

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare News-Sheet, Spring 2006



**Quality of Life:
The Heart of the Matter**
The UFAW/BVA
Symposium,
September 2006



**50th Anniversary
of the Three Rs**
Special Issue of
Animal Welfare published



**Improving Zoo Primate
Welfare**
Paignton Zoo wins 2005
Wild Animal
Welfare Award



**Garden Bird Health
Initiative**
UK-wide garden bird
disease investigation

Letter from the Chairman

There is plenty of interest to read in this report which will keep you up to date with the recent and current activities of UFAW. I am very satisfied with the progress that has and is being made and commend the report to you.



The annual UFAW vacation scholarship meeting recently took place and was once again a great success. This meeting of the vacation scholars is of great value to them and encourages at least some to become further involved in animal welfare research. A special issue of *Animal Welfare* has been published to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the studies of Dr William Russell and Mr Rex Burch which resulted in the three Rs principles and from the start of this year the journal will be available to subscribers on line. There are many other interesting activities reported indicating how important UFAW is to animal welfare.



UFAW Workshop on Rodent Control Methods

Many of the current methods of rodent control fall short of the humane ideal of bringing about effective population control, or individual culling, without causing pain, fear or other unpleasant feelings. Some methods fall considerably short of this ideal. Around the world very large numbers of rodents are subject to control methods and so the subject is one of major animal welfare importance. However, compared to many other animal welfare concerns, rodent control is a 'Cinderella' subject that has received relatively little attention (or investment). James Kirkwood organised a workshop meeting held in London in January this year to review this subject.

The purpose of the meeting, which was attended by scientists involved in this field, representatives of the pest control industry and policymakers, was to discuss whether any approaches to improvements can be identified and, if so, how these might be pursued. Future research priorities (potential new directions for humane rodent control — lethal or by preventing breeding — and the potential for improvements or refinements to existing methods) were considered, as was the need for best practice guidance about the use of current methods. Discussions are ongoing about how to take these ideas forward.

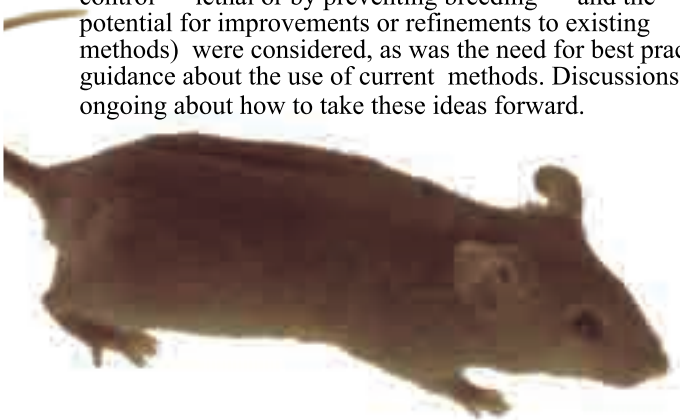


photo: T. Kitchin & V. Hurst/NHPA

Quality of Life: The Heart of the Matter

The UFAW/BVA Ethics Committee Symposium
13th–15th September 2006, Royal Society, London.

One of the greatest challenges for veterinarians and others involved with the management of animals is the assessment of the quality of an animal's life (its welfare). Whilst we cannot experience, and thus gain proof of, how other animals feel (their subjective feelings), we cannot avoid having to make judgements based on our inferences or assumptions about this. For example:

- Most agree that it is right to euthanase an animal whose quality of life is impaired by disease, injury or infirmity to the extent that it would be unkind to keep it alive. How do we tell when this point is reached?
- How do we judge what course of action we should take in the interests of quality of life when the choices are to administer a treatment that will inevitably cause suffering or to euthanase and thus preclude suffering?
- How do we judge when environmental conditions cause an unacceptable quality of life?
- Many breeds of companion animals have hereditary problems. How do we judge when behavioural or morphological changes brought about through selective breeding result in an unacceptable quality of life?

Have decades of biological and veterinary research, combined with recent specific efforts in animal welfare science aimed at providing an insight into animals' minds, helped in developing reasoned approaches? Are consensus emerging about methods and conclusions and, if so, do they rest upon solid scientific foundations? Have we, at the very least, moved from basing our judgements on ungrounded assumptions to plausible inferences?

