

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

Science in the service of animal welfare

Spring 2017



UFAW LAUNCHES NEW RESEARCH AWARD

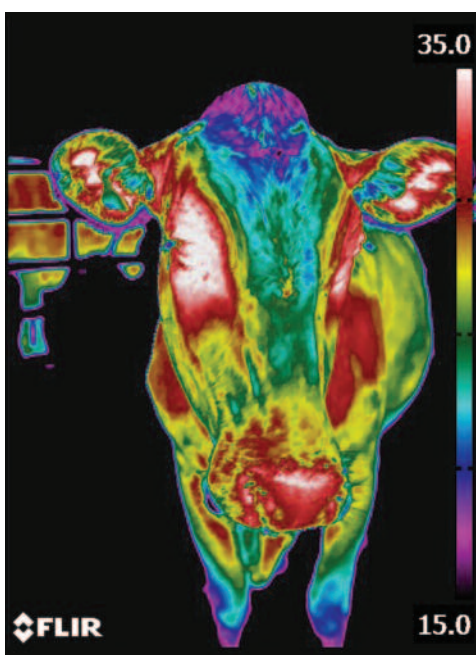
In October last year, UFAW launched an award for up to £50,000 to support innovative research in animal welfare science. The award is to be used to support research activities anywhere in the world which are aimed at advancing animal welfare or improving our understanding of animal welfare challenges.

The award could be used to support research into welfare of any animal species, including farm, zoo, companion, laboratory and wild or feral animals, where this is affected by human activities.

UFAW is delighted to announce that Professor Michael Mendl, Professor of Animal Behaviour & Welfare at the University of Bristol, has been awarded a grant for his project *“Developing new thermographic methods to assess emotional valence by measuring thermal lateralization”*.

A key determinant of an animal's welfare is its emotional valence, that is, its current experience of positive or negative affective states. While we cannot be certain about non-human animals conscious experiences, an important goal of animal welfare science is to develop better proxy measures of affective states. In addition, there is a need for scientific assessment of animal welfare under field conditions. For example on-farm welfare assessment often relies on time-consuming animal-based measures that may or may not reflect affective states, and/or monitoring the resources provided to livestock rather than the animals themselves. Quick, accurate, practicable and cost-effective methods for measuring emotional valence in situ are needed but, at present, such methods are few and far between.

This year-long project aims to confirm the use of thermography as an indicator of emotional wellbeing and will study cattle and hens to develop a prompt, accurate and cost-effective welfare measurement method that can be implemented under lab and field conditions, and generalised to other animal species. ■



Credit: Helen Tekkamanta

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



A warm welcome to the Spring newsletter. As the recently elected Chairman of Council I am delighted to introduce our newsletter and highlight a sample of the breadth of work of UFAW. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to my predecessor, Professor Richard Bennett, for his guidance and contribution to the Association over the past three years.

Education and training has been at the forefront of activity over the past six months, with senior members of staff presenting at a number of events, see page 7. Indeed as we went to press UFAW's Chief Executive & Scientific Director is en route to China to give a presentation there. Major meetings being run by UFAW this year are an international symposium in June and a scientific meeting to discuss the latest evidence regarding the humaneness of controlled atmosphere stunning methods which are used to kill millions of animals every year. You can read more about both of these events on pages 3 and 2.

The University LINK Scheme continues to develop and build capacity around the globe with LINKS in Australia, Hungary, Canada and Chile. It is a scheme that is having real impact. This Spring, we are appealing for funds to support UFAW extend the reach of LINKS throughout the world. See page 8 for further information on the appeal.

The work highlighted in this newsletter is only possible due to your generosity and kindness in continuing to support UFAW and its work – for which we are extremely grateful. Enjoy the read.

Andrea M. Nolan

Professor Andrea Nolan OBE, Chair

PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE

UFAW's Animal Welfare Conference – Recent advances in animal welfare science V

In 2016, in York's packed medieval Merchant Adventurers' Hall, delegates listened to talks on a wide range of subjects from the psychological harm to adult breeder dogs and their puppies caused by conditions in some large-scale commercial



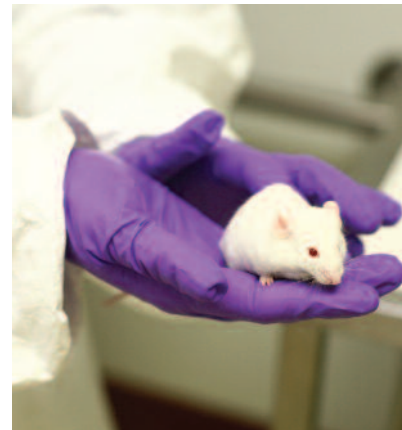
Credit: UFAW

breeding practices to developing a practical screening tool for chronic stress in farm livestock. The growing interest and engagement in animal welfare is demonstrated by the fact that delegates travelled from 19 countries – including Nigeria, Australia, Chile, Canada, Lithuania,

