

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

Annual Report 2024–2025



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Welcome from our Chief Executive

Welcome to the UFAW annual report. As you'll see it has been another busy year for UFAW as we continued with our fantastic series of events, published more articles than ever before in our Journal, and continued to advocate for improved animal welfare globally on the basis of evidence-based information.

2026 will be a momentous year for UFAW, not least because we will reach our centenary; in 1926 we were founded as the University of London Animal Welfare Society and in 1938 we became the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare to reflect our growth outside London. As well as celebrating, we'll also be making some major changes. We've been taking a close look at the UFAW of today and making plans to ensure we do even more to promote and support impactful animal welfare science in the future. Many of you will have been involved in consultations about our work and plans, and I'm incredibly grateful for your thoughtful input. You told us a lot of things that we're doing well, but also, and arguably more importantly, what we could do better. We've listened closely to your advice, and we have big plans which will keep us at the forefront of animal welfare science for the coming century. Some things may change, but we're absolutely committed to maximising our impact on animal welfare by ensuring that what we do is clearly communicated, accessible to all, and focused, as it always has been, on Science in the Service of Animal Welfare. We're also determined to do more for our members, including being a strong voice for

animal welfare scientists and those who use evidence to improve animal welfare.

In 2026, we'll hold our centenary conference at the University of London, a few hundred metres from the location of our very first meeting in 1926. The focus of this conference, as always, will be on the latest animal welfare science, but this year we'll also take some time to reflect on the history of animal welfare as a science. There is a strong argument to be made that UFAW, and its founder Charles Hume, invented the actual concept of animal welfare science. We'll explore this in an exciting session on the genesis and history of animal welfare science held at the conference. In advance of this I've been re-reading some of Hume's writing (an excellent place to start is *Man and Beast*, a collection of his essays). I was struck not only by how modern many of the debates and concerns are, but also by how strong an advocate for evidence-based change Hume was. He wasn't afraid to demand change when it was supported by strong evidence, and he achieved change too, not least the banning of gin traps – inhumane leg-hold traps used to kill millions of rabbits every year in the UK, which were finally banned after decades of lobbying and advocacy in 1954. Hume argued strongly that this should be a focus, rather than other issues which were more popular with the public but affected far fewer animals. Another example is the early focus of UFAW on discovering humane ways to euthanise animals – hardly glamorous, but at the time many animals in need of euthanasia were killed by desperately inhumane

methods. Careful research funded by UFAW showed this and also identified more humane methods. This is exactly the approach we take today, encapsulated by our mission statement; we aim to **Discover** what matters to animals, **Develop** scientific solutions to animal welfare problems and **Disseminate** evidence-based animal welfare information all with the aim that that scientific information goes on to improve the welfare of animals. With limited resources, we focus as Hume did on those issues where the biggest reduction in suffering can be made.

I am determined that UFAW, and animal welfare science maintains the tradition of speaking up on the important issues when the evidence is clear. We're not just about animal welfare science; we're about science *for* animal welfare. Over the past year we've been advocating for change too; both myself and my two predecessors, as well as our former chair Alick Simmons, have been members of the Lead Ammunition Group which has consistently highlighted the disastrous impact of lead ammunition on the environment and the welfare of animals poisoned by lead, so I was delighted to see the recent ban on lead ammunition in the UK. Alongside our colleagues at the Humane Slaughter Association, we also continue to argue strongly for the phase-out of carbon dioxide for the slaughter of pigs, something supported by decades of animal welfare science.

This year we've also been running a fantastic webinar series which aims to equip animal welfare

scientists with an understanding of the policymaking process so that they can ensure that the scientific evidence they generate is used to bring about change for animals. Who better to advocate for the change that the evidence supports than the scientists themselves? The series has featured multiple perspectives on the policymaking process, and I was delighted that we even managed to persuade former Secretary of State for Agriculture, George Eustice, to give his frank views on the difficulty of achieving legislative change for animal welfare.

As always, I would like to thank our members and donors who enable all the amazing work we have been able to support thanks to your generosity.

I hope to see many of you at our centenary events next year where you'll hear more about our future. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this exciting summary of our work over the last year, and that members will join us at the AGM and science update in November where you can hear more about our work and our plans for the future.



Dr Huw Gollledge
Chief Executive & Scientific Director

Our vision is of a world where the welfare of every animal affected by humans is maximised through a scientific understanding of their needs and how to meet them.

Our mission statement



DISCOVER what matters to animals



DEVELOP scientific solutions to animal welfare problems



DISSEMINATE evidence-based animal welfare information

Chair's comment

It is a real honour and a privilege to write my first Chair's comment for UFAW. I follow in the footsteps of Mike Radford, whose exceptional leadership as Chair over recent years has positioned UFAW perfectly for the exciting journey ahead. I am grateful that his expertise remains available to us as he continues as a Trustee, working alongside our dedicated Board whose varied skills and perspectives continue to strengthen UFAW's governance and direction.

Under Huw's excellent leadership, our strategic direction has moved forward with real momentum this year. With new staff joining our committed team, UFAW continues to grow in strength and capability, positioning us perfectly to further expand our impact.

I come to this role from a somewhat different background to previous Chairs – from outside the animal welfare science community. Yet this difference, I believe, is testament to UFAW's remarkable ability to communicate complex scientific concepts and make them accessible to all who care about animal welfare. This unique perspective underlines the vital role UFAW plays in bridging the gap between groundbreaking research and real-world impact on animal welfare.

I have joined UFAW at a particularly exciting juncture. As Huw outlines in his introduction, 2026 will mark our centenary – a remarkable milestone that speaks to the long-standing importance and ever-growing need for UFAW's work. But rather than simply celebrating our past, we are actively shaping our future.



The strategic work undertaken over the past year, informed by extensive consultation with our community, positions us to make the next hundred years even more impactful than the first.

