

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

Annual Report 2023-2024



UFAW
SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE
OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Welcome from our Chief Executive

Welcome to our 2023-24 Annual Report. It has been another busy year for UFAW as we strive to realise our vision of a world where the welfare of animals is maximised through a scientific understanding of their needs and how to meet them.

Earlier this year, we asked our members and other stakeholders for feedback about UFAW and our membership offer. Over 450 of you responded, and I want to thank you all for your thoughtful input, especially those who participated in detailed interviews with our researchers.

In general, you expressed a very high opinion of UFAW—we were delighted to hear that the overwhelming majority of members would recommend UFAW membership to a colleague. You also provided valuable insights into what we can improve, and over the coming years, we will be working hard to implement many of your suggestions. In particular, we aim to promote animal welfare science even more effectively than we do now, focusing on not only advancing research, but also supporting the professionals who conduct it and those who apply this knowledge to improve animal welfare. We will be consulting with many of you during this process to ensure membership offers what you need.

It was also clear that we need to communicate more effectively about what UFAW is and how we work. For instance, you told us that we could be clearer about the fact that we support animal welfare science globally, and that we work with many organisations, not just universities. We've listened to your feedback, and we will work to ensure our branding is clearer for those unfamiliar with our work, emphasising that we are a truly international animal welfare science society. Stay tuned for exciting developments as we approach UFAW's centenary year in 2026. In the meantime, I hope this

report shows you what a great job UFAW is already doing.

One of UFAW's most important tasks is to disseminate the latest animal welfare science, we do this through scientific meetings and our journal *Animal Welfare*.

This summer, we held our annual conference in Porto, which featured talks across a broad spectrum of animal welfare topics, including wild, laboratory, farmed, and zoo animals. The approaches discussed were equally diverse, ranging from advanced technology and social sciences to legal perspectives, among others. It was fantastic to catch up on the latest thinking while reconnecting with old colleagues and friends and making new connections.

In March, we held a joint meeting with the Swiss Federal Food and Veterinary Office (FSVO) focused on the difficult but crucial topic of humanely ending the lives of animals. As part of our ongoing collaboration, we are committed to advancing the scientific understanding of how to humanely kill animals when necessary. This highlights UFAW's pragmatic, evidence-based approach to even the most challenging animal welfare issues.

Our scientific journal, *Animal Welfare*, transitioned to a freely available online publication just over a year ago. We're delighted with the progress the journal has made. You can read more about the papers we have published, including those most cited, in the journal section of this report.

UFAW also funds important research into understanding animals' welfare needs and how to meet them. This report showcases the innovative projects we've supported throughout the past year. For more updates on some of the projects we have recently funded, please refer to pages 4-5.

Over the last year, we have continued supporting the next generation of animal welfare scientists through our Mentoring Partnership. This initiative enables students to undertake their first research projects with support not only from their supervisors, but also from an external mentor. We're delighted by the positive feedback from both Mentors and Mentees, who have found their partnerships equally valuable.

Thank you to everyone who supports us through membership, donations, and legacies. Your contributions are vital to our work, allowing us to expand our efforts and achieve even more for Science in the Service of Animal Welfare. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without your support.



Dr Huw Golledge
Chief Executive & Scientific Director

Chairman's comment

Our understanding of the capacities of other animals and the factors which impact on their welfare is growing. It is crucial that the latest research and its implications are shared with those who interact with animals or influence the way in which they are treated. Only then can science have the maximum positive impact.

UFAW has an enviable reputation for promoting and disseminating animal welfare science; it is often described to me as "an organisation which punches above its weight". However, we cannot rest on our laurels — any organisation that fails to evolve risks eventual failure.

UFAW's Trustees recognise the challenges ahead and — as UFAW approaches its centenary in 2026 — are developing a strategy which will safeguard UFAW's future and expand its influence into its second century. Many of you will already be aware of this, having received the membership survey earlier this year. We are grateful to all those who responded and reassured that the vast majority of the responses indicated support for our proposed direction.

Rest assured, UFAW will remain a science-based undertaking, committed to preserving its reputation for objectivity.

However, maintaining the status quo is not an option. To increase its impact, UFAW aims to become *the* leading authority on disseminating research and explaining its implications for animal welfare, expand its international reach, support animal welfare scientists and practitioners, and enhance its membership offerings. Achieving this will require raising more funds and adopting an identity that better communicates UFAW's unique role in promoting animal welfare science. These exciting, albeit challenging, plans will unfold over the next two or three years, blending UFAW's traditional values with greater opportunities for the future.

Much time and effort has gone into this project to ensure our decisions serve the long-term interests of UFAW. I thank my fellow Trustees, the UFAW staff under the exceptional leadership of Huw Golledge, and you, our members, for your contributions and support as we move forward. I hope to see many of you for an update on our work at our (revamped) AGM in November.