Germany and Pakistan – to attend this one day meeting, which featured more talks and poster presentations than in any previous year. ■

Annual RSPCA/UFAW Rodent and Rabbit Welfare Meeting

The 2016 RSPCA/UFAW Rodent and Rabbit welfare meeting was held at the University of Edinburgh. The meeting is an opportunity for animal technologists, researchers, students, vets, regulators and others who care for rodents and rabbits, primarily in a research



Credit: Understanding Animal Research

setting, to share the latest developments in the '3Rs' of replacement, reduction and refinement. Two talks presented the outcomes of UFAW funded studies – the use of thermography to assess pain in laboratory rabbits and the use of mixed-strain housing to reduce the number of animals used in scientific studies. Other topics covered included how to avoid using restraint when sampling blood from rodents used in diabetes and obesity research and a summary of the effects of lighting conditions in laboratories on the welfare of laboratory mice. ■



UFAW joins forces with the Humane Slaughter Association to look at the welfare impacts of controlled atmosphere methods for stunning or killing animals

Millions of animals are killed every year using controlled atmosphere stunning methods – for instance many chickens and pigs are slaughtered for food by exposing them to carbon dioxide gas mixtures. Most laboratory rats and mice are euthanased with carbon dioxide at the end of studies too. There is ongoing debate about whether these methods are humane or whether some different methods may offer better welfare for animals. One alternative being considered is Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS), which involves the use of low pressures to cause unconsciousness. UFAW and the Humane Slaughter Association are co-organising a two-day scientific meeting later this year to discuss the latest evidence regarding the humane qualities of these techniques. The meeting will bring together scientists, engineers, government regulators and representatives of the meat and laboratory animal industries to discuss which methods are most humane, share latest advances and how they might be improved, and consider how to overcome practical barriers to the adoption of the most humane methods. ■



Credit: Blue Moondog



Further information can be found on UFAW's website – www.ufaw.org.uk/cas2017

Checking the welfare of animals used in research – LASA/UFAW Meeting ‘How are YOU doing?’

Credit: Understanding Animal Research



It is recommended practice, and in many countries a legal requirement, that animals used in research should be checked at least daily to ensure that signs of distress are picked up early and that humane endpoints can be implemented when necessary. The practice also provides information on the actual harms

caused to animals for any retrospective assessment of the research. In September, UFAW, with the Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA), co-organised a meeting for veterinarians, named animal care and welfare officers and scientists to share information and develop their knowledge on recent advances and good practice on assessing the welfare of animals in their care. Issues covered included rodent, primate and dog welfare, the use of animals’ facial expressions as indicators of pain, and how to assess the welfare of zebra fish (a species that is increasingly being used in research). ■

Measuring animal welfare and applying scientific advances – Why is it still so difficult?

UFAW is hosting an international symposium from the 27th-29th June 2017 at Royal Holloway, University of London, Surrey, UK as part of its on-going commitment to advancing our knowledge of what matters to animals, how to assess their welfare and how to improve the quality of their lives. This symposium aims to develop new ideas, promote higher quality and better-focused animal welfare science, and will consider whether and how animal welfare scientists can make progress in these and other areas.



Further details on the symposium, including keynote speakers, can be found at www.ufaw.org.uk/symposium2017



Credit: Royal Holloway

Support for scientific meetings

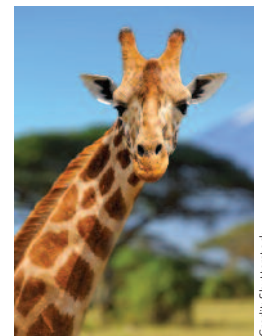


Credit: Shutterstock

In addition to organising its own scientific meetings UFAW often supports other scientific animal welfare meetings. A recent example was the First South and East Europe Regional Environmental Enrichment Conference, which promoted advances in environmental enrichment and training for zoo animals. UFAW also helps scientists and others attend meetings to gain knowledge to further the cause of animal welfare. For instance, the charity recently funded a laboratory animal veterinarian from Sri Lanka to attend a training course on the recognition and alleviation of pain and distress in lab animals at Newcastle University in the UK. ■