To explore such issues UFAW, in conjunction with the British Veterinary Association Ethics Committee, will be holding the next in its series of international symposia. This meeting, entitled 'Quality of Life: The Heart of the Matter' will be taking place at the Royal Society, London on the 13th–15th September 2006. It will bring together leading scientists, practicing veterinarians, animal scientists and keepers, and medics to discuss:

Animal Welfare Goes Online

From the start of 2006 (Volume 15), subscribers to *Animal Welfare* receiving printed copies in the usual way also have free access to the journal via the world wide web — current and previous issues.

UFAW's primary aim in publishing the journal is to help promote advances in animal welfare through wide dissemination of the results of high-quality animal welfare science and debate about related

- recent advances in the science underpinning our understanding of animals' feelings;
- recent advances in methods for assessment of quality of life in man and other animals;
- species variation in factors affecting quality of life;
- ethical and practical implications for veterinarians and others of advances in understanding in this field; and, in so doing,
- to emphasise and to promote concern for quality of life at the centre of care for companion animals.

Amongst those who have indicated that they intend to contribute are the following:

Professor Sam Ahmedzai (Sheffield University, UK)
 Professor Marian Dawkins (Oxford University, UK)
 Professor Keith Kendrick (Babraham Institute, Cambridge, UK)
 Dr James Kirkwood (UFAW, UK)
 Dr David Main (Bristol University, UK)
 Dr Franklin McMillan (Medical Director, VCA Miller Animal Hospital, USA)
 Mike Radford (Aberdeen University, UK)
 Professor Bernard Rollin (Colorado State University, USA)
 Professor Peter Sandøe & Dr Stine Christiansen (Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark)
 Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior
 Dr Françoise Wemelsfelder (SAC, Edinburgh, UK)
 Lesley Wiseman (Glasgow University, UK)

For presentation subjects please see the flyer accompanying this News-Sheet.



To register for the symposium please use the form accompanying this News-Sheet or call the UFAW office on 01582 831818.

issues. Making the journal available online will facilitate access to the journal around the world and provide a full search facility of current and back issues.

Subscribers are provided with a code which will enable full access to the journal via Ingenta (<http://www.ingentaconnect.com>).



Promoting Alternatives in Animal Research

Three Rs 50th Anniversary

UFAW has marked the 50th anniversary of the start of the study by UFAW Research Fellow Dr William Russell and his assistant Mr Rex Burch which led to the development of the Three Rs principles — Replacement, Reduction and Refinement — now guiding the use of animals in scientific procedures throughout the world. A special issue of *Animal Welfare* has been published, including a review by Professor Russell.



Professor William Russell and Mr Rex Burch

The concept of the Three Rs was set out in Russell and Burch's book, published in 1959 (reprinted 1992), *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique*. 'Replacement, Reduction and Refinement' have been adopted throughout the world as the key guiding principles in the humane use of animals in research, and are now incorporated into the legislation and regulations of many countries. They have stimulated a great deal of work into finding replacements for the use of live animals with non-animal methods and procedures, into seeking ways of reducing the numbers of animals used and into refining experimental methods, animal housing and care to minimise risks to welfare.

UFAW continues to promote research and application of the Three Rs as an important part of its work — through its programme of research awards, educational activities, working groups, and through the provision and dissemination of information and advice.

UFAW's scientific journal *Animal Welfare* has been an important vehicle for promoting work in the Three Rs, and it is fitting that a special issue should mark their 50th anniversary. Not long after starting the project, Bill Russell gave a presentation at the UFAW AGM in 1955 in which he said of his study

"I believe it is also one of immense promise for the welfare of large numbers of animals, and I can only hope that its outcome will be as gratifying to look back upon as the other achievements we have heard about tonight".

In view of its undoubted profound impact for animal welfare, we hope that Professor Russell does find it duly gratifying to look back upon his project. We are delighted to have published his review of the *Three Rs: past, present and future* as the introductory paper to the special issue of *Animal Welfare*.

*Animal Welfare Vol. 14(4)
Special Issue: The Three Rs*

Research Awards

In addition to various project grants and other awards, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare has recently made three major research awards, totalling in excess of a quarter of a million pounds.

UFAW Hume Animal Welfare Research Fellowship

This prestigious international award is given to promising animal welfare scientists near the start of their research career. Thanks to the generous support of its members, UFAW has been able to fund a second Hume Research Fellowship.

