



International
Society for
**Applied
Ethology**

Newsletter

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Contents

President's Piece	3
Updates from your ISAE Council	4
Changes to Membership Secretary Position	4
Council Position Vacancies	4
Farewells and Welcome	5
Communications	6
Editors	7
Students	8
Membership	10
Finances	11
2025 Awards	13
Congress News	15
58 th Congress – Utrecht, The Netherlands Report	15
59 th Congress – New Delhi, India	16
Future Congresses – 2027 and beyond	17
Congress Attendance Fund (CAF) and Other Travel Awards	17
EDIA Committee Update	18
Regional News and Development	19
Development	19
Regional Updates	22
Benelux	22
East Asia	23
Oceania	23
South and Central Asia	23
UK and Ireland	30
Employment and Education Opportunities	32
Contact Information	32
Council Members	32
Regional Secretaries and Student Representatives	33

President's Piece

Dear ISAE Members,

At the last AGM, in Utrecht, after two years as Junior Vice President, I became President of the ISAE. We also welcomed Janice Siegford as Senior Vice President and Emma Fàbrega Romans as the new Junior Vice President. We said goodbye to Mark (only from the Council!) and thanked him for six years of tireless work. To remind some of you who may be less familiar with our Council arrangements, these positions last for two years, and we work fairly closely among the three presidents and with the Council.

I welcome our new Council members and Regional Secretaries, and to those who stepped down, thank you! I will take this opportunity to encourage all ISAE members to consider joining the Council. Several positions are renewed periodically, some of which may suit your personality and skills. Many have both Junior and Senior positions, which helps newcomers become familiar with the activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Council you feel comfortable reaching out to, to learn more.

One important development from the last few months has been the launch of membership services through the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). Please visit the ISAE website to learn more.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all participants, speakers, reviewers, and organisers of the 58th ISAE Congress. In addition to an excellent scientific program, the event featured welcoming social activities and family-friendly spaces, reinforcing the community spirit that characterizes ISAE. One important detail: What a delight biking in Utrecht is! A very personal opinion: one of the highlights of the congress was the workshops. These spaces for discussion are proposed and organised by members of the Society and are an excellent part of ISAE congresses, providing a great opportunity for members to discuss topics of mutual interest in a closer setting. Try your ideas for a workshop at the upcoming congresses!

I hope to see many of you at the 59th ISAE Congress, which will be held next August in New Delhi, India, under the coordination of Prof. Vijay Pal Singh. We will soon post details on our website.

I wish everyone happy and relaxing holidays - shorter and colder for some, longer and warmer for others!

Maria José Hötzel / *President of the ISAE (2025-2027)*

Updates from your ISAE Council

Changes to Membership Secretary Position

Following decisions made at the August 2025 Council meeting and subsequent updates to the ISAE Constitution approved at the Annual General Meeting, we are splitting the Membership Secretary position into Junior and Senior Membership Secretary roles. Each will serve a two year term. Similar to our existing Editor and President positions, after serving 2 years as the Junior Membership Secretary, this person will be voted on by members to move into the Senior Membership Secretary position for another two-year term.

Applications for the Junior Membership Secretary position are now open, with the appointment to be voted on by members online in the upcoming election in February/March.

We are also pleased to share that Rosie Whittle has expressed interest in moving from her ad hoc role as Assistant to the Membership Secretary into the Senior Membership Secretary position for a two-year term, which will likewise be voted on by membership online in the upcoming election.

Council Position Vacancies

In 2026, four council positions will be open. Please read the descriptions of the positions below and consider submitting an application.

1. **Junior Membership Secretary.** The Junior Membership Secretary supports the Senior Membership Secretary on all their duties, including managing membership to ISAE, bringing new applications to the council for voting, updating regional managers about new members, maintaining the online membership database, and ensuring members are subscribed to Applied Animal Behaviour Science. The Junior Membership Secretary usually serves a 2-year term. After 2 years, the Junior Membership Secretary will be voted to move up to the role of Senior Membership Secretary for a 2-year term.
2. **Assistant Communications Officer.** The Assistant Communications Officer manages the ISAE social media accounts, summarizes engagement with the social media accounts, and assists the Communications Officer as needed. The Assistant Communications Officer serves a 4-year term.
3. **Ethics Officer.** The Ethics Officer duties include consulting and advising the council during meetings, chairing the Ethics Committee, and reviewing and updating the ISAE Ethical Guidelines as needed. The Ethics Officer serves a 4-year term.
4. **Procedural Advisor.** The Procedural Advisor is responsible for ensuring ISAE meetings and procedural matters (including Constitutional amendments and data protection) are

conducted in accordance with the ISAE Constitution and Guidelines. The Procedural Advisor serves a 4-year term.

If you are interested in serving on the ISAE council, please submit your application materials to Bianca (bianca.vandresen@ubc.ca), including 1) a paragraph outlining your interest in the position and relevant skills, and 2) your 2-page CV to be shared with ISAE Members.

Farewells and Welcome

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our departing Council members for their dedication and contributions to the ISAE.

A special thank-you to Caly O'Malley, who served as Secretary from 2021 to 2025.

Our gratitude also goes to Mark Rutter, who concludes his term as Senior Vice-President (2023-2025), marking the end of a remarkable journey that began years ago when he was first elected Junior Vice-President. And to Kris Descovich, thank you for your service as Senior Editor (2023–2025), following your earlier role as Junior Editor (2021–2023).

We now warmly welcome our new Council members taking over these roles. Bianca Vandresen, Student Representative from 2023-2024, returns to the Council as Secretary, Christian Nawroth rejoins in a new capacity as Junior Editor, and Emma Fabrega has been elected as Junior Vice-President. Please see a message from Emma below:

“I am pleased to be serving as Junior Vice president of the ISAE from August 2025. JVP role is mostly about interacting with the regional secretaries, to help them coordinate regional activities, organizing gatherings at annual congresses, reporting regional activities at Council Meetings, and working with the treasurer to allocate regional funds. I would be really happy to hear from all regional secretaries. Email me at emma.fabrega@irta.cat !

