

Media Release

From the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

26th June, 2012.

For Immediate Release:

Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award announced by UFAW

The winner of the 2012 UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award was announced by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare at its Conference 'Recent advances in animal welfare science' held in York on 21st June.

The UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award is to recognise the achievements of young scientists who have made significant contributions to improving the welfare of animals. It is open to postgraduate students, anywhere in the world, currently studying for a doctoral degree or in post-doctoral work within six years of their PhD. This year UFAW was pleased to present the award, together with a prize of £1,000, to Dr Charlotte Burn, Lecturer in Animal Welfare at the Royal Veterinary College.

Charlotte's PhD research was into the effects of husbandry regimes on rat welfare. This work, carried out at Oxford University under the supervision of Georgia Mason, has been influential in establishing management standards for the good husbandry of laboratory rats in various countries. Subsequently she was appointed to a post-doctoral position at Bristol University to identify risk factors for poor welfare in horses and donkeys in developing countries, and then became a Research Fellow at the Centre for Animal Welfare at the Royal Veterinary College. Charlotte's current research interests include investigating boredom in animals and how it might be assessed. She also uses advanced statistical techniques to help tackle practical welfare issues, such as the conformational disorders prevalent in certain dog breeds. She has a reputation for spotting innovative approaches to tackling scientific questions. A recent example of this is her study of tail-chasing behaviour in dogs and owners' reactions to it, based on clips on YouTube, which highlights the need to raise public awareness of the clinical implications of persistent tail-chasing. This has recently been published in the journal PLoS One, and adds to her already very impressive publication record in animal welfare science.

The award presentation was made during UFAW's Conference 'Recent advances in animal welfare science', the third in its popular series of one-day conferences providing a forum for both new and experienced animal welfare scientists, veterinarians and others to discuss new developments in this field.

-ENDS-

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SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

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Attached photo:



Dr Charlotte Burn, winner of the UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year Award for 2012 with Dr James Kirkwood, UFAW Chief Executive, at the recent award presentation in York.

Notes 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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