What strikes me most is how far UFAW's influence reaches. Whether we fund a research project, support a student scholar, or contribute to policy, we are not just contributing to knowledge, we're building the foundation for lasting improvements in animal welfare worldwide.

None of this would be possible without the remarkable community that surrounds UFAW. From our members, who share our commitment to evidence-based animal welfare science; to our donors, whose generosity enables our work to continue and expand; the supporters who champion our cause; and the researchers, practitioners, and advocates who advance animal welfare science – thank you. Each of you plays a crucial role in turning scientific discovery into meaningful change for animals.

As we approach our centenary year, I am filled with optimism about what we can achieve together. The challenges are complex and ever-evolving, but so too is our capacity to meet them – through science, communication and collective action. To fuel the next hundred years of impact, we will need continued support from our wonderful community – and I am confident that together we can ensure UFAW remains at the forefront of animal welfare science. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that our second century delivers even greater progress for animal welfare.



Emma-Louise Singh
Chair of Trustees

Grant funding

Our grants and awards schemes are vital for funding innovative projects that aim to understand and improve animal welfare.

During 2024-25, we awarded

18 GRANTS



With a total spend of

£60,281.27



Uniting perspectives: sparking dialogue on farm animal welfare

In early 2025, through our Travel, Training and Events Grant scheme, we supported a project exploring how science can be used to engage different groups of people, ensuring a more unified future for farm animal welfare.

Katie Koralesky and Bianca Vandresen (University of British Columbia, Canada), Jamie Ahloy-Dallaire (Laval University, Quebec, Canada) and Jen-Yun Chou (Prairie Swine Centre, Saskatchewan, Canada) attended the Humane Canada's 2025 Summit for Animals (Montreal, Quebec) and the International Society for Applied Ethology North American Regional Meeting (Guelph, Ontario). At the Summit, the team led a panel discussion that brought together key stakeholders to examine how scientific evidence and inclusive dialogue can build a shared understanding and strengthen collaboration across diverse perspectives, fostering unity.



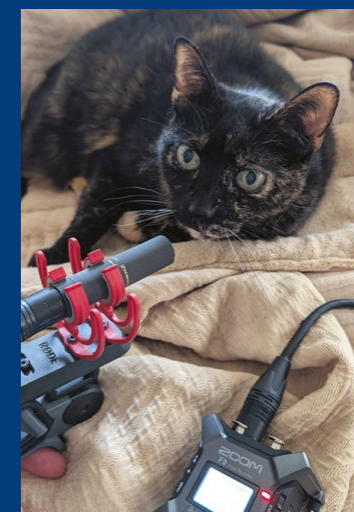
At each conference, the team invited attendees to share their thoughts about farm animal welfare through a combination of surveys, interviews, and workshops. Attendees were first asked what good farming meant to them from their own perspective, before being asked to consider the same question from a different perspective, for example, how a farmer, policymaker or veterinarian would answer. The task aimed to spark curiosity and encourage empathy amongst participants. More than 50 people took part in the activities across each conference, and the team will be publishing their results in the coming months.

Understanding the cat's purr: can we discern distress purrs from happy purrs?

Most people know that cats purr when they are happy, but many people don't realise that cats may also purr

when they are sick or injured. If a distressed cat's purr is misinterpreted as contentment by their guardian, this could lead to a delay in veterinary attention and ultimately unnecessary suffering.

One study, supported by UFAW, is aiming to analyse the acoustics of cats' purrs to determine whether there are differences between purrs in different contexts. The purrs of 22 adult cats will be recorded when they are in a happy context at home, such as being groomed or taking treats, to understand differences between happy purrs in individual cats, and between different cats. Comparatively, the purrs of distressed cats will be recorded at a veterinary clinic during a routine physical examination. All purrs will then be analysed, with the long-term goal of the project being to develop an app that would allow cat guardians to record and interpret their cat's purrs. The project is scheduled to conclude in December 2025, and we look forward to hearing the findings.



Sharing knowledge, shaping animal welfare globally

At UFAW, we believe that advancing animal welfare globally starts with making animal welfare science accessible to all and is supported by fostering global collaboration between scientists. In June 2024, we were proud to support Dr Femi Oyeniyi of Ekiti State Polytechnic, Nigeria, in visiting SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) to learn more about positive animal welfare (PAW).

Hosted by a team of leading scientists, Dr Oyeniyi explored Qualitative Behavioural Assessment (QBA), Precision Livestock Farming (PLF), and the ethical use of artificial intelligence in agriculture. His visit also included tours of SRUC's research farms, providing valuable insight into current research projects.

Beyond the learning experience, the trip provided opportunities for networking and forging connections for future collaborative work. Since returning home, Dr Oyeniyi already shared key insights at the 50th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Society for Production and aims to continue to engage policymakers on enhancing animal welfare in Nigeria.



Animal Welfare Student Scholars 2025



Our Animal Welfare Student Scholarships empower university students to take their first steps into animal welfare science by undertaking short research projects. The scheme provides valuable experience in designing and conducting rigorous scientific research, helping students to build skills, confidence and a passion for pursuing careers in the field. At the same time, these projects contribute to UFAW's mission to address animal welfare challenges through scientific solutions, and to promote global interest in animal welfare science.

