

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

Science in the service of animal welfare

Spring 2018



UFAW MAKES AWARD TO ADVANCE THE 3RS

UFAW's 2017 Autumn Appeal was for funds towards a grant award of up to £20,000 for innovative research or other proposals to Replace, Reduce, or Refine the use of animals in scientific research or testing. We are extremely grateful to everyone who supported the appeal. The funds have been used to help support a new UFAW 3Rs Award on laboratory primates - their welfare and indicators of poor welfare. This project has also been funded by UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group.

The award was made to Professor Georgia Mason of the University of Guelph. The grant will be used to support the final phase of the three year project and will enable travel to a primate centre in the USA and collection of live CCTV and life history data from the primates there. UFAW's Chief Executive and Scientific Director Dr Robert Hubrecht said: "This project addresses an important welfare issue. Primates used in fundamental research are often subjected to reuse or to multiple procedures. To help evaluate the ethics of proposed research and identify areas that need refinement, it is important to establish how a series of events, both positive and negative, might contribute to the animals' lifetime experience. ■



Credit: Understanding Animals in Research

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



Welcome to the Spring 2018 newsletter, bringing you up-to-date with how your support has enabled UFAW to continue its work using science in the service of animal welfare.

The boiling alive of crabs and lobsters has been in the news recently, with campaigners asking for decapod crustaceans, such as crabs, lobsters, prawns and crayfish, to be classified as "animals" under the Animal Welfare Bill and in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Since they are currently outside this classification, there is no legal requirement for food processors, supermarkets or restaurants to consider their welfare during storage, handling or killing. UFAW responded to a recent consultation from Defra and you can read more about UFAW's work on this on page 3.

The charity continues to promote the 3Rs, Replacement, Reduction and Refinement in the use of animals in scientific research or testing. Thanks to funding from the UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group and donations from our Autumn Appeal, we were able to make an award to Professor Georgia Mason of the University of Guelph to support her three year project. We have also updated the UFAW website with information about all the research projects undertaken by the UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group.

The work highlighted in this newsletter is only possible due to your generosity and kindness in continuing to support UFAW and its work – and your support has never been so important.

Enjoy the read.

Professor Andrea Nolan OBE
Chair

Support for Garden Wildlife Health project

UFAW has agreed to provide £15,000 over three years, continuing its support of the Garden Wildlife Health project (GWH). The GWH was set up to monitor health and identify disease threats to British wildlife with a particular focus on garden birds, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs. Some of these threats are influenced or caused by human activity and have serious consequences for wild populations and individual animals' welfare. Early detection and understanding of causes of such threats can be vital to develop best practices and to inform scientific communities or government so that appropriate remedial actions can be taken.

Many of the GWH's projects use data provided by the public – so-called citizen science. UFAW has been a long-term supporter of GWH, recently helping fund the development of an online mapping and reporting system to help record and display the results of reports provided by the public.



Further information about the GWH activities can be found at www.gardenwildlifehealth.org.



UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group

It was whilst working for UFAW in the 1950s that UFAW scholars William Russell and Rex Burch developed the concept of the 3Rs – Replacement, Reduction and Refinement and these principles are now broadly accepted as the ethical framework under which research on animals should be conducted.

The UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group, founded in 1998, funded post-graduate animal welfare research by seven young scientists,

all of whom achieved their doctorates, and the publication of 27 papers improving our knowledge of animal welfare. The UFAW website has recently been updated with information about all these research projects.

The Liaison Group is no longer active but the remaining funds have been used to fund Professor Mason's project on the welfare of primates (see page 1).



Credit: Michael Beale



Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science VI – Centre for Life, Newcastle 28th June 2018

Plans are now well advanced for UFAW's biennial one-day Recent Advances in Animal Welfare conference. Further details, including how to register, can be found on the UFAW website. Registration cost, including lunch and refreshments, is £60.

19th UFAW animal welfare student scholarship meeting, University of Reading

Each year UFAW holds a meeting at which UFAW animal welfare student scholars speak about their research. The quality of student presentations has often been very high, and this year proved no exception with scholars delivering some excellent talks. At this meeting, the first Ruth Harrison Student Scholarship, given in her memory by the Farm Animal Care Trust (FACT) was awarded to Eva Read of the University of Plymouth. Eva was presented by UFAW's Chief Executive Dr Robert Hubrecht, with a copy of Ruth Harrison's seminal work *Animal Machines* for her study on *Quantifying the extent of hunger in dry sows*.



Credit: Eva Read



For more information on the meeting, please see the website www.ufaw.org.uk/awss2017

Educational materials to East Africa

UFAW members John and Margaret Cooper travelled to East Africa (Rwanda and Kenya) as part of their teaching work. On their travels, they took educational resources from both UFAW and its sister charity, the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) for dissemination to students at the various veterinary schools and universities they visited.

