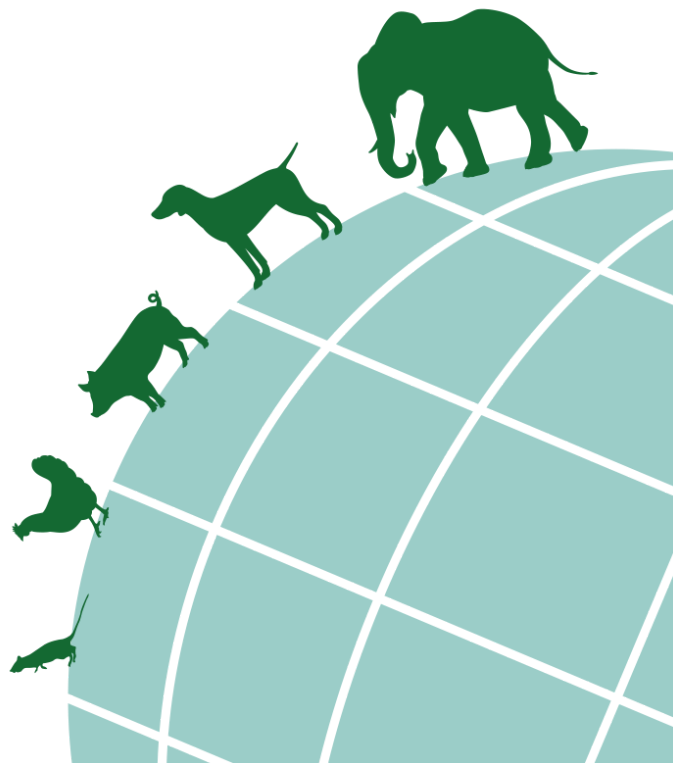




International  
Society for  
**Applied  
Ethology**

# Newsletter

Issue 68 • 2026 June



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## President's Piece

Dear ISAE Members,

It is very exciting to have our annual congress in India for the first time. In addition to the usual high-quality science that characterizes ISAE congresses and the opportunity to meet many old and new colleagues and friends, we will have some distinct features associated with the geography and cultural setting. You will find more details in this newsletter on the upcoming 59th International Congress at Gautam Buddha University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. I hope to meet many of you there!

This year, 10 people, from Viet Nam, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Peru, Brazil, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Chile, will be funded by the Developing Countries Congress Attendance Fund (DCCAF), to attend the congress and a pre-congress workshop. We are also grateful to Purina, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), and Humane World for Animals for their generous sponsorship awards to support members - primarily students and early career researchers - to attend the Congress. In addition, some members will be supported by CAF, ISAE's Congress Attendance Fund.

Continuing ISAE's commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, the EDIA Committee will be present and active during the 59<sup>th</sup> Congress. As in previous Congresses, there will be allies wearing green ribbons present to aid attendees with questions. If you would like to be a conference ally, please let me, Linda Greening (EDIA officer), the student representatives, Emma Roux and Victor Brusin. As stated in our Constitution, all participants in ISAE activities must be able to enjoy an environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. I encourage members to read the Appendix VII, the Anti-Harassment Policy for the International Society for Applied of ISAE's Constitution, on our [website](#).

We have had a few changes in the last months that I would like to remind members. First, we have changed our communications system. Now members receive emails from International Society for Applied Ethology <[theteam@applied-ethology.org](mailto:theteam@applied-ethology.org)>. You can trust this sender! Note that Council members also have [@applied-ethology.org](mailto:@applied-ethology.org) (see at the end of this newsletter). Also, Royal Society for Biology's (RSB) membership services now handle applications, renewals, and other matters. In an email titled "Transition of membership services", Senior Vice-President Janice Siegford explained details of how to access mySociety. If you have not received this email, please contact Andy Stephens, our contact from RSB, via [theteam@applied-ethology.org](mailto:theteam@applied-ethology.org).

I look forward to meeting many of you in the 59<sup>th</sup> Congress!

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

## Updates from your ISAE Council

### Council Position Elections Results!

The ISAE Council is pleased to announce the candidates elected in the 2026 Council elections:

- Junior Membership Secretary: **Karolina Steinerova**
- Assistant Communications Officer: **Stijn Brouwers**
- Ethics Officer: **Katarina Buckova**
- Procedural Advisor: **Jeremy Marchant**

The newly elected council members will work alongside the current position holders over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition before officially assuming their roles at the ISAE Conference AGM in August.

