

UFAW International Animal Welfare Conference 2025

24 – 26 June 2025

Day 1: Tuesday 24 June

All timings are GMT+1/UTC+1/BST

13.00 - 13.15 **Welcome and Introduction:** Huw Golledge (*UFAW, UK*)

13.15 - 14.35 **Session One**

13.15 - 13.35 **How does improving welfare improve cognition? Investigating the impact of housing conditions on neural markers in zebrafish**

Olga Burenkova, Rory Lippert, Michelle Lavery and Georgia Mason (*University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada; Open Philanthropy, USA*)

13.35 - 13.55 **The pain echo chamber effect: How cages and barren environments may amplify pain perception in animals**

Cynthia Schuck-Paim, Wladimir Alonso and Kate Hartcher (*Welfare Footprint Institute, Florida, USA*)

13.55 - 14.15 **Effect of pair housing on dairy calf welfare (a systematic review)**

Katarína Bučková, Ágnes Moravcsíková and Radka Šárová (*Iowa State University Ames, USA; Czech University of Life Sciences and Institute of Animal Science, Prague, Czech Republic*)

14.15 - 14.35 **Enhancing poultry welfare: AI-based vocalization analysis for stress detection and non-invasive monitoring**

Venkatraman Manikandan and Suresh Neethirajan (*Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada*)

14.35 - 15.10 **Break**

15.10 - 16.20 **Session Two**

15.10 - 15.40 **Keynote Speaker**

Widespread post-approval animal studies: Implications for drug research

Pia Härvelid, Camille Glaus, Kerstin Vokinger and Benjamin Ineichen (*University of Zurich, University Hospital Zurich, ETH Zurich, Zurich, and University of Bern, Switzerland*)

15.40 - 16.00 **Udderly important behaviours: The study of the behavioural needs of adult dairy cattle across common intensive housing systems**

Catherine Arpin, Rachel van Vliet, Marjorie Cellier, Nadège Aigueperse, Marianne Villettaz Robichaud, Abdoulaye Baniré Diallo and Elsa Vasseur (*McGill University, Quebec, Canada; Université Clermont Auvergne, INRAE, Saint Genès-Champagnelle, France; Université de Montréal, and UQAM, Montréal, Canada*)

16.00 - 16.20 **A method for the assessment and economic valuation of improvements to farm animal welfare for use in policy appraisal**

Richard Bennett, Kelvin Balcombe, Heather Maggs, Siobhan Abeyesinghe, Gareth Arnott, Nick Bell, Andrew Butterworth, Jennifer Duncan, Cathy Dwyer, Marie Haskell, Fritha Langford, Siobhan Mullan, Christine Nicol, Niamh O'Connell, Elizabeth Rowe, Victoria Sandilands and Simon Turner (*University of Reading, Royal Veterinary College, Queen's University Belfast, Herd Health Consultancy, Animal Welfare Training Ltd, University of Liverpool and SRUC (Scotland's Rural College), Newcastle University, UK; University College Dublin, Ireland*)

16.20 - 16.50 **Break**

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16.50 - 18.00	Session Three
16.50 - 17.10	Flock characteristics associated with broiler chicken welfare issues during the pre-slaughter and slaughter phases Samantha Vitek and Leonie Jacobs (<i>Virginia Tech, Virginia, USA</i>)
17.10 - 17.30	Errorless learning in the laboratory: Teaching rhesus macaques in brain-computer interfacing studies Kylie Thurman and Autumn Sorrells (<i>Neuralink Corp., California, USA</i>)
17.30 - 18.00	Short Talks: Replacing the "Canary in the coal mine" with environmental health monitoring Megan LaFollette and Joseph Garner (<i>The 3Rs Collaborative, Denver, and Stanford University, Stanford, USA</i>) The implementation of a positive reinforcement training program with group-housed pigtail macaques (<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>) Sarah Hart, Rita Bellanca and Jessica Toscano (<i>Washington National Primate Research Center, Arizona Breeding Center, University of Washington, Mesa, and Seattle, USA</i>) Qualitative behaviour assessment captures emotional states related to acute pain in Angus beef calves Mostafa Farghal, Francoise Wemelsfelder, Ed Pajor and Maria Camila Ceballos (<i>University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Minia University, Minia, Egypt; Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), Edinburgh, UK</i>) Evaluating electro-euthanasia as a humane method for zebrafish across developmental stages Jennifer Bowman, Mikaila Hishaw and Jackson Gross (<i>University of California Davis, USA</i>) Understanding drivers and barriers to lameness management on UK sheep farms Beth Clark and Niamh Mahon (<i>Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne and The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, UK</i>)
18.00	End