John and Margaret very kindly presented, on UFAW's behalf, copies of *Environmental Enrichment for Captive Animals* to Dr Hastings Ozwara, Director of the Institute of Primate Research in Kenya as an animal welfare resource for staff caring for captive animals at the institute.

An important aspect of UFAW's work is to disseminate information about animal welfare. One important educational resource is the UFAW-Wiley book series on animal welfare. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, UFAW has supplied educational materials to the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and the department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Chittagong University, Bangladesh.

Should crabs and lobsters be given the benefit of the doubt and included in animal welfare legislation?

UFAW responded to a recent consultation from Defra on the Draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill 2017, arguing that the animal groups protected by the legislation should be explicitly defined and should include not only vertebrates but also cephalopods (these are protected by some existing European animal welfare legislation).

UFAW also pointed out that there is a growing body of evidence for sentience in decapod crustacea (crabs and lobsters), which approaches that for other protected species. It follows that, while we cannot be absolutely certain, there is a case to give decapod crustacea the benefit of the doubt and include them in the definition, or to make provision to protect additional taxa as our knowledge develops.



Credit: Jade Spence

Since the start of the academic year, new UFAW LINKs have been established at the University of Portsmouth, UK, the University of Pretoria, South Africa, McGill University, Canada, the University of Bonn, Germany and the University of Teramo, Italy, bringing the number up to 100.

Some recent case studies include:

Assessing the risks to welfare of laying hens in an innovative new farming system

Thanks to support of the UFAW LINKs scheme, students studying for a Master's in Ethology and Welfare at Utrecht University were able to visit "Kipster" a new type of poultry farm system, which promotes itself as 'the most animal-friendly and environmentally-friendly poultry farm in the world'. Located in Venray, in the Netherlands, the farm has taken up the challenge of tackling several animal welfare concerns faced by farmers in the laying hen sector, such as the killing of male chicks, access to outdoor space, structural enrichment, sustainable feed production and air pollution. ■



Credit: UFAW



Credit: Kipster

Mini-symposium on Animal Welfare in Africa, University of Queensland

The Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics of the University of Queensland Veterinary School, with support from the UFAW LINK scheme, organised a mini-symposium on Animal Welfare in Africa. This raised awareness of a set of animal welfare concerns that was for the most part unique to Africa, but also had many lessons for those concerned with animal welfare in Australia.

Keynote speaker, Professor Peter Thornber opened the meeting by talking on the social issues facing livestock keepers in Africa, emphasising the close connection between human and animal welfare. He outlined the growing trade in donkeys with China, which are used to produce a gelatine-based so-called 'aphrodisiac' Ejiao, for the Chinese medicine market. Some 14 countries in Africa have now banned the export of donkey skins and live donkeys.

Other talks included presentations on animal welfare challenges in Kenya and the welfare impacts of rhino horn farming, when compared with the usual poaching of the horn and a talk on the welfare of laboratory animals in Africa given by Dr Amira Goma from Alexandria University, Egypt. ■

Supporting the Newcastle University student animal science conference

Each year, students undertaking the BSc in Animal Science and the BSc in Agriculture at Newcastle University are tasked with organising a conference on animal science. This year the theme was *Animal welfare vs human needs: Is there a compromise?* and UFAW has provided support for this meeting

The 3rd year students were asked to research and present talks on four topics – current issues in companion animals, positive and negative examples of wildlife conservation, welfare practises and issues relating to the cattle slaughter and animal testing – identifying and exploring welfare concerns in each. These talks were supported by related presentations from guest speakers. In addition, other students each produced a poster that summarised the findings of recent individual research papers from the scientific literature that they found of personal interest and answer any questions from the delegates. ■

UFAW reaches its 100th LINK

In recent years, UFAW has increased its activities supporting and promoting the advancement of animal welfare science and animal welfare around the world working as the International Animal Welfare Science Society. A vital part of its global outreach programme is the LINKs Scheme, which enables UFAW to support and promote the advancement of animal welfare and animal welfare science around the world, helping the charity to build capacity and share knowledge and best practice.

Through the LINKs, UFAW promotes its work and grant opportunities and encourages welfare linked educational and other activities for the students and staff at academic institutes around the world. Thank you to those members and supporters who donated to last year's Spring Appeal to help the charity build more international LINKs - with the acceptance of a LINK at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Teramo, Italy, UFAW is pleased to announce it has now established LINKs at 100 Universities.

