pierpaolo Di Giminiani, Aarhus University, Denmark, and Megan Jones, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Pierpaolo presented his work on the assessment of mechanical pain sensitivity in pig's tails at the 5th International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at the Farm and Group Level, Canada. Megan Jones presented her work investigating the differences in stereotypic behaviour in wild-caught and captive-born striped mice (*Rhabdomys*) at the 44th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), Sweden. Megan found the experience to be very beneficial, especially the useful feedback that she received following her presentation, and has since published her work in the journal *Animal Behaviour*.

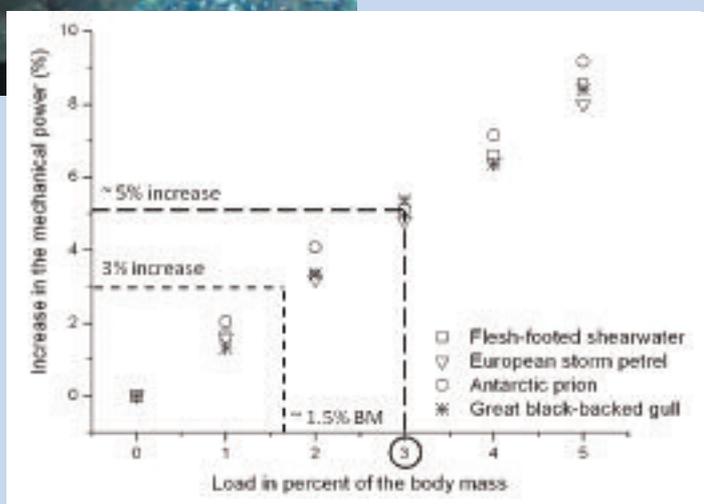


Photos from the projects of Pierpaolo Di Giminiani (top) and Megan Jones.

Another student supported by UFAW was Sylvie Vandenamee, University of Wales Swansea. UFAW supported Sylvie's attendance at the Fourth Bio-Logging Symposium to give an oral presentation on flight models to show the impact of device mass on the flight costs of major seabird species. Current guidelines for fitting external devices to birds recommend that devices should not exceed 3-5% of the bird's body mass. However Sylvie's work suggests this may be too high. According to Sylvie's results, a device representing 3% of a bird's body mass may lead to an extra 5% flight cost depending on the type of bird (Figure 1).

Morphology and lifestyle appeared to have a key influence on the energy expended during flight. Sylvie has also gone on to publish her work.

Figure 1. Examples of the mechanical power at Vmp used by different seabird species during flight (expressed as a percentage of the power required for unequipped flight at Vmp) as a function of the extra mass carried. The dashed lines show how loads amounting to ca. 1.5% and 3% of bird body mass equate to ca. 3% and 5% increases in mechanical power, respectively.



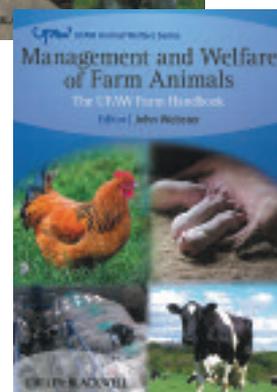
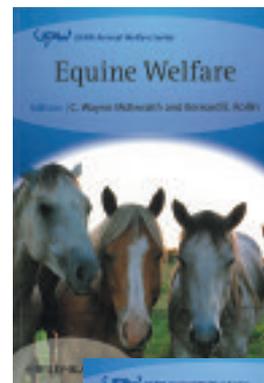
## UFAW publications

The fifth edition of 'Management and Welfare of Farm Animals' published last year in the UFAW/Wiley-Blackwell Animal Welfare Science book series is proving to be very popular. Thanks to the editor, John Webster, and his team of authors the book is a unique and excellent text on modern husbandry and welfare. The first edition of the UFAW Farm Animal Handbook was published in 1971.