Day 2: Wednesday 25 June

All timings are GMT+1 / UTC+1/ BST

10.00 - 10.10	Welcome and Introduction Huw Golledge (<i>UFAW, UK</i>)
10.10 - 11.35	Session Four
10.10 - 10.30	The role of animal expectations in the welfare of captive animals Benjamin LeCorps - Winner of the 2025 UFAW Early Career Researcher of the Year Award (<i>University of Bristol, UK</i>)
10.30 - 10.50	Scientific advocacy for animal welfare: the role of evidence-based engagement Elena Nalon (<i>Eurogroup for Animals, Brussels, Belgium</i>)
10.50 - 11.10	Promoting fish welfare: Ethical and practical implications of recognizing fish sentience in Nigeria's aquaculture industry Felix Nwose (<i>Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria</i>)
11.10 - 11.35	Short Talks: Evidence-based husbandry into husbandry-based evidence - evolving how zoos consider animal welfare concepts Paul Rose and Jack Lewton (<i>University of Exeter, Exeter and Nottingham Trent University, Southwell, UK</i>) Owner demographic factors are associated with pet rabbit vaccination Heather Lambert, Emma Tipton, Barbora King, Clare Ellis (<i>Harper & Keele Veterinary School, Keele, People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) and University of Lancashire, Preston, UK</i>) Facilitating dairy cow posture transitions with permissive lying cubicle design Stijn Brouwers, Michael Simmler and Pascal Savary (<i>Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) and Digital Production, Agroscope, Switzerland</i>) Fur marker pens: an alternative to ear notching for identification Robbie McLaren-Jones (<i>Astrazeneca UK Ltd, UK</i>) From Rudolph to reality: Assessing the welfare of captive reindeer in festive events Tayla Hammond (<i>Animal Insights Research and Consulting and OneKind, Edinburgh, UK</i>)
11.35 - 12.10	Break
12.10 - 13.55	Session Five
12.10 - 12.50	Keynote Talk What is animal welfare? Beats us: the extent and implications of disagreement among animal welfare researchers about what animal welfare is Eva Read, Andrew Crump, Heather Browning, Ganga Shreedhar and Jonathan Birch (<i>London School of Economics, Royal Veterinary College and University of Southampton, Southampton, UK</i>)
12.50 - 13.10	Detecting wing fractures and dislocations in chickens using deep learning and computed tomography (CT) scanning Kacper Libera, Dirk Schut, Effrosyni Kritsi, Louis van Steijn, Timothy Dallman and Len Lipman (<i>Utrecht University, Utrecht, Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), Amsterdam and Meyn Food Processing Technology B.V., Oostzaan, the Netherlands</i>)
13.10 - 13.30	Environmental enrichment as a confounding variable in applied fish behaviour research Andrew Vowles (<i>University of Southampton, Southampton, UK</i>)

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13.30 - 13.55

Short Talks:

Perspectives of Western Canadian cow-calf producers on cattle welfare, handling, and training in livestock handling

Nathanael Lutevele, Karin Orsel, Meagan King, Ed Pajor and Maria Ceballos (*University of Calgary, Alberta, and University of Manitoba, Manitoba, Canada*)

What behaviour is important behaviour? A systematic review of how wild and zoo-housed animals differ in their time-activity budgets

Robert Kelly, Marianne Freeman and Paul Rose (*University of Exeter, Exeter, University Centre Sparsholt, Hampshire and WWT, Slimbridge Wetland Centre, UK*)

Investigating gradual decompression as an alternative to carbon dioxide for killing laboratory rats

Sophia Bullock, Jasmine Clarkson and Matthew Leach (*Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne and University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK*)

The fair-fish database: Review and assess welfare of aquatic species in aquaculture and fisheries

Jenny Volstorf, Caroline Marques Maia, María Cabrera-Álvarez and Paolo Panizzon (*fair-fish, Weiherweg, Switzerland; FishEthoGroup, Incubadora de Empresas da Universidade do Algarve, Faro, Portugal*)

A substantial volume of animal welfare policy is informed by systematic review methodology

Johann Liesner, Marianna Rosso and Benjamin Ineichen (*University of Zurich, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich and University of Bern, Switzerland*)

13.55 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 15.30

Session Six

14.30 - 14.50

Early life matters: intensification of smolt production in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) fundamentally compromises salmon welfare at sea

Patricia Pereira and Cynthia Schuck-Paim (*Welfare Footprint Institute, Florida, USA*)

14.50 - 15.10

Optimizing environmental enrichment for stress resilience in laying hens

Aleksei Podturkin, Emma Malcolm and Lucy Asher (*Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*)

15.10 - 15.30

In vivo digital biomarkers: A collaborative blueprint for advancing animal welfare and translational research

