



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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Media Release

From the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

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For Immediate Release:

Conference reflects increasing interest in animal welfare science

The popularity of their bi-annual conference on 'Recent advances in animal welfare science' and the quality of work presented reflect, say organisers the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, the increasingly large number of people who are now devoting their energies to the science of animal welfare and improving our knowledge of the best ways to look after the animals in our care.

UFAW's sell-out conference was held June 30th at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall in York and saw animal welfare scientists, veterinary surgeons and others with an interest in the way we keep and care for animals gather to share the findings of their latest research with colleagues from the UK and around the world. A wide range of issues were addressed including new methods aimed at better assessing welfare and continuing widespread concerns about the welfare of layer and broiler chickens. Posters covered topics as diverse as the transportation of ornamental fish, assessment of the quality of life of kennelled dogs and the effects of stress in neonatal lambs.

Appropriately during the conference UFAW presented its annual Companion Animal Welfare Award and Wild Animal Welfare Award, both of which recognise innovations and advances for the welfare of animals. The UFAW 2010 Companion Animal Welfare Award was presented to PDSA's (Peoples' Dispensary for Sick Animals) Pet Health Team (including Senior Veterinary Surgeons Sean Wensley, Elaine Pendlebury and Timothy Browning) for their project 'Your Right Pet' – a web-based tool designed to help prospective pet owners choose the right pet for their lifestyle and circumstances. The site (www.your-right-pet.org.uk) gives information about the five welfare needs and practical guidance on how these can be met for commonly kept companion animals – helping to prevent the suffering that can be caused by inappropriate pet choice.

The UFAW 2010 Wild Animal Welfare Award was presented to the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)(Dr Julie Lane, Vicky Jackson, Anne Hudson and Matt Brash) in collaboration with the University of York (Dr Pat Coulson) for their new 'Wild mammal and bird training course'. As human pressures on the environment grow, there is increasing need for research into aspects of the ecology, control and conservation of wild animals, and the new course provides training for researchers aimed at improving best practice in the capture, handling, marking and release of wild animals used in such research.

UFAW is an internationally recognised independent animal welfare charity that promotes improvements in animal welfare worldwide through scientific and educational activities. More information about their work can be seen at www.ufaw.org.uk or contact UFAW, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN. Telephone 01582 831818, email ufaw@ufaw.org.uk.

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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

Registered Charity No. 207996 (Registered in England) and Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991



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Note to Editors:

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.

The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) is an Executive Agency of the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Its remit is to provide robust evidence, rigorous analysis and expert professional advice to government, international organisations and the private sector, in order to support and develop a sustainable and secure food chain, a healthy natural environment, and to protect the global community from biological and chemical risks.

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