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Media Release

**From the
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)**

30th June, 2014

For Immediate Release:

Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award presented by UFAW

The 2014 UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award was presented by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare at their *Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science* conference in York on June 26th to Dr Liesbet Pluym.

UFAW makes this award to recognise the achievements of young scientists who have made significant contributions to improving the welfare of animals. The award is open to postgraduate students, anywhere in the world, who are currently studying for a doctoral degree or who are in postdoctoral work within six years of their PhD.

Dr Pluym is a researcher in the Porcine Health Unit, Ghent University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine where she has developed, in cooperation with the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, a prototype of an automatic lameness detection system for sows, providing an important new tool to address this problem while also investigating the economic consequences of lameness and risk factors.

Liesbet has actively disseminated her findings to farmers and veterinarians, encouraging management systems that improve the welfare and health of animals, enhance farmers' working pleasure and improve financial performance. Her multidisciplinary and practical approach to lameness alleviation, both as scientist and practicing veterinarian, are likely to have a significant impact within the Belgian industry and more widely.

-ENDS-

Media contact:

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Attached photo:



Dr Liesbet Pluym receives the UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year 2014 award from UFAW's Chief Executive Dr Robert Hubrecht during the UFAW conference at York on June 26th.

SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: Robert C Hubrecht OBE BSc PhD FSB

Secretary: Jane Moorman

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UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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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.

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