We would also like to sincerely thank all ISAE members who participated in our first online election process. The online voting system proved to be both secure and effective, and we appreciate the strong engagement from members around the world.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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, LinkedIn 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](#), [LinkedIn](#), [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

### AABS Special Issue 2025

The Applied Animal Behaviour Science special issue associated with the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) 58th Congress, themed 'A good life for all animals', has received an exceptionally high level of interest. Reflecting the record-breaking attendance at the congress, more than 26 manuscripts have been submitted for consideration, and five have been published to date.

This achievement reflects a substantial collective effort. The editorial process has been supported by the ISAE editorial team, the AABS editor-in-chief Irene Camerlink, and

guest editors Rebecca Nordquist and Ingrid de Jong. In addition, many members of the ISAE community have contributed their time and expertise as reviewers. The editorial team extends its sincere thanks to all contributors and looks forward to sharing these papers as they are published.

Previous ISAE special issues, including recent editions aligned with the 'A good life for all animals' theme, are available online via the journal's special issue collection: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/applied-animal-behaviour-science/special-issues>

For further information, please contact Peta Taylor at [peta.taylor@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:peta.taylor@unimelb.edu.au).

### **ISAE English Proofreading Service**

Members are reminded that ISAE offers an English grammar and language editing service to support manuscript preparation for Applied Animal Behaviour Science and other English-language journals.

There has been one submission to the service in 2026 to date, indicating substantial capacity for additional use. Members seeking support are encouraged to take advantage of this resource. Further details, including how to request editing, are available via the ISAE website:

[https://www.applied-ethology.org/Help\\_with\\_English.html](https://www.applied-ethology.org/Help_with_English.html)

ISAE members interested in volunteering for this program are invited to contact Christian Nawroth.

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

### **Students**

Hello ISAE students!

First and foremost, we would love to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who applied for the Student Representative position this year. The volume and quality of applications were truly inspiring and shows our growing passion for animal behaviour and welfare and the increasing engagement within our international community. Such a high level of interest ensures a bright future for the ISAE!

### **Getting Ready for the Conference!**

We are planning the student program for the upcoming 58<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ISAE. If you have joined us before, you will recognize some of these favorites (with some updates!), and if you are new, we can't wait to welcome you! These events are designed to help you network, share your research, and find your footing in the scientific community:

- **Student Meet & Greet:** Right after the Opening Ceremony, come hang out with us! Some activities will help you reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and before the Welcome Cocktail.
- **Eating with Ethologists:** We will match you with scientists based on common research interests. This is your chance to have a small-group lunch with established scientists in your field. It's a great way to talk research, career paths, or even job openings in a relaxed, informal setting.
- **Table Topics:** Open to all attendees, these lunch tables are organized by specific themes - such as welfare policy, the use of technologies to assess animal behaviour, etc... It is a fantastic, relaxed environment to connect with peers who are just as passionate about your niche as you are.

**Pro tip:** Keep an eye on your emails! We will be sending out sign-up links for these events.

### **We've Got Your Back**

Whether it's your first big conference or your fifth, it can be a lot to take in. We want you to know that both of your Student Representatives are here for you! We will be around throughout the entire conference to help out, make introductions, or just have a chat. If you have questions before we even get there, just email us!

### **Expanding Our Resources**

We are currently in the process of adding new educational tools and research resources to the **ISAE website** to help you with your studies and projects. Stay tuned for those updates!

### **Stay in Touch**

Your feedback is vital to making this society work for you. If you have any inquiries, suggestions for the website, or questions about the upcoming conference, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to seeing many of you soon!

Best regards,

Victor Brusin & Emma Roux

**Victor Brusin and Emma Roux**  
*Student Representatives of the ISAE (2024-2026; 2025-2027)*

### **Membership**

ISAE continues to maintain a strong and engaged membership base. Currently, we have 598 active members, including 19 individuals who have joined within the past six

months. We extend a warm welcome to our new members and express our appreciation to all members for their ongoing support and engagement with ISAE activities.

The annual membership renewal cycle will commence in May, with memberships due for renewal by 1 June. Members are kindly asked to look out for renewal communications, which will be sent from [theteam@applied-ethology.org](mailto:theteam@applied-ethology.org), and to ensure their contact details are up to date to avoid missing important notifications.

Any membership-related queries should be directed to [isaemembership@applied-ethology.org](mailto:isaemembership@applied-ethology.org).

Finally, we look forward to welcoming an additional council member to the ISAE Membership Team, further strengthening the Society's ability to support and engage with its growing international community.