This year we will be supporting a further nine scholars:



Dennis Kipkorir
Egerton University, Kenya

Determination of the welfare status of donkeys in Urban and Rural settings of Njoro



Eleonora Ventura
University of Bologna, Italy

Development and first application of a protocol to assess the welfare of pasture-kept horses



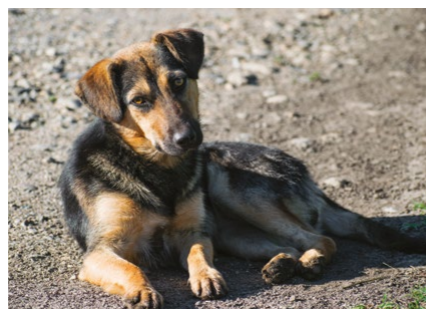
Olaseke Johnson
University of Guelph, Canada

Perching requirements of laying hens: preferences for grasping and elevation



Finley Melnikoff
University of Bristol, UK

Assessing welfare challenges in UK free-range laying hens: a pilot study examining the links between intestinal parasites, immune stress and bird behaviour



Leah Mwanisawa
Sokoine University, Tanzania

Assessing domestic dog welfare problems in communities bordering wildlife conservation areas in Monduli District, Tanzania



Valentina Quiroz
Universidad Santo Tomas, Chile

Evaluation of the social and handling stress response in alpacas (*Vicugna pacos*) through the measurement of heart rate variability and behavioural changes



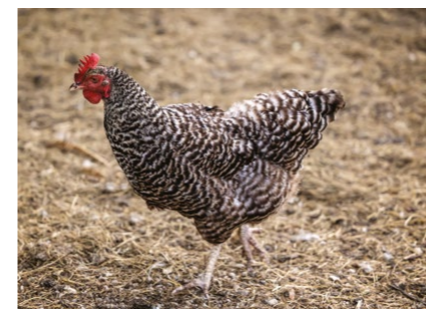
Ellie Cox
Harper Adams University, UK

Does personality matter? Determining the personality of teaching horses and its relationship with handling tolerance and animal welfare



Henry Mutumba
Makerere University, Uganda

Assessment of dog housing conditions in the Kampala Metropolitan Area and the associated welfare challenges



Marilyn Bauleth
University of Namibia, Namibia

Assessment of management practices and their influence on the productivity and welfare of indigenous chickens in smallholder farms in northern Namibia

Animal Welfare Student Scholars 2024



Each year, in conjunction with our sister charity, the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA), we host a virtual meeting for our Scholars, giving them the opportunity to present their research to peers from around the world. This event helps Scholars to develop essential communication skills and highlights the importance of knowledge exchange, supporting both their professional development and our wider mission to advance animal welfare through science and education.

As part of the meeting, the Farm Animal Care Trust's (FACT) UFAW Ruth Harrison Scholarship is awarded to recognise the best project contributing to our understanding of farmed animal welfare, in memory of Ruth Harrison – the author of *Animal Machines*. The 2024 recipient of the FACT Scholarship was Daniele Alencar (Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Brazil) for her project: *'Effect of environmental enrichment during pregnancy on the welfare and performance of pre-weaning rabbits'*.

"It was both inspiring and deeply moving to witness the global impact of the scholarship and the heartfelt commitment demonstrated by fellow scholars from around the world."

Mauricio Adelino, Namibia (2024 Student Scholar)

UFAW Mentoring Partnership: Building skills and connections



Our Mentoring Partnership connects students with more experienced mentors who provide guidance and support during the early stages of project planning. The partnerships benefit both parties; students build a strong scientific foundation for their work, whilst mentors enhance their mentoring experience and strengthen international links within the animal welfare science community.

During 2024-25, we set up three new pairings:

- Egide Irankunda (Student, University of Rwanda, Rwanda) and Emeline Nagues (Mentor, University of British Columbia, Canada)
- Kristijan Salamovski (Student, University of St Kliment Ohridski Bitola, North Macedonia) and Iwona Mertin (Mentor, Eurogroup for Animals, Belgium)
- Saline Owaga (Student, The University of Edinburgh, UK) and Bianca Vandresen (Mentor, University of British Columbia, Canada)



Find out more about our Mentoring Partnership: ufaw.org.uk/mentor

Events

Our programme of events offers the opportunity to share the latest advancements in animal welfare science, connect with others in the field and spark new collaborations.

UFAW International Animal Welfare Conference 2025

In an effort to reduce our environmental impact whilst simultaneously facilitating global engagement, the 2025 UFAW International Animal Welfare Conference was hosted online between 24 – 26 June. We were delighted to have over 500 delegates from 63 different countries register to attend this year – the most diverse range of countries for one of our events to date.

One of the things that makes the UFAW Conference valuable to so many working in animal welfare science is the wide-ranging scope of the programme. The variety of species and topics discussed allows delegates the opportunity to not only hear about species that they may never have worked with, but to also consider the application of novel techniques and practices to their own area of work.

This year, the programme included 46 talks alongside presentations from keynote speakers Benjamin Ineichen and Eva Read. Benjamin, a former recipient of the UFAW Animal Welfare Research Award, spoke about the implications for drug research of the widespread occurrence of post-approval animal studies and the opportunity to implement 3Rs measures more effectively in drug research. Meanwhile, Eva considered the extent and implications of disagreement among animal welfare researchers about what animal welfare is.



Benjamin Ineichen



Eva Read



The conference programme also included 68 poster presentations. The prize for the best poster was awarded to Marie Roig-Pons for her submission *“Enhancing equine welfare: The impact of medical training on compliance and stress in veterinary care.”*

Plans for the next conference are well underway, and we are excited to share that the UFAW 2026 International Animal Welfare Conference will take place on 23–25 June 2026 in London, UK. Held during UFAW's centenary year, join us to reflect on a century of progress, explore the latest in animal welfare science, and look ahead to the challenges and innovations of the next 100 years! We will be releasing more information in the coming months.

“This is my second year attending a UFAW conference, and in my experience, it’s currently the best event focused on animal welfare. The high level of conversation is unmatched by other conferences, and both times were very inspiring for me as a PhD student looking to make an impact for animals.”

UFAW Conference Delegate 2025

The UFAW/AWRN Seminar Series: Influencing for impact – translating animal welfare research into law & policy

In May 2025, along with the AWRN (Animal Welfare Research Network), we launched a seminar series with the aim of providing scientists with a better understanding of the UK legal and regulatory framework for animals. The



series also explains how scientists can best interact with those involved in policymaking to ensure that their research has maximal impact for animal welfare.

