

ISAE Benelux – Regional meeting 2018 in Geel at the Experimental Poultry Centre

Regional secretaries: Lisanne Stadig (Dierenbescherming) and Laura Webb (WUR)



The regional meeting of the ISAE Benelux, which took place in Geel on October 10th was a fantastic success! The presentations ranged from impulsive cats to improving our ethograms in applied ethology, with 4 sessions on: individual differences, methodologies, the discreet charm of the gut, and interactions with other individuals. We also had an exciting keynote lecture by **Eddie Bokkers** (WUR) on the integration of animal welfare into sustainable development of farms. The presentations were of excellent quality and the discussions lively and stimulating. The tour of the **Experimental Poultry Centre** was very informative and we were shown novel broiler housing and different types of layer systems.





Our thanks goes out to our four chairs: **Inonge Reimert** (WUR), **Ellen Meijer** (UU), **Claire Diederich** (University of Namur) and **Monique Bestman** (LBI), and to our jury: **Cynthia Verwer** (LBI) and **Esther Majoor** (HAS). We would also like to warmly thank **Sophie de Graaf** (Dierenbescherming), **Leoni Jacobs** (Virginia Tech), **Iris Boumans** (WUR) and **Inonge Reimert** (WUR) for reviewing abstracts.



And a big congratulations to PhD student **Anouschka Middelkoop** (WUR) for winning the best presentation prize with her talk entitled: "Nutritional needs during lactation and playfulness at the creep feeder ease weaning in piglets".

Thank you very much to all involved!

Programme

09h00 - 09h30 Walk-in and registration
09h30 - 09h40 Welcome

Session 1 From fearful hens to impulsive cats: individual differences *Chair: Inonge Reimert?*

09h40 - 09h55 Fearfulness and keelbone damage in laying hens – does one lead to the other? **Elske de Haas**
09h55 - 10h10 Birth weight and holeboard performance of first- and lastborn piglets **Vivian Witjes**
10h10 - 10h25 Effect of Birth Order on Performance and Affective State of Pigs **Yara Slegers**
10h25 - 10h40 Impulsive cats **Bonne Beerda**
10h40 - 10h55 Individual side preferences of domestic chickens in a learning task **Nina Thierij**

10h55 - 11h15 Coffee break & posters

Session 2 Methodologies in ethology *Chair: Ellen Meijer?*

11h15 - 11h30 Methodological considerations about whinnies playbacks **Maud Remacle**
11h30 - 11h45 Ethograms in applied ethology: room for improvement!? A test case in equitation science **Marc Pierard**
11h45 - 12h00 Testing the performance of the Sow Stance Information System (SowSIS) to automatically detect lameness in breeding sows **Petra Briene**
12h00 - 12h15 Sleepy shelter dogs: Evaluating nocturnal activity as an indicator of adaptability of dogs to a shelter environment **Janneke van der Laan**

12h15 - 13h15 LUNCH

13h15 - 13h45 KEYNOTE: Animal welfare & sustainability **Eddie Bokkers**

Session 3 The discreet charm of the gut - about microbiota and nutrition *Chair: Claire Diederich?*

13h45 - 14h00 Early-life microbiota transplantation affects fearfulness in layer-bred chickens **Yvonne van de Weetering**
14h00 - 14h15 Effects of probiotic feeding of sows during late gestation and lactation on sow and litter performance and welfare **Severine Parois**
14h15 - 14h30 Nutritional needs during lactation and playfulness at the creep feeder ease weaning in piglets **Anouschka Middelkoop**

14h30 - 16h00 Coffee break and tour of the Experimental Poultry Centre

Session 4 Interactions with conspecifics and humans - effects on welfare and behaviour *Chair: Monique Bestman?*

16h00 - 16h15 Killing individual poultry on farm: a matter of animal welfare and feasibility **Anneleen Watteyn**
16h15 - 16h30 Non-beak trimmed hens versus beak trimmed hens in aviary housing system **Nathalie Sleenckx**
16h30 - 16h45 Group observation and paired contest hierarchy in layer hens **Marieke van der Meijden**
16h45 - 17h00 Dog-directed parenting as a candidate determinant of dog to owner attachment **Kerstin Bouma**

17h00 - 17h15 Closing and student presentation prize

17h15 - 18h00 Reception

18h00 Dinner