

ISAE

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newsletter

Issue 30 • June 2007

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President's Piece

Dear ISAE members,

The yearly highlight of the ISAE activity, our annual congress, is knocking on the door. According to the programme, the Mexican organizers and their collaborators succeeded in attracting a wonderful array of contributions. The plenary talks are a very nicely balanced set as they complement each other in covering important applied ethology topics. We will hear about Behaviour and production related diseases; Assessment of stress, Pain and emotion, Clinical ethology, about Investigating the mental experiences of animals, and about Behaviour-based grazing management, all by prominent researchers. The five workshops will reach out to important areas where applied ethology knowledge is being utilized for the good of animals, humans, and the environment, including conservation, sustainability of production, teaching of applied ethology and animal welfare worldwide, the populations of stray dogs and cats, and the relationship between human poverty and animal welfare. Thus, the Mérida plenary talk and workshop topics reflect very well the two main tasks of our society: to advance the scientific knowledge about animal behaviour and welfare and to promote the beneficial use of this knowledge.

The fact that the congress takes place in Mexico highlights the prominent position that Mexican applied ethology has achieved in the last two decades. It is very appropriate that Professor Don Broom has been invited to give this year Wood-Gush memorial lecture. Don has been very active thorough his career in supporting the development of applied ethology and animal welfare research and teaching in different regions world. Let us hope that other countries in the world where applied ethology is in its infancy (or even in the prenatal period) will follow the Mexican example. And, when there is a possibility or opportunity - let us contribute with our small or larger bit to make this hope reality.

The annual congress is the most visible part of the ISAE life. However, the society also wants to provide a good service to you, the members, throughout the year. The ISAE Council is working not only to guarantee the smooth running of the society but also to provide useful communication channels that are available round-the-clock, round-the-seasons, especially through the ISAE home page (www.applied-ethology.org). According to the number of posted positions, the “employment” slot is being used actively. The “teaching materials” chamber contains useful references and links to courses, slides, videos, clips etc. The ISAE members-only discussion forum (<http://www.voy.com/167578/>, password-protected) has been used for searching about specific information among ISAE colleagues, discussing experimental methodology and design, ethical issues etc. without being interfered by unwanted postings that do not qualify to a serious discussion. However, the Council can only provide you with these opportunities – it is up to you, ISAE members, to use their potential. So if you have information to share, please send it to the to the Communication officer or to the officer responsible for the particular aspect of our society. And if you have a more general suggestion how to make our society more useful, do not hesitate to contact any of the Council members or your regional secretary. Finally, if you feel you have a whole lot of ideas, consider nominating yourself for a Council position – the society always needs motivated people for its managing body!

Marek Špinka
ISAE President

Bug in the system

Bug in the system

Report from recent Council meetings by Anna Valros

It is time for the Bug to do her duty again, and let you, dear ISAE members, in on details from the last Council meetings. And as last year, I have more than one meeting to report from – the normal online December meeting (which was actually in November this time) and an extra online meeting held in March. Again, I will try to summarise the most important points of the discussions.

Our new **Ethics Officer** (now a voting Council member for the first time) has been very busy and in November Council agreed that a checklist **on ethical issues** will be added to the abstract submission form. The checklist was tried out for the Mexico congress, and will now be further developed, depending on experiences and feedback from this years' process.

In November, Council discussed **how to keep members better up-to-date with Council issues**, and in March Council decided that in the future all officers' reports will be posted or sent around to the general membership before, or as soon as possible after, the AGM. The new system will be tried out this year, so keep your eyes open for these reports and please, do comment if you think this is a good system or not, and let us know if you have suggestions for how to improve communications from ISAE Council.

As there are now more officers than before in Council, there was also growing worry about the **length of the AGM**. As you know, the tradition is that each office-bearing Council member gives a short oral report during the AGM. But with the current thirteen Officers, we run the risk of not being able to make it to the Banquet in time, if keeping to the old system. Therefore, in the future, only selected issues will be presented in detail at the AGM, but all available officers will still attend the AGM, so you still get to meet them in person.