Looking ahead, UFAW aims to further develop its efforts to build capacity in animal welfare science worldwide. ■

IN BRIEF

Former Chairman Rodger Dalton

The charity has been informed that former UFAW Chairman Rodger Dalton BVMS PhD FRCVS passed away last year. Dr Dalton chaired Council between 1981-1982, and we are very grateful for his support of UFAW. ■

Website work

UFAW has continued to expand the *Why UFAW's work is so important* section of the website which now also includes a section on wild animal welfare. The new web content considers how wild animals are impacted by human activity and looks in more detail at four particular areas – garden bird health, wild animal control, tourism and monitoring wildlife populations. Examples are given of how UFAW has worked towards improving the welfare of wild animals. Sections on zoo and companion animal welfare are still under construction. ■

Notification for election to Council at the 2018 AGM

In accordance with Article 46 of the Constitution, members' nominations for election to Council at the 2018 AGM must reach the UFAW office between 13th August and 7th September 2018. Further information is available from the UFAW Secretary. ■

2018 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the afternoon of 17th October 2018 at the UFAW office (The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts). Full details of the time and business of the meeting will be sent to members in due course. ■

Council changes at 2017 Annual General Meeting

We welcomed Dr Jane Downes to Council following the resignation of Mr Andrew Wilson. Dr David Sargan and Mr Mike Radford were re-elected to Council. ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As we start a new year with all of its possibilities and challenges, UFAW will be commencing its 92nd year of using science in the service of animal welfare. Over the years, the charity has achieved some truly outstanding contributions to improving the welfare of animals worldwide – here's a snapshot from across the decades.

1928

The University of London Animal Welfare Society (as UFAW was originally known) begins a long and eventually successful campaign against the use of the gin trap for the control of rabbit numbers.

1938

The University of London Animal Welfare Society changed its name to the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare – UFAW. The name change better reflected the increasingly wide range of people and institutions that the charity works with and signalled UFAW's approach "to decide what policy will best help animals and then to promote it without any regard to its popularity or unpopularity."

Credit: UFAW



1948

Concerned with the plight of cattle transported from Ireland to Scotland, four UFAW student members travelled with cattle from County Limerick to Forfar (96 hours) and from Ulster to Glasgow, Perth and Arwick. They found cattle coming from County Limerick that were excessively beaten and that better ventilation and greater access to water during transportation was needed. They also recommended improvements in the arrangements for the prevention of casualties in heavy weather. Further studies into the conditions under which livestock were transported into the UK were undertaken and representations made by UFAW to the UK Ministry of Agriculture to push for improvements.

1958

UFAW's chairman Major Hume and Professors Lane-Petter and Worden joined the newly formed Animal Welfare and Husbandry Committee of the Zoological Society of London. The Committee was concerned with, and called for more study of, the psychological needs of animals.

1968

UFAW objected to plans to cull seals on Scroby Sands, as proposed by the Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee to reduce the seal's predation of local fish stocks. UFAW was particularly concerned that no effective census of the seal population had been undertaken to determine whether such a cull was needed, nor of the number that should be culled, and that no mechanisms to monitor and supervise the number culled were in place. UFAW undertook a survey of the Scroby Sands seal population and also became involved in surveys of the status of the endangered Mediterranean monk seal in Sardinia in 1970, contributing practical and financial assistance to work to protect these seals.



Credit: UFAW

1978

The UFAW symposium on The Welfare of the Food Animal was held with the object of assessing developments in the livestock industry and making recommendations for the most practical ways of meeting animal welfare requirements.

1988

UFAW conducted a survey of cages for sale in pet shops and compared the findings against the recommendations of animal

welfare organisations and other bodies. The survey showed that information was sparse about the suitability of cages for different species and about the cages' use, assembly and maintenance. To address these shortcomings, UFAW produced a series of leaflets on the points to look for when choosing a cage.

1998

UFAW awarded the first of its new Animal Welfare Research Training Scholarships. This scheme was established to encourage high quality science likely to lead to substantial advances in animal welfare and applicants were asked to submit applications for projects aimed at achieving significant developments in the assessment of welfare of animals or that offered new approaches to providing insights into the subjective mental experiences of animals relevant to their welfare.

2008

UFAW introduced a Companion Animal Welfare Award to recognise significant advances made in the welfare of companion animals. It was hoped that the new scheme would raise awareness and promote the welfare of pets through recognising and rewarding significant innovations within the companion animal welfare field.

The future - 2018 and beyond

All of the activities undertaken by the charity over the last 90 years have only been possible due to the generosity and kindness of UFAW's members and supporters. From this support has come far-reaching and long-lasting improvements for animals – an inspiring legacy. As a charity, UFAW's work remains dependent on your continued and ongoing support, as well as new members and supporters coming on board to continue the legacy that others have made possible.

