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# International Society for Applied Ethology

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### ISAE *newsletter*

Edited by John Eddison

Department of Agriculture & Food Studies,  
Seale-Hayne Faculty of Agriculture, Food &  
Land Use,

University of Plymouth, Newton Abbot, Devon  
TQ12 6NQ, UK

Tel. [+44] (0) 1626 325626

Fax. [+44] (0) 1626 325605

Email [jeddison@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:jeddison@plymouth.ac.uk)

<http://www.sh.plym.ac.uk/isae/home.htm>

Deadlines: late February for March issue;

late September for October issue.

## The two year period is gone

Two years ago I had the great honour and privilege to be elected as the president of your society and the chairman of a very lively council.

During that period we have tried to continue established activities and also to engage the Society on different topics.

The first new topic was to give the Society a clear international dimension. Thanks are due to the British veterinarians who, years ago, opened their group to the non-veterinarians and a truly international (not just British) Society has developed. Regions have been defined which clearly help and promote ISAE. Being international means that we should try to define a common scientific approach accepted all over the world. It also means that we should take in account all the areas where Ethology is useful. They include the animal welfare question but also the development of new production systems taking into account the economic aspects and the welfare of the people working with the animals. The session on the use of ethology in developing countries during the Clermont-Ferrand meeting reinforced my opinion that Applied Ethology should be developed in new areas.

The second topic is how we can disseminate the results produced by the members of the Society most effectively.

- An email network was built up and a WEB site is open.
- We also decided that we should actively promote the publications of the results of the members of the Society. After long discussions it appeared that the best way to do this was by supporting the journal, Applied Animal Behaviour Science, published by Elsevier. A final agreement with Elsevier is still to be found.
- We are gathering all the information on training and teaching on Applied Ethology and intend to make it available on our WEB site. A group of ISAE members is working for that purpose and interesting outputs are expected soon.
- We also felt that ISAE should be actively participating in the preparation of scientific reports for decision-makers. ISAE has been involved for several years on that topic and, in particular, has been asked to provide scientific expertise for the groups of the Council of Europe preparing recommendations on Animal Welfare. A group of ISAE members has been defined to work on that important job. It should include ISAE members specialized on various topics so to be able to give the best expertise those people can expect. It should progressively include new members so as to include more people and to prepare the future. It should also try in the future not to limit that group to requests from Europe, but also to be able to answer questions coming from other parts of the world.

*Pierre Le Neindre*

As Pierre Le Neindre says on Page 1, this is his last Presidential letter before the end of his two years in office. He becomes Senior Vice-President at the 1999 AGM which will take place in Lillehammer. He will be succeeded by Joy Mench, the current Junior Vice-President, with the current Senior Vice-President, Jan Ladewig retiring from Council. In addition to these changes in office bearers, Bjarne Braastad and Ute Knierim will have completed their periods as ISAE Council members. Consequently, there will be three vacant positions to be filled on Council this summer. Council, therefore, requests nominations for Junior Vice-President and for the two Council member positions. For the benefit of new members, the Junior Vice-President is elected for a period of two years after which they take over as President for a further two years and, once that period is completed they serve a further two years as Senior Vice-President. Ordinary Council members serve for a period of three years. One nomination for Junior Vice-President has already been received: the current ISAE Secretary, Linda Keeling.

Please send nominations for these positions (which should include the names of the proposer and seconder, along with the agreement of the nominee) to Linda Keeling before July 1st 1999.

*John Eddison*  
Communications Officer

### Regional Secretaries

Australasia/Africa:	Lindsay Matthews	Scandinavia:	Knut Bøe
Benelux:	Harry Blokhuis	South America:	Luis Pinheiro
Canada:	Alison Taylor	UK/Ireland:	Jon Day
East Central		USA:	Julie Morrow-Tesch
Europe:	Marek Špinka	West Central	
Mediterranea:	Elisabetta Canali	Europe:	Hanno Würchel
East Asia:	Shusuke Sato		

### ISAE Membership

#### *New Members*

The following new members have been approved by Council:

#### *New members:*

Madonna Benjamin, Canada  
 Helen Pamela Blyth Davidson, UK  
 Heather Elliott, UK  
 Emma Harding, UK  
 Hans Haussmann, Germany  
 Lynette Hart, USA  
 Masahito Kawai, Japan  
 Nina Keil, Switzerland  
 Ian Lean, UK