Last year at the AGM, there was a suggestion for considering **alternative ways for participation of ISAE members in Council elections**, to make it possible for members who are unable to attend the Congress, to still vote. However, Council saw no reason to review the system for Council elections at this point. The issue may be raised again later, if there is a clearer need for it.

The Editor pointed out that the **AABS Special Issue**; containing papers based on Congress presentations, has been slightly problematic. In the future all Plenary speakers should be aware that they are expected to submit a full paper for the Special Issue after the congress.

Our Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Communication Officer have all had a very busy year, building up the new **online membership payment system**. As you all hopefully know (as you should have paid your yearly fee by know ☺) this system is now up and working. And at least from the point-of-view of the Bug, it works extremely well!

According to our new system of expelling members in arrays, there is no more mercy – now you need to **pay every year, or you are out!** However, due to the long process of getting the online payment system to work, members in array since 2005 or 2006 have been given some extra time.

But now that the system is working there is no more excuse for non-payment. But I am sure you have all done this by now, to ensure continuance of your membership in our excellent Society.

A very interesting development within the Society is the recently launched **Developing Countries (DC) Initiative**. The DC Initiative was taken by our President in November and has made excellent progress since then. People from countries like India, Tunisia, Uruguay and Russia have participated in the discussion and have realised that there are lots of students and people interested in domestic animal behaviour and welfare in these countries, but they have very restricted possibilities. The best way forward appears to be to help develop applied ethology and animal welfare science in the DCs, rather than doing research in these countries by established ISAE members. If you are interested to know more about the Initiative, or to join in, please read the piece on the issue in this Newsletter, or contact our President, Marek Spinka directly.

Well, I think this was the most important for now. The Bug is now off for her summer vacation and will give over to the Fly, who will attend the Council meeting in Mexico at the end of July. Again, you have an excellent congress to look forward to this year, thanks already now to the organisers! The Fly certainly looks forward to meeting as many of you as possible in Merida.

ISAE Council News

Membership Secretary – Dr. Moira Harris

Our society continues to evolve and flourish. As of 22 July we had 627 members, a sizeable proportion of whom were students.

As a quick reminder, ISAE now has a “pay every year” policy for its membership dues. This simple system means that members need to pay on time each year; no payment equals no membership! The move away from our previous policy of allowing people to go two years or more into arrears means far fewer administrative headaches, both for members and officers.

Current membership rates are £25/year for full membership, £15 reduced rate for student or retired members. Students must provide yearly proof of student status (with their payment) to qualify for the reduced rate. You can add a personal subscription to *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* for £60 (hard copy + online access) or £21 (online access only).

As you probably know, we’ve had some problems in the past year with our credit card payment system. We needed to replace our online payment page and this took longer and was more complicated than we expected. However, the online renewal system is now working well (as are all other payment options).

Please join me in welcoming the following new ISAE members:

Ms Anne Akre
Ms Marta Amat
Ms Lorna Baird
Miss Emma Baxter
Ms Allison Bechard
Ms Haifa Benhajali

Ms Katherine MacKinnon
Ms Rebecca Meagher
Dr Wim Meester
Dr Pablo Michelena
Mr Daniel Natt
Dr Shigeru Ninomiya

Ms Emma Brunberg
Mr Michael Brunt
Mr Paul Budgen
Ms Victoria Cussen
Mr Paolo Gazzola
Dr Carol Hall
Dr Ellen Jongman
Ms Camilla Kielland
Ms Claudia Kistler
Mr Peter Krawczel

Ms Gabriela Olmos Antillon
Ms Anne Pavlenko
Ms Monica Pittman
Miss Anne Pullen
Ms Therese Rehn
Ms Eliza Ruiz
Dr Roberta Sacchi
Mr Larry Sadler
Ms Charlotte Stewart
Ms Vivi Morkore Thorup
Ms Beth Ventura

As always, if you have a question or concern about any aspect of your membership, don't hesitate to contact me.