Best Regards,

Rosie Whittle  
ISAE Assistant Membership Secretary

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

## Finances

### Scholarship funds from sponsors

The report contains the mid year summary for the period **January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2026**. The table is the edited output generated from the Xero accountancy software that ISAE now subscribes to via our accountants (Henderson-Loggie). It reports the revenue and expenses in all 3 HSBC bank accounts (deposit, current and Euro) and our WISE account to manage the Coefficient Giving grant.

The report is in GBP after having reconciled the Euro and USD transactions, which results in a "foreign exchange loss". This mostly reflects changes in the exchange rate for USD:GBP over the year. The OP grant is managed in USD so this loss is only calculated for the purposes of summarising the accounts. The table has adjusted income and expenditure and compares with the annual report for 2025.

**INCOME:** The accounts are healthy. Our income from membership subscriptions is lower compared with last year but is expected to increase due to the membership dues increase as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. The lower figure for 2026 may be due to members opting for a multi-year subscription in advance of the fee increase. The main revenue is from **Scholarship funds from sponsors** (£112,908.41). This includes the third payment of the **Coefficient Giving grant** (2023-2026 – Part 2 £90,991.89) from Good Ventures to support the DCCAF scholars, workshops and other activities. Other sponsorships

funding attendance and events at the 2025 congress include the **Purina award** (£10,868.27) , the **Humane world award** and **UFAW award** (which have been awarded but not yet received). These scholarship funds will be transient and reimbursement for scholarships will be paid after the Congress (some DCCAF and Purina scholarships have already been paid to facilitate travel visas).

**EXPENDITURE: Scholarships and charitable activities** account for most of our expenditure (£). “Scholarships from sponsorship” includes payments for congress attendance for student representatives and advance payment of Purina (x 2) and UFAW (x1) travel awards. Regional activity has been supporting the UK & Ireland regional meeting so far in 2026, with more to follow, including a joint East and West Europe meeting. ExOrdo (congress management) charges have not yet been invoiced for 2026 and will be reduced by €2000 due to an overpayment in 2024. Our bank charges have been reduced by using the Wise account to transfer to other Wise and USD accounts for DCCAF activities. Other expenditure includes payments to Intergage for web hosting and RSB for membership services, as well as reimbursement to council members for costs incurred for managing the social media accounts (Planable).

Our 2025 accounts have been prepared for inspection by our accountants and will soon be ready to be submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Jan - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>1st Jan - 1st June 2025</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Interest income	411.54	614.54
Other revenue (refunded bank fees)	na	11.68
<i>Scholarship funds/grants</i>		
Good ventures foundation	90,991.89	101,612
Purina	10,868	11,296
Subscription income	3363	10,746
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>105634.40</b>	<b>124,281</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Congress organisers' advance for New Delhi 2026	4689.25	
Scholarships from sponsorship	8020.92	2,265
OP activity (includes DCCAF scholarships)	35863.55	35,388
Regional payments	500	8,476
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>49,073.72</b>	<b>46,130</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>56,560.68</b>	<b>78,151</b>

Operating costs		
Audit & accountancy fees	418.94	
Bank fees	857.06	1,173.84
Foreign exchange loss	761.38	6,885
Conference management system (Exordo)	0	2,582.07
Elsevier subscriptions		40.33
Membership services (RSB)	3219.59	804
Web hosting- Intergage	1089.60	
Platform charges OPAYO	240	240
Transfer out of Wise account	0	1.35
Website and social media	99.89	86
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<b>6686.46</b>	<b>11,812</b>
<b>Operating profit (gross profit- operating costs)</b>	<b>49,874</b>	<b>66,338</b>

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

**Awards updates**

Calling ISAE members to be part of the ISAE Awards Committees

Each year, ISAE recognizes the achievements of our colleagues through New Investigator and Creativity Awards. Award recipients are selected by two committees formed annually, each comprising two Council members, one EDIA Committee member, and two ISAE members.

Serving on the award committee is a great way to contribute to the society while connecting with colleagues from around the world. If you are interested in participating in this year’s judging process, please contact me at wurtzkai@gmail.com by June 15th.

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

## Congress News

**THE COUNTDOWN  
HAS OFFICIALLY  
BEGUN!**

**59th International Congress  
of the International Society  
for Applied Ethology**



Join the brightest minds in  
the industry for the

**ISAE 2026**

Conference in the heart of India.