The seminar series, which is free to attend, has proven to be hugely popular with over 800 people registered. Speakers so far have included Mike Radford OBE (University of Aberdeen), Helen Tedds (Hartpury University), Andrew Voas (Scottish Government) and the Rt Hon George Eustice (Penbroath Consulting/Former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

The seminar series will continue at lunchtime (13.00-14.30 UK time) on irregular Thursdays from September. Confirmed speakers include:



Mike Radford



Helen Tedds



Andrew Voas



George Eustice

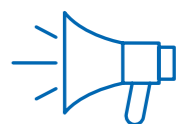
Benjamin Lecorps and Eugenie Duval (University of Bristol and University of Essex)
Using a systematic review to gather evidence for policy-making around dairy cow welfare

Dan O’Neill (Royal Veterinary College)
Case study of policymaking influence (extreme conformation in dogs)

Penny Hawkins (RSPCA)
Policymaking from an NGO scientist’s perspective

➔ To register for the series, please visit bit.ly/ufaw_law

Join us at our 2025 AGM for an update on our work



The 2025 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Society in London, UK on Wednesday 12 November (17.30–21.00). Alongside the formal business, there will be a chance to hear updates on UFAW's work from our CEO, followed by drinks and canapés.

The meeting will be held jointly with our sister charity, the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA).

UFAW members can register to attend the event in person (subject to venue capacity). It will also be possible to watch the meeting remotely.

▶ You can watch the recordings of many of our events at ufaw.org.uk/recordings



500
delegates from
63 countries

2
keynote
speakers

46
talks

68
poster
presentations

Awards

UFAW's award schemes recognise and celebrate individuals who have made significant contributions to advancing animal welfare through high quality science. The deserving recipients of the 2025 awards were celebrated at the UFAW Conference 2025, where they were formally acknowledged for their achievements.



UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science 2025

Professor Ngaio Beausoleil



The UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science recognises the exceptional achievements of an individual scientist who has made fundamental contributions to the advancement of animal welfare over a number of years. The 2025 winner was Ngaio Beausoleil, Professor of Animal Welfare Science and Co-Director of the Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre in the School of Veterinary Science – Tāwharau Ora, Pūrehuroa Massey University, New Zealand.

Professor Beausoleil received the award to recognise the breadth and depth of her work, in particular her work on the application of the Five Freedoms and wild animal welfare, her unwavering commitment to animal welfare science, and the scientific support and policy advice she has provided to governments, animal industries, and veterinary professional bodies both in New Zealand and internationally. You can read more about Ngaio's work at ufaw.org.uk/medal25.

UFAW Early Career Animal Welfare Researcher of the Year Award

Dr Benjamin Lecorps



The UFAW Early Career Animal Welfare Researcher of the Year Award recognises the achievements of early career scientists (who are within six years of completing their PhD), who have made significant contributions to improving the welfare of animals.

The recipient of the 2025 award was Dr Benjamin Lecorps, a lecturer in Animal Welfare, Ethics and Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Bristol, UK. Ben received the award to recognise his dedication to employing rigorous and innovative approaches to understand and ultimately improve the affective (emotional) states of farmed animals. You can read more about Ben's work at ufaw.org.uk/ecr25.

→ You can read more about UFAW's award winners 2025 at ufaw.org.uk/ecr25

UFAW LINKS Scheme



The UFAW LINKS Scheme is our international outreach initiative, with representatives at universities, colleges and research institutes across the globe. The scheme promotes UFAW's mission and fosters a meaningful forum for engagement. By supporting activities at the institutions themselves, the scheme helps to promote evidence-based approaches to animal welfare and inspires the next generation of researchers and advocates.

Our LINKS network now includes:



155
institutions



across
49
countries

In 2024–25, we welcomed a further 14 institutions around the world:



Jenny Litten Brown
EKC Canterbury College, UK



Kate Creutzinger
University of Vermont, USA



Emma Ternman
Nord University, Norway



Clare Ellis
University of Central Lancashire, UK



Liu Honggui
Northeastern Agricultural University, China



Priscilla Lolade Komolafe
Bamidele Olumilua University of Education Sciences and Technology, Nigeria



Boma Victor Iriso
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria



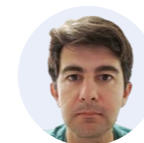
Victoria Pereira
Universidad de La Salle, Columbia



Caleb Kudi
Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria



Funmilayo Bamigboye
Afe Babalola University, Nigeria



Jivago Rolo
University of Brasilia, Brazil



Elena Contreras
Rowan University, USA



Edgar Aviles Rosa
Texas Tech University, USA



Eduarda Bortoluzzi
Kansas State University, USA



Science-led policy and advocacy

UFAW contributes expert, science-based advice on the welfare of both domestic and wild animals. Our input is regularly sought by government departments, universities, NGOs and other organisations. We are frequently consulted on draft legislation, policy guidelines and codes of practice.

Strengthening collaboration and shaping policy

Throughout the past year, we've worked closely with a wide range of stakeholders involved in animal welfare research, policy and advocacy.

In February, we re-joined the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare (APGAW) and have actively contributed to several meetings with the group since. In March, we co-signed a joint letter to the Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation, encouraging greater NGO involvement in the government's phase-out strategy for the use of animals in science.

Through this work, we have strengthened collaboration and influenced the development of evidence-based policy in this area.

Consultations

Our engagement with decision-makers enables us to provide them with evidence-based information that contributes to the improvement of animal welfare worldwide.