Cynthia McCall, USA  
 Nikolaos Pipiliagkas, Belgium  
 Agnethe-Iren Sandem, Norway  
 Nicole Schrijuer, Switzerland

#### *Resignations:*

W.D. Booth, UK  
 Jenny Remfrey, UK

I would like to welcome our new members to ISAE and hope you enjoy your newsletter. Just a reminder to our renewing members that *June 1st* is the renewal payment for the next membership period. Many of you have renewed your subscriptions and are up to date with your payments. Members in arrears are reminded that their payments will be applied to unpaid years before the current year. If you were in arrears from June '98 and recently sent in UK£10 then you are paid only to June 1<sup>st</sup> 1999. Please bring your subscriptions up to date to avoid being dropped from ISAE membership. Also, membership subs payments are still in British Sterling not US dollars. Your current subscription status is detailed on the address letter accompanying this Newsletter. You may pay by credit card (VISA, MASTER CARD, EUROCARD) to make the conversion easier. Finally, this year the membership directory will be revised. Please be sure to send any corrections to your name, address, phone, fax or email, etc. so they may be corrected in the directory. Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to seeing you in Norway!

*Janice Swanson*  
Membership Secretary

### Applied Animal Behaviour Science

The Society can offer members personal subscriptions to the journal Applied Animal Behaviour Science for UK £70.00 for the subscription year 1999. If any member wishes to take advantage of this offer, please send your payment to the Membership Secretary.

*Janice Swanson*

## Bug in the System

Yet again Council braved unknown bugs and viruses to hold the winter Council meeting over the Internet during the week 7-11th December 1998. The meeting followed a similar structure to the previous Internet meeting, that is to say with reports being circulated by email before the meeting and discussion focussing on reports from two officers each day. The increasing compatibility of systems around the world, noticeable even within the 3 years that we have had Internet Council meetings, means that there are fewer and fewer problems with circulation lists and attachments. In fact, the only bug in the system at this meeting was the one listening to the discussion and reporting back to you in this regular spot in the newsletter.

The first report discussed came from the Junior Vice-President, Joy Mench and concerned regional business. Two additional regional meetings, not already mentioned during the summer meeting, are planned by the USA/Canada and Latin America Regions. There was also some discussion about a possible reorganisation of the Mediterranean Region, but it was decided to wait until the results of the survey carried out by Elisabetta Canali are available before making any recommendations.

The elections of a new Treasurer (Jeremy Marchant) and a Membership Secretary (Janice Swanson), who are located in different countries, has involved work for these officers over and above that previously when both office bearers came from Britain. But they seem to have coped admirably and their reports were discussed on the Tuesday. Our current financial balances are General Fund (£20,301), Conference Fund (£5,215) and Council of Europe Fund (£2,388). Some of these funds however are divided between several accounts and it was decided to reduce the number of these, to make managing the accounts more effective, and to transfer some money from the current account to the deposit account so we can benefit from the interest.

The number of members is still increasing. It now stands at 640, although almost one third of members are behind with their subscription payments. This is a persistent problem and Regional Secretaries will be asked to chase up members in their region who are in arrears. While on the one hand it is great that the Society continues to expand, it does mean that the position of Membership Secretary is becoming very labour intensive and Council started at this meeting to discuss possible ways to deal with this situation in the future.

Another new member to Council is the Editor, Ray Stricklin. The two main topics for discussion in his report were the ISAE relationship with Elsevier and the status of abstracts from ISAE meetings. The written agreement with Elsevier is still to be finalised, so most discussion focussed on our conference proceedings. It has been an aim of ISAE to produce proceedings of a high quality. This has involved giving ISBN numbers for proceedings and in recent years reviewing abstracts. However, Council is discussing how far we can continue with this before it may affect the status of the

work when it is later submitted for publication as original scientific paper. It was decided to take up this point with some other societies and journals.

In the summer Council formed a new subcommittee to co-ordinate the role of ISAE in the workings of the Council of Europe. Neville Prescott, the new Assistant Secretary, took up some points regarding financing in his report and Paul Koene gave a summary of the work so far. The group consists of 7 people: Frank Ödberg and Don Broom, who currently represent ISAE at Council of Europe meetings; Neville Prescott who is involved in fund raising; and four representatives Markus Stauffacher (rodent/rabbit), Robert Hubrecht (dog/cat), Sandra Edwards (minipig) and Paul Koene (Non-human primates).