 **AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

**ISAE promotes high-quality research and  
global collaboration among scientists,  
practitioners, and policymakers.**

*For more info visit*  
[www.isae2026delhi.in](http://www.isae2026delhi.in)

We are delighted to welcome scientists, academicians, researchers, students, and delegates from across the globe to the 59th ISAE Conference in Delhi, India.

Join us for a grand feast of science, collaboration, innovation, and compassionate research in the sacred land of Ahimsa, where the spirit of “Atithi Devo Bhava” - The Guest is God - reflects our culture, hospitality, and commitment to humanity.

Let us come together to exchange knowledge, inspire new ideas, strengthen global partnerships, and advance ethical science for a better future.

 Delhi awaits you with science, culture, heritage, and warm hospitality!

Welcome to India. Welcome to ISAE 59.

**Dr Vijay Pal Singh / Organising Secretary, 59 ISAE conference.**



Preparations coming along for the 2026 ISAE Congress in New Delhi, India. The congress theme is *Shared Worlds: Ethology-Driven Animal Welfare and Coexistence*. The Wood-Gush memorial lecture will be given by Atsushi Miyashita, with plenary talks

by Maria Vilain Rørvang, Jashim Uddin, Cathy Dwyer, Adroaldo Zanella, Madan Lal Kamboj and Janice Siegford. The congress will be held at Gautam Buddha University and will feature excursions to local wonders such as Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, and introduce us to amazing local cuisine, culture, music and dance.

There is still time to register to participate in the 59<sup>th</sup> Congress. Further information (including the overview of the congress program shown here) is available on the congress website:

<https://isae2026delhi.in/index>.

ISAE 2026 Conference Program							
	Mon 10 Aug	Tues 11 Aug	Weds 12 Aug	Thurs 13 Aug	Fri 14 Aug	Sat 15 Aug	Sun 16 Aug
900		Opening					
930	ISAE Council & DCCAF (both run all day)						
1000		Scientific Program	Scientific Program	Scientific Program	Scientific Program		
1030						Farm Excursion (exact times TBD)	Delhi & Agra Excursions (exact times TBD)
1100							
1130							
1200							
1230							
1300							
1330							
1400							
1430							
1500							
1530							
1600							
1630							
1700					Closing Ceremony		
1730				AGM			
1800							
1830							
1845							
1900	Welcome Reception						
1930							
2000							
2030				Banquet			
2100							
2130							
2200							
2300							

If you are part of an organization that is interested in supporting the congress through a sponsorship, please contact Vijay Pal Singh ([vpsinghigib@gmail.com](mailto:vpsinghigib@gmail.com)).

**Vijay Pal Singh / Local Organizing Committee Chair**

**Janice Siegford / Scientific Committee Chair**

### **Future congresses**

Following our adventures to India in 2026, we will return to Europe in 2027 for the 60th ISAE Congress when we will be in Vienna, Austria, from the 2 - 6 August 2027.

We already have a firm expression of interest for our congress in 2028 (outside of Europe) and some interest in hosting 2029 (in Europe). If you are considering hosting an ISAE congress in 2029 or beyond, please contact me, Janice Siegford, the ISAE Senior Vice President ([senior.president@applied-ethology.org](mailto:senior.president@applied-ethology.org)). I'm happy to share information with you to help you make a decision or plan further.

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

## **EDIA Committee Update**

Two exciting news alerts from the committee in this newsletter:

1. We are recruiting! If you would like to join us in supporting the ISAE Council and society members on a journey to facilitate equity and inclusion within our community, please send a covering letter highlighting your previous experience to the Chair via [edia@applied-ethology.org](mailto:edia@applied-ethology.org)
2. The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee are pleased to once again promote the EDIA Award, which will be presented at the 2026 Congress awarding free society membership for one year to the winner(s). Details below on the nomination process appear below whilst a link to the online nomination form can be found here [https://forms.office.com/e/0y7JF1WXjD\\*\\*](https://forms.office.com/e/0y7JF1WXjD**).

**The EDIA Award** was launched a year ago and awarded to a candidate/ candidates demonstrating commitment to inclusivity/an exceptional aptitude for promoting inclusivity in the field of applied ethology within the last year. We encourage nominations that detail how the nominee has:

- Published at least one article in a peer-reviewed journal themed around inclusivity, and/or;
- Worked collaboratively with an organisation advocating for inclusivity (e.g. member of an inclusivity-related committee), and/or;

- Advocated through research on behalf of a marginalised group (acting as an active ally to change approaches or processes), and or;
- Worked collaboratively with a marginalised group (e.g. mentor programme, outreach activity).