Work is at quite an advanced stage on two more books (the eighth and ninth) for this series: 'Animal Welfare and Veterinary Practice' by James Yeates, and the 'Proceedings of the First International Conference on Veterinary and Animal Ethics' edited by Christopher Wathe. Further details of books in this series are at: <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/public-list.php>.

UFAW's journal, Animal Welfare, is now in its 22nd year and is continuing to grow and to be in demand for publishing the proceedings of international conferences. It is a major element of UFAW's international programme for promotion and dissemination of animal welfare science, and we are most grateful to all of the Section Editors, peer reviewers, authors and others for all their work for the journal.

A subscriber to the journal has a set of issues that she no longer needs. If you would like a set of back copies please let us know.



*There are now seven titles in the UFAW/Wiley-Blackwell Animal Welfare Science book series, the latest being the 5th edition of the UFAW Farm Handbook, edited by John Webster. Two further titles are at an advanced stage.*

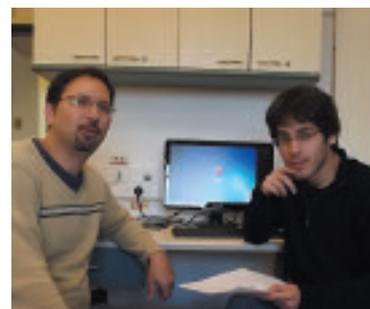
## UFAW SAWI Fund awards animal welfare Studentship in Israel

As part of its efforts to assist in the development of animal welfare science and animal welfare science teaching in Israel, UFAW is very pleased to have awarded a three-year Research Studentship from its dedicated 'SAWI' Fund.

In September 2011 the UFAW (SAWI Fund) Studentship in Animal Welfare Science was awarded to Roi Mandel for PhD research on 'Determination of social behaviour patterns of dairy cows as early stage predictors of morbidity' under the supervision of Dr Eyal Klement at the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This focuses on early detection of the onset of disease in dairy cattle so that treatment can be rapidly put in place.

It has also enabled arrangements to be made for Dr Alon Arazi to undertake a PhD project on 'Validation of morbidity detection in dairy cows by automatically collected data' to run in parallel with the above project, also under Eyal Klement's supervision at the Koret School. Professor Christine Nicol and Dr Becky Whay of Bristol University Veterinary School will be co-supervisors for Roi and Alon.

This initiative was developed through a series of meetings with staff at the Vet School at Rehovot over several years. We are very delighted that it has come to fruition and wish Roi and Alon every success with their studies and hope that it will be significant in helping developments in animal welfare science in Israel. Congratulations to them and to Eyal Klement and to Professors Hylton Bark and Shimon Harrus and all those at the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine who have helped establish this initiative. We are very grateful to Christine Nicol and Becky Whay for their involvement.



*Dr Eyal Klement (left) and Roi Mandel of the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.*

## Professor William Russell Fellowship: thermal comfort for laboratory mice

In honour of Professor Bill Russell, who died in 2007, UFAW invited applications the following year for a post-doctoral Fellowship in his name. The winner was Dr Joseph Garner for his research at Purdue University in the USA to explore thermal preferences and the importance of nesting material for the thermal comfort of laboratory mice. Dr Garner is now at Stanford University.

With the assistance of graduate student Brianna Gaskill, Joe has now completed this study. It has proved to be a very valuable and important piece of work for the welfare of laboratory mice. Summarising the work, Joe says: 'The bottom line is that we established data-driven standards for mouse nesting enrichment, and showed a range of benefits to mouse behavior, physiology, breeding, performance (and profitability), and welfare, that make an iron-clad case for both the necessity, and the benefits of providing nesting enrichment to mice'.

In a paper published in *Animal Welfare* in 2005 on the 'The three Rs past present and future' Bill Russell wrote: 'At 80 years of age, with a feeling that I have rather done my bit in this field, and with Rex (Rex Burch, Bill's co-author of their 1959 'The principles of Humane Experimental Technique') no longer with us, it is a great joy to know that hundreds of fine scientists, all over the world, are pursuing research in and promotion of the Three Rs. UFAW began it all and, despite the demands of the many other aspects of animal welfare science to which it is committed, has quietly and steadily continued to pursue and promote humane experimental technique'.

