

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare



Science in the service of animal welfare

Spring 2024

Welcome

As you'll see, a lot is going on at UFAW this year. This summer brings our annual conference in Porto. Many of you tell us you value the chance to hear a broad overview of the latest developments in animal welfare research the conference offers. I look forward to seeing you in Portugal.

Sticking to the theme of access to the latest animal welfare research, our scientific journal Animal Welfare transitioned to a freely available online publication just over a year ago and we're delighted with how this is going, you can read more about this in the newsletter below.

As is customary in these newsletters, I would also like to remind you that UFAW is a charity and that our work is only possible because of support from members and donors. This year our Spring Appeal seeks your support to continue our work to use scientific information to help people make better choices about the companion animals they acquire.

Finally, I wanted to thank everyone who participated in our market research survey. We've been seeking the views of members and others about how we can improve our membership offer and other activities. We're eagerly awaiting the results of the research and will share details of how we plan to act on what you've told us you would value as soon as possible.

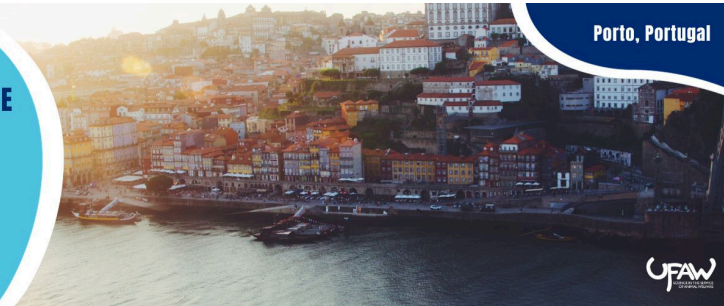
Thank you for your continued support for Science in the Service of Animal Welfare.



Dr Huw Golledge
Chief Executive

UFAW INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE 2024

10 - 11 July 2024



Porto, Portugal



UFAW International Animal Welfare Conference 2024

We are delighted to be holding our annual conference on 10 - 11 July 2024 in Porto, Portugal. The conference will serve as a platform for a diverse array of both talks and poster presentations, supporting UFAW's mission to disseminate evidence-based animal welfare information.

To ensure that the latest developments in animal welfare science are open to all, you will also be able to register to watch the proceedings online.

To find out more or to register, please visit: ufaw.org.uk/porto2024

Spring Appeal 2024

Recent years have highlighted health issues in companion animals due to genetic diseases and inappropriate breeding, notably concerning flat-faced (brachycephalic) dog breeds. Despite animal welfare campaigns highlighting known problems like breathing difficulties, neurological issues, and skin, ear, and eye problems, breeding and buying of these dogs persist.

UFAW recently funded an important study to understand why such campaigns fail, laying the foundations for better educational material and campaign strategies. Results from this study will also help UFAW to update our existing web content for prospective pet owners and breeders. This study and others like it, contribute to science-driven change for animal welfare.



Support UFAW's cause by donating at ufaw.org.uk/springappeal Your donation, no matter the size, is crucial, just as the life and welfare of every animal is too.

Thank you.

Council News

2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's AGM will be held at 6pm (arrive from 5.30pm) on Wednesday 13 November 2024 at the Royal Society in London.

Following the formal business there will be a series of talks on recent UFAW-funded projects followed by a drinks reception.

There are limited spaces available for UFAW members at this year's AGM. To secure yours, please email: rsvp@ufaw.org.uk or write to us at the address listed at the bottom of this page.

Notification for election to Council at the 2024 AGM

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the AGM must reach the UFAW office between 4 September and 2 October 2024. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary.

Council changes at the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Dr Jane Downes, Dr Anna Olsson and Dr David Sargan were re-elected to council.

UFAW Membership

UFAW is a registered, international independent scientific and educational animal welfare charity and membership organisation. We receive no government or statutory funding.

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

With your support, we can continue to fund ground breaking scientific research, support the careers of animal welfare scientists, and disseminate crucial knowledge about animal welfare science to both experts and the wider public.

Become a member of UFAW to receive exclusive discounts on our publications and exciting updates on our work.

Find out more about membership by visiting ufaw.org.uk/membership

Animal Welfare Journal

In January, we celebrated one year of our official journal Animal Welfare being a Gold Open Access journal published by Cambridge University Press.

The move to Open Access aligned with our mission to ensure that evidence-based animal welfare information is disseminated widely, and to all those who can make use of it, anyone can now read the articles in Animal Welfare without a subscription.

During 2023, we published 57 papers and 15 book reviews.

You can view our most downloaded papers of 2023 at tinyurl.com/y2cuh8bz, highlights include:

- Assessing the animal welfare impact of fourteen control and dispatch methods for house mouse (*Mus musculus*), Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and black rat (*Rattus rattus*)
- Challenges in farmed insect welfare: Beyond the question of sentience
- Estimating global numbers of farmed fishes killed for food annually from 1990 to 2019
- Cats just want to have fun: Associations between play and welfare in domestic cats.

Animal Welfare Student Scholarships

The UFAW Student Scholarships scheme allows students to carry out their own project aiming to contribute to our knowledge of how best to assess or improve the welfare of animals.

In December 2023, 10 UFAW scholars presented their work alongside 4 scholars from our sister charity, the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) at the annual Student Scholars meeting.

Each year, the Ruth Harrison Student Scholarship, given in memory of Ruth Harrison, the author of *Animal Machines*, is awarded to a high-quality project addressing the welfare of farmed animals. This year it was awarded to Alvaro Arroyave from the University of Guelph, Canada for his project on the use of pecking blocks as foraging enrichment for improvement of feather condition in enriched colonies.

4th FSVO/UFAW Symposium: Humanely Ending the Lives of Animals

In March 2024 we held our 4th UFAW/FSVO symposium in Bern, Switzerland. It was an inspiring two days of presentations and knowledge sharing with 80 in-person participants and over 529 participating online.

Videos of the presentations from both days are available on youtube.com/@ufaw1926



Obituaries

At the end of 2023, we received the sad news that David Ball had passed away aged 91. David was one of our longest serving members, having joined UFAW in 1958. David was a practicing veterinary surgeon for many years, and a keen supporter of UFAW's work. We send our condolences to David's family and friends.

In March of this year, we also received the sad news of the passing of Professor Andrew Fisher of the University of Melbourne. He spent over 20 years researching farm animal health and wellbeing and served in numerous policy advisory roles on animal welfare. Our condolences to his family and friends.