Wild animal welfare: Challenges and opportunities

UFAW has long worked on wild animal welfare issues, supporting many initiatives over the years to better understand the challenges facing wild animals, how human activity impacts on their



Credit: Shutterstock

welfare and ways to mitigate any harms. Recently, UFAW funded Professor David Fraser, University of British Columbia Canada – an internationally recognised expert on the welfare of wild animals – to give the keynote speech at the Wild Animal Welfare Committee (WAWC) conference in Edinburgh to identify priorities for policy development and government action for wildlife. ■

GRANTS AND AWARDS

UFAW has recently funded several new research projects including:

Understanding and Improving the Welfare of Cattle in Indian Shelters



There are more cattle in India than in any other country. As a largely Hindu country there are legal and religious restrictions on the slaughter of cattle and therefore there is a large population of stray cattle. There are over 4000 cattle shelters (called gaushalas) which attempt to care for stray cattle, and they are believed to house up to a million animals. UFAW recently supported a project that will investigate the welfare of cattle in gaushalas. Simply taking a cow into a shelter does not guarantee its welfare so Professor Clive Phillips and colleagues from the University of Queensland are developing measures of welfare of cattle in shelters which will then be used to create an assessment tool for veterinarians, shelter operators and government regulators. ■

Validating the Application of Low-Cost, Non-Invasive Temperature Measuring Devices

UFAW has funded a project by Dr Nuno Franco at the University of Porto – (a former winner of the UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award) to test whether very low cost thermal cameras can be used to non-invasively measure animals' body temperature. Body temperature is an important clinical sign of health and welfare in animals and is typically measured by taking a rectal temperature from a restrained animal, which can be stressful. The stress of restraint can also cause abnormal temperature readings.

An alternative approach is to measure body temperature remotely using a thermal imaging camera. Recently some very cheap thermal imaging cameras, which can be attached to a smartphone have become available but it is not known if they are accurate enough to measure body temperature reliably. Dr Franco and colleagues will compare results from the low-cost devices with a highly accurate but much more expensive thermal imaging system, hopefully validating and developing a protocol for routine use of the low-cost system.

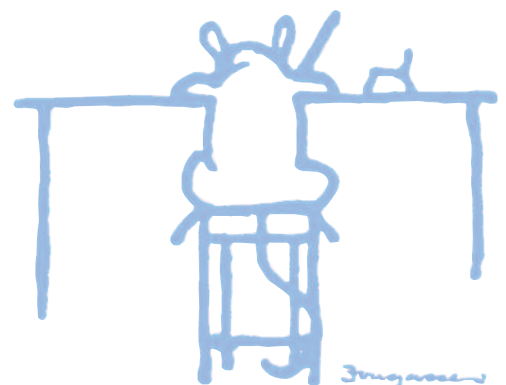
Dr Franco said "This grant will definitely make a difference, especially for the two young students that will be doing this work with me... This is one of the reasons why UFAW and its funding schemes are so important for animal welfare research worldwide". ■

Animal Welfare Student Scholarships

(including the Ruth Harrison Student Scholarship)

In October, UFAW invited applications for student project awards of up to £2000, aimed at enabling students to pursue their interests in animal welfare and to provide them with the opportunity to conduct relevant research or other (eg educational) projects.

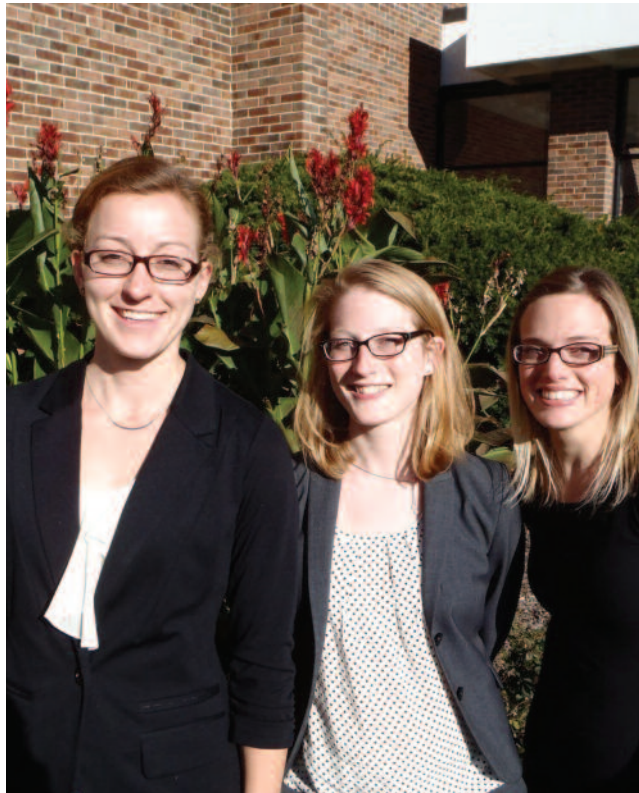
Projects are normally carried out during the summer vacation and may be carried out within the UK or overseas at institutions where there is a UFAW University LINK. In order to secure UFAW funding, projects must be relevant to improving or better understanding the welfare of farm, companion, laboratory, zoo or free-living wild animals whose welfare is compromised by human factors. UFAW is currently reviewing and assessing applications for these awards and will be announcing the successful recipients shortly. ■