ISAE Regional News

West Central Europe – by Kristen Hagen

We have welcomed two new members in the past year. One of our members, Anja Wasilewski of Marburg University, was recently honoured with a prize for excellence in teaching. Claudia Schmied of Vienna Veterinary University recently successfully defended her PhD thesis about grooming in the relationship between humans and cattle.

The 38th International Meeting of the German Veterinary Society – Section of Ethology and Animal Husbandry - took place in Freiburg in November 2006. The topics were, among others: housing, feeding, locomotory and sleep behaviour of horses, vocalisation and social behaviour of cattle, and quantification and prediction of emotions. As usual, many ISAE members participated, and we had a brief meeting of the ISAE Regional Group. The next "Freiburg meeting" takes place in November 2007 - see meeting announcements for a link to the programme and registration form. A number of other meetings of interest to ISAE members also took place in the region, among them:

- The yearly graduate course in farm animal behaviour in Hohenheim
- A meeting about refined non-invasive or minimally invasive methods in laboratory animal science, organised by the Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association (the methods that were presented included minimally invasive blood sampling, telemetric methods, automatised activity measurements and behaviour tests, GPS tracking, and a variety of imaging techniques)
- The 12th international meeting of the German Veterinary Society – Section of Animal Protection Law - in Nürtingen.

Our joint West and East Central Europe meetings have become a tradition: the meeting in Celle in June 2006 was the third (reviewed by Edna Hillmann in the previous newsletter, abstracts available at “past regional meetings” our regional website). They take place every second year, so the next, which will be hosted by Slovakia, is planned for spring 2008. Other future meetings that may be of interest to the general ISAE membership are listed in the meeting announcements.”

ISAE Members on the Move

Colleen Doherty – A New Position and a New Name!

Colleen Doherty, a recent M.Sc. graduate from the University of Guelph under the supervision of Dr. Ian Duncan, has accepted a position with the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency (CTMA) as Manager – On-Farm Programs. Colleen will be responsible for the implementation of their On-Farm Food Safety and Flock Care Programs as well and she will also maintain their research file. The CTMA Flock Care Program is based on the Canadian *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant* published by the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council. The program is designed to be an educational tool used by Canadian farmers to ensure that they are using the most current methods for proper handling and care with respect to turkey production. When using the Flock Care Program, the farmer performs a self-audit on a bi-annual basis using a supplied checklist. These audits are regularly verified by a CTMA trained auditor. Colleen was also married on May 26, 2007 and now goes by the name of Colleen McElwain (e-mail: cmcelwain@canadianturkey.ca).

Courses and Training in Ethology

HAS Den Bosch, the Netherlands are offering an international MSc course in animal welfare, which is offered in cooperation with Writtle College (UK). Their course is titled 'Animal Biology and Welfare', it is a validated MSc course. More info can be obtained by sending an e-mail to Lenny van Erp (l.verp@hasdb.nl) or Emma Bleach (emma.bleach@writtle.ac.uk)

Funding Opportunities

Press Release Regarding Call for Proposals

AAH-ABV and WALTHAM Issue a Joint Call for Research Proposals

The American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians (AAH-ABV) and WALTHAM are collaborating on a research program exploring the nature of the human-animal bond. These organizations are issuing a call for proposals for investigations into areas of human-animal interaction that either have not been explored or that need further examination. These sponsoring organizations are particularly interested in questions regarding the impact of pets on the physical well-being of children (e.g. immunity, allergy, obesity), how pets affect the quality of life of elderly people, or how culture impacts the human-animal bond. Proposals must be submitted by September 1, 2007.

The AAH-ABV provides education, resources and support that enhance the ability of veterinarians to create positive and ethical relationships among people, animals, and their environment. The WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition is a state-of-the-art pet care facility in the United Kingdom dedicated to progressing the health and welfare of pets worldwide. WALTHAM is the research behind all Mars Inc. Pet Care brands such as Royal Canin, Pedigree and Whiskas– see www.waltham.com.