During the past year, we have actively responded to the following consultations:

- Animal Welfare Committee (UK) – Call for information on the welfare implications of breeding and breeding technologies in commercial livestock agriculture
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra – UK Government) – Bovine TB: Consultation on proposals to evolve badger control policy and introduce additional cattle measurements



Championing equine welfare

In October 2024, Hyraco, the equine veterinary student association at the Estonian University of Life Sciences, delivered a month-long programme of events dedicated to equine welfare. Organised and chaired by the students, the series included five expert-led lectures and one practical session, covering topics such as:

- The challenges of equine veterinary work in resource-limited areas
- Legislation relating to horses and welfare from a regulatory perspective
- Holistic hoof care and barefoot trimming fundamentals
- A practical workshop on saddle fitting

To conclude the events, an online quiz was organised, with top scorers receiving prizes from the UFAW/Wiley Animal Welfare book series.

The event received positive feedback from attendees and organisers alike:

"Participants were curious and motivated which matters a lot for us."

Roxane Le Coat, Hyraco President 2024-2025

"I am sincerely happy and thankful for this opportunity and that you took the time to organize this. Thank you!"

Hyraco member 2024-2025

Congratulations to the dedicated students of Hyraco for organising a successful event!



This year, we supported 21 different activities, including:

Inspiring animal welfare advocates

The Makerere University Animal Welfare Club in Uganda held a successful outreach workshop at Bukalasa Agricultural College in September 2024, aimed at raising awareness of key animal welfare issues. The event attracted 251 attendees including students, faculty and professionals and featured engaging presentations on topics such as:

- The Five Freedoms and Domains of Animals Welfare
- Current Challenges in Animal Welfare Enforcement
- Sustainable Solutions for Animal Welfare Concerns
- Relevance of Animal Welfare Knowledge for Students, Professionals and Farmers

The workshop also introduced participants to UFAW's work, encouraging collaboration and interest in animal welfare science. Interactive discussions explored animal welfare legislation and practical challenges in rural farming, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Inspired by the event, students at Bukalasa College are now exploring the formation of their own Animal Welfare Club, demonstrating the impact of the UFAW LINKS Scheme and outreach activities such as this one.

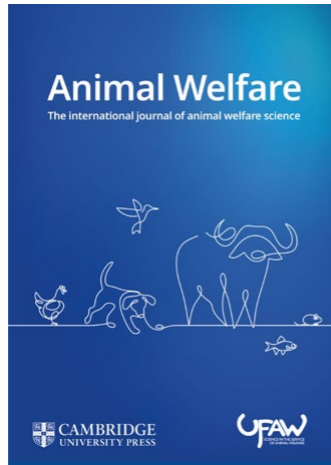


Publications

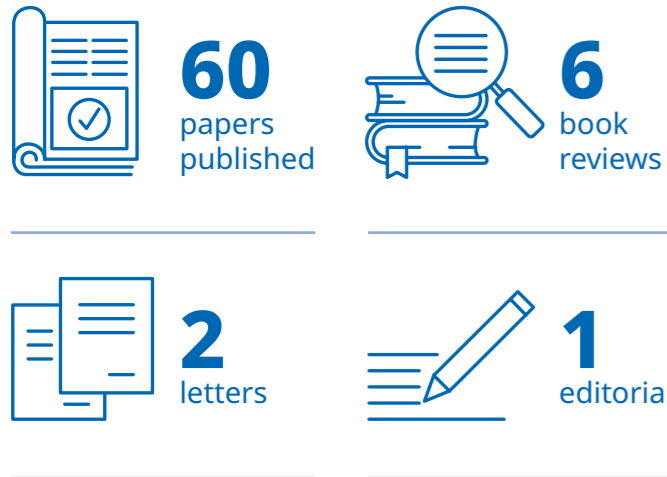


UFAW's journal *Animal Welfare*

A key component of UFAW's mission is a commitment to sharing evidence-based animal welfare information to improve the lives of animals around the world. One of the ways that we do this is through our range of publications, including our scientific journal, *Animal Welfare*.



During 2024–25, we published the highest number of papers in *Animal Welfare* in any given year (excluding special and supplementary issues):



The following articles are among the most downloaded in the last 12 months:

- **5,848 downloads:** A new future for dog breeding
Helle Friis Proschowseky *et al.*
<https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2024.66>
- **4,231 downloads:** Estimating global numbers of fishes caught from the wild annually from 2000 to 2019 (4231 downloads)
Alison Mood and Phil Brooke
<https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2024.7>
- **3,156 downloads:** Life beyond a jar: Effects of tank size and furnishings on the behaviour and welfare of Siamese fighting fish (*Betta splendens*)
Naomi Clark-Shen *et al.*
<https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2024.67>





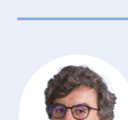
Journal Editorial Board

Animal Welfare is published Open Access by Cambridge University Press, ensuring that animal welfare research is freely available to a global audience. The journal is managed by UFAW staff, including Managing Editor Steve Weddell and Sub Editor Claire Richardson.

In January 2025, there was a change in editorial leadership. UFAW Chief Executive Huw Golledge stepped down from the role of joint Editor-in-Chief, and Bas Rodenburg – a long-standing Section Editor and Professor of Animal Welfare at Utrecht University in the Netherlands – was appointed to serve alongside UFAW's Research Director, Birte Nielsen.

The journal is supported by a dedicated international Editorial Board of 23 Section Editors who generously contribute their time and expertise to oversee the peer review process. We are deeply grateful to them, and to the many anonymous reviewers, for ensuring that each paper undergoes rigorous scientific evaluation prior to publication.

In 2024–25, five new Section Editors joined the Editorial Board:

-  **Sara Hintze**
BOKU University, Austria
-  **Benjamin Lecorps**
University of Bristol, UK
-  **Vikki Neville**
University of Bristol, UK
-  **Danilo Florentino Pereira**
São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil
-  **Christian Nawroth**
Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Germany



Celebrating a milestone in editorial excellence

In June 2025, we celebrated an outstanding achievement: the 1000th published paper edited by the journal's Managing Editor, Steve Weddell.