The next council meeting will be held Tuesday 17th August, 1999, in Lillehammer, Norway. At that meeting the "Fly on the Wall" replaces the "Bug in the System".

## ISAE WWW Site

The ISAE web site (located at: <http://www.sh.plym.ac.uk/isae/home.htm>) has been established to disseminate information about the ISAE and its activities to members and non-members. The intention is that it will act both as an information resource for members and also to raise the profile of the ISAE to non-members.

In order to achieve these goals, links to other sites of interest are being added, such as those established by the different ISAE regions and conference organisers, and also non-ISAE sites that are of relevance to applied ethologists. Please pass useful addresses to me and, if you have ideas about developments that you would like to see incorporated, email them to me.

Jan Ladewig, in his address at the ISAE AGM in Clermont Ferrand referred to the Education Committee setting up a web-based resource centre where useful teaching materials could be reviewed and referenced. The success of such a resource depends upon everybody involved in applied ethology education contributing to the effort. Please contact Jan for further details.

*John Eddison  
Communications Officer*

## ISAE European Council Fund

As some of you may know a major function of my job as Assistant Secretary is to act as fundraiser for The ISAE European Council Fund. ISAE is the only scientific welfare organisation that is invited to act as an observer to the Council's discussions. As an observer, ISAE has to fund its representatives to the Council of Europe. If you have names and addresses of potential financial supporters of this important ISAE work please do not hesitate to contact me. As Pierre Le Neindre says in his opening letter, we have broadened the panel of ISAE representatives to the Council of Europe.

*Neville Prescott  
Assistant Secretary*

## Help with English

The ISAE has developed a scheme for assisting members for whom English is not their first language, with preparation of manuscripts for publication in English language journals. We have had an excellent response from ISAE members offering to help - although more offers would be welcome - so we are now able to take requests from authors who would like to improve the English of their scientific articles. A list of helpers and their research interests is held by Lindsay Matthews, Animal Behaviour and Welfare Research Centre, AgResearch Ruakura, Private Bag 3123, Hamilton, New Zealand. email: MATTHEWSL@AGRESEARCH.CRI.NZ; Tel +64 7 838 5569, Fax + 64 838 5727.

Please send any requests for assistance to me giving: Paper title, Authors, Contact address (including fax and email if possible), Key words, and Journal to which the article will be submitted.

**Do not send the manuscript.** In return, you will receive the name of one helper. We have indicated to helpers that they should expect to be acknowledged in papers, but not to be an author.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Lindsay Matthews

## Regional news

### UK and Eire Region

Those readers who attended the 1998 UK and Eire regional Winter Meeting will already know that Libby Hunter has retired from the post of Regional Secretary. As the incoming Secretary, my first task is to thank Libby on behalf of the UK and Eire. It is to her credit that the number of the delegates at the 1998 Winter Meeting has forced us to consider a larger venue!

I have a number of Objectives as the incoming Secretary, and these are:

1. To stay in post for no longer than three years.
2. To poll for members' views on the format and location of the regional Winter meeting, and to action the majority view in 1999. This will revisit the issue of potentially publishing the meeting proceedings.
3. To establish a working committee to aid in the decision making process and organisation of the both the Winter Meeting, and other events in UK and Eire.
4. To establish an e-mail distribution list for the circulation of information to UK and Eire members (although important information will still be posted both in this Newsletter and the Applied-Ethology list).
5. To raise the profile of the ISAE at the Institute of Biology.
6. To promote the activities of the ISAE to a wider audience in the UK and Eire.

If you would like to help achieve any of these objectives, or have suggestions for other issues which need addressing, please do not hesitate to write to me or to send an e-mail to the address below. In the meantime, I look forward to contacting all UK and Eire members to ask their views on the Winter Meeting.