Mike Radford
Chair of Trustees

UFAW's Vision and Mission

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



DISCOVER
what matters to animals



DEVELOP
scientific solutions to animal welfare problems



DISSEMINATE
evidence-based animal welfare information

Contents

4
Grant funding

6
Events

8
Awards

9
UFAW LINKs scheme

10
Animal Welfare Student Scholars 2023-24

12
Providing expert advice

14
Publications

16
Appeals and legacies

18
Administration and finance

20
Legal and administrative information

Grant funding

Support for animal welfare research and other activities through grants

To improve the welfare of animals, we need to discover what makes their lives better or worse. At UFAW, we strive to answer such fundamental scientific questions by funding innovative research projects through our grants scheme, like the examples here:

Examining whether animal studies can be replaced by 3D cell culture models in neuroscience



Dr Benjamin Ineichen (University of Zurich, Switzerland), and Professor Malcolm Macleod (University of Edinburgh, UK), have made progress in their project entitled “Benchmarking translational performance of 3D culture models against animal models in neuroscience – How well can 3D culture models replace animal experiments for drug testing?” These studies address the ongoing debate about the relevance of animal studies in developing human therapies, measuring how effectively animal studies translate to human applications compared to modern techniques which replace animals with 3D cell cultures.

The researchers write in their latest update:

“The funding from UFAW has been key in advancing two significant projects from the submitted proposal that align with the 3R principles (Replace, Reduce, Refine) in animal research and contribute to the broader goal of enhancing animal welfare.

The goal was to examine how well animal studies predict the success of multiple sclerosis (MS) drugs in human trials. This involved a detailed review and

During 2023-24, we awarded

13 GRANTS



With a total spend of

£68,104



UFAW Grants and Awards: www.ufaw.org.uk/grants

analysis of animal studies related to both successful and unsuccessful MS drugs.

We conducted a systematic search to identify drugs for MS, both successful and failed. The research involved analysing studies from PubMed and EMBASE. We employed machine-learning techniques for efficient screening and data extraction, followed by a statistical analysis (meta-analysis) to compare the outcomes of drugs in animal models.

Our research included 477 animal studies, involving about 30,000 animals, focusing on 15 approved and 11 failed MS drugs. Interestingly, most studies (90%) occurred post-regulatory approval. Our analysis showed that varied experimental conditions in animal studies correlate with successful drug approval. However, standard animal study outcomes did not necessarily predict clinical success.

This study highlights the challenges in transferring findings from animal research to clinical applications. We suggest diversifying experimental methods and enhancing collaboration between preclinical and clinical researchers to improve the relevance and ethical responsibility of animal research.”

Here are two studies published by the researchers with UFAW funding support:

1. **Berg I, Härvelid P, Zürrer W, Rosso M, Ineichen BV** 2023 Assessing the Predictive Power of Animal Models in Multiple Sclerosis Drug Development: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal* 29, 1116, suppl 3
2. **Ineichen BV et al** 2024 Analysis of animal-to-human translation shows that only 5% of animal-tested therapeutic interventions obtain regulatory approval for human applications. *PLOS Biology*, 22 (6): e3002667 DOI: [10.1371/journal.pbio.3002667](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002667)



Optimising environmental enrichment for laboratory fish

One of the projects supported in 2023 was an investigation into “what fish want”, carried out by Dr Andrew Vowles from the University of Southampton, UK. To improve laboratory fish welfare, we must move past the assumption that “putting things in tanks” has some general value.

Rather than haphazardly provide environmental enrichment (EE), we need to understand what fish want and how their EE preference influences their welfare. This is important because millions of fish are used annually in behavioural research that is expected to be reliable and assumes animals are exhibiting realistic responses.

This project investigated the interplay between preferred EE, welfare, and behaviour of laboratory trout, providing evidence to improve both welfare and the validity of scientific data.

Understanding the effectiveness of wildlife rehabilitation

Another project, funded by UFAW and conducted by Dr Elizabeth Mullineaux of Secret World Wildlife Rescue in the UK, analysed trends in admissions and outcomes at a British wildlife rehabilitation centre over the past decade (2012–2022). The findings were published this year.

The study examined which animals are most commonly admitted to the rehab centre, the reasons for admission, and the eventual fate of the animals (42.6% of animals were eventually released back into the wild, 19.2% died in captivity, and 37.2% were euthanised). Identifying those animals most likely to survive could enable centres to focus effort and resources on those animals most likely to be successfully rehabilitated.

Mullineaux E, Pawson C 2024 Trends in Admissions and Outcomes at a British Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre over a Ten-Year Period (2012–2022). *Animals* 14(1), 6. doi.org/10.3390/ani14010086

Garden Wildlife Health Project

Garden Wildlife Health (GWH) is a citizen science project coordinated by the Zoological Society of London with partners including the British Trust for Ornithology, Froglife, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The project relies on public contributions to monitor and understand diseases affecting British wildlife, with the goal of informing actions to protect wildlife health, welfare, and conservation. GWH also provides guidance to safeguard public health, educates participants, and fosters a connection with nature.

From 2020 to 2023 UFAW pledged £5,000 annually to support GWH, specifically contributing to the salaries of a project technician and veterinarian in the third year. UFAW's support is acknowledged in GWH publications, conference presentations, and online resources.

Over the past year (June 2023 to May 2024), researchers have continued to scan disease surveillance of wild amphibians, reptiles, garden birds and hedgehogs across Great Britain. GWH received 4,058 disease reports concerning wild amphibians, reptiles, garden birds, and hedgehogs across Great Britain.

www.gardenwildlifehealth.org



Events

UFAW events provide an essential platform for sharing the latest advancements in animal welfare science while fostering networking and collaboration.