This milestone reflects more than just numbers – it represents 19 years of thoughtful editorial leadership, unwavering dedication to quality, and deep commitment to animal welfare. Steve's persistent enthusiasm and meticulous expert guidance have helped shape *Animal Welfare* into the respected, high-quality journal it is today.

"We are incredibly proud of Steve's accomplishment and grateful for the pivotal role he continues to play in advancing animal welfare science. Thank you, Steve."

Rising Impact: *Animal Welfare* journal reaches new heights

We're proud to share that *Animal Welfare* achieved an Impact Factor of 2.3 in the 2024 Journal Citation Reports – an impressive 60% increase from the previous year!

The new Impact Factor places the journal in the first quartile (Q1) in both Veterinary Sciences (ranked 30/170) and Zoology (17/181), reflecting the growing recognition of the high-quality, peer-reviewed research we publish.

This success is a testament to the dedication of our authors, editors, reviewers and readers. A sincere thank you to everyone in the animal welfare science community who contributes to the journal's success.

Introducing Collections

In 2024, the journal launched an exciting new feature. Collections are curated groups of Open Access articles focused on key areas of research in animal welfare science. To date, there are eight collections including ones on Cats, Dogs, Primates, Zoo Animals and Wild Animal Welfare.

One of our newest collections, Positive Animal Welfare, focuses on a vital and evolving area focused on promoting animals' quality of life through positive experiences. We are keen to continue to grow this collection, so if your research explores the connection between animals' capacity for positive emotions and their welfare, we'd love to hear from you.

All papers included in the collections are free to access, including those published prior to the journal moving to an Open Access Model. You can explore all the collections at bit.ly/AWJCollections

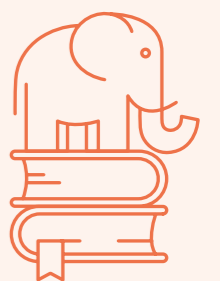


Positive Animal Welfare

UFAW/Wiley Blackwell Book Series

The next book in the UFAW Animal Welfare Series, *Assessing Animal Welfare – A guide to indicators of affective states*, edited by Georgia Mason, Birte L Nielsen and Mike Mendl, is scheduled to be published later this year. Keep an eye out for more information nearer to the publication date!

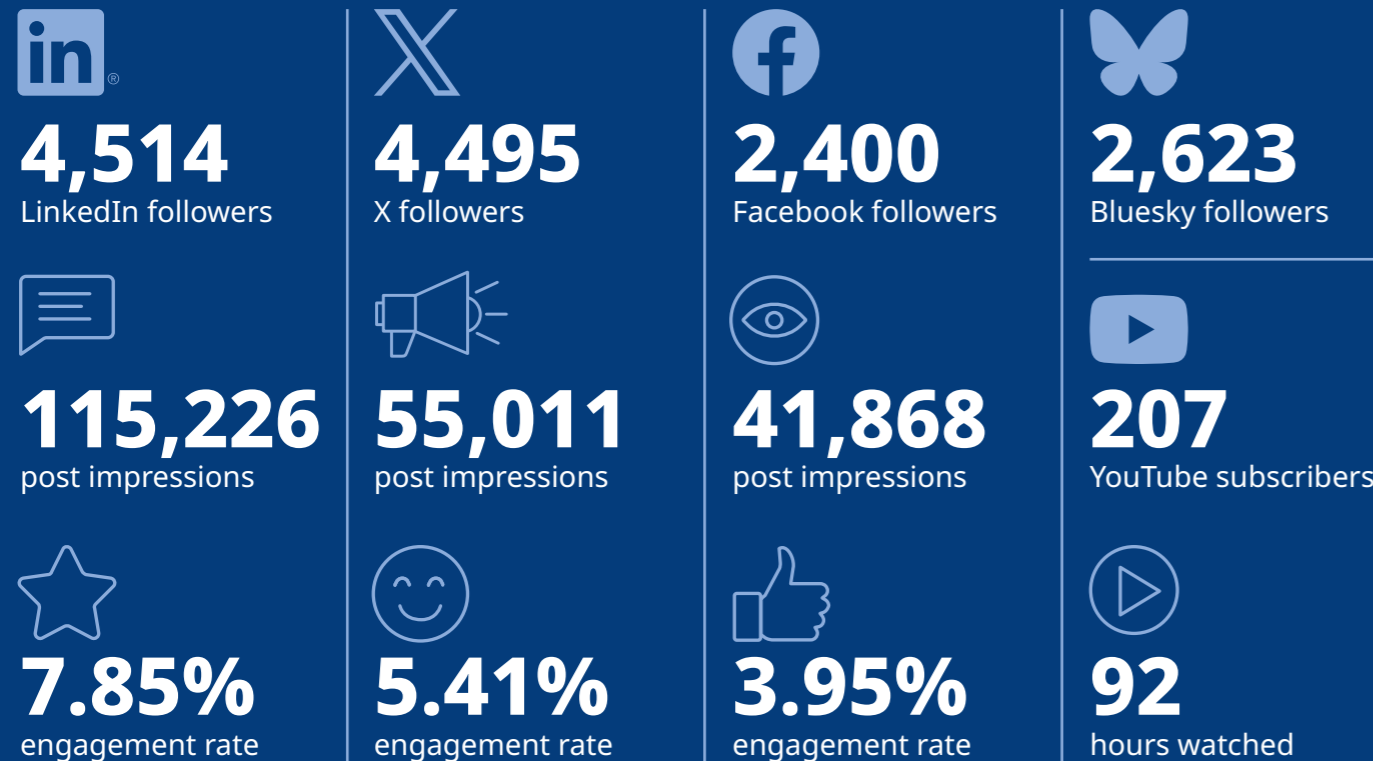
UFAW members can take advantage of a 35% discount on all books in the series.
ufaw.org.uk/books