LINKS UPDATE

Developing interest and engagement in the science of animal welfare, and bringing through the next generation of scientists and educators, is a core UFAW initiative. The UFAW LINK scheme is key to achieving this aim and is used to build animal welfare capacity in countries around the world.

UFAW has continued to expand the LINK network of academics at universities and research institutions in the UK and elsewhere and these individuals have ensured that staff and students at their institutions are kept informed of UFAW activities and the different grants, awards, meetings and other opportunities that they can access. The success of this has been reflected in the increasing



number and range of new applications, submissions and inquiries we have received from participating countries and institutions.

Recent additions to the LINK scheme include: Murdoch University, Australia, Universidad de Las Americas, Chile, Texas A&M, USA, UC Davis, California USA, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany and the University of Montreal, Canada. UFAW is also in on-going conversations with a number of others about joining the scheme.

A full list of LINK institutions and reports on their activities can be found on the UFAW website, but a recent example is given below. ■

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

(LINK: Dr Jan Hultgren)

Ethics and welfare in human-horse relationships

In October, UFAW supported through its LINK scheme a seminar at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences organised by Anna Lundberg and Jan Hultgren in response to demand from students and staff. The seminar considered ethical and animal welfare related aspects of horse management and handling, an area where views seem to differ regarding good practice. Invited speakers gave presentations on: Ethics in horse management and handling; Dominance and leadership and whether these are useful concepts in human-horse interactions, and horse welfare – how do we measure and understand it?

This was followed by group discussions on selected sub-themes and the day finished with a plenary discussion on the main issues. For those who were unable to get to Uppsala the seminar was live streamed to other interested SLU campuses and a recording subsequently made available for the following 30 days.

Response to the seminar was good, with the majority of delegates indicating that it would have a positive impact on their future behaviour when dealing with horses. Dr Hultgren and the other organisers have indicated that they hope to run similar events in the future. ■



Credit: UFAW

IN BRIEF

Resource on domestic dog welfare

UFAW staff, both past and present, have collaborated on a chapter on the major welfare issues that affect dogs and how some of these can be addressed in a revised edition of *The Domestic Dog* edited by Professor James Serpell. This book covers all aspects of the domestic dog's biology and behaviour. The chapter authored by UFAW staff includes information on: inadvertent selection for genetic diseases in some breeds (see also the UFAW website), separation anxiety, problems that can lead to relinquishment, best practice for dog housing and other issues.

Notification for election to Council at the 2017 AGM

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the 2017 AGM must reach the UFAW office between 9th August and 6th September 2017. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary.

2017 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the afternoon of Wednesday 18th October 2017 at the UFAW office (The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts). Full details of the time and business of the meeting will be sent to members in due course.

Council changes at the 2016 Annual General Meeting

We welcomed Dr Anna Olsson from the University of Porto. Professor Richard Bennett and Mr Alick Simmons were re-elected to Council.

Fighting for ferals

Did you know that UFAW helped pave the way for the humane treatment of feral cats? Or that it first became involved in humane methods of controlling feral cat populations in 1974 and helped develop the concept of "trap, neuter, release" within well managed and monitored feral cat population management programmes?

In the October edition of *Cat World*, UFAW's role was highlighted – alongside that of other pioneers such as Ruth Plant and Celia Hammond. ■



Credit: Depositphotos



The full article can be found on UFAW's website

China

As we went to press, UFAW's Chief Executive & Scientific Director Dr Robert Hubrecht and Dr Huw Golledge, Senior Scientific Programme Manager, travelled to Shanghai to give lectures on animal welfare at a symposium jointly organised with the UK Government, the Chinese Association for Laboratory Animal Science, and the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. ■

New sections added to website

UFAW is continuing to expand the content available on its website and the latest information to be added is a new section entitled 'Why UFAW's work is so important'. It is easy to forget that there is still so much to learn about the animals that we share our lives with – whether that is in our homes, on farms, within zoos, in the wild, or kept in laboratories – and continuing to support and learn about animals is a key part of being able to improve their welfare.