UFAW International Animal Welfare Conference – Porto, Portugal

In July, we held the 2024 UFAW International Animal Welfare Conference in Porto, Portugal. The conference showcased a diverse array of presentations and posters highlighting the latest advancements in animal welfare science.

The talks covered a wide range of topics, addressing the welfare of wild, laboratory, farmed, and captive wild animals. Approaches to understanding and improving animal welfare were equally varied, encompassing cutting-edge technology, social science, and legal frameworks, among others.

Participants were from 35 countries including: Vietnam, Rwanda, Egypt, Somalia, Maldives, Hungary, Bangladesh, Ghana, Kazakhstan, China, Pakistan, Nigeria, Romania, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, and the UAE.

In addition to the submitted talks, we featured three invited keynote speakers: Clare Palmer delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the ethics of wild animal welfare, while UFAW award winners Bob Elwood and Vikki Neville shared their remarkable work.

We also hosted a valuable workshop for early-career researchers focusing on applying scientific skills outside of academia. Attendees engaged with panellists, including UFAW CEO Huw Golledge, about transitioning to careers where their animal welfare research skills can be utilised. The workshop was well received, and we plan to organise more events like this in the future.

Plans for upcoming meetings are already in progress, with an online event scheduled for summer 2025, followed by an in-person event in 2026, our centenary year.

Many thanks to Paulo Vaz-Pires Institute of Biomedical Sciences Abel Salazar (ICBAS), University of Porto and Anna Olsson i3S, University of Porto and to ICBAS for hosting the meeting.

A special thank you to our conference assistants Marisa Esteves Monteiro (ICBAS) and Ana Jacira Madureira Carvalho (ICBAS) for their support.



150
in-person participants
from 23 countries



109
online participants
from 12 countries



3
keynote speakers



39
talks



68
poster presentations



You can watch the recordings of many of our meetings at ufaw.org.uk/recordings

Other events

Animal Law and Policy Update, October 2023

In collaboration with the UK Centre for Animal Law, we assisted in hosting a one-day online conference which reviewed recent legal and policy developments in the UK, and also looked at these in Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and North America.

The event addressed legislative and policy issues across a variety of species, including topical issues such as breeding extreme conformations and fertility clinics for dogs. A total of 120 delegates registered for the event.

30th RSPCA/UFAW/ IAT Rodent Welfare Group Meeting, October 2023

In conjunction with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), we hosted this in-person event that brought together more than 50 delegates involved with the housing, husbandry and care of laboratory rodents.



The meeting provided a unique opportunity to reflect on the advancements in the welfare of rodents used in research over the past three decades. It also enabled delegates to explore the areas where further improvements are needed. The meeting featured five poster presentations and 11 talks.

4th FSVO/UFAW Symposium – Humanely Ending the Life of Animals, March 2024

UFAW collaborated with the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) to organise a two-day meeting on Humanely Ending the Life of Animals. Held in Bern, Switzerland, and online, the meeting brought together researchers from around the world to discuss the latest developments in killing animals humanely in a range of scenarios.

Topics covered included humane slaughter of livestock; control of 'pests' or invasive species; humane killing of laboratory animals at the end of their use in research; and depopulation of animals in emergency situations. These talks showcased recent research which could lead to significant improvements in animal welfare at the time of killing for animals including farmed livestock, laboratory rodents, as well as aquatic species including decapod crustaceans and fish.



92
in-person participants



3
keynote speakers



350
online participants



24
presentations

Disseminating this kind of cutting-edge animal welfare science is central to UFAW's mission to ensure that animal welfare science is translated into meaningful improvements in animal welfare. Further meetings in this ongoing collaboration with the FSVO are planned in the upcoming years.



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

Join us after our 2024 AGM for an update on our work

The 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Society in London on 13 November (18.00 – 18.30). Following the AGM (18.30 – 21.00), there will be a chance to hear updates on progress at UFAW from our CEO, and talks from two UFAW-funded researchers, followed by drinks and canapés:

Professor Daniel Mills (Lincoln University)

Understanding why companion animal welfare campaigns may fail: The paradoxical effect of scientific information on carers

Dr Vikki Neville (Bristol University)

An evidence-based approach to refining laboratory rat housing and husbandry

The meeting will be held jointly with our sister charity the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA), so you can also hear updates on HSA-funded research.

UFAW members can register to attend the event in person (subject to venue capacity) by sending an RSVP to rsvp@ufaw.org.uk (please let us know if you have any dietary or access requirements). It will also be possible to join the meeting remotely. We will circulate details to members and newsletter subscribers nearer the date.

Awards

Our award schemes acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of animal welfare science through high quality science. We were honoured to present the 2024 UFAW Awards to our deserving recipients at the conference in Porto. The awardees had the opportunity to highlight their work through engaging presentations during the event.



UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science 2024

Professor Robert Elwood



The UFAW Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Welfare Science recognises the exceptional achievements of an individual scientist who has made fundamental contributions to the advancement of animal welfare over a number of years. The 2024 winner of the UFAW Medal was Professor Emeritus Robert (Bob) Elwood of Queen's University Belfast, UK.