For more information about the call for proposals and for an application form, go to the AAH-ABV website, <http://www.aahabv.org>

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities related to applied ethology that are brought to the attention of the Communications Officer, are posted to the ISAE Home Page free of charge. Below is a list of positions currently available. Please check the ISAE Home Page for further details and for application deadlines: <http://www.applied-ethology.org/employment.htm>.

41st Congress of the ISAE in Mérida, Mexico

www.isae2007.com

INVITATION: On behalf of the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Autonomous University of Yucatan (UADY) we cordially invite you to attend the 41st Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology to be held in Mérida (Yucatan), Mexico **from July 30 to August 3, 2007**. Mérida is safe place to visit located 40 km from the coast and 300 km from Cancun.

TOPICS: Main theme: Applying ethology to animal and ecosystem management.

Main topics: Livestock extensive systems and ecosystem management
Cognition, Emotion and Animal Welfare
Applied Ethology and Conservation
Animal Welfare and Production related diseases
Research on Clinical Ethology
Free papers

The scientific program will include the Wood-Gush Memorial lecture, as well as 5 plenary talks, parallel sessions, poster exhibition and workshops.

Future meetings

ISAE Meetings

- **International Society for Applied Ethology** – 41st Congress
July 30 to August 2, 2007 in Mérida, **México**
- **42nd International Congress in Dublin, Ireland**
Dates to be announced, 2008
- **43rd International Congress in Australia**
Dates to be announced, 2009
- **44th International Congress in Upsalla, Sweden**
Dates to be announced, 2010

Other Meetings

Other meetings of potential interest can be found on the Applied Ethology Home Page:
<http://www.usask.ca/wcvm/herdmed/applied-ethology/meetings.htm>

2007

- **Second Annual Welfare Quality Stakeholder Conference**
May 3-4, 2007 in Berlin, **Germany**
- **Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society**
May 30 to June 3, 2007 in Victoria, BC, **Canada**
- **International Veterinary Behaviour Meeting** – 6th Annual
June 17-19, 2007 in Riccione (Rimini), **Italy**
- **International Congress in Animal Hygiene - XIII**
June 17-21, 2007 in Tartu, **Estonia**
- **Society for Behavioral Endocrinology** – 11th Annual
June 21-24, 2007 in Pacific Grove, CA, **USA**
- **Society of Veterinary Behavior Technicians** – Annual meeting, during the annual the AVMA meeting
July 15, 2007 in Washington, DC, **USA**
- **American College of Veterinary Behaviorists / American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior** – Joint meeting, during the annual AVMA meeting
July 16, 2007 in Washington, DC, **USA**
- **Animal Behavior Society**
July 21-26, 2007 in Burlington, VT, **USA**
- **International Equitation Science Symposium** – 3rd Annual Meeting
August 13-15, 2007 in East Lansing, MI, **USA**

- **XXX International Ethology Conference**
August 15-23, 2007 in Halifax, NS, **Canada**
- **Eursafe 2007 – Sustainable Food Production Ethics**
September 13-15, 2007 in Vienna, **Austria**
- **XXI International Bioacoustics Congress**
September 15-17, 2007 at the University of Pavia, **Italy**
- **International Society for Anthrozoology – 16th Annual Meeting**
October 4-5, 2007 in Tokyo, **Japan**
- **International Conference on Human-animal Interactions – 11th Meeting**
October 5-8, 2007 in Tokyo, **Japan**
- **International Zoo and Wildlife Research Conference on Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics – 6th Meeting**
October 7-10, 2007 in Berlin, **Germany**
- **International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management – Annual Meeting**
November 1-3, 2007 in Montreal, QC, **Canada**
- **German Veterinary Society – Applied Ethology Section – 39th International Meeting**
November 22-24, 2007 in Freiburg, **Germany**

2008

- **International Workshop on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm & Group Level – 4th Meeting**
September 11-13, 2008 in Ghent, **Belgium**

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