Whilst nomination from somebody else is preferred, self-nomination is possible, please use the following link [https://forms.office.com/e/0y7JF1WXjD\\*\\*](https://forms.office.com/e/0y7JF1WXjD**). If you are nominating somebody, it is important that you have sought approval from the candidate to do so.

The online form requires nominations to include a supporting statement describing the work the nominee has completed. Please note the word limit for this is 500 words. If the information provides evidence to support consideration for the award, the nominee will also be asked to submit a (maximum 2 page) CV.

All details provided during the nomination process will be shared with the EDIA Committee judging panel. A summary of achievements taken from the supporting statement/CV will be shared with the ISAE Council and the ISAE Congress organising committee. This information will be shared with the audience at Congress prior to the award being given to the successful candidate(s).

**Voting closes towards the end of June** and we'd love to see as many nominations as possible, so if someone comes to mind, please do take a moment to put them forward. Nominating someone is a wonderful way to shine a light on positive work.

## **Congress 2026**

This year we are waiting to promote inclusive aspects of the Congress. Gautam Buddha University (GBU) established by the Uttar Pradesh Act of 2002, commenced its first academic session in August 2008 at its expansive 511-acre lush green campus in Greater Noida, along the Yamuna Expressway. Greater Noida is situated 40.2 km southeast of the capital city New Delhi, taking around 30 minutes to travel between the cities via the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway. Online sources say that the culture in Greater Noida is modern and cosmopolitan blended with North Indian tradition. Known as an educational hub, the culture is increasingly youthful and intellectual, mixed with a growing industrial and IT sector. The city has a strong culture of sports and recreation, highlighted by the Buddh International Circuit (Formula 1 track) and various sports academies. Visiting Greater Noida in August means navigating a hot, humid monsoon season with temperatures hovering around 37°C with lows of 28°C, often accompanied by rain. For outdoor activities it is advised to carry an umbrella and to wear light and loose cotton and linen clothing. Waterproof sandals or flip flops might be useful. Keep covered at dawn/dusk to avoid mosquito bites, as this is peak season.

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

## Regional News and Development

### Development

During this last semester, my role as JVP has been focused in interacting with regional secretaries. I also had the chance to participate in Paris in the 7th WOAHA Global forum, representing the ISAE society. We were invited since a Memorandum of Understanding with WOAHA is in the way, and we were asked to provide our view on future strategic objectives of WOAHA, specially on how to increase the implementation of welfare standards in our diverse world.

#### Activities with the regions

The regions have been very active. The most important tasks from my side have been to support the regional secretaries in the process of renewal. Also, I have been supporting the UK-Ireland and the SW-Europe region to get the funds for their regional meetings. Finally, some discussions have been around our new communication system with our members through the Royal Society of Biology system and how to refine it.

Here you have a summary of the activities going on during this last semester. Go to the regional secretaries reports for further details!

- Region Oceania: New co-secretary in 2026. Suzanne Truong joined Megan Lucas in this position.
- Region Canada: Maria Camila Ceballos and Jen-Yun Chou started in December 2025 as co-secretaries.
- Region UK-Ireland: the current secretaries are seeking for replacement.

I hope to see you all in India. We will try to organise a regional secretaries lunch, to share experiences and support each other.

**Emma Fàbrega / Junior Vice-President (2025-2027)**

### **2026 Developing Countries Conference Attendance Fellowship (DCCAF)**

We received a total of 63 applications for the 8<sup>th</sup> DCCAF Programme. Following a thorough review process, 10 candidates have been selected to receive the award and attend the 59<sup>th</sup> ISAE Congress in India from August 10 to 14, 2026. The 10 awardees are from Vietnam, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Peru, Brazil, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Chile.

The awardees are:

1. Mr. Abdul-Rahman, Safian - Ghana
2. Dr. Katua, Dennis Bahati - Kenya.
3. Dr. Soster, Patricia - Brazil
4. Mr. Okon, Utibe Mfon - Nigeria

5. Dr. Nguyen, Thi Bich Dao - Vietnam.
6. Dr. Abebe, Dagmawi Yitbarek - Ethiopia.
7. Dr. Rashid, Md Mahabubur - Bangladesh
8. Dr. Shanta, Solama Akter - Bangladesh
9. Miss Marin, Maria Jose Santibañez - Chile.
10. Miss Chavez Padilla, Valeria Ximena - Peru

### DCCAF Pre-Congress Workshop: Meet Our Speakers

We are excited to announce the lineup of distinguished speakers for the upcoming DCCAF Pre-Congress Workshop in India. These experts bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in animal welfare science:

