

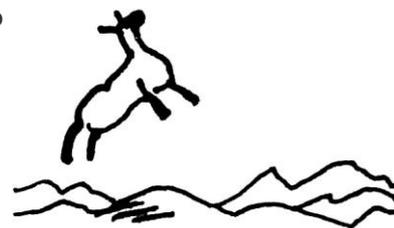
Advancing animal welfare science: How do we get there? – Who is it good for?

UFAW International Symposium 2019

3rd-4th July 2019

Site Oud Sint-Jan, Bruges, Belgium

www.ufaw.org.uk/ufawbruges2019



Call for papers:

Overview:

Animal welfare science advances are needed to inform decisions on the care and legal protection provided for animals. This two day international symposium will explore two major themes:

1) Developments in animal welfare science that are likely to extend our understanding of animals' needs or how to assess animal welfare or sentience. This symposium will provide an opportunity to present on new and exciting developments in animal welfare science methodologies and new findings that will inform animal welfare care or use.

2) While the primary ethical case for being concerned about animal welfare is the presumption that some animal species have feelings and that those feelings matter to them, benefits to humans are often put forward as reasons for improving animal welfare. Examples include: an improved product for farmed animals, better models for animals used in research or animals more likely to survive and breed successfully if released into the wild for the zoo community. However, it is also the case that animal welfare and human goals and interests are not always linked.

Aims:

With the above themes in mind, the purpose of this symposium is to:

- Learn about new and exciting innovations and methodologies in animal welfare research and arising from research into sentience in animals.
- Explore and test the extent of the idea that human and animal interests go hand in hand with improved welfare.
- Investigate areas of animal use where there are particular challenges to improving animal welfare.
- Identify new methodologies, approaches and technologies to improve animal welfare that have or could be used to address these challenges.

By considering whether and how animal welfare science can be used to make progress in these and other areas, our aim for the symposium is to develop and raise awareness of new ideas and to promote higher quality and better-focused animal welfare science.

The symposium will include both talks and poster presentations, and will feature keynote presentations addressing the following concerns.

The meeting will be of interest to the growing international community concerned with animal welfare and to those working on biomedical research, food animal production, slaughter and companion animal rehabilitation, captive wild animals, conservation and policy makers.

Call for papers:

We would like to hear from anyone interested in making a contribution on the themes identified above

Submissions should feature the title of the proposed contribution, the preferred nature of the contribution – talk or poster, the name and full contact details of all contributors and an abstract. The abstract must be in English and should be no longer than 400 words. Time allocated to talks at the meeting is likely to be in region of 20 minutes, which includes time for questions.

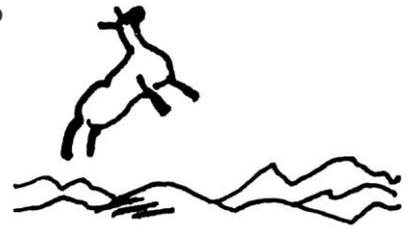
The deadline for submission of abstracts is **23rd November 2018**. Please send a copy of the abstract by email to Stephen Wickens @ wickens@ufaw.org.uk

Symposium timetable

- Deadline for submission of abstracts – 23rd November 2018
- Notification of decision of judging panel on submitted abstracts – by 1st February 2019
- End of early registration fee – 1st March 2019
- Deadline for receipt of amendments to accepted abstracts – 17th May 2019
- Start of symposium 3rd July 2019

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FORMAT OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should be formatted as follows:

Talk / Poster

TITLE OF PAPER

AB Authorone¹, CD Authortwo¹ and EF Authorthree²

¹ Department of Animal Welfare Science, University of Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, UK

² Department of Applied Animal Welfare, University of Brewhouse Hill, Ontario, Canada

ab.authorone@wheathampstead.ac.uk

Abstracts should be written in English and not exceed 400 words, excluding the title and the authors' names and addresses, which should be formatted as above. Please use Microsoft Word for Windows when submitting an abstract. Text should be in Calibri 10 pt font.

The title should be centred and in bold capital letters (as above). Authors who have contributed to the abstract should be identified using their initials and surname and centred under the title in bold upper and lower case. Superscript numbers (eg ¹) should be used as necessary to indicate each author's institutional address. Institutional addresses should be centred and in title case, with superscript number used to link them with author(s) as necessary. Each address should start on a new line. The email address of the main author to be contacted with regard to the abstract in italics should follow. A blank line should precede the text. The text should clearly and concisely outline the main findings or premise ***without reference(s)*** to other text or paper or to future findings. It can include graphs or tables but must fit on one side of A4.

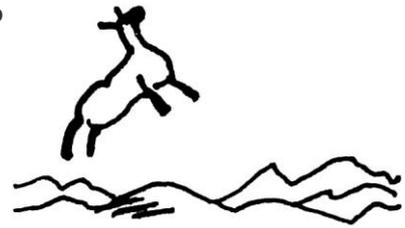
If you wish to present a poster rather than a talk, please indicate this at the top of the submitted abstract.

An example of how to format an abstract from a previous meeting can also be seen below.

Please send a copy of the abstract by email to Stephen Wickens @ wickens@ufaw.org.uk by **Friday 23rd November 2018**.

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Example of formatted abstract

DO ANY FORMS OF PLAY INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF POSITIVE AFFECTIVE STATES?

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To ensure good or excellent animal well-being, we need objective welfare indicators that are sensitive to positive affective states. Could some forms of play behaviour be useful, valid tools for this job? Researchers wanting to test this hypothesis by validating play behaviours as indicators of positive affective states must overcome two major challenges. The first is that the term 'play' covers a heterogeneous group of behaviours, such that data from one form or species cannot be directly applied to another form or species. The welfare significance of each type of play must therefore be validated *de novo* on its own merits (and furthermore, we already know that some forms of play actually increase rather than decrease in animals and humans in aversive situations). The second challenge is that identifying conditions that induce *absolutely* positive states in animals (rather than merely *relatively* positive states) is surprisingly difficult. To do this, we need clear, objective ways to operationalize 'pleasure', 'happiness' or 'contentment' in animals; and furthermore, we then need to be able to experimentally induce differing degrees of positive affect to assess empirically whether these influence play. The vast majority of welfare-oriented play research has not done this, but instead has compared animals in sub-optimal environments (e.g. those in isolation, or housed in small barren cages) with animals in better ones. However, despite the general lack of relevant data, two possible forms of play *have* plausibly been shown to be sensitive to positive affective states in animals: rough-and-tumble play in rats and locomotor play in piglets. Given this, and also given the great need for indicators of 'positive animal welfare', we will discuss how future validity research could constructively build on these two intriguing cases, including highlighting some welfare-relevant *qualitative* aspects of human play that so far have been over-looked in animal play research (e.g. the degrees to which play behaviour is 'fragmented', oscillating between non-play and play activities). We hope our guidelines will pave the way for more rigorous validity research, some of which might then identify qualitative or quantitative aspects of sub-types of animal play that do indeed indicate positive affective states.