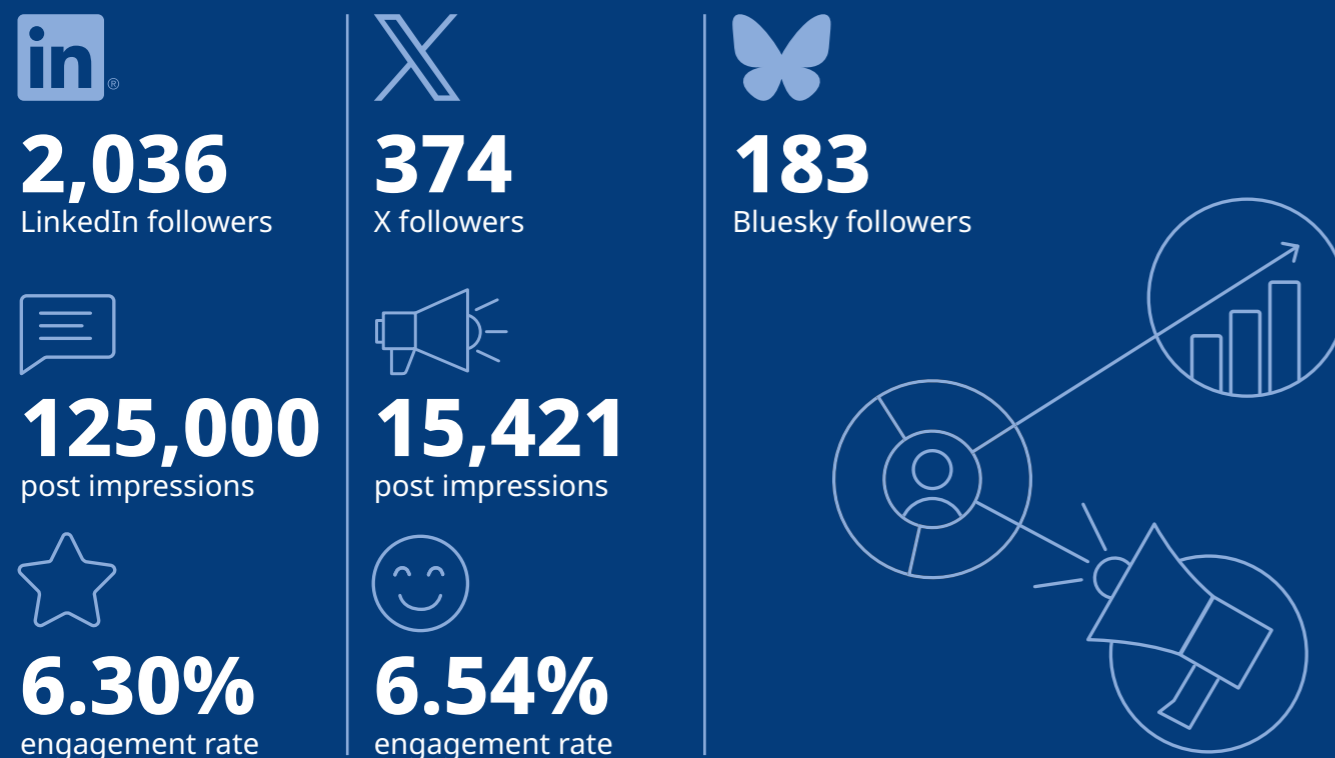
Communications update

Our communications activities are crucial to ensuring that we disseminate evidence-based animal welfare information to as many people as possible.

UFAW accounts



Animal Welfare journal accounts



Appeals and legacies

Annual Appeal 2025

Scientific research is the foundation of improving animal welfare, and it is central to UFAW's mission.

We fund and promote cutting-edge research that deepens our understanding of animals' needs, driving innovation in animal welfare science, and ultimately shaping a better future for animals globally. Most recently, our funding has supported projects exploring alternatives to animal models of disease in human drug development, the effectiveness of wildlife rehabilitation, and why some companion animal welfare campaigns fall short.

By turning research into real-world impact, we're helping to improve the lives of countless animals worldwide. Your support is essential to continue this progress.

Please consider donating today. Together, we can advance the science that protects animals everywhere.

Thank you for supporting the future of animal welfare science.



Donate to our Annual Appeal

Scan this QR code to donate to our Annual Appeal, or visit ufaw.org.uk/annualappeal



Leave a legacy: Support animal welfare for generations

A legacy gift to UFAW is a powerful way to shape the future of animal welfare science. By including us in your will, you'll help drive forward innovative research, education and outreach that will improve the lives of animals globally – today, and for generations to come.

This year, UFAW received **£117,497** in legacy gifts.



In remembrance and gratitude

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jean Bentley, Dr Hester Mary Hallaway, June Stewart, Mary Chugg, David Clifford Ball, Peter Taylor, Shirley Ann Harris and Diana Constance Scott who chose to support UFAW through a gift in their will. We are deeply honoured by their generosity and commitment to animal welfare. Everyone at UFAW extends our heartfelt condolences to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one during the past year.

Supporting science in the service of animal welfare

There are many ways to help us continue our vital work. Whether you choose to donate, leave a legacy or become a member, your support fuels innovative research and lasting change for animals worldwide. To contribute, visit ufaw.org.uk/support



Administration and finance

Annual General Meeting 2024

The AGM was held at the Royal Society, 6–9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG on Wednesday 13 November 2024. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA). The members of UFAW Council also act as Trustees for the HSA. Joint meetings are held to save time and money.

The notice convening the meeting had been sent to all members and was taken as read. The minutes of the AGM of 2023 were agreed and resolved to receive the Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 March 2024. Questions on the Report of the year's work were answered by the officials present and the meeting resolved that the Report and Accounts be received.

It was resolved that Hillier Hopkins LLP, Registered Auditors, be appointed as auditors to UFAW and its associated Trusts and their remuneration should be fixed by Council.