The Fellowship has been awarded to Dr Johanneke van der Harst at the Utrecht University. Dr van der Harst will use the award to develop a new method of assessing the internal mental state of animals based on their behaviour prior to receiving a positive stimulus, such as food.

It is hoped that this approach may lead to the development of better welfare assessment tools for the assessment of the welfare of animals on farms, zoos and in the home.

UFAW Animal Welfare Research Training Scholarship

UFAW research training scholarships are given to outstanding graduate students who wish to study for a PhD in animal welfare.

Fish welfare is often neglected, perhaps because there has been disagreement as to whether they are capable of feeling pain. Nonetheless, we exploit fish in many ways that might result in suffering. Moreover fish are increasingly being used in research, for example environmental monitoring.

Further research on the capacity of fish to suffer is needed so that appropriate safeguards can be drawn up. Ms Jessica Mettam, under the supervision of Dr Lynne Sneddon at the University of Liverpool, plans to study this issue together with the effect of fish analgesics so that any pain caused during husbandry or experimentation can be more effectively relieved.

UFAW Pharmaceutical Housing and Husbandry Steering Committee (PHHSC) Research Studentship

The PHHSC was established by UFAW in 1998 to encourage research into the development of practical refinements for the use of animals in research.

This year as a result of the very generous support of the PHHSC member organisations, we have been able to award the fourth studentship to Ms Anjanette Harris working under the supervision of Dr Susan Healy at Edinburgh University.

The award is to support research into the effects of enrichment of housing on the quality of scientific work involving rodents. Work in this field is of crucial importance in helping to generate world-wide implementation of better welfare housing and husbandry regimes in research using animals.

Knowledge Analysis System Benefiting Animal Husbandry

In 2003 Lesley Wright, a database analyst at CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, began a UFAW supported study exploring the potential of a new method (grounded theory) of combining information on the behaviour and welfare of zoo animals gathered from a number of sources, such as ethological measurements and stock-keeper reports.

The aim of the project is to use grounded theory to categorise such information and develop conclusions regarding the quality of provision (eg. environment, stockmanship) and the welfare state of the animals. Two species are being considered, the Asian Small-Clawed Otter (*Amblonyx cinereus*) and the Plains Zebra (*Equus burchellii*).

The eventual aim is to develop this method in order to explore the more general relationship between environmental provisions and welfare, prepare codes of best practice, and, if possible, a software tool allowing the objective assessment of zoo conditions rather than relying on observers' assessment. It is envisaged that such a tool will allow keepers to input details of their husbandry regime and get a 'rating' along with suggestions for improvements.

Although data collection is ongoing, the work has already resulted in a publication*.

* Wright LC (2003) Assessing the welfare of captive Asian Small-clawed Otters (*Amblonyx cinereus*): can inductive methods play a part? *IUCN Otter Specialist Group Bulletin* 20(1): 33-39

UFAW University Links Scheme — 2005/06

The UFAW University Links scheme is an initiative aimed at establishing a network of UFAW representatives in universities and colleges to help with promoting UFAW's objectives at their establishments and with raising the charity's profile. At present 11 UK academic institutions are involved in the scheme, and we are exploring establishing such links with others. Some of the recent activities supported by the link scheme are detailed below.

UFAW representatives Dr Hannah Buchanan-Smith (University of Stirling) and Professor Daniel Mills (University of Lincoln) have both used monies provided by the scheme to set up a programme of animal welfare related seminars in 2006 for staff and students at their respective institutions.

In addition, in a joint initiative, Professor Vince Molony (University of Edinburgh) has arranged with the UFAW representatives at the universities of Bristol and Glasgow for Professor Marc Bekoff to travel to the UK to give a series of public seminars at each. Professor Bekoff (University of Colorado, Boulder) will speak on 'Animal passions and beastly virtues: why animal feelings matter'. These talks, which will be given during the week beginning the 9th March, will consider the evolution of animal emotions in a wide variety of animals and the reasons for their evolution.

UFAW representatives have also distributed information about UFAW and its work to their colleagues, students and others who may be interested.