During this last semester, most of the coordinating activities were conducted by our former JVP, Maria José Hötzel, and I got to help in a few regional secretaries renewals. One of the important changes that affect our regional activities is that from last August, the Communication with our members is through the Royal Society of Biology system.

Here you have a summary of the activities going on during this last semester. Go to the regional secretaries reports for further details!” - Emma Fabrega, Junior Vice-President

Bianca Vandresen / Secretary of the ISAE (2025-2029)

Communications

ISAE Resources for Researchers. We would love to see the resources page on our webpage grow – please drop us an email with tools that prove to be helpful to organize your projects, software that you use for data analysis, and Open Science resources that you would like to share.

Applying Ethology Webinars. We are continuing to maintain the *Applying Ethology Webinars* on the **Animal Welfare Slack Workspace**. Since our launch in 2020, more than 80 (most often early career) scientists have shared their research (check out our YouTube channel - link below).



If you would like to give a presentation, please fill out [this form](#). The Animal Welfare Slack Workspace has grown to more than 1000 members! On the workspace you have access to our Applying Ethology Webinars, job postings, recent papers, and methodology questions. The Slack space is open to everyone, regardless of ISAE affiliation. Please email Christian Nawroth to gain admittance (nawroth.christian@gmail.com).

Once you join the **Animal Welfare Slack Workspace**, please join the channels (such as #conference or #jobs) you find interesting.

For your convenience:

- Calendar of upcoming talks: <https://tinyurl.com/applyingethologycalendar>
- Speaker list and instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/applyingethologywebinar>
- YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe6fHV211isHwiSgGV5OLgw>

Share Your News! If you have job or graduate student positions to advertise, conferences/webinars/courses upcoming, ethology news items, survey requests, or open-access papers or books, or temporary free-access author links to share, please send the details to info@applied-ethology.org. Include a photo of your study species or test design for Open Access articles, if possible. We also encourage you to send us short videos, gifs or visual abstracts of your work. If you have an **X** and/or **bluesky** account, include your handle so we can tag you! Please be aware that all news items - including job positions - may have up to a 1-2-week delay in posting to social media so send them well in advance of position close.

Follow Us on Social Media! To get the latest ISAE news, please also follow us on our [X](#), [Bluesky](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts!

We both, Ophélie and Maria, look forward to interacting with you online and hope to someday see you in person again in the future!

Ophélie Menant / Communications Officer of the ISAE (2024-2028)
Maria V. Rørvang / Assistant Communications Officer of the ISAE (2022-2026)

Editors

Welcome and acknowledgements

We are delighted to welcome Dr Christian Nawroth back to the ISAE council in his new role as Junior Editor. Our sincere thanks go to Dr Kris Descovich, who served as ISAE Editor from 2021 to 2025 and made an outstanding contribution to developing the editorial portfolio and mentoring junior council members.

Special issues

Preparations are well underway for the 2025 Applied Animal Behaviour Science Special Issue of the ISAE International Congress, themed “*A Good Life for All Animals.*”. We have already secured an exciting collection of submissions exploring innovative research on providing animals with a good life, and many more are expected to the end of the submission deadline, which has been extended to the 31st of January, 2026.

The Special Issue will reflect the theme of the record-breaking 58th congress of ISAE held in Utrecht, and will showcase a diverse range of species, contexts, and approaches. We warmly welcome the guest editors, Professor Rebecca Nordquist and Professor Ingrid de Jong, and gratefully acknowledge their leadership and commitment.

Special thanks also go to Dr Kris Descovich, outgoing Senior Editor, for keeping the issue on track during the conference and ensuring a smooth transition to the new editorial team. Past ISAE Special Issues are available on the Applied Animal Behaviour Science website ([link](#)), including the recently completed 2024 special issue, *Animals and Society: Striking the right balance through Ethology*. For any queries about the current Special Issue, contact Dr Peta Taylor (peta.taylor@unimelb.edu.au).

ISAE English Proofreading Service

The ISAE offers an English grammar and language editing service to help members prepare manuscripts for *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* and other English-language journals.

If you are an ISAE member interested in serving as a volunteer for this program, contact Dr Christian Nawroth (nawroth.christian@gmail.com). For more information or to request manuscript editing, please see the following [ISAE webpage](#)

Peta Taylor and Christian Nawroth/
Senior and Junior Editors of the ISAE (2023-2025)

Students

Farewell from Mostafa

Being part of the ISAE family over the past two years has been an unforgettable experience. Serving as an ISAE Student Representative has given me the opportunity to connect with passionate students and professionals from all over the world, and to contribute to initiatives that strengthen our global community. I am deeply grateful to the ISAE Council for their constant support and encouragement, and to all the students whose enthusiasm made every event worthwhile.

It has been a real privilege to collaborate with two amazing colleagues, Bianca in my first year and Victor in my second. Your dedication, creativity, and teamwork made every challenge enjoyable and every achievement meaningful. I am confident that Victor will continue to do an excellent job representing students and fostering the connections that make ISAE so special with the new student representative.

Thank you all for making this journey such a rewarding chapter in my life. I look forward to seeing how ISAE continues to grow and inspire future generations of ethologists around the world.



Welcome Emma Roux! ISAE Student Representative 2026-2027

We would like to thank the outstanding candidates who applied to serve as the next Student Representative, as well as to everyone who participated in the voting process.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Emma, who has been elected as the new ISAE Student Representative for the 2026–2027 term! We are confident that Emma will be an exceptional addition to the ISAE Council. Welcome, Emma!