Bob was nominated for the award in recognition of his pioneering work on the experience of pain in decapod crustaceans which has not only expanded our knowledge about invertebrate welfare, but has been instrumental in influencing policy, resulting in decapod crustaceans being included in the UK's Animal Sentience Act.

The impact of his work, and benefit to the welfare of animals, extends internationally, with his research informing legislation and policy in both Switzerland and Australia. Bob has authored an extensive list of over 200 publications including a chapter on the welfare of decapods used in research in the newly published 9th edition of UFAW's **Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals**.

His contributions to the area of animal welfare also include supervising 39 PhD students to completion and establishing an MSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare at Queen's University Belfast. He has also been active in running major international societies including the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour.

UFAW Early Career Animal Welfare Researcher of the year 2024

Dr Vikki Neville



The UFAW Early Career Animal Welfare Researcher of the Year Award recognises the achievements of early career scientists who have made significant contributions to improving the welfare of animals. The recipient of the UFAW Early Career Researcher of the Year Award 2024 has been named as Dr Vikki Neville.

Vikki is the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) Discovery Fellow and Proleptic Lecturer at Bristol Veterinary School. She was nominated for the award to recognise her academic excellence, drive and leadership in improving the welfare of laboratory animals.

Vikki advances welfare science with her innovative approaches to key welfare questions. While her research interests are diverse, she primarily focuses on using high quality fundamental science studies to better understand animal emotion and welfare. Her studies span various species, including starlings, rabbits, and rats. Vikki's passion for welfare science is also reflected in her commitment to mentoring colleagues and students in applying quantitative methods to animal welfare issues.

You can read more about both Bob and Vikki's contributions to animal welfare science at: ufaw.org.uk/winners2024

UFAW LINKs Scheme



Our LINKs Scheme is an international outreach initiative designed to foster engagement with animal welfare science across a global network of universities and colleges. By building capacity and sparking interest in animal welfare science, the scheme aims to advance both knowledge and practice in this important field.

Our LINKs network now includes:

 **157** universities

 across **50** countries

In 2023-24, we welcomed 14 new LINKs at institutions around the world including:

- **University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh**
Dr Jashim Uddin
- **South China Agricultural University, China**
Dr Lingna Zhang
- **University of Nairobi, Kenya**
Dr Peter Kimeli
- **S.Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical Research University, Kazakhstan**
Professor Altay Ussenbayev
- **Antonio Nariño University, Columbia**
Jhon Buenhombre
- **Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia**
Dr Syamira Syazuana binti Zaini

The scheme ensures that students and staff at participating institutions remain well-informed about UFAW's ongoing activities, grants, awards and other opportunities. Moreover, the scheme provides support for activities and events organised by the LINK Institutions themselves.



This year, we supported a range of activities at LINK institutions including:

- **Makerere University, Uganda**
LINK: Dr Sylvia Nalubwama, Student led Animal Welfare Club
- **Ekiti State Polytechnic**
LINK: Dr Femi Oyeniya, Student visit to zoo and farm
- **Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Vietnam**
LINK: Dr Han Quang Hahn, Student Pig Welfare Assessment Contest



Animal Welfare Student Scholars 2023-24



Through the Animal Welfare Student Scholarship scheme, UFAW encourages university students to deepen their understanding of animal welfare science by undertaking a short research project. This initiative aligns with our mission to uncover what matters to animals and develop scientific solutions to welfare challenges, while also fostering global interest in the field.

Since its launch in 1983, the scheme has supported nearly 500 students, many of whom have become influential animal welfare scientists and advocates. Over the past decade, we have expanded our reach internationally, benefiting students from countries such as Canada, Nigeria, Kenya, Spain, Austria, Brazil, North Macedonia, Uruguay, Austria, Italy, the USA, and more. We are therefore delighted to announce that we are supporting a further eight Scholars in 2024:



Collins Kipkoech
Egerton University, Kenya

Determination of the prevalence of keel bone fractures in chicken reared under different production systems in Njoro subcounty, Nakuru County in Kenya



Jana Kjortosheva
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia

Assessment of the welfare of slaughter livestock during road transportation in North Macedonia, with an emphasis on thermal stress



Kristijan Salamovski
University St Kliment Ohridski Bitola, North Macedonia

Comparative Analysis of Animal Welfare Environment, Legislation and Best Practices: North Macedonia vs European Perspectives



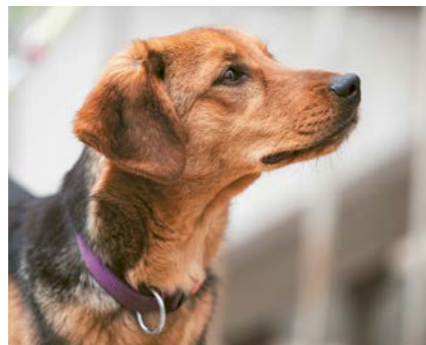
Mauricio Adelino
University of Namibia

Assessing Compliance with Animal Welfare Standards in Namibia (Northern and central regions) Local Abattoirs and Informal Slaughterhouses: A Comprehensive Evaluation



Daniele Alencar
Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Brazil

Effect of environmental enrichment during pregnancy on the welfare and performance of pre-weaning rabbits



Lewis Ashabahebwa
Makerere University, Uganda

The welfare status of dogs at selected animal shelters in Kampala, Mityana and Luweero districts, central Uganda



Megoliki Meng'oru Lengolong
Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

Enhancing Donkey Welfare in Endulen Ward, Ngorongoro District: A Comprehensive Assessment



Kirsten Nutter
University of Lincoln, UK

Exploring Variations in Hair Cortisol Concentrations Among Different Hair Colours in Cats

"I have gained so much from this project. I have learned how to head a research project, including all the organisation and problem-solving that comes with it. Mainly, I feel accomplished in what I discovered, and feel excited to have been able to share it."