Anyone interested in finding out more details of these activities and how they might attend them should contact UFAW's Development Officer, as should anyone who is willing to help promote UFAW's objectives at their institution. Email wickens@ufaw.org.uk

Eighth UFAW Vacation Scholarship Meeting, University of Bristol

The eighth annual UFAW Vacation Scholarship Meeting was held in the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Bristol in December. The staff and students of Bristol and other universities, colleges and institutions that attended were treated to a wide variety of talks, introduced by Professor John Webster, covering topics as diverse as measuring the welfare of horses used in therapeutic riding programmes, and the impact on parasitic load and welfare of mixed species housing of zoo animals.

Speaking at the meeting were two ex-vacation scholars who have gone on to pursue further research careers in animal welfare science. Dr Vicky Melfi (1997 Vacation Scholar and acting Head of Research at Paignton Zoo) talked on 'Integrating zoo animal welfare science: a case study using Abyssinian colobus monkeys'. This demonstrated how integrating a scientific approach to proposed changes in husbandry and management could yield many valuable insights into their impact on welfare. Kerry Westwood (2001 Vacation Scholar) talked on the 'Effects of cage size, space allowance, environmental enrichment and their interactions on behaviour, stress, immune function and welfare of laboratory mice', work she has undertaken at Bristol as part of her UFAW PHHSC-supported PhD.

UFAW would like to thank the staff at Bristol University who helped in the organisation of the meeting and all those, including the vacation scholars, who made the day such a success.

Two of this year's Vacation Scholarship projects are outlined below.

Nina Cracknell — Stimulus enhancement in dog training

Animal cognition is of particular relevance to animal welfare as the level of cognition an animal is assumed to have has implications for the acceptable treatment of that animal. A study using the 'model-rival' training technique, (McKinlay & Young 2003), claimed to show that dogs have complex cognitive abilities. Nina Cracknell (University of Lincoln) investigated this claim further, by comparing the model-rival training technique with other levels of stimulus enhancement, to see whether simpler rules could in fact be responsible for their results. Nina's experiments showed that there was no difference in the level of learning success between simpler stimulus enhancement methods and the model-rival technique, and furthermore that learning actually occurred more quickly in the simpler learning situation. Nina's study shows that assumptions should not be made about cognitive abilities if there may be a simpler explanation, and that to incorrectly assume an animal has high cognitive ability could lead to frustration and stress for the animal in a training situation.

Marianne Solberg — Mother-son bonds in bonobos

Bonobos are listed by the IUCN as 'endangered', and therefore their welfare in captivity is of great importance for the long-term survival of the species. Males are often moved between zoos in an attempt to limit the level of inbreeding, but a study by Marianne Solberg (Oxford Brookes University) has highlighted the fact that this may have serious welfare implications. The mother-son bond, which is broken when males are moved to another zoo, is very important and long-lasting in bonobo society. Males receive protection from their mothers throughout their life and their status in the group is determined by that of their mother. Marianne found that motherless males were more at risk of aggression from other bonobos than those who lived with their mothers, and these males consequently suffered from stress and anxiety. This can have a number of detrimental effects on physical health and welfare, and therefore the importance of the mother-son bond needs to be recognised in bonobo conservation.



photos: Lauren Horton (hens); Gemma Houghton (duiker); Natalie Robinson (sea lion); Marianne Solberg (bonobos)

10–12 Vacation Scholarships are awarded each year and involve a diverse range of projects and animal species. This was amply illustrated in the presentations at the Eighth Vacation Scholars Meeting, some of which are pictured above



Improving Zoo Primate Welfare: Paignton Zoo wins 2005 UFAW Wild Animal Welfare Award

Paignton Zoo Environmental Park has received the 2005 UFAW Wild Animal Welfare Award for their work with Colobus monkeys. The Wild Animal Welfare Award is made annually by UFAW in recognition of innovations that aim to improve the welfare of captive wild animals or which alleviate or prevent harm from human activities to animals in the wild.

The presentation of the 2005 Award was made on behalf of UFAW on November 15th at Paignton Zoo by Dr Miranda Stevenson, the Director of BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums). Dr Robert Hubrecht, Deputy Director, represented UFAW.

Paignton Zoo Research Associate Dr Vicky Melfi received on behalf of the Zoo a cheque for £1000, a plaque to put up by the Colobus enclosure and a certificate. Her work involved training individual Colobus monkeys to take fruit juice from syringes, so providing a more welfare-friendly method of delivering medication.