On behalf of all ISAE student members, I would like to sincerely thank Mostafa for his remarkable dedication and contributions during his term as ISAE Student Representative. It has

been a true pleasure working alongside you and witnessing your commitment to supporting students and strengthening our community. Your enthusiasm, creativity, and collaborative spirit have left a lasting impact on the ISAE student community. You have been a great source of guidance and encouragement, always ensuring that every activity was meaningful and inclusive. I am truly grateful for your support and friendship throughout this journey. On behalf of everyone at ISAE, thank you for your hard work and inspiring leadership. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and hope to see you continue to make a difference in the field of applied ethology.

Thank you for your guidance and unwavering support. I look forward to the chance to meet you in India!

58th ISAE Congress

The 58th ISAE Congress in Utrecht, the Netherlands, was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and meet new faces! We were especially delighted to see such strong student participation throughout the planned activities.

The congress kicked off with our Meet and Greet event, where around 80 students received animal cards and were challenged to find their matching “pair” by asking connecting questions. This fun and interactive activity helped students break the ice and spark meaningful conversations.

On the second day, we hosted Eating with Ethologists, giving students the chance to have lunch with scientists they admire and wish to learn from. This year set a record, with 125 scientists volunteering and 90 students matched with 30 scientists! We are deeply grateful to all the scientists who generously shared their time and experiences, making this activity truly inspiring.

To close the student events, we held Table Topics on the fourth day, a series of lunch tables themed around ten different topics in applied ethology and animal welfare. This session provided an excellent platform for attendees to exchange ideas, discuss research, and build new collaborations. This year, we also introduced new themes focused on mental health and career advice, which sparked inspiring and thoughtful discussions between students and professionals alike.

We hope everyone enjoyed their time in Utrecht as much as we did. Thank you for making this year’s congress so memorable and we can’t wait to see you all again next year in India!



Mostafa Farghal and Victor Brusin
Student Representatives of the ISAE (2024-2026; 2025-2027)

Membership

Our new membership system is now in full swing, with the transition so far being a success! Please log into our membership system and check your contact details are up to date. There are also options to include your email, website or LinkedIn URL to help foster communication and collaboration between members.

Please keep an eye on your inboxes in May when our new membership cycle begins.

Here's to another successful year for ISAE with a continued membership growth!

For general membership inquiries, please contact: membership@applied-ethology.org

For technical support for membership applications, please contact: theteam@applied-ethology.org

Abdelkareem Abdallah / *Membership Secretary of the ISAE (2022-2026)*
Rosie Whittle / *Assistant Membership Secretary (2025-2026)*

Finances

Treasurer's End of Year Report

The report contains the end of year summary for the period January 1st to November 10th 2025. The report is in GBP after having reconciled the Euro and USD transactions. The table has adjusted income and expenditure and compares with the annual report for 2024 (January 1st to December 14th).

INCOME: The accounts are healthy. Our income from membership subscriptions is steady (£14,632.82) and expected to increase gradually due to our increased membership fees this year. The main revenue is from Scholarship funds from sponsors (£123,770.21). This includes the second payment of the new Open Philanthropy (OP) grant (2023-2026 – Part 2 £100,306) from Good Ventures to support the DCCAF scholars and other OP activity. Other sponsorship includes the Purina award (£11,296), UFAW award (£4700) and Humane World award (£6162), funding scholarships for attendance and events at the 2025 Congress. The annual congress in Utrecht was a huge success, with 610 registrations, and the organisers have generously agreed to fund attendance for travel scholarship recipients, council members and the Wood-Gush speaker. This income is not apparent in the accounts, because money for these registrations had not yet been transferred to the congress organisers.

EXPENDITURE: The majority of our expenditure (£105,921) has involved various charitable activities including support of 2025 regional meetings (£8122.84) and 2025 OP scholarships (i.e. the DCCAF award). A big change this year has been moving over to Royal Society of Biology to manage our membership services. Accompanying this change is a change from using Opayo for payments, to Stripe, as a condition of working with RSB. This financial report shows the final payments to Intergage for membership services, and ongoing payments for website hosting. The report shows the first payment made for one-off set up fees (total £7000), and there is an annual charge of £5500 for RSB services.

Our bank charges remain high due to international transfer fees; this is minimised wherever possible by using our USD and Euro accounts (Wise and HSBC).

Our 2024 accounts were inspected by our accountants and submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Profit and Loss: International Society for Applied Ethology

Category	Subcategory	2025 (Jan 1st – Nov 10th)	2024 (Jan 1st – Dec 14th)
Scholarship funds from sponsors		123,770.21	154,736
Subscription income		14,623.82	16,720
Interest		1107.62	1702
Other income			28963
TOTAL INCOME		139,501.65	202,202
OP Activities		68,313.78	50,424
Congress attendance		29,484.64	21,363
Regional payments		8122.84	5231
Total charitable activities		105,921.26	81018
GROSS PROFIT		33,580.39	121,184.00
Administrative costs			
Council members' costs	WOAH Attendance	903.08	
Conference management	Ex Ordo	2582.07	11,224
	2026 Conference deposit	5181.62	0
Platform charges: Opayo		480	423
Membership services	Intergage (£1830.58)		
	RSB (£5000)		
		7310.58	6312
Advertising & Marketing	Planable	86.19	0
Bank Fees		2714.13	2552
Unrealised gains		4577.86	2627
Auditing and accountancy		5720.4	2891
Elsevier		44.78	452
Total administrative costs		13,098.58	26,073.78
OPERATING PROFIT		20,481.81	95,110.22

Lucy Oldham/ Treasurer of the ISAE (2025-2029)

2025 Awards

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who submitted nominations for the Creativity Award and the New Investigator Award. Your efforts to recognize outstanding contributions and emerging talent within our community are deeply appreciated. I am also grateful to the members of the Awards Committee, who generously contributed their time and thoughtful evaluations throughout the selection process.