Dr Siobhan Abeyesinghe, Professor Richard Bennett and Mr David Pritchard stood down under the rules regarding rotation. They offered themselves for re-election and were re-elected.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare will be held at 17:30 on 12 November 2025 at the Royal Society, 6–9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG. The formal notice and agenda have been sent to all members and are available from the Secretary at the registered office.

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Council of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

We have examined the summarised financial statements that comprise the summary statement of financial activities and summary balance sheet.

Respective Responsibilities of the Council and Auditors:

You are responsible as the Council for the preparation of the summarised financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised financial statements' consistency with the financial statements, on which we reported to you.

Basis of Opinion:

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion:

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.



Neal Carter (Senior Statutory Auditor)
17 September 2025

for and on behalf of Hillier Hopkins LLP and is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Finance and accounts

The following summarised accounts have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006, which were approved by the Directors/Council.

The full accounts have been audited and the auditors' opinion was without qualification. The accounts will be filed with the Companies Registry and the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting on 12 November 2025.

Full accounts and the audit report can be obtained from the Charity Secretary, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8AN.

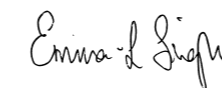
UFAW Summary of Financial Activity Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2024/25 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Incoming Resources		
Voluntary Income	139,511	238,013
Charitable Activities	83,482	96,391
Investment Income	178,156	190,613
Total Incoming Resources	401,149	525,017
Resources Expended		
Costs of Generating Funds	89,813	67,438
Charitable Activities	638,035	591,245
Total Resources Expended	727,848	658,683
Operational (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources for the Year*	(326,699)	(133,666)
Other Recognised Gains & Losses		
Net Realised Gain/(Losses) on Investments	244,719	287,552
Net Movement of Funds	(81,980)	153,886
Balance Brought Forward	8,349,986	8,196,100
Net Movement of Funds	(81,980)	153,886
Balances Carried Forward	8,268,006	8,349,986

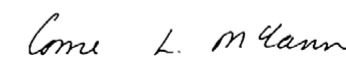
UFAW Balance Sheet Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2024/25 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	379,275	386,759
Investments	7,457,055	7,611,430
	7,836,330	7,998,189
Current Assets		
Debtors	99,190	106,031
Cash at Bank and in Hand	390,944	391,541
	490,134	497,572
Current Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due after More than One Year	(58,458)	(145,775)
Net Current Assets	431,676	351,797
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	8,268,006	8,349,986
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due after More than One Year	-	-
Net Assets	8,268,006	8,349,986
Funds		
Unrestricted	7,561,329	7,697,394
Restricted	706,677	652,592
	8,268,006	8,349,986

The summarised accounts were approved by Council and signed on their behalf on 17 September 2025



Emma-Louise Singh MCIOf advDip
Chairman



C L McCann BSc ACA
Hon Treasurer

The summarised accounts set out here have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with Charities Act 2011

Legal and administrative information

Vice-Presidents

Lydia Brown MBE BVSc BA PhD FRSB
MBA FRCVS
Bryan Howard BVMS PhD FRCVS
Andrea Nolan CBE FRSE MRCVS
John Pratt BVM&S DVSM FRCVS
Gillian Sales BSc PhD AKC MRSB DipTCDHE
Alick Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS

Council (who are the Directors of the Limited Company):

Chair

Emma-Louise Singh MCIOF advDip ^{1 2}

Deputy-Chair

David Sargan MA PhD ^{2 3}

Honorary Treasurer

Corrie McCann BSc ACA ^{1 3}

Members

Siobhan Abeyesinghe BSc MSc PhD ²
Richard Bennett BSc MSc PhD ¹
Jane Downes BVSc MRCVS
Emily Craven MA VetMB CertAVP PGCertVPS
PGDipIAWEL MRCVS ²
Alison Enticknap PhD ²
Paula Junqueira BSc, MBA, CFP® ^{1 2}
Dorothy McKeegan BSc MSc PGCAP PhD ¹
Anna Olsson MSc PhD ³
David Pritchard BSc BVetMed MPH MRCVS
Mike Radford OBE LLB ¹

1 Member of the Finance Committee

2 Member of the Fundraising Committee

3 Member of the Grant Committee

Staff

Chief Executive/Scientific Director
Huw Golledge BSc PhD AFHEA

Charity Secretary
Jane Moorman

Research Director
Birte Nielsen BSc MSc PhD

Research & Grant Support Manager
Elizabeth Carter BSc MSc

Academic Liaison & Scientific Events Manager
Stephen Wickens BSc PhD PGCE

Managing Editor
Steven Weddell BSc BVSc MRCVS HND

Sub Editor
Claire Richardson BSc, BVM&S, CertLAS,
MA (ODE) (Open) PhD FHEA MRCVS

Scientific Communications & Outreach Manager
Luisa Tear BSc MSc AFHEA DLSHTM

Public Affairs Lead
Carly Halliday BA MSc

Fundraising Manager
Eilidh Muir BA MCIOF

CRM & Office Manager
Samantha Griffin

Finance Assistant
Tina Langford MCICM (Grad)

Principal office

The Old School, Brewhouse Hill,
Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire,
AL4 8AN, UK
Telephone: +44 (0)1582 831818
Website: www.ufaw.org.uk
E-mail: ufaw@ufaw.org.uk

Independent auditors

Hillier Hopkins LLP, Chartered
Accountants, Registered Auditor,
249 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes,
MK9 1NA, UK

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 31 Chequer Street,
St Albans, Herts, AL1 4YN, UK

Barclays Bank plc, The Howard Centre,
Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6HA, UK

Santander UK plc, Bridle Road,
Bootle, L30 4GB, UK

Solicitors

Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey,
London, EC4M 7EG, UK

Investment advisors

Evelyn Partners, 45 Gresham Street,
London, EC2V 7BG, UK

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

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