Colette Chien, 2023 Scholar

The Farm Animal Welfare Care Trust's UFAW Ruth Harrison Scholarship

This was awarded to Alvaro Arroyave (University of Guelph, Canada) for his project: 'Use of pecking blocks as foraging enrichment for improvement of feather condition in enriched colonies'. This scholarship is awarded to the best project studying the welfare of farmed animals.



UFAW (and HSA) Student Scholarship meeting

Alvaro was presented with the award at the online Student Scholar meeting held in December 2023. This meeting provides the Scholars with an opportunity to present their research to their peers, gaining valuable experience in effectively communicating their research.

Some thoughts from one of the Scholars following the presentation of their research at the meeting: "The Student Scholars meeting was a very supportive environment, and I felt like I was well supported in my first research presentation outside of a university environment. Creating a presentation of my research helped me understand how to best communicate scientific findings in a clear way while still conveying all the necessary information. It was also great to see what the other scholars had been doing; there was such a big range of topics!" 2023 Scholar.

Mentoring Partnership

The UFAW Mentoring Partnership pairs students with more experienced mentors, who guide and support the student in the early stages of project planning.

The partnerships are beneficial for both the student and the mentor; the student learns from a more experienced researcher, ensuring their research project has a solid scientific foundation, whilst the mentor can develop their mentoring skills and forge international connections. During 2023-24, we set up two new mentoring partnerships:

Amanda Yonica, Veterinarian, Indonesia (Student), and Jennifer Heinsius, University of British Columbia, Canada (Mentor).

Emmanuel Ismaila, Federal University of Agriculture, Nigeria (Student), and Ana Rentsch, University of Guelph, Canada (Mentor).

ufaw.org.uk/mentor



Providing expert advice



UFAW provides expert advice on the welfare of both domestic and wild animals and is frequently consulted on draft legislation, guidelines, and codes of practice. Our expertise is sought by government departments, universities, NGOs, and other organisations.



UFAW's insights shape policies and practices, enabling us to influence decision-makers and drive global improvements in animal welfare. With a pragmatic, evidence-based approach, we ensure our recommendations always prioritise animal welfare.

Over the past year, we have actively participated in nine consultations on diverse animal welfare issues, including:

1 Scottish Government (UK) consultation — Licensing of activities involving animals.

2 Scottish Government (UK) consultation — Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill: use of snares and powers of Scottish SPCA inspectors.

3 Welsh Government (UK) consultation on the use of glue traps. (The Agriculture (Wales) Bill).

4 Scottish Government (UK) consultation on Deer Management in Scotland.

5 Welsh Government (UK) consultation — Licensing of Animal Welfare Establishments, Activities and Exhibits: Consultation on the development of a National Model for the regulation of animal welfare.

6 Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra – UK Government) Animal Welfare Committee's consultation — Call for information on the welfare implications of breeding and breeding technologies in commercial livestock agriculture.

7 Defra (UK Government) consultation — Bovine TB: Consultation on proposals to evolve badger control policy and introduce additional cattle measures.

8 Guidance for policy makers from the Animal Sentience Committee (UK).

9 Defra (UK Government) consultation — Fairer Food Labelling.

Glue traps banned in England and Wales: A positive step, but humane rodent control challenges remain

UFAW has long been committed to protecting the welfare of so-called “pest” animals, especially when lethal methods are used to control them. As such, we are delighted to see that one of the least humane methods for controlling rodents, glue traps, is now banned in England as the **Glue Traps (Offences) Act** came into force on 31 July 2024. It is now illegal to set, or allow to be set, a glue trap, unless it is deployed by a licensed pest control professional who has obtained a license to use the trap for a specific reason. Glue traps are also now banned or restricted by legislation in Wales and Scotland.

Research funded by UFAW and the Animal Welfare Foundation (Baker *et al* 2022) found glue traps to be one of the least humane methods for controlling rodents, causing extreme and prolonged suffering to rats and non-target species like birds.

However, the ban on glue traps does not mean that the welfare of rodents is protected. In England and Scotland, derogations may still allow licensed pest controllers to use glue boards in “exceptional” circumstances, but their use must be minimised and strictly monitored. The ban in Wales is more comprehensive, and it remains to be seen if, as the pest control industry argues, such complete bans will lead to uncontrollable rodent infestations. Notably, the Act doesn't prohibit the sale of glue traps to the public, which we believe should be the case to ensure these inhumane traps cannot be used despite the ban.