We are always looking for ISAE members to participate on the Awards Committee. If you are interested in joining the 2026 Awards Committee, please contact me at wurtzkai@gmail.com. Committee participation is a wonderful way to support the ISAE and meet other ISAE and council members.

This year, no eligible nominations were received for the Creativity Award.

The New Investigator Award was proudly presented at the 58th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) in Utrecht, The Netherlands. For those who were unable to attend, I am delighted to introduce the 2025 ISAE New Investigator Award recipient:

New Investigator Award



Dr. Benjamin Lecorps

Senior Lecturer, Bristol Veterinary School
University of Bristol

The recipient of the 2025 New Investigator Award was Dr. Benjamin Lecorps. Dr. Lecorps is currently a senior lecturer in Animal Welfare and Ethics and Sustainable Agriculture at

the Bristol Veterinary School. He was nominated by Professor Mike Mendl, with additional support from Dr. Dan Weary and Dr. Marina von Keyserlingk.

Dr. Lecorps' research has been widely recognized for its innovative approaches to understanding animal affective states. His pioneering work includes developing and validating non-invasive methods to assess animal emotions, such as the use of infrared thermography in laboratory animals, the creation of a new probabilistic judgment bias task for dairy calves, and the adaptation of methodologies like anhedonia testing for cattle. These efforts have provided new insights into the emotional consequences of common farm practices such as disbudding and cow–calf separation.

As an innovative and courageous thinker, Dr. Lecorps draws on concepts from human psychology, cognitive science, and behavioral ecology to expand theoretical frameworks in animal welfare science. His proposals that captive environments may induce depressive-like states in animals and his application of Bayesian brain theory to animal affect have been described by peers as a potential “major breakthrough in animal welfare science thinking”.

Beyond research, Dr. Lecorps has demonstrated strong leadership and mentorship throughout his career. He previously served as a student research coordinator at the University of British Columbia and, since joining the University of Bristol, has built a thriving research program, secured funding, and developed new research infrastructure. He is also recognized as an engaging teacher and a dedicated mentor who inspires students to pursue research.

Dr. Lecorps' influence extends well beyond academia. His analyses of animal transport laws have informed policy briefs for UK and EU lawmakers and were even cited in the UK House of Lords. He also plays an active role in embedding animal welfare within sustainability education and chairing a “Sustainability in the Curriculum” group at Bristol.

The ISAE Awards Committee commended Dr. Lecorps as a well-rounded scientist who has already made significant contributions across research, teaching, and knowledge transfer. His innovative thinking, leadership, and dedication to improving animal welfare make him a highly deserving recipient of this year's New Investigator Award.

More information about Dr. Benjamin Lecorps can be found [here](#).

Kaitlin Wurtz / Assistant Secretary of the ISAE (2023-2027)

Congress News

58th Congress – Utrecht, The Netherlands Report

The 58th ISAE Congress took place in the city of Utrecht, Netherlands between the 4th to 8th of August 2025 on the campus of Utrecht University. The congress theme was ‘a good life for all animals,’ and it certainly fulfilled this promise for the attendees! Attendance at the congress was the largest ever with a total of 636 registered attendees from 58 countries. 250 students attended and contributed to the presentation of 300 posters (and fantastic pitches) and 91 oral presentations. The Wood-Gush Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Meghan Barrett of Indiana University who challenged us to broaden our horizons to encompass the welfare of insects that are farmed and used in research. Her fascinating lecture debunked commonly held misconceptions about insects and highlighted their amazing diversity and the role they increasingly play as a high-protein food source for humans as well as other animals. Five other wonderful plenaries covered subjects from global challenges facing animal welfare to sharing data and practicing open science to highlights of animal cognition research kept us stimulated. Ten workshops engaged us as we grappled with whether we could be scientists and activists or how we can engage with artificial intelligence to how we ensure good observer reliability in our work. Excursions allowed us to get up close to everything from a biodynamic and robotic milking farms to the DierenPark Amersfoort zoo and a mammal rescue center or insect and fish breeding facilities. Then, of course, there was the social program—where conference attendees at the Congress dinner exhibited behaviors ranging from competition as they played ‘old fashioned’ games or social bonding as they performed or cheered on others during karaoke. Thank you so much, Bas Rodenburg and Liesbeth Bolhuis, for leading the amazing teams behind the organization of the conference and the scientific program, respectively.





Janice Siegford/ Senior Vice President of the ISAE (2025-2027)

59th Congress – New Delhi, India

The 2026 Congress of the ISAE will be in New Delhi, India from August 10-14, 2026. The congress will be held at Gautam Buddha University and will feature excursions to local wonders such as the Taj Mahal and introduce us to amazing local cuisine, culture, music and dance. Dr. Vijay Pal Singh is head of the organizing committee, and preparations are underway to ensure an exciting array of speakers.

The deadline for abstract submissions will be 15 February 2026 and there are opportunities for oral presentations, poster presentations, plenaries, and workshops. The poster presentations will include short poster pitches again and there will be a longer poster session to interact with all those interested in your poster! Please reach out to Vijay or me (Janice Siegford, SVP) if you have ideas for workshops or would like to assist as an abstract reviewer or session chair. Stay tuned for information through the ISAE 2026 congress website (<https://isae2026delhi.in/index>) where we will share key information and links to registration and abstract submission.

We look forward to seeing you in New Delhi in 2026!

Vijay Pal Singh / Chair of the Organizing Committee

Future Congresses – 2027 and beyond

We are planning to hold the 2027 Congress in Vienna, Austria, and further details will be announced in the closing ceremony of the 2026 congress. We usually alternate between holding ISAE annual congresses in Europe and outside Europe. Following this pattern, we plan to have a congress outside Europe in 2028 and in Europe again in 2029, but we can be flexible if needed. We do not yet have any firm bids to host the international ISAE congresses after 2027, so if you are be interested, please email me, Janice Siegford, the ISAE Senior Vice President (siegford@msu.edu). If you have already contacted me, please try again, as your original email might have been buried in an email avalanche or have gone to my spam folder.