The work of Joe Garner and his colleagues is another important step on the road that Bill, Rex and UFAW's founder, Charles Hume, charted in the 1950s, and we are most grateful to them.

## UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group

The UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group, formerly the PHHSC (founded by UFAW in 1998), is a collaboration between pharmaceutical companies, contract research organisations, animal breeders, and animal welfare organizations. The group funds studentships to research ways of improving the welfare of animals used in research in ways that are relevant to the pharmaceutical industry. The Group has supported 6 students to date, and past winners have carried out research on, for example, positive reinforcement training for primates, and on assessing distress in rodents. Thanks to the continued generosity of the members of the group and of UFAW members, UFAW has now raised sufficient funds to allow us to advertise for proposals for a 7th UK studentship to start in late 2012. The initial response has been very encouraging. UFAW thanks the members of this group for their continued support (see <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/phhsc.php>), and UFAW members who supported the recent Appeal.

## New UK legislation for animals used in research

The UK has until January 2013 to implement new UK legislation to transpose the provisions of the European Directive 2010/63/EU. In August, UFAW responded to a Home Office consultation, making points on issues such as housing, euthanasia, inspections and scope of the new legislation. The new legislation is likely to result in some higher UK welfare standards and this will be welcome. However, where current UK standards are higher than those laid out in the new directive, UFAW has urged that current standards should be maintained unless it can be demonstrated that adopting those in the Directive would not compromise the welfare of the animals.

### Notification for election to Council at the 2012 AGM

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the 2012 AGM must reach the UFAW office between 24th July and 21st August 2012. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary.

### 2012 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the afternoon of Tuesday 2nd October 2012 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.

### Council changes at the 2011 Annual General Meeting

Dr James Anderson and Mr Archie Sains retired from Council at the AGM in October 2011. We extend our gratitude to them both for their time and service to UFAW. We welcome Mrs Corrie McCann BSc ACA (Head of Finance at The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) who was elected to Council at the AGM. Professor Andrea Nolan was re-elected to Council.

# Spring Appeal

*to support the UFAW Small Projects and Travel Awards*

Through the Small Projects and Travel Awards programme UFAW supports and enables a wide variety of activities for the benefit of animal welfare. Awards of up to £3,500 may be made for the purchase of equipment, organisation of or attendance at educational meetings, publications, workshops or other small projects in support of UFAW's objectives.

Examples of recent awards include support of a workshop in East Africa organised by ACIN-International for educators, vets, government workers and others to promote animal welfare and sustainable farming in rural communities; publication of the 'PASA Operations Manual' (the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance formed as a response to increasing numbers of orphaned primates); and diverse research projects involving welfare of polar bears in European zoos, Galapagos sealions, breeding pheasants, migrating geese and many more. Young researchers have also been assisted in presenting their work at important international conferences.

*Your support will help ensure the Small Projects and Travel Awards continue to play an active role in enabling a wide range of animal welfare work.*

If you would like to contribute please send a donation to the Spring 2012 Appeal at the UFAW office address. Many thanks!

*Thanks to all those who contributed to the Autumn 2011 Appeal in support of the UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group Research Studentship.*

## 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 over 40 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 gift in your Will***

Over the years legacies have been extremely important to UFAW's work. An information leaflet on leaving a gift in your Will 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](http://www.ufaw.org.uk)

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



**The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare**  
**The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Herts. AL4 8AN, United Kingdom**  
**Tel: +44(0)1582 831818, Fax: +44(0)1582 831414**  
**Email: [ufaw@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:ufaw@ufaw.org.uk) [www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk)**  
**Registered in England, Charity No. 207996, Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991**