1. Prof. Donald Broom

Topic: Where animal welfare information comes from, how to use it in formulating laws and codes of practice and what enforcement is possible

2. Prof. Cathy Dwyer

Topic: Welfare assessment of sheep and cattle, covering experimental studies and farm assurance and monitoring

3. Prof. Adroaldo Zanella

Topic: How to get stakeholders involved in animal welfare initiatives

4. Dr. Beth Ventura

Topic: How to effectively teach animal behaviour and welfare

### ISAE Workshops

The 8th ISAE Animal Welfare Workshop in Bangladesh was held on May 7, 2026. The theme of the workshop was 'Enhancing Animal Welfare and Human Coexistence Through Ethological Insights'. The workshop took place at Habiganj Agricultural University, Vadoi (Temporary Campus), Habiganj Sadar, Habiganj -3300, and was attended by 140 participants. Here are some key highlights of the workshop achievements:

1. Strong participation and engagement from a wide range of livestock stakeholders, including researchers, veterinarians, academicians, students, government employees from the Department of Livestock Services of Bangladesh, and policymakers.
2. Robust capacity building and knowledge exchange, featuring expert-led sessions and hands-on collaboration to advance sustainable, behavioural science-based animal welfare practices.
3. A dedicated focus on export readiness and aligning Bangladesh's livestock sector with international animal welfare standards.



Photos of some participants at the 8th ISAE Animal Welfare Workshop in Bangladesh

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

## East Asia

The Japanese Society for Animal Behavior and Management annual meeting was held in Matsumoto City, Nagano, from March 24–26. Thank you to everyone who participated and made the event a success.

Details regarding the date and location of the next conference are currently being finalized. Please check our official website for future updates:

Official Website: <http://jsabm.org/conference/>

**Michiru Fukasawa** / *Regional Secretary for East Asia*

## **East and South Europe**

In our region, we are planning one main event of the year. From June 9–12, 2026, we will host the Joint ISAE West, East Central, and South Europe Regional Meeting at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. Under the motto “Applied Ethology Insights: From Sensors to Cognition,” the conference will explore advances in applied ethology through the integration of emerging technologies and welfare-oriented research, including behavioural and cognitive approaches. The event will provide a dynamic platform for students, early-career researchers, and established scientists to exchange knowledge, share ideas, and strengthen regional collaboration. Special emphasis will be placed on supporting young researchers, offering opportunities to present their work, often for the first time in their careers.

**Radka Šárová** / *Regional Secretary for East and South Europe*

## **Nordic**

At present we are 45 members in the Nordic Region. We had planned a regional ISAE meeting in Denmark this January, but it had to cancel due to too few submitted abstracts. Our regional meetings are held every second year – when the international ISAE is outside Europe, and according to this the next Nordic meeting will be in 2028.

Upcoming PhD Course:

Animal Pain, 16-20 November, organized by Aarhus University and Copenhagen University, Denmark. <https://projects.au.dk/animal-pain>

**Karen Thodberg and Per Peetz Nielsen** / *Regional Secretary for Nordic*

## **Oceania**

The Oceania region recently elected Suzanne Truong to serve as co-secretary. Suzanne is an animal welfare scientist who recently completed her PhD through The University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. Her research has focused on the behavioural and neurophysiological underpinnings of positive human-animal interactions, using pigs as a model species. After several years of the role only being filled by one person, the two co-secretaries look forward to working together to better strengthen connections across the ISAE Oceania community.

Organisation is underway for a regional meeting to be held in Melbourne towards the end of 2026. Current ISAE Oceania members were recently invited to provide input on the meeting as well as on how they would like to be supported by the regional branch. If you are a current member of the Oceania region and didn't receive this correspondence, please reach out to the regional secretaries via email: [isaeoceania@gmail.com](mailto:isaeoceania@gmail.com)

ISAE Oceania are now on LinkedIn and Blue Sky, please feel welcome to follow us or get in touch if you'd like some publicity for your research!

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/isae-oceania-region/>

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/isae-oceania.bsky.social>

**Megan Lucas and Suzanne Truong / *Regional Secretary for Oceania***

## **West Central Europe**

In collaboration with the German Veterinary Medical Society (DVG), a presentation series for doctoral students was organised as part of the 57th International Conference on Applied Ethology, held in Freiburg in November 2025. Ten early-career scientists from different institutions within our region presented their research topics and methodological approaches in short oral presentations, reflecting the diversity of current ethological research. During the conference, the annual regional West Central Europe ISAE members' meeting was also held during a joint lunch - a format that proved well suited to combining regional updates with collegial exchange. Members were informed about recent developments and ongoing activities within the region, and the meeting provided an opportunity for networking, discussion, and informal exchange among regional members.