Janice Siegford/ Senior Vice President of the ISAE (2025-2027)

Congress Attendance Fund (CAF) and Other Travel Awards

Last year we tried a different approach to applying for travel awards to attend the ISAE Congress. Rathering than email your applications to the Senior Vice President, there was an online form to complete. This largely worked very well, and we intend to use an online form again this year. The plan is to open the form for applications starting in January 2026 with applications due shortly after the deadline for abstract submission closes. This year you must first submit the abstract you will be presenting (through Ex Ordo) and then include the number of that abstract you are presenting in your travel award application. This will allow us to ensure you have submitted an abstract and that we are evaluating the right one (if you happen to be a co-author on others—remember you can only present ONE abstract). Please visit the ISAE 2026 New Delhi congress website for further details once that is available.

Janice Siegford/ Senior Vice President of the ISAE (2025-2027)

EDIA Committee Update

After working on the creation of application and approval processes behind the inaugural EDIA Award, the Committee were thrilled to see it awarded to Bianca Vandresen at the 58th Congress in Utrecht. A truly deserving candidate, Bianca's commitment to EDIA is deeply embedded in her research and professional service. She is a passionate and empathetic leader who is unafraid to speak up, thoughtfully evaluate complex issues, and take action to improve the status quo. Her work embodies the spirit and mission of the ISAE EDIA Award, and I strongly support her nomination. Congratulations Bianca!

We are grateful to the Society members who volunteered themselves into the Congress Allies role this year. With no issues raised to any Allies, we feel the role continues to be valued and useful to all Congress attendees.

At the Summer Council Meeting this year, it was agreed that the term EDIA committee members would normally serve could be shortened to 4-5 years phased, similar to the approach taken by the ethics committee, due to meeting timings and the number of meetings we have to run to achieve committee outcomes. As a result, the committee invites all Society members with an active interest in positive action to contact the EDIA Chair (Linda Greening linda.greening@hartpury.ac.uk) if they would like to apply to join the committee.

At the time of writing, we are in October, which is a very busy month in terms of awareness raising events. Of particular note are:

- ADHD Awareness month [ADHDAwarenessMonth 2025](#)
- Black History Month (UK) [Black History Month 2025](#)
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month [Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2025 UK | Breast Cancer Now](#)
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month [Down syndrome awareness month | Down Syndrome UK](#)
- World Menopause Day [World Menopause Day 2025 - International Menopause Society](#)
- Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month [October 15th Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month NeverBeStill](#) (along with associated awareness weeks and days inside this month)

In a world that is becoming ever more diverse, perhaps take some time to familiarise yourself with the focus from one of these campaigns that you are less aware of.

Linda Greening / Chair of ISAE EDIA Committee (2021-2027)

Regional News and Development

Development

ISAE - Open Philanthropy Workshops

ISAE East Central/East and South Europe Regional Meeting

The ISAE East Central/East and South Europe Regional Meeting 2025, titled "Bridging Science and Practice: A Workshop on Farm Animal Welfare Assessment", was held from 24 to 26 June 2025 in Sofia and Kostinbrod, Bulgaria. Hosted by the Institute of Animal Science, the workshop aimed to address the realities of farm animal welfare in lower-budget agricultural systems, typical of many Eastern European countries. The event gathered 25 participants from 9 countries, creating a truly diverse mix of early-career researchers, experienced academics, and practitioners working across different animal welfare contexts. Over the course of 13 presentations, including 5 plenary talks, the programme explored species-specific welfare assessments, legal frameworks, digital tools, and on-farm applications—always with a focus on combining theory and practical relevance.



Pictures from ISAE East Central/East and South Europe Regional Meeting 2025

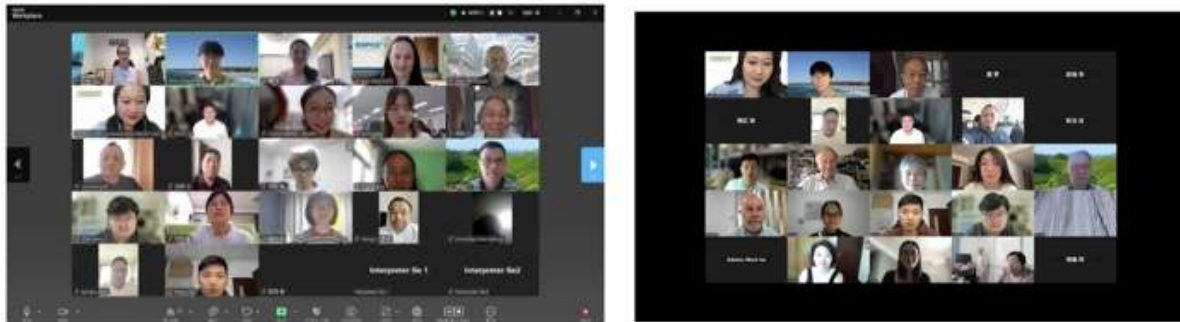
1st ISAE Workshop in China

The 1st ISAE China Regional Meeting was successfully held via Zoom on August 19, 2025, organized by Dr. Yifei Yang, ISAE Country Liaison for China. The meeting featured three ISAE council members, five international speakers, and nine Chinese guests, all sharing their research in a lively and engaging atmosphere. The Q&A session was particularly interactive, fostering open discussion and collaboration.

A total of 192 participants registered from around the world, including attendees from China, the UK, Canada, Australia, and Hong Kong. According to post-event survey feedback,

participants rated their experience as excellent (77%) and very good (23%), reflecting the success and positive impact of the meeting.

Selected Group Photos



Pictures from ISAE workshop in China

4th ISAE Workshop in India

The ISAE India Liaison Officer, Dr. Vijah Singh Pal, successfully organized a one-day workshop on the 13th of September, 2025 with the theme *“Happy Animals, Healthy Yield: Insights on the Science of Animal Behavior”* at the University School of Biotechnology, GBU.

