



Media Release

From the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

12th July, 2011

For Immediate Release:

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) awards Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science at International Symposium

The winner of the inaugural UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science was announced at the Federation's recent International Symposium 'Making animal welfare improvements: Economic and other incentives and constraints' held in Portsmouth UK, 28th and 29th June 2011. A commemorative medal and £3,000 was presented by Professor John Webster of Bristol University, UK, on behalf of UFAW, to Professor Ian Duncan of the University of Guelph, Canada.

The UFAW Medal recognises exceptional achievements of an individual scientist who has made fundamental contributions to the advancement of animal welfare over a number of years. The award is open to individuals, anywhere in the world, whose research, teaching, service and advocacy has significantly benefited the welfare of animals.

"Ian Duncan is one of the pioneers of the new direction in animal welfare science that began around 40 years ago with investigation of the animal's own perspective of its world," said James Kirkwood, UFAW's Chief Executive and Scientific Director. "He has had a highly productive career and his work has been very influential. He is well known for promoting the idea that welfare is about animals' feelings, which has come to be widely accepted. Work by Ian revolutionised the study of poultry behaviour, inspiring scientists and others around the world, and ultimately helped lead to the European Union ban on battery cages. We were delighted to award the first UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science to Professor Duncan."

Over 200 delegates from 24 countries attended UFAW's International Symposium held at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on 28th and 29th June. Progress in many areas of animal welfare not being as good as society would wish, and often in need of considerable improvement, the two-day programme of internationally renowned speakers considered economic and societal issues affecting the development, prioritisation and implementation of animal welfare improvements. Included was a presentation by Professor Duncan on the Global Animal Partnership (GAP) 5-Step Animal Welfare Standards – a multi-tiered rating system that allows for and encourages continuous food animal welfare improvement, devised by a partnership of animal welfare scientists, producers and welfare organisations. Comprehensive welfare standards have been produced for meat chickens, pigs and beef cattle and, to date, farms and ranches audited and certified within the program are raising more than 100 million animals annually according to the GAP Standards.

The Symposium was the latest in UFAW's continuing and successful programme of themed international meetings that bring together leading scientists, veterinarians, policy makers and all those with an in animals and their welfare.

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SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: James K Kirkwood BVSc PhD CBiol FIBiol MRCVS

Secretary: Donald C Davidson

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Attached photos:



Professor Ian Duncan, University of Guelph (l), and Dr James Kirkwood, UFAW Chief Executive and Scientific Director, on board HMS Warrior, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, for the presentation of the UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science.



Professor Peter Sandoe, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, delivers his presentation 'What can economists do for animal welfare' at the UFAW International Symposium.

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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.

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