The new section gives examples of areas where there are still welfare concerns, and shows how UFAW has helped to tackle these. So far sections have been added on the welfare of farmed animals and of animals used in scientific testing and research. Sections currently under construction will cover animal welfare for companion, zoo and wild animals. ■

18th Animal Welfare Student Scholars Meeting

University of Stirling, 25th January 2017

This year the Psychology Department of the University of Stirling kindly played host to the 18th annual meeting at which those students who have been awarded an animal welfare student scholarship present the results of their studies.

Whilst the range and quality of the presentations has remained a constant at these meetings, one of the evolving features has been the increasing presence of scholars from overseas, reflecting UFAW's efforts to build world-wide capacity in animal welfare science through its grant schemes.

We would like to thank all the student scholars who presented their work, everyone who attended and the staff at Stirling for their hospitality and support. ■



Credit: UFAW



Further details on the presentations can be found on the UFAW website www.ufaw.org.uk/scholarsmeeting2017

Animal Welfare Science in a Laboratory Setting

UFAW's Senior Scientific Programme Manager Huw Golledge gave a keynote lecture entitled '*Animal Welfare Science in a Laboratory Setting*' at the European Society of Lab Animal Veterinarians and European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine annual meeting in Lyon, France. Dr Golledge outlined the challenges and opportunities for measuring and improving the welfare of animals used in scientific research.

Dr Golledge has also spoken at several other scientific meetings including the Institute of Animal Technology's Winter Symposium and the Laboratory Animal Science Association 3Rs meeting. ■

Reducing pain and distress in laboratory animals

A special edition of the journal *Laboratory Animals on Score Sheets and Postoperative Analgesia* has been co-edited by UFAW's Senior Scientific Programme Manager, Huw Golledge, (alongside Dr Paulin Jirkof of the University Hospital Zurich). The special edition comprised nine reviews of current best practice for identifying and reducing pain and distress in laboratory animals.

Dr Golledge also published a research paper on the effect of anaesthetics on the use of facial expressions to identify pain in laboratory rats and a report on a meeting he organised on humane techniques for the euthanasia of laboratory animals. ■



Further details on this publication can be found here: <http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/lana/50/6>

HOW YOU CAN HELP – SPRING APPEAL

The UFAW 2017 Spring Appeal is for funds to assist with building international university links. The aims of the University LINK scheme are to promote animal welfare science and the objectives of UFAW while providing a forum for the involvement of members and supporters, thus building worldwide capacity to improve animal welfare.

The LINKS form a vital part of UFAW's outreach work and build capacity around the world and, over the next twelve months, we would like to be able to add another ten links to the scheme. Each LINK, once accepted, can request funds of up to £500 per academic year to support animal welfare activities in line with UFAW's objects. Our preference when deciding whether to support an activity is that it is based on animal welfare science and that it helps promote this reasoned approach to improving animal welfare as widely as possible.

If you would like to support this appeal, please send a donation to the Spring 2017 appeal at the UFAW office address. Should funds exceed the amount required for this project, UFAW will apply funds to other projects. Thank you. ■



Credit: UFAW

Fougasse – the man behind the drawings

First World War aficionados will be familiar with a fougasse – an unstable French landmine whose “effectiveness was not always reliable and its aim was uncertain” but Fougasse was also the pseudonym of one of Britain's most popular cartoonists, Cyril Kenneth Bird, whose distinctive style was instantly recognisable.



Credit: National Portrait Gallery

Bird had his first drawing accepted by Punch magazine in 1916 and subsequently became a regular contributor, with his sharp observations and innovative style quickly becoming popular. By the outbreak of the Second World War, he was already an established cartoonist, illustrator and commercial designer but it was the war which brought Fougasse to the attention of a much wider public. His “Careless Talk Costs Lives” series of posters became some of the most effective and memorable images of the Second World War.

What is less widely known about Fougasse, however, was that he was also a passionate advocate for animal welfare. In 1949, he became UFAW's Chairman, holding the post until shortly before his death in 1965. Many of his humorous simple illustrations are still a feature of UFAW publications today, as can be seen in this newsletter. ■

UFAW gifts

The updated range of UFAW gifts and cards has proved extremely popular with bags, brollies, pens and pads selling like the proverbial hot cakes. Thank you to everyone who has supported UFAW and its work by purchasing from the gift collection – each purchase helps to promote and support the work of the charity. The current gift catalogue is enclosed with this newsletter for those wishing to make first time or additional purchases. ■



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