The workshop attracted 197 participants from various parts of India, bringing together eminent researchers, international experts, academicians, and young scholars to foster intellectual exchange and collaboration.

This engaging forum emphasized modern, evidence-based approaches to sustainable and ethical animal management, inspiring participants to integrate scientific insights into animal welfare practices across diverse contexts.



Pictures from ISAE workshop in India

7th DCCAF programme at the 58th Congress of ISAE, The Netherlands

The DCCAF programme at the 58th ISAE Congress in The Netherlands was a remarkable success. We were pleased to have 11 awardees attending in person, while three participated virtually due to visa challenges.

The pre-congress workshop took place on 4th August 2025, followed by an excursion on Wednesday, 6th August, where the DCCAF awardees, Development Officers, and other conference delegates visited a fish research station and an insect breeding farm — an enriching experience that combined learning with practical exposure.



DCCAF Pre-Congress Workshop Speakers, together with the ISAE Development and Assistant Development Officers



DCCAF Pre-Congress Workshop Speakers, along with the DCCAF 2025 Awardees and the ISAE Development and Assistant Development Officers



Pre-Congress Workshop on the 4th of August, 2025



DCCAF 2025 Awardees and the ISAE Development and Assistant Development Officers at
Excursion to the Insect Farm

Oluwaseun Serah Iyasere / *Development Officer of the ISAE (2024-2028)*
Samuel Durosaro / *Assistant Development Officer of the ISAE (2024-2025)*

Regional Updates

Benelux

New ISAE Benelux Regional Secretaries - As we hand over our roles as ISAE Benelux Regional Secretaries, we are pleased to announce that George Troupakis and Teresa Johansson have been appointed to take on these positions following the recent voting round. We would like to thank all ISAE Benelux members for their support and collaboration over the past years. We

wish George and Teresa all the best in continuing to represent and connect our regional community.

Maëva Manet and Liesbeth van Damme / *Regional Secretaries for Benelux*

East Asia

Thank you for participating in the annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Animal Behavior and Management (JSABM), held at Aomori city on September 17-18. The next conference will be held in Matsumoto city, Nagano on March 24-26.

Please check the society's website - <http://jsabm.org/conference/>

Michiru Fukasawa / *Regional Secretary for East Asia*

Oceania

The Oceania region is seeking nominations for a co-secretary to support ISAE activities and connection in the region.

The role is open to anyone in the Oceania region who is a member of ISAE and is a great opportunity for an early-career researcher to gain leadership experience and build their networks within the ISAE locally and internationally. There is no formal service duration for the role, but it is typically between 3-5 years in length. A key upcoming duty will be to assist in organising a regional symposium.

Interested members should submit a CV and a brief statement of motivation, or reach out with any questions, to the ISAE Oceania email address: isaeoceania@gmail.com

Megan Lucas / *Regional Secretary for Oceania*

South and Central Asia

Workshop Report 4th ISAE in India

The 4th Regional ISAE India Workshop on HAPPY ANIMALS, HEALTHY YIELD: INSIGHTS ON SCIENCE OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR, held on **13 September 2025** at the **International Convention Centre, Gautam Buddha University**, Greater Noida focused on advancing the science of animal behavior to enhance livestock, welfare and productivity. The event gathered experts, scientists, and practitioners from diverse institutes, alongside 110 enthusiastic students and delegates representing prestigious institutions including Hansraj College (Delhi University), Jawaharlal

Nehru University (JNU), ICAR-NDRI, IIT Delhi, Galgotia University, Gautam Buddha University and many more. This broad participation underscored the workshop's importance as an academic and practical platform for animal behavior science.

The day began at 9:30 AM with registration of participants, including the 110 students and delegates from the above institutions. Followed by registration, the ceremonial lamp lighting at the 4th Regional ISAE India Workshop marked a traditional and auspicious inauguration of the event, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and the ignition of knowledge, wisdom, and hope in the field of animal behavior science. This revered ritual was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including Chief Guest, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Honourable Vice Chancellor, BASU, Professor Rana Pratap Singh, Honourable Vice Chancellor, GBU, Professor Rajeev Varshney, Dean USoBT, Professor S. Dhanalakshmi, and Dr. Vijay Pal Singh, Regional Organising Secretary.



After the lamp lighting ceremony, **Dr. Vijay Pal Singh**, the Regional Organising Secretary, formally introduced the ISAE Workshop's objectives to the gathered participants. Dr. Singh outlined the workshop's focus on scientific insights into animal behavior and how these translate into improved welfare standards and sustainable livestock yields. He also presented the vision and mission of the ISAE, drawing attention to its commitment toward promoting animal welfare science globally. To encapsulate the essence of the workshop and inspire all participants, Dr. Singh shared a powerful tagline: “दयालु व्यवहार, उज्ज्वल संसार” which translates to "Compassionate Behavior, Bright World." This tagline resonated deeply with the workshop's goals, underscoring that humane and empathetic treatment of animals leads to a better and sustainable world for all living beings.

Professor Maria Hotzel, President of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), delivered the Presidential address online during the workshop, underscoring the critical global significance of behavioral science in advancing animal health and productivity. She highlighted the depth and breadth of applied ethology as a scientific discipline, stressing how evidence-based behavioral research translates into practical strategies for better management and care of livestock.

Following this, at 10:30 AM, **Dr. Oluwaseun Serah Iyasere**, Development Officer of ISAE, presented online on recent development activities within the society. Dr. Iyasere provided an update on ISAE's ongoing initiatives aimed at expanding the association's reach and impact across continents. Her detailed efforts to increase member engagement, foster collaboration among international researchers, and enhance knowledge dissemination through workshops, conferences, and digital platforms. Emphasizing capacity building, Dr. Iyasere outlined ISAE's programs designed to support early-career scientists and promote animal welfare science in underrepresented regions.