Dr Melfi's study looked at the impact of training on the welfare of Colobus monkeys. The results showed that training as part of the husbandry regime made for healthier animals and had no adverse effect on natural behaviours. It meant staff could perform routine health checks and deliver medication without having to catch and tranquilise individual animals.

Dr Vicky Melfi said "Our results showed that training Colobus monkeys at Paignton Zoo led to significant welfare benefits. It is important to remember that different species may respond differently, so more research in this area is vital. This project was highly collaborative, involving science, mammal and veterinary staff at the zoo".

The judges considered her work to be important to the advancement of zoo animal welfare, describing the project as "A model of how to apply science to a practical issue".

Dr James Kirkwood, UFAW's Chief Executive and Scientific Director, said "What stood out about this application was their rigorous and well-thought out approach to a practical problem that they had encountered with their Colobus. Not only did they identify that training the Colobus would improve the health of the animals by facilitating regular veterinary inspections, but also that it presented an opportunity to collect information about the impact of training on the welfare and behaviour of the animals. Such information is a valuable addition to the on-going debate about the role of training in improving captive wild animal care".

The money from the award will be used to support further research at Paignton Zoo and contribute towards the cost of hosting a second mammal training workshop for other zoo professionals.

Dr Vicky Melfi of Paignton Zoo receives the 2005 UFAW Wild Animal Welfare Award from Dr Miranda Stevenson, Director of BIAZA, and Dr Robert Hubrecht, Deputy Director of UFAW



photos: Paignton Zoo Environmental Park

Recommendations on the use of snares in the UK

As reported in the last Annual Report, Dr James Kirkwood was asked by Defra in October 2004 to form an Independent Working Group to address issues surrounding the use of snares (IWGS). In the UK, snares are used as a means of restraining an animal prior to its dispatch rather than as a killing method.

In October 2005, the report produced by the IWGS was published. This addressed areas of practice of particular concern regarding the use of traps and snares, and recommendations to improve their humane use. Specific guidance on the preparation, sighting, setting and subsequent inspection of snares was detailed, and amendments to existing legislation suggested. These included making it a requirement to use a stop on a snare, to remove or dispatch a snared animal immediately on their detection, and that the section of the Wildlife and Countryside Act that concerns the frequency of inspection of snares be reworded.

In a new departure for the area of wildlife management, the IWGS also sought to establish the principle of carrying out a cost-benefit analysis prior to the deployment of any snare. Such analysis is already a requirement for those using animals in scientific procedures. The IWGS suggested that this analysis should seek to assess the need to control the population, the humaneness of the method of control, the probable welfare impact on the target species and possible risks to non-target species of the use of snares.

Alongside the publication of the IWGS report, Defra also published a Code of Practice on the Use of Snares in Fox and Rabbit Control, which was substantively based on the draft code detailed by the IWGS in their report, and an action plan aimed at addressing the issues raised in the IWGS report. This plan included details of future research priorities in the area.

Copies of all of these reports are available from Wildlife Management Policy, Room 1/09A, Defra, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1
Email: WildlifeIntegrationConservationTeam@defra.gsi.gov.uk
or from the Defra website: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/snares/index.htm



Garden Bird Health Initiative (GBHi)

There has been a huge growth in interest in feeding garden birds in recent years. This is a significant change to their ecology and, although it is undoubtedly an advantageous one, there can be some risks through use of unsuitable foods or, possibly, of increased risk of disease transmission where birds gather at high densities. A series of UFAW workshops to address this subject with the bird care industry, ornithologists and wildlife veterinarians, led to the funding and initiation of a major research and surveillance project in 2005.

This project involves a UK-wide network of collaborating organisations and is being coordinated by Andrew Cunningham and Becki Lawson at the Institute of Zoology. Through the collaboration with the British Trust for Ornithology, 1000 keen birders have joined the project to undertake systematic observations and data collection. This will enable investigation of the prevalence of specific diseases in garden bird populations and of the environmental factors associated with disease incidents; already this is yielding new information on the subject.

We are most grateful to CJ WildBird Foods, Gardman Ltd, Cranswick Pet Products, the Birdcare Standards Association, the RSPB and all the other organisations and individuals who are supporting this pioneering project.



