

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare



Science in the service of animal welfare

Spring/Summer 2025

Welcome

As always UFAW has been busy promoting Science in the Service of Animal Welfare; funding animal welfare projects and ensuring that the latest research is disseminated through our scientific journal, *Animal Welfare*, and at our conference. I hope many of you will be able to attend the online conference in June - it's a fabulous opportunity to hear about all the great work going on worldwide to discover what matters to animals.

Researching animal welfare and disseminating that research widely is an important part of UFAW's work, but to ensure that research leads to real-world improvements for animals, policy change is sometimes needed. Traditionally, many scientists have been reticent to advocate for policy changes based on their research, and many do not understand the legislative process or how to engage with it.

To tackle this problem, alongside our colleagues at the Animal Welfare Research Network (AWRN), we have launched a webinar series entitled "*Translating animal welfare research into law & policy*". This novel series allows researchers to hear from policymakers and others involved in the legislative process, enabling them to better understand animal welfare law, and how they can ensure their research makes its way into policy.

We have some excellent speakers lined up, including former UK Environment Minister, George Eustice. Over 750 people have signed up for the free webinars. Please do consider signing up if you would like to catch future webinars and watch recordings of those already held.

These are just some of the ways, with your generous support, that UFAW works to make sure that animal welfare science improves the welfare of countless animals. My sincere thanks to all of our members and donors.

Dr Huw Golledge
Chief Executive



Secure your place at our online International Animal Welfare Conference 24-26 June 2025

It isn't long until our international conference and we are excited to see the wide range of presentations, including both talks and posters, covering all areas of animal welfare science. From presentations on animal behaviour, to policy and advocacy, and everything in between – there's something for everyone. By hosting the event online, we're making it easier than ever for a global audience to connect, collaborate, and contribute.

Don't miss out! There's still time to register: ufaw.org.uk/conf2025

UFAW 2025 Award Winners

UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science:
Professor Ngaio Beausoleil, Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University, New Zealand

Professor Beausoleil's research employs behavioural and physiological methods to evaluate animal welfare, significantly influencing the Five Domains Model. Her extensive work in animal welfare has helped shaped policy and conservation efforts, making her a truly deserving recipient of this award.



UFAW Early Career Animal Welfare Researcher of the Year:
Dr Benjamin Lecorps, University of Bristol, UK

Dr Lecorps' research focuses on the emotional experiences of farm animals, especially dairy cattle. He received the award in recognition of his exceptional, science-driven contributions to advancing animal welfare.

You can read more about both winners on our website, or listen to them talk about their work at our upcoming conference: ufaw.org.uk/2025awardwinners



2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's AGM will be held in the evening of Wednesday 12 November 2025 at the Royal Society in London. Following the formal business, there will be a series of talks on recent UFAW-funded projects and updates from our sister charity, the Humane Slaughter Association, followed by a drinks reception.

Notification for election to Council at the 2025 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 1 October 2025. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary. Full details of the time and business will be sent to members in due course.

Council changes at the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Dr Siobhan Abeyesinghe, Professor Richard Bennett and Mr David Pritchard 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.

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 2024, we published the most papers we've ever produced in our journal *Animal Welfare* in any given year (excluding special and supplementary issues) - a total of 60 papers and 5 book reviews. As a Gold Open Access journal, this achievement supports our mission to disseminate evidence-based animal welfare information widely, and to everyone who can make use of it.

We are also delighted to announce the introduction of the journal Collections - a way to group papers published in *Animal Welfare* on a particular topic in one place. At present, there are seven collections including: Positive Animal Welfare, Wild Animal Welfare and Shelters, Kennels and Re-homing. All papers included in the collections are free to access, including those published prior to the journal moving to an Open Access model. Find out more by visiting: tinyurl.com/ynsc29u2

Grants: Spotlight on Chimpanzee Training

Last year, with support from our grant programme, Ruben Gralki, a great ape training specialist from Berlin Zoo, travelled to Zambia to help improve the welfare of the 150 chimpanzees at the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage Trust.

The animals at Chimfunshi live in large, forested enclosures with access to indoor facilities for routine healthcare. The chimpanzees experienced high levels of stress and anxiety when indoors. Ruben worked with Chimfunshi staff to implement a positive reinforcement training programme designed to promote stress-free associations with indoor facilities.



The project resulted in significant improvements to animal welfare, including facilitating safe and voluntary entry of chimps into indoor enclosures, enabling individual separation and routine health checks when necessary.

This project forms part of Chimfunshi's wider goal to develop and share effective training methods across the wider primate care community. A handbook for positive training is currently in development and will be circulated amongst the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) - a collection of 23 wildlife centres and sanctuaries across Africa.

Annual Appeal 2025

Scientific research is at the heart of improving animal welfare and at UFAW, it's at the core of everything we do. We fund and promote cutting-edge research that deepens our understanding of animals' needs, pioneering new approaches in animal welfare science, and ultimately shaping a better future for animals globally.

Most recently, our support has enabled research into understanding alternatives to animal models of disease in human drug development, why companion animal welfare campaigns fail, and the effectiveness of wildlife rehabilitation. By translating scientific discoveries into practical solutions, we are making a tangible impact for countless animals.

Your support is essential to continue this progress. Please consider making a donation today by visiting ufaw.org.uk/annualappeal, or completing the enclosed reply form.