*Dr. Jon E. L. Day*

ADAS Terrington  
Terrington St. Clement  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk  
PE34 4PW  
e-mail: Jon.Day@adas.co.uk

## Conference Reports

### Nordic ISAE Winter Meeting in Sweden

The 11<sup>th</sup> Nordic ISAE Winter Meeting was held in Sweden at the Flämslätt Congress Centre right outside Skara from the 27-29<sup>th</sup> of January. The organiser, Linda Keeling, had provided us with the best of surroundings, including a thick layer of snow and temperatures going down to almost -20 °C. Fifty representatives from all the four Nordic Countries were present and a total of 21 oral presentations were given. The presentations covered many different issues from operant conditioning to the attachment between man and cat.

We were all asked to evaluate the speakers *e.g.* the quality of overheads; speed of talking; administration of time *etc.* and hopefully all speakers received some comments that will be useful for future oral presentations. The abstracts from the meeting can be found at the following Internet address <http://www.hmh.slu.se/isae/index.htm>

The program was not too tight and left us lots of time for good discussions and meeting new people. The social events in the evenings were relaxed and we even had live dance music the last evening - quite a luxury.

The next Nordic ISAE meeting is in Norway.

*Karen Thodberg,  
Denmark*

### Report of the UK/EIRE regional meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1998

The morning session of the meeting addressed an issue which, as far as I know, the Society has not considered formally before - the role of behavioural science in determining welfare standards in farm assurance schemes. Both the chair, The Earl of Lindsay, and Don Broom pointed out that animal welfare is a topic which touches the hearts and minds of a large section of the population, and could influence their decisions when buying meat. David Main outlined the scale of schemes currently

in operation - there are at least seven, with the pig sector being the most advanced. The majority of British pigs are now "assured" via a number of schemes, all of which require producers to adhere to certain standards, with regular inspections to ensure that these standards are upheld. A number of speakers pointed out that these schemes could move "further and faster" than the legislative process which is necessarily slow. David Main, Martin Potter, Judith Abrehardt and David Whiteford all stressed two points: that research alone has not provided all (or even most of) the answers which they need to set welfare standards, and that new methodologies are needed to evaluate welfare on-farm. David Whiteford summarised this problem well by pointing out that any assurance scheme is only as good as its weakest link - and welfare assessment may be that weak link. If challenged, how can schemes demonstrate an improvement in the welfare of their animals? Alistair Lawrence considered that, for behavioural science to contribute to standards in assurance schemes, a new approach was needed, in which strategic and applied science are closely linked, informing each other and leading to progressive changes over time in welfare standards. He reminded the audience that while experiments aim to vary individual factors, animals in production systems are subject to complex systems. Like most of the other speakers, he stressed the need for new methodologies for welfare assessment. I think that the topic gave the audience food for thought, and I hope that this is a subject the Society returns to again.

The afternoon session brought us back to traditional ISAE territory, with research updates on poultry, puppies, rats and pigs. If you missed the meeting, and want to know more about any of the papers, please contact me ([libby20@aol.com](mailto:libby20@aol.com)). For future meetings (including your views on a change of venue) please contact Jon Day, who was voted new Regional Secretary at the meeting. Finally, I'd like to thank Cecilia Lindberg for providing me with her transcript of the meeting.

*Libby Hunter*

## articles

### Legal Scene

#### DANGEROUS DOGS

Danger to other dogs is sufficient for the purposes of prosecution under the Dog's Act 1871. It is not necessary to prove a dog is dangerous to humans or livestock; it is sufficient to prove danger to another dog the Court of Appeal held.

#### FOXHUNTING, DEFINITION OF "CAPTIVE"

A hunted fox sought refuge in a culvert and was captive there for 13 minutes until dragged out by a terrier dog. It was shot one minute later. The prosecution argued that the fox was a captive animal. This if accepted would make the hunt liable under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1911. The court rejected the argument. Some period of time (*i.e.* more than 13 minutes) was required before the animal could be deemed to be "in captivity or confinement".

#### WILDLIFE

*Article:* "The Success of DNA profiling in wildlife law enforcement." (Guy Shorrock) International Journal of Biosciences and the Law. 1998, 1(4), 327-341 (This article discusses the use of DNA profiling to prove illegal laundering or theft of wild birds by disproving claims of familial links between birds of prey, and scope of legislative provisions protecting wild birds.)