The inaugural address was delivered by **Professor Rana Pratap Singh**, Vice Chancellor of GBU. He welcomed all participants and emphasized the importance of animal behavior science in improving livestock welfare and productivity. He highlighted the role of academic institutions in advancing research and encouraged collaboration to address challenges in animal welfare. Professor Singh reaffirmed GBU's commitment to supporting such initiatives, setting an inspiring tone for the workshop.

The address by the Chief Guest, **Dr. Inderjeet Singh**, Honourable Vice Chancellor of BASU, focused on several important aspects of animal welfare and behavior. Dr. Singh shared insights from his extensive research experience, particularly highlighting his studies on buffalo behavior and management conducted in Ludhiana. He emphasized the significance of understanding natural buffalo behaviors to improve their welfare and productivity in Indian farming systems. Dr. Singh noted that his research in Ludhiana provided valuable data on buffalo social interactions, feeding habits, and stress responses, which have direct implications for optimizing husbandry practices.

As a token of appreciation and respect, a memento, along with a sapling and a traditional shawl, was presented to the Chief Guest **Dr. Inderjeet Singh** by **Professor Rana Pratap Singh** the Vice Chancellor of GBU during the workshop. The memento symbolized gratitude for their valuable presence and contributions to the event.

The vote of thanks was delivered by **Dr. Imteyaz Qamar**, who expressed sincere gratitude to all the dignitaries, speakers, delegates, and participants for their valuable contributions to the workshop. He acknowledged the efforts of the organizing committee, volunteers, and the venue staff for their support in making the event successful.

A high tea break was scheduled from 11:00 to 11:20 AM, providing participants a chance to relax, network, and engage in informal discussions following the inaugural and early session presentations. This break also included a group photograph session to commemorate the event.



After high tea break, **Dr. Madan Lal Kamboj, Principal Scientist at NDRI**, delivered an insightful address titled **“Natural buffalo behaviours and their implications for production and welfare.”** In his talk, Dr. Kamboj highlighted the importance of understanding the inherent behaviors of buffaloes in their natural environment to optimize their management and welfare in farming systems. He discussed how recognizing natural social interactions, feeding patterns, and stress responses can directly influence productivity and health outcomes. Dr. Kamboj emphasized integrating behavioral knowledge into husbandry practices as essential for improving both animal welfare and economic returns, aligning closely with the workshop's overarching theme of enhancing yield through better animal care. His address provided valuable scientific perspectives with practical implications for buffalo management in India. After his talk, Dr. Madan Lal Kamboj held an interactive Q&A session where he addressed questions about which extensive farming system is better for animal welfare, explaining that systems allowing natural behaviors and adequate resources generally promote better welfare.

After Dr. Madan Lal Kamboj's talk, he was presented with a memento, a sapling, and a certificate as tokens of appreciation for his valuable contribution to the workshop and the field of animal welfare.



Dr. Anamika Sharma's talk at the ISAE workshop titled **“Human-Animal Relationship: Dairy Animal's welfare and productivity”** highlighted the importance of the human-animal relationship (HAR) in dairy animal welfare and productivity. She explained how animals respond differently to familiar and unfamiliar humans based on rewarding (like feeding, grooming) or punishing events and why HAR is crucial for animal well-being. She covered how positive preparatory habituation improves milking behavior and milk yield in Sahiwal cows and showed that heifers prefer familiar handlers after positive treatment (74% in treatment group preferred familiar handlers vs 34% in control). She also noted the significant impact of HAR on postpartum licking behavior and overall animal performance. The talk was supported by high-quality data and videos. After her talk, an interactive Q&A session was held. She was honored with a memento, a sapling, and a certificate in recognition of her contributions to the workshop and the advancement of animal welfare.



The workshop participants took a break for **lunch from 1:20 PM to 2:00 PM**, allowing them to refresh, network, and discuss the morning sessions. This interval provided an opportunity for attendees, including researchers, students, and dignitaries, to recharge for the afternoon sessions.

Following the lunch break, **Dr. Vijay Pal Singh**, the Regional Organising Secretary, delivered his talk on **“An Introduction to Animal Welfare Law.”** The talk addressed the legal and moral status of animals, emphasizing the relevance of law in securing animal welfare. Key concepts discussed included the legal classification of animals, the nature of anthropomorphism in animal studies, and the differentiation between necessary and unnecessary suffering. The discussion covered the property status of animals, the need for regulation, and the types of animals (mainly vertebrates and domestic animals) covered under existing acts, along with exceptions. The speaker also highlighted the importance of organizations in India and outside India that monitor and collect data on animal suffering and related regulations. The interactive session included questions on which animals suffer most, criteria for better captive conditions, and distinctions between welfare and protection frameworks.



Prof. **Rosangela Poletto**'s online session, titled **"Thinking out of the box for farm animal welfare assessment: a practical approach,"** addressed innovative and practical strategies for objectively evaluating farm animal welfare. She emphasized the significance of third-party animal welfare certification and the roles of various stakeholders such as producers, retailers, the hospitality sector, and consumers. Key points included targeting health and function (adaptability), natural living conditions, and affective (emotional/sentient) states as the main criteria for welfare assessment. Prof. Pelitto highlighted the importance of ensuring animal access to essential resources like protected water tanks, adequate water supply, and the quality of drinking water. She discussed the need for alternative housing systems and environmental enrichment for commercial laying hens as examples of practical welfare improvement. She also spoke about hands-on approaches to animal welfare, stressing the importance of management, handling, and overall health. The discussion included the need to detect abnormal conditions and the root causes of welfare problems. Staff training was identified as fundamental for achieving animal welfare, with academia playing a crucial role in developing and disseminating effective hands-on welfare tools.