Looking ahead, we are delighted that the next Joint ISAE West, East Central, and South Europe Regional Meeting will take place at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague from 9 - 12 June 2026. Under the motto "Applied Ethology Insights: From Sensors to Cognition," the meeting will bring together researchers from across the regions to discuss recent developments in applied ethology, with a particular focus on emerging technologies, welfare-oriented research, and behavioural and cognitive approaches.

**Annika Krause and Katharina Zipp / *Regional Secretaries for West Central Europe***

## **Southwest Europe**

We are pleased to share the official webpage for the **ISAE South West Europe Regional Meeting 2026**, which will take place on **18–19 June 2026** at the **Lodi campus, University of Milan**, Via dell'Università 6, Lodi, Italy.

The conference theme will be:

### **New Insights in Welfare Assessment: Novel Approaches for Farm and Companion Animals**

The programme will include invited lectures and sessions dedicated to participants' contributions, presented as scientific posters or short oral presentations. English will be the official language of the meeting.

Participants are warmly invited to submit an abstract using the template available on the conference webpage. Abstracts should be sent to: [benessereanimale@unimi.it](mailto:benessereanimale@unimi.it)

Registration will be open from **28 May to 14 June 2026**. The registration link and the final programme will be published soon on the conference webpage. The webpage also includes practical information on the venue, how to reach Lodi, recommended accommodation, the event poster, and the abstract template.

Further information is available here:

<https://benessereanimale.unimi.it/en/2026/04/18/luniversita-degli-studi-di-milano-ospiter-a-il-congresso-regionale-isae-south-west-europe-2026/>

We encourage all members of the ISAE, and colleagues interested in applied ethology and animal welfare, to save the date and consider contributing to the meeting.

**Anna Olsson and Matteo Chincarini** / *Regional Secretaries for Southwest Europe*

## UK and Ireland

### Regional conference

The UK and Ireland region held their biennial regional meeting. This year we headed to the University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus. The day started with an amazing keynote presentation from Dr Ilyena Hirskyj-Douglas who spoke about her work on technology and animals, answering questions like: Do parrots have favourite friends to video call, and what music do white-faced saki monkeys prefer listening to? Her talk explored what giving animals agency over technology reveals about their social cognition and decision-making abilities, and how using computers affects their own and their human companions' behaviours. Peppered with really great anecdotes, it was a perfect start to a fabulous conference! There was then a really fabulous range of talks - from philosophical discussions about animal death, to using behaviour as a welfare indicator in reptiles, and whether we can use ethology to understand how non-human animals see the future to how personality affects animal experiences and responses to pain and human-animal interactions. The presentations were of an excellent standard and they prompted some really good discussions! For the first year we also had two workshops from Dr Lisa Yon and Dr Louise Evans. These were a really great way to break up the day and during them we covered qualitative behavioural assessment as a means of assessing animal affective state and judgement bias as a window into animal cognition and emotion.

We would like to offer our huge congratulations to our student prize winners:

- Abbie-Louise Smith: Highly commended presentation for her work on public perception of cow-calf separation
- Julia Machado: Best presentation for her work on judgement bias in great apes



### **Appeal for new regional secretaries**

After six years we are stepping down from our positions as Irish and UK reps for the ISAE and so with that we have an exciting opportunity for someone else to step up. Please email us on [ukireland.isae@gmail.com](mailto:ukireland.isae@gmail.com) with your CV and covering letter/EOI. And if you have any questions then please do send those over too!

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

### **Canada**

#### **North American ISAE regional meeting 2025**

The most recent North American ISAE Regional Meeting took place on May 14–15, 2025, at the University of Guelph, Canada. The meeting was hosted by the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare (CCSAW) and brought together researchers and practitioners to share advances in animal welfare science across disciplines. CCSAW has published an excellent recap of the meeting, including highlights from the scientific program and discussions.

Members are encouraged to read more here:

<https://ccsaw.uoguelph.ca/2025/06/30/researchers-convene-at-guelph-for-2025-isae-regional-meeting-on-animal-welfare-science/>

Recordings of selected talks and sessions from the meeting are also available online:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLf1GMQ3ilgOwgk5wD-\\_dH-E6TeUbj2zA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLf1GMQ3ilgOwgk5wD-_dH-E6TeUbj2zA)

We thank CCSAW and the University of Guelph for hosting a successful and engaging

regional meeting.