Stefano Gaburro and Megan LaFollette (*Tecniplast Spa, Italy; 3Rs Collaborative, United States*)

15.30

End

Day 3: Thursday 26 June

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08.00 - 08.10 **Welcome and Introduction** Huw Golledge (UFAW, UK)

08.10 - 09.40 **Session Seven**

08.10 - 08.40 **Dissecting distress: Scientifically validating negative affective states relevant to animal welfare (and trying to explain it to students)**

Ngaio Beausoleil - Winner of the 2025 UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science (Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University, New Zealand)

08.40 - 09.00 **From wires to wireless: Can virtual fencing improve animal welfare?**

Ishaya Gadzama, Holiness Ayooluwa, Qazal Hina and Emmanuel Onche (University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia; University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria; University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan; Chungnam National University, Daejeon, Republic of Korea)

09.00 - 09.20 **All fun and games? The connection between rule-based challenge and animal affect**

Fay Clark (University of Bristol, Bristol, UK)

09.20 - 09.40 **Five Domains washing: Operational challenges or a form of welfare-washing?**

Kat Littlewood and Ngaio Beausoleil (AkoVet Limited, and Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University, New Zealand)

09.40 - 10.10 **Break**

10.10 - 11.35 **Session Eight**

10.10 - 10.30 **Integrative analysis of heat stress effects and mitigation in dairy cattle: novel insights and implications**

Ishaya Gadzama, Qazal Hina, Takudzwa Gondo, Saraswati Ray and Isaac Mugweru (University of Queensland, Queensland and University of New England, Armidale, Australia; University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan; University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya)

10.30 - 10.50 **From cages to cage-free: a qualitative exploration of Chinese egg producers' views on the opportunities and challenges to adopting cage-free egg production systems in China**

Qing Yang, Belinda Vigors, Fritha Langford, Ruqian Zhao and Cathy Dwyer (Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Newcastle University and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), UK; Nanjing Agricultural University, China)

10.50 - 11.10 **Advancing farmed fish welfare in Africa: Lessons learned from Egypt and Kenya**

Wasseem Emam, Mohamed Bakr, Ahmad Hamza, Radi Mohamed and Mahmoud Eltholth (Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain; Ethical Seafood Research, Glasgow and University of Stirling, Stirling, UK; Kafr El-Sheikh University and Aquavet Egypt, Kafr El-Sheikh, Egypt; Royal Holloway, University of London, London, UK)

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11.10 - 11.35

Short Talks:

The causes of dog relinquishment in Taiwan: The pivotal role of owner's knowledge and motivation

Wan-Jhu Huang and Gordon Li (*National Taipei University of Technology, Taipei, Taiwan*)

Ethological and procedural assessment of ballistics euthanasia for stranded cetaceans

Rebecca Boys, Ngaio Beausoleil and Karen Stockin (*Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University, Auckland and Palmerston North, NZ*)

Bridging knowledge gaps: the role of training in improving equid welfare

Mathilde Merridale-Punter, Abel Wodajo, Belay Elias, Anna-Marie Bakos, Hanna Zewdu, Reta Tesfaye, Gizachew Hailegebreal, Teshale Sori, Charles El-Hage, Anke Wiethoelter and Peta Hitchens (*University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; Addis Ababa University, Bishoftu and Hawassa University, Hawassa, Ethiopia*)

BOAS in the Boston Terrier - Similarities to and differences from the bulldog breeds

Francesca Tomlinson, Ella O'Neill, Nai-Chieh Liu, David Sargan and Jane Ladlow (*University of Cambridge, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge and Granta Veterinary Specialists Referrals, UK; National Taiwan University, Taiwan*)

Preliminary study on the current management of calves on Italian dairy farms: health and welfare issues

Valeria Bocchi, Angela Costa, Giulio Visentin, Martina Zappaterra, Marilena Bolcato, Leonardo Nanni Costa and Barbara Padalino (*University of Bologna, Bologna and Ozzano dell'Emilia, Italy; Southern Cross University, East Lismore, Australia*)

11.35 - 12.10

Break

12.10 - 13.30

Session Nine

12.10 - 12.30

Animal advocacy in changing political and economic times: Opportunities and challenges in the African context

Ambrose Otachi, Alice Weru, Thomas Ariga and Julius Mambo (*Farm Animals Voice and Panafric Animal Welfare Organisation, Kenya*)

12.30 - 12.50

Space the final frontier in captive animal welfare?

Jake Veasey (*Care for the Rare, London, UK*)

12.50 - 13.10

Validation of a smart camera system for animal welfare surveillance in the slaughterhouse

Bas Rodenburg, Annemarie Baars and Mona Giersberg (*Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands*)

13.20

End