Prof. **Dr. Janice Siegford**'s online session, titled **"Automation on cattle farm: A perspective on opportunities and risks"** addressed advancements and statistics in dairy cow adaptation to robotic milking technologies, highlighting monitoring approaches and sensor-based animal management. The speaker shared data showing that approximately 78% of milking sessions are successful with robotic milkers, while 2% are unsuccessful, 1% require backup, 5% are dedicated to cleaning, and 14% of sessions are AMS (automatic milking system) empty or idle. The application of drones for monitoring, moving animals, and generating heat maps to detect herd changes was presented as a digital agriculture advancement. The presenter detailed several types of sensors used in livestock monitoring: Necklace sensors, Pedometers, Aerial monitors (drones), Udder sensors for milk yield and health tracking. The concept of the "connected cow" was introduced, where integrated sensor platforms allow continuous data transmission for activity, health, and productivity monitoring.

Professor Mark Rutter delivered a talk on **"The motivation of dairy cows for pasture access and comfortable lying spaces."** Prof. Rutter emphasized that dairy cows are motivated to

access free stalls and open pastures, which allow them to exhibit natural behaviors. The lecture differentiated between preference and motivation, indicating that while cows may prefer certain conditions, motivation reflects the strength of their drive to access those conditions. Key factors influencing this motivation include distance to pasture and the availability of herbage. Several research studies were discussed, highlighting findings such as cows with access to pasture producing 25% more milk compared to housed cows. The implication is that systems designed to allow pasture access and comfortable lying spaces improve both animal welfare and production efficiency.

Professor Donald M. Broom delivered an online live talk on **“Sentience and attitudes to animals used by humans”**. Prof. Donald M. Broom’s lecture discussed sentience, awareness, and attitudes towards animals, focusing on the cognitive abilities required for animals to have feelings and awareness. He explored the shift from a push to a pull economy, obligations for sustainable animal use, and examined beef production systems. He compared different beef production systems, spoke about sustainability in both meat and plant-based food, and addressed the future of global agriculture and products. The talk was followed by an interactive question and answer session.



The evening’s final lecture by **Dr. Thai Nguyen Van Quoc** on **“How to publish with Elsevier -A brief guide over the process”** outlined three main topics: journal answer, journal update, and policy on generative AI. He noted an increase in submissions and publications, highlighting positive development in the field without overstressing editors. The talk emphasized the need for trusted evidence-based medicine (EBM). CAS ranking remains consistent, positioning the journal in the second tier for Agricultural, Animal Science, and Veterinary fields. Looking ahead, a sharp increase in hybrid open access is expected from 2024.

The workshop concluded with the Valedictory Session, marking the successful completion of the *4th Regional ISAE India Workshop 2025* on the theme *“Happy Animals, Healthy Yield: Insights on Science of Animal Behaviour”*. The session began with expressions of gratitude to the distinguished speakers, guests, and participants whose active involvement and insightful discussions enriched the event. The Organising Committee highlighted the key takeaways from

the day—ranging from animal welfare, human-animal interactions, and automation in livestock farming, to global perspectives on ethical publishing and ISAE’s continuing mission.



The proceedings ended with a Tea Session, offering a relaxed space for networking and reflection. The workshop concluded, with a shared resolve to advance research and practices in animal welfare and productivity.

Vijay Pal Singh and Sumita Sugnaseelan /
Regional Secretaries for South and Central Asia

UK and Ireland

The UK and Ireland region have been busy trying to grow their reach and engage with new members during the summer, alongside planning the 2026 UK and Ireland regional conference.

Keelin and Ellen were joined by an amazing team of Voluntary Social Media Coordinators; Melissa Cupido, Lucy Markland, Dr Francesca Johansen & Dr Stijn Brouwers. With their help we successfully launched a LinkedIn page to share news of the activities being undertaken by the region. Follow the action here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/isae-ukandireland/>!

We also launched our first ever seminar series! The first one is starting on 06 November, 1pm UK/Ireland time. These are open to anyone and members will be able to access recordings after the event. The first seminar will be on animal personality – and how we can apply knowledge of personality to improve animal welfare and increase positive conservation outcomes.



We have also officially identified a host for our 2026 regional conference – and are delighted to announce that it will be being organised by University of Nottingham. Watch your inboxes (and our new LinkedIn page) for further details coming soon!

The final bit of news is that after six fabulous years, Keelin and Ellen are stepping down as UK/Ireland regional secretaries and will be formally passing on the baton after the next regional meeting. If you are interested in taking on the position of a UK or Irish rep please drop us an email (ukireland.isae@gmail.com) with your CV and a letter of motivation and we will do the rest. You do need to be a full paid up member of the ISAE to apply for this position.

Keelin O'Driscoll and Ellen Williams/ *Regional Secretaries for UK and Ireland*

Nordic

At Aarhus University in Denmark, we are sorry to inform that the regional meeting from 15–16 January had been cancelled.

Dr. Karen Thodberg and Dr. Per Peetz Nielsen
/ *Regional Secretaries for the Nordic region*

Employment and Education Opportunities

Some current [employment and education opportunities](#) related to applied ethology include:

- [Chicken scientist, USA](#)
- [Shrimp scientist, USA](#)
- [Assistant Professor, USA](#)
- [Scientific Officer, New Zealand](#)
- [MSc, USA](#)
- [Master Internship, Switzerland](#)
- [Master internship, Switzerland \(German language\)](#)

For details on how to apply and for the most up-to-date information on employment and education opportunities, visit the [ISAE website](#) and follow us on social media:

- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/appliedethology
- **Twitter:** [@appliedethology](https://twitter.com/appliedethology)
- **Bluesky:** <https://bsky.app/profile/applied-ethology.bsky.social>

To advertise a position: send the job title, location, contact email address, application deadline, and a URL and/or a pdf flyer to info@applied-ethology.org. Listings are updated biweekly and will be removed 3 months after the posting date if no closing date is given.

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