Alternative methods also present welfare issues: anticoagulant poisons cause slow, painful deaths, and snap traps can be harmful if not properly used. Even “humane” traps, which capture rodents unharmed, allowing them to be released, may lead to starvation, predation, or conflicts when rodents are released into unfamiliar areas. If they are released close to the capture site, they are likely to simply return to the original site.

UFAW has extensive **guidance** on the control of rodents, which we would urge both those with a rodent problem, and others, to read. By far the best way to control rodent problems is prevention — denying rodents access to property and removing sources of food. The best time to take action is before a problem develops.

ufaw.org.uk/rodent-control

Reference:

Baker SE *et al* 2022 An assessment of animal welfare impacts in wild Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) management. *Animal Welfare* 31: 51-68. DOI: 10.7120/09627286.31.1.005



Publications



The dissemination of evidence-based animal welfare information is an important aspect of our work. One of the ways in which we do this is through our range of publications, including our scientific journal *Animal Welfare* and the UFAW *Animal Welfare* book series.

UFAW's journal *Animal Welfare*

On 1 January 2023, our scientific journal *Animal Welfare* transitioned to a Gold Open Access (OA) model through a new partnership with Cambridge University Press (CUP). This shift ensures that all content published from that date is freely accessible to everyone, enhancing our mission to disseminate evidence-based animal welfare information as widely as possible.



During 2023-2024, we published:



48
papers published



10
book reviews

Opinion Papers and Horizon Topics

We have introduced Opinion Papers and Horizon Topics to allow authors to share their ideas and constructive critiques of scientific developments, as well as challenging dogmas. A recent, highly-cited example by Hampton *et al* "Rethinking the utility of the Five Domains model" critiques some of the ways a frequently used model of animal welfare has been used to assess and compare the severity of animal welfare issues.

The following articles are among the most cited in the last 12 months:

- **Rethinking the utility of the Five Domains model** Jordan Hampton *et al.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2023.84>
- **How equestrians conceptualise horse welfare: Does it facilitate or hinder change?** Karen Luke *et al.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2023.79>
- **Why are some people in the UK reluctant to seek support for their pets?** Janine Muldoon and Joanne Williams. <https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2024.19>
- **A systematic approach to defining and verifying descriptors used in the Qualitative Behavioural Assessment of sows** Sarah Ibach *et al.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2024.6>

First Collection of papers on Wild Animal Welfare published

We have introduced Collections of papers that cover a specific subject. Articles can be added as and when they are published, ensuring it is always current.

Our first Collection on Wild Animal Welfare currently contains 31 articles and can be accessed at: tinyurl.com/4rwhfkfh

Journal Editorial Board

The journal is managed by UFAW staff, including a full-time Managing Editor and a part-time Editorial Assistant. The Chief Executive and Research Director serve as joint Editors-in-Chief, while an international volunteer Editorial Board of 19 Section Editors oversees the peer review process.

We extend our gratitude to the Section Editors for generously donating their time and expertise to support the peer review process. We also appreciate the many anonymous reviewers who ensure each paper undergoes rigorous scientific evaluation before publication.

In 2023-24, five new Section Editors joined the Editorial Board:



Dr Lee Niel
University of Guelph, Canada



Dr Tamara Tadich Gallo
Austral University of Chile, Chile



Dr Christopher Noble
Nofima, Norway



Dr Mona Giersberg
Utrecht University, Netherlands



Dr Jordan Hampton
Murdoch University, Australia

In addition, Professor Melissa Bateson (Newcastle University, UK), serves as an advisor for other Section Editors on statistics and experimental planning.



One of the key features that sets *Animal Welfare* apart from other journals is that the entire editorial process is managed by subject matter experts who guide accepted papers through to publication. Managing Editor Steve Weddell is a veterinary surgeon who has almost two decades' experience of helping authors publish the latest animal welfare science in our Journal.

Journal author feedback for Managing Editor, Steve Weddell:

"Steve was so helpful to me during the final stages of the publication process – as well as being very helpful, all his communications were very polite and kind – he did a great job of putting me at ease as a less experienced author."

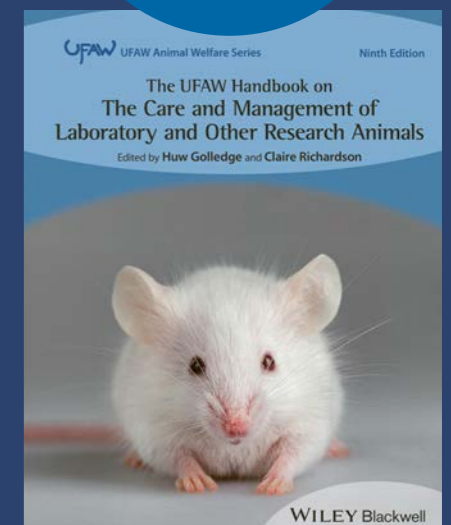
Adrian Colloff, Veterinary Surgeon,
Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)

UFAW Animal Welfare Book Series

Three books were published in 2023-24 as part of the UFAW Animal Welfare book series:

- **Wildlife Ethics: The Ethics of Wildlife Management and Conservation.** Clare Palmer, Bob Fischer, Christian Gamborg, Jordan Hampton and Peter Sandoe. (Published August 2023).
- **Understanding Animal Welfare: The Science in its Cultural Context, 2nd Edition.** David Fraser. (Published October 2023).
- **The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals, 9th Edition.** Edited by Huw Golledge and Claire Richardson. (Published April 2024). This is the 9th edition of the handbook which has been published by UFAW since 1947. With 51 chapters on the health and welfare of a range of vertebrates, decapod crustaceans and cephalopods used in laboratory and research environment. Includes new chapters on naked mole rats, corvids, zebrafish, as well as ethical review and the care of aged animals.
- **Assessing Animal Welfare: A Guide to the Valid Use of Indicators of Affective State.** Edited by Georgia Mason, Birte Nielsen and Mike Mendl. (Scheduled for Spring 2025)

UFAW members can take advantage of a 35% discount on all books in the series. ufaw.org.uk/books



Appeals and legacies

Spring Appeal update

In Spring 2024, we wrote to tell you about a very special study we had funded which addressed the complex issues surrounding the rise of genetic diseases in flat-faced (brachycephalic) animal breeds, particularly focusing on understanding why animal welfare campaigns in this specific area may fail. Thanks to the generosity of our donors we can use the findings from this study and others to lay the foundation for more effective educational materials and campaigning.

Our webpages and resources in companion animal welfare are regularly updated to include the latest in scientific information for pet owners and breeders, driving science-based change in animal welfare.



If, like us, you support science in the service of animal welfare, please consider donating at ufaw.org.uk/donate to keep this vital work going.



Autumn Appeal

At UFAW, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of animal welfare scientists. Our Mentoring Partnership connects students with experienced scientists, guiding them as they embark on their research journeys.

Launched in 2020, this initiative has already matched 15 mentees with mentors worldwide. Due to its success, we are eager to expand the program and reach even more deserving students, building a global community of passionate animal welfare scientists. For this reason, we chose this as the focus for our Autumn Appeal in 2023.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to connect **TWO MORE MENTEES** with mentors this year.



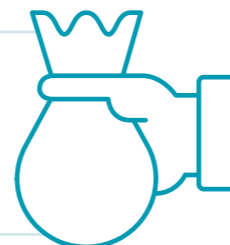
Other donations:

We received £16,327 in general donations, including a generous contribution from the Herts & Beds Vets Association.

Legacy giving: your gift for generations to come

By leaving a legacy gift to UFAW, you can help shape the future of animal welfare science and inspire generations. Your legacy gift will support innovative research, education and outreach programmes, improving animal welfare standards globally.

This year UFAW received **£209,439** in legacy gifts



A special thank you

We are deeply grateful to Rosamond Pratt, Margaret Dakes, Thomas Clamp, John Graham, and Brian Lawrence for their generous legacy gifts, which will have a lasting impact on our work. On behalf of all of us at UFAW, we would like to offer our deepest condolences to all who have lost loved ones in the past year.

Transforming animal welfare worldwide

There are many ways to support UFAW's transformative work. By making a donation, leaving a legacy or joining us as a member, you are supporting innovative research, impactful education, and vital advocacy. To contribute, visit ufaw.org.uk/support



Administration and finance

Annual General Meeting 2023

The AGM was held at the offices of Mothers Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton St, London SW1P 3RB on 15 November 2023. As in previous years this was held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting of the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA). The members of UFAW Council also act as Trustees for the HSA. Joint meetings are held to save time and money.

The notice convening the meeting had been sent to all members and was taken as read. The minutes of the AGM of 2022 were agreed and resolved to receive the Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 March 2023. Questions on the Report of the year's work were answered by the officials present and the meeting resolved that the Report and Accounts be received.

It was resolved that Hillier Hopkins LLP, Registered Auditors, be appointed as auditors to UFAW and its associated Trusts and their remuneration should be fixed by Council.

Jane Downes, Dr Anna Olsson and Dr David Sargan, stood down under the rules regarding rotation, and offered themselves for re-election, and were re-elected.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare will be held at 6.00pm on 13 November 2024 at the Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG. The formal notice and agenda have been sent to all members and are available from the Secretary at the registered office.

Finance and Accounts

The following summarised accounts have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006, which were approved by the Directors/Council and signed on its behalf on 20 September 2024.

The full accounts have been audited and the auditors' opinion was without qualification. The accounts will be filed with the Companies Registry and the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2024.

Full accounts and the audit report can be obtained from the Charity Secretary, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN.

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Council of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

We have examined the summarised financial statements that comprise the summary statement of financial activities and summary balance sheet.

Respective Responsibilities of the Council and Auditors:

You are responsible as the Council for the preparation of the summarised financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised financial statements' consistency with the financial statements, on which we reported to you on 20 September 2024.

Basis of Opinion:

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion:

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.