#### IS CLIPPING WINGS, MAIMING?

In 1998 the Court of Appeal held that clipping of feathers is not maiming. The birds were jackdaws. Wing feathers were clipped each year to stop them flying. As there was no permanency in clipping the birds were not maimed.

#### FISH FARMING

European effects on UK Law are increasingly being seen. In Scotland a fish farm reported a notifiable disease to the Government and was required to destroy certain fish stocks. Compensation was refused. It was held that this was a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights 1950 and the Secretary of State for Scotland must pay compensation.

#### BOOKS

*Humane Law Enforcement Manual.* Washington Humane Society (1995) Washington DC.

*Law Relating to Animals.* S Brooman & D Legge (1997) Cavendish Publishing Unit ISBN 1859412386

*Animal Welfare Legislation in Canada & Germany.* Christine Meyer (1996) ISBN 3 631 30733

*UK Law Relating to Farm Animal Welfare.* Available free from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP UK

*Bill Jackson*

## Book Review

*Animal Welfare and Meat Science* by N. G. Gregory (with guest chapter by Temple Grandin). Published by CABI, Wallingford, UK. ISBN 0-85199-296-X. Price £49.95 US\$90.00.

Neville Gregory states in the preface of this book that, with society being increasingly concerned for animals under farming, transport and abattoir conditions, the problem facing us is agreeing over what is fair and reasonable for the animals. He goes on to identify three ways in which the conditions can be changed: legislation, changing attitudes of the personnel who actually work with animals, and the recognition that profit comes from good husbandry practice, considering the most important to be the need to change attitudes. The aim of the book is to bring together the evidence that supports the notion that good welfare is good for meat quality.

In order to demonstrate the link between welfare and meat quality, it is necessary to provide a basic understanding of, on the one hand, what is meant by animal welfare and, on the other, the physiological and biochemical processes that influence meat quality. Whilst the authors achieve the latter very effectively, providing a very detailed account of muscle structure and the physiological and biochemical changes that take place in animals around the time of slaughter, I do not feel that animal welfare receives a similarly thorough treatment: I would have preferred to see a broader scientific treatment of what *animal welfare* actually means to applied ethologists. For example, although there was plenty of detail about stress physiology, I did not find explicit mention of the need to use several measures in order to assess welfare; nor was there any mention of the different approaches to assessing welfare (*e.g.* experiential, functional & natural, as reviewed by Duncan & Fraser, 1997). However, in terms of the objectives of this book, this is not a fatal flaw because, as the author states on page 4: "It would be inaccurate to say that poor welfare always leads to poor meat quality.", and so the book focusses only on aspects of animal welfare that do impinge upon meat quality.

The range of information in the book is extensive: from the chapter based upon the successful practical experience of Temple Grandin on solving problems in livestock handling in slaughter plants, to detailed scientific descriptions of muscle metabolism and individual chapters dealing with problems of each of the main meat species. I found the use of bullet points to highlight key factors was put to good effect. Also, very clear diagrams illustrated metabolic pathways, features of animals and abattoir design.

I would say that this book achieves its stated aim to identify the links between animal welfare and meat quality. It will be a useful reference to applied ethologists who wish to know more about meat science and the way that the physiology of an animal affects the ultimate meat quality. It will provide meat scientists with an appreciation of some of the scientific principles of animal welfare relating to meat science; but it doesn't give them a broad understanding of animal welfare science. The authors, in addition to the scientific elements, do provide much practical information about the way to handle livestock in handling facilities. Temple Grandin ended her chapter by emphasising the

importance of committed management in determining the quality of animal handling, and the last chapter of the book considers caring for animals and quality in general. Perhaps the most important message that this book delivers is that, although there is a link between meat science and animal welfare, stockmanship and the design and processes in animal handling facilities are such key factors that, if we do not pay sufficient attention to them, then our detailed scientific knowledge is rather irrelevant.

Reference:

Duncan, I J H & Fraser, D (1997) *Understanding Animal Welfare*. In: Appleby, M.C. and Hughes, B.O. (Eds) *Animal Welfare*. CABI, Wallingford pp19-31.