UFAW would like to support a more extensive programme of animal welfare research and education, as well as to extend its outreach across the globe. Your continued support will help us in these endeavours. ■

GRANTS AND AWARDS

To advance animal welfare science UFAW provides funding for research projects and other activities aimed at improving or better understanding animal welfare. Over the last twelve months, UFAW has awarded 42 grants to individuals and organisations from across the globe. Some examples of recent projects we have supported include:

Credit: Blue Moon Dog



- A project aimed at understanding whether de-horning dairy cattle causes chronic (long-term) pain. It is common practice to remove the growing horns of dairy calves, and one method used is 'hot-iron disbudding' where the horn buds are cauterized using intense heat. It is now well understood that de-horning cattle causes immediate pain and that analgesia or local anaesthesia should be used, but it is not known whether cattle suffer longer-term pain. Dr Sarah Adcock and colleagues at UC Davis, USA aim to find out if the animals continue to experience pain at the site of horn removal over the weeks following the procedure. If this proves to be the case, recommendations could be made about ways of providing long-term pain relief following disbudding or changes made to dairy farming practice to reduce the painfulness of disbudding or even avoid disbudding entirely.
- A project led by Dr Ana Caterina Viera de Castro at the Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology (IBMC) in Porto, Portugal is examining dog training methods, the welfare of dogs and the quality of the bond between dog and owner. This project will look at whether positive reinforcement training using rewards is better not only, for the dogs' welfare, but also for the bond between dog and owner.



UFAW often provides funds for students or researchers to travel to present their findings at scientific meetings. These can be educational for a student but are also opportunities to disseminate research findings to the animal welfare community and beyond which can result in real-world improvements for animals.

Yu Zhang, a 4th year PhD student at the University of Queensland studying livestock welfare during live export from Australia to the Middle East by sea, was able to attend UFAW's International Symposium last year thanks to a travel grant from UFAW.

She said: "For a young researcher who is planning a future career path in animal welfare, I benefited greatly from the conference and there were many significant highlights of the symposium for me. In particular, through introducing my research to other like-minded colleagues working on different topics in animal welfare, I was exposed to some important suggestions and ideas that I will consider carefully in my future research."

I really appreciate the kind support from UFAW – it is wonderful to have this great chance to listen to the speakers and communicate with them at the symposium."



Credit: C Thomas

UFAW recently supported Dr Rowena Packer of the Royal Veterinary College in London to attend the 3rd International Dog Health Workshop in Paris. Dr Packer is an expert on the welfare consequences of breeding brachycephalic (flat faced) dogs such as pugs and French bulldogs and spoke about her research in this area (some of which was funded by UFAW) at the meeting as well as contributing to the discussions she also co-authored a report on the meeting. ■

Why your support is vital to UFAW's work

Every donation that UFAW receives makes a difference. It is easy when we look back over the charity's activities over many years (see page 6) to see just what donations and legacies have helped the charity to achieve. Whilst we are proud of our past, we are looking to the future. Improving the welfare of the many species of animals with which we interact is a huge challenge and UFAW's scientific approach will help us better understand animals and their needs. If you haven't already done so, please would you consider making a monthly donation? Just £3 a month could help us to provide educational materials to improve animal welfare in developing countries, whilst £10 a month could help us to progress our outreach work to help animals around the world. As a small organisation, a regular source of income allows UFAW to plan ahead, for example by being able to offer more grants, and commit to overseas programmes of work. Over the past twelve months, the charity has been seeking to expand its international reach through animal welfare activities in countries where there are opportunities to improve standards of animal welfare research, education and legislation. Your support has never been so important in ensuring that the work goes on. Thank you. ■



Credit: Understanding Animals in Research

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

With effect from the 25th of May 2018, new legislation will come into force which will replace the Data Protection Act 1998 and give people more control over how their personal data is used. We value everyone who supports the charity and its work and want to be able to stay in touch. Members and regular supporters are not required to do anything unless you do not wish to hear from us – please contact the UFAW office if you'd like further information or assistance. ■



A lasting legacy

Gifts left in wills make up over 50% of our income, so every one is extremely valuable to us. A gift in your will, regardless of size, will ensure that we can continue to make a lasting difference to the welfare of animals – working towards the ideal that animals' lives are not only free from fear, pain and suffering but are as pleasurable as possible, now and in the future.

Gifts left in wills have enabled UFAW to grow from simple beginnings in 1926 to become an organisation that has led the way in using science to bring about lasting change. UFAW has become internationally recognised and is increasingly involved in efforts to support and promote the advancement of animal welfare science around the world. The charity remains true to Charles Hume's vision that "animal problems must be tackled on a scientific basis, with a maximum of sympathy but a minimum of sentimentality". ■



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