For further information about the Garden Bird Health Initiative or to order the booklet 'Feeding Garden Birds: Best Practice Guidelines' please contact UFAW (or visit www.ufaw.org.uk).

UFAW SAWI Fund

UFAW sponsored the 10th Annual 'Animals & Society' Conference: *Animals in Society: Status, Perspective and Awareness*, which was held at Tel Aviv University in July 2005.

With over 600 delegates from a variety of fields, topics discussed ranged from ethical and legal approaches to animals, through discussions of how to improve animal welfare in agriculture and industry and how to construct positive attitudes to animals among children and adults, to the different approaches taken by other countries and what can be learned from them.

New UFAW Website

By the time this News-Sheet reaches you the new UFAW website should be up and running. We hope you find it interesting, informative and easy to use. We would like to continue with the site's development and your comments and suggestions will be most welcome.
Email ufaw@ufaw.org.uk



Notification for election to Council at the 2006 AGM

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the 2006 AGM must reach the UFAW office between 1st August and 29th August 2006. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary.

2006 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the afternoon of Tuesday 10th October 2006 at the Womens' Institute Hall in Wheathampstead. Full details of the time and business of the meeting will be sent to members in due course.

Staff

Brian Pemberton joined the staff in July 2005 as PR and Fundraising Officer, for both UFAW and the HSA, following the departure of Kate Davey earlier in the year.

Claire Salisbury joined us in November 2005 on a temporary basis following the departure of Scientific Officer Kate Parkes, who we thank for her many contributions while at UFAW.

We are delighted to announce the birth of a son to Liz Roberts, our Publications Officer.

Spring Appeal

Help UFAW promote animal welfare science with the Research Training Scholarship programme.

The Research Training Scholarship is an important and very valuable way in which UFAW promotes the scientific approach to animal welfare and the development of animal welfare science in our academic institutions.

The Scholarship is awarded to promising veterinary or science graduates for three-year programmes of research leading to a degree at doctorate level and involving projects likely to lead to substantial advances in animal welfare. Not only does it advance animal welfare, but also it provides extremely valuable training in research and presentation skills.

Since the Research Training Scholarship's inception in 1998 there have been six awards covering a diverse range of research projects:

1998 Emma Harding, University of Bristol. 'Novel methods for assessing mental states and animal welfare';
1999 Kenneth Rutherford, Roslin Institute. 'Fractal analysis of behaviour: a non-invasive method for assessing animal stress and welfare';

1999 Emma Smith, University of Bristol. 'Influences of the light environment on avian behaviour and welfare';
2000 Naomi Latham, University of Oxford. 'Refining the role of stereotypic behaviour in the assessment of welfare: stress, general motor persistence and early environment in the development of abnormal behaviours';
2001 Fritha Langford, University of Edinburgh School of Veterinary Science. 'Behavioural and electrophysiological characterisation of sleep in sheep and its application in animal welfare studies';
2005 Jessica Mettam, University of Liverpool. 'Detection and alleviation of pain in fish'.

Your support of Research Training Scholars will be most valuable and greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute please send a donation to the Spring 2006 Appeal at the UFAW office address. Many thanks!

Many thanks to all those who contributed to our Autumn 2005 Appeal in support of research into methods of assessing animal welfare.

Other ways you can support the work of UFAW

UFAW's work relies on the support and generosity of members and donors, and this support is greatly appreciated. In addition to our Spring and Autumn Appeals, here are some other ways you can help promote animal welfare and animal welfare science:

Become a member

Individual membership is just £10 a year (£5 for students). Corporate membership from £20 a year.

Recruit a member

If you are already a member, why not recruit a colleague or friend?

Support the University Links

There are currently 11 academic institutions represented. You can participate in their activities and help promote UFAW's objectives.

Subscribe to Animal Welfare

The quarterly scientific and educational journal now has full online access and back issue search facility for subscribers.

Join our Regular Giving programme

Regular monthly donations greatly help us to plan UFAW activities.

Pledge a legacy

Over the years legacies have been extremely important to UFAW's work. An information leaflet on leaving a legacy is available free from UFAW.

Sponsor an activity

There are frequent opportunities to sponsor particular activities, events or projects of interest to institutional or corporate organizations.

Shop at UFAW

from our exclusive range of clothing, stationery, gifts and cards that also help promote UFAW.

For more information on any of these contact the UFAW office:



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