Grant Franklin (Senior Statutory Auditor)
20 September 2024
for and on behalf Hillier Hopkins LLP and is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

UFAW Summary of Financial Activity Year Ended 31 March 2024

| | 2023/24 (£) | 2022/23 (£) |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | |
| Voluntary Income | 238,013 | 148,204 |
| Charitable Activities | 96,391 | 80,026 |
| Investment Income | 190,613 | 194,294 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 525,017 | 422,524 |
| Resources Expended | | |
| Costs of Generating Funds | 67,438 | 70,888 |
| Charitable Activities | 591,245 | 567,200 |
| Total Resources Expended | 658,683 | 638,088 |
| Operational (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources for the Year | (133,666) | (215,564) |
| Other Recognised Gains & Losses | | |
| Net Realised Gain/(Losses) on Investments | 287,552 | (345,984) |
| Net Movement of Funds | 153,886 | (561,548) |
| Balance Brought Forward | 8,196,100 | 8,757,648 |
| Net Movement of Funds | 153,886 | (561,548) |
| Balances Carried Forward | 8,349,986 | 8,196,100 |

UFAW Balance Sheet Year Ended 31 March 2024

| | 2023/24 (£) | 2022/23 (£) |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tangible Fixed Assets | 386,759 | 393,886 |
| Investments | 7,611,430 | 7,510,861 |
| | 7,998,189 | 7,904,747 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | 106,031 | 30,683 |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand | 391,541 | 347,430 |
| | 497,572 | 378,113 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Creditors: Amounts Falling Due after More than One Year | (145,775) | (86,760) |
| Net Current Assets | 351,797 | 291,353 |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | 8,349,986 | 8,196,100 |
| Creditors: Amounts Falling Due after More than One Year | - | - |
| Net Assets | 8,349,986 | 8,196,100 |
| Funds | | |
| Unrestricted | 7,697,394 | 7,565,957 |
| Restricted | 652,592 | 630,143 |
| | 8,349,986 | 8,196,100 |

The summarised accounts were approved by Council and signed on their behalf on 20 September 2024



M R Radford OBE LLB
Chairman



C L McCann BSc ACA
Hon Treasurer

The summarised accounts set out here have been extracted from the full accounts and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

Legal and administrative information

Vice-Presidents

Lydia Brown MBE BVSc BA PhD FRSB
MBA FRCVS
Bryan Howard BVMS PhD FRCVS
Andrea Nolan CBE FRSE MRCVS
John Pratt BVM&S DVSM FRCVS
Gillian Sales BSc PhD AKC MRSB DipTCDHE
Alick Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS

Council (who are the Directors of the Limited Company):

Chair

Mike Radford OBE LLB ¹

Deputy-Chair

Emma-Louise Singh MCIOf advDip ²

Honorary Treasurer

Corrie McCann BSc ACA ^{1,3}

Members

Siobhan Abeyesinghe BSc MSc PhD ³
Richard M Bennett BSc MSc PhD ¹
Jane Downes BVSc MRCVS
Emily Craven MA VetMB PGCertVPS MRCVS ²
Alison Enticknap PhD ²
Paula Junqueira BSc (Hons), MBA, CFP® ^{1,2}
Dorothy McKeegan BSc MSc PGCAP PhD ³
Anna Olsson MSc PhD ³
David Pritchard BSc BVetMed MPH MRCVS
David R Sargan MA PhD ^{2,3}

1 Member of the Finance Committee

2 Member of the Fundraising Committee

3 Member of the Grant Committee

Staff

We welcomed two new members of staff this year: Eilidh Muir as our Fundraising Manager, and Carly Halliday as our Communications Officer. The delivery of the charity objectives depends on our talented and motivated staff. We are extremely grateful to the staff for continuing to work tirelessly for the charity.

A special thank you

Professor Peter Holmes has retired as a Vice-President. Peter is a former Trustee and Chair of UFAW and was Vice-Principal for Research at the University of Glasgow. We are grateful for Peter's many years of service to UFAW.

Staff

Chief Executive/Scientific Director
Huw Golledge BSc PhD AFHEA

Charity Secretary
Jane Moorman

Research Director
Birte Nielsen BSc MSc PhD

Scientific Officer
Elizabeth Carter BSc MSc

Development Officer
Stephen M Wickens BSc PhD

Managing Editor
Steven Weddell BSc BVSc MRCVS HND

Sub-Editor
Claire Richardson BSc BVM&S CertLAS,
MA (ODE) (Open) PhD FHEA MRCVS

**Scientific Communications
& Outreach Officer**
Luisa Dormer BSc MSc AFHEA DLSHTM

Communications Officer
Carly Halliday BA MSc (from 12.02.2024)

Fundraising Manager
Eilidh Muir BA MCIOf (from 13.11.2023)

Administrative Officer
Samantha Griffin

Finance Assistant
Tina Langford CICM (Grad)

Principal office

The Old School, Brewhouse Hill,
Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire
AL4 8AN, UK
Telephone: +44 (0)1582 831818
Website: www.ufaw.org.uk
E-mail: ufaw@ufaw.org.uk

Independent auditors

Hillier Hopkins LLP, Chartered
Accountants, Registered Auditor,
249 Silbury Boulevard Milton Keynes
MK9 1NA, UK

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 31 Chequer Street,
St Albans, Herts AL1 4YN, UK

Barclays Bank plc, The Howard Centre,
Welwyn Garden City, Herts, UK

Santander UK plc, Bridle Road,
Bootle L30 4GB, UK

Solicitors

Withers LLP, 16 Old Bailey,
London EC4M 7EG, UK

Investment advisors

Evelyn Partners, 45 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7BG, UK

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

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