### **ISAE Canada region member activity and interest survey**

As Regional Secretaries for Canada, we are currently planning upcoming regional activities and would greatly value input from members. The Canadian ISAE region covers a large geographic area and encompasses a wide range of research areas, approaches, and career stages. To best serve the community, it is important to understand what types of activities are most useful and accessible.

Whether interest lies in in-person symposia, virtual methodology workshops, training sessions, or informal networking opportunities, members are invited to share preferences by completing a short survey. The survey takes approximately 5 minutes to complete, and the feedback will directly inform future regional initiatives.

Here is the access to the survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQtN2C2jC0EqGMHwgEjy4fFigsembr2FqNSNzKyWZf4k3K-Q/viewform>

Thank you for helping build a more connected and supportive ISAE Canada community.

**Jen-Yun Chou and Maria Camila Ceballos** / *Regional Secretaries for Canada*

### **Benelux**

The 2026 ISAE Benelux regional meeting is coming! It will take place on the 4th of November, at De Klaproos, an organic beef farm near the village of Sint-Oedenrode, the Netherlands. More information on registration and abstract submission will follow soon! We also welcome volunteers to chair a session during the meeting or review abstracts. If you are interested, please email us at: [benelux.isae@gmail.com](mailto:benelux.isae@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to a lively meeting, exchanging ideas and knowledge!

**Teresa Johansson and George Troupakis** / *Regional Secretaries for Benelux*

### **Africa & West Asia**

This report presents a comprehensive summary of the Africa Regional hybrid Workshop held on November 18 to 19, 2025, across South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. The theme of the Workshop was Transforming African Animal Farming through Improved Behaviour and Welfare. Each venue hosted participants onsite while simultaneously engaging with the regional virtual sessions. The individual reports submitted by the country coordinators have been harmonised to provide an integrated view of the workshop's activities, participation, key discussions, outcomes, and recommendations. This merged document reflects the collective efforts, shared experiences, and diverse perspectives that contributed to the regional workshop's overall success.

## **Impacts**

The workshop achieved several key outcomes:

- A. Strengthened animal welfare knowledge and behaviour-based management skills across four African countries
- B. Increased welfare capacity among veterinarians, students, researchers, and livestock stakeholders
- C. Enhanced visibility of African welfare perspectives on global platforms
- D. Direct engagement with key livestock industry stakeholders
- E. Maintenance of one WhatsApp platform for animal welfare advocates in Africa

The success of the event reflects the growing momentum of animal welfare development in Africa and the effectiveness of well-designed capacity-building programmes.

## **Overall Assessment**

The virtual activities of the 2025 ISAE Africa Regional Workshop were successfully executed and contributed significantly to the inclusiveness and reach of the event. The online format enabled participation from individuals who might otherwise have been unable to attend physically. Engagement was strong, technical delivery was smooth, and the learning objectives were effectively met.

## **Appreciation**

We express our sincere appreciation to ISAE and Open Philanthropy for their generous funding and unwavering support, which made this first regional workshop a remarkable success. We are especially grateful to the ISAE Development Office for the consistent guidance and coordination provided throughout the planning and implementation stages. Our gratitude also extends to the coordinators of the physical venues across the regions, whose dedication and seamless organisation ensured smooth delivery of the hybrid sessions.

## **Conclusion**

This event provided a valuable platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity strengthening across the region. The integration of virtual and physical activities ensured coherent delivery of the workshop's objectives and reinforced ISAE's commitment to accessible and high-quality animal behaviour and welfare education across Africa.

**Oluwaseun Christianah Ojelade** / *Regional Secretary, Africa and West Asia*

## Other News

### Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) held its annual virtual Animal Welfare Assessment Contest (AWJAC) on April 25 - 26, 2026. The spring contest invited participants to assess welfare scenarios involving show rabbits and free-range broilers. To see the list of winners, visit the AWJAC contest results page when the 2026 results are posted.

The fall 2026 contest details have not yet been fully announced on the AVMA event page. To learn more about the Animal Welfare Assessment Contest and for information on upcoming contests, visit the event [website](#).

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

## Employment and Education Opportunities

For some current [employment and education opportunities](#) related to applied ethology, visit the [ISAE website](#) and follow us on social media:

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/appliedethology](http://www.facebook.com/appliedethology)

**X:** [@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](mailto:info@applied-ethology.org). Listings are updated biweekly and will be removed 3 months after the posting date if no closing date is given.

## Contact Information

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