*John Eddison*

## ISAE meetings

ISAE International Congress 17th-21st August 1999, Lillehammer, Norway. Details of this Congress are enclosed with the Newsletter. For enquiries, contact: ISAE'99, Dept. of Animal Science, Agricultural University of Norway, P.O. Box 5025, N-1432 Ås, Norway; fax +47 64 947960; email [isae99@ihf.nlh.no](mailto:isae99@ihf.nlh.no) internet: <http://org.nlh.nlo/isae99>

ISAE International Congress 2000, Florianopolis, Brazil. For details, contact: email [ISAE2000@cca.ufsc.br](mailto:ISAE2000@cca.ufsc.br)

ISAE International Congress 2001, Davis, California, USA.

ISAE International Congress 2002, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

ISAE International Congress 2003, Brisbane, Australia.

## OTHER MEETINGS

**Agriculture and the Environment Conference** will be held on 14th-16th April at Warwick University, UK. For information, contact Sandra Smith, ADAS HQ, Oxford Spire Business Park, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1NZ, UK. tel: +44 (0)1865 845038; fax: +44 (0)1865 845030; website: <http://www.adas.co.uk>

**International Congress on 'Regulation of Animal Production'** will be held at the Kurhaus of Wiesbaden, May 9th-12th 1999. The congress will provide an overview of the regulation of animal production in Europe, taking into account factors such as EU-Directives and their transformation into national law, retail groups, producer groups, environmental and animal protection groups and other important factors affecting the conditions of animal production. Experts in animal production and animal welfare, environmental protection, agricultural and environmental law, and farm planning will present and discuss the situation in various European countries. Registration Fee will be 340 DM before March 15th and 400 DM after March 15th. The programme, technical details and a registration form is available at: <http://www.dainet.de/ktbl>

For matters concerning the technical programme contact: Dr. Martin Kunisch, tel. +49-6151-7001-178; e-mail: [m.kunisch@ktbl.de](mailto:m.kunisch@ktbl.de)

**Second International Wildlife Management Congress** will take place in Godollo, Hungary, between 28th June and 2nd July 1999. The theme is: *People, Land and Wildlife: Priorities for the 21st Century*. For details, contact W Daniel Edge, email: [danel.edge@orst.edu](mailto:danel.edge@orst.edu)

**9th Biennial meeting of the International Society of Individual Differences**, to be held jointly with the Behavior Genetics Association 5th-9th July 1999 at the Coast Plaza Hotel, Stanley Park, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Further information can be obtained from Dr Kerry L Jang, Dept. of Psychiatry, Derwiler Pavilion, 2255 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 2A1; tel: +1 604 822 7895; fax: +1 604 822 7756; email: [kjang@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:kjang@unixg.ubc.ca)

**XXVI International Ethological Conference** will be held in Bangalore, India between 2nd-9th August 1999. For further information, contact Dr (Mrs) Shakunthala Sridhara, University of Agricultural Sciences, G.K.V.K., Bangalore 560 065, India, email: [meenal@birsn.IN.DHL.COM](mailto:meenal@birsn.IN.DHL.COM)

**10th International Congress on Animal Hygiene (SAH)** will be held from 2nd to 6th July 2000 in Maastricht, The Netherlands. Further information can be obtained from: ISAH Congress, 2000-office, RNVA, PO Box 14031, NL-3508 SB Utrecht, The Netherlands. tel: +31 30 251 0111; fax: +31 30 251 1787; email: [knmvd@pobox.ruu.nl](mailto:knmvd@pobox.ruu.nl)

## Addresses

<i>President</i>	Pierre Le Neindre	INRA, Theix, 63122 Saint Genès Champanelle, France. tel +33 47 3624094; fax +33 7 3624450; email <a href="mailto:pln@clermont.inra.fr">pln@clermont.inra.fr</a>
<i>Senior Vice-President</i>	Jan Ladewig	Royal Veterinary & Agricultural University, Department of Forensic and State Veterinary Medicine, 13 Bulowsvej, DK1870, Copenhagen V, Denmark. tel +45 31 351788; fax +45 31 35283022; email <a href="mailto:jal@kvl.dk">jal@kvl.dk</a>
<i>Junior Vice-President</i>	Joy Mench	Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 USA. tel +1 916 7527125; fax 1 916 752 0175; email <a href="mailto:jamench@ucdavis.edu">jamench@ucdavis.edu</a>
<i>Secretary</i>	Linda Keeling	Department of Animal Environment & Health, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Box 345, S-532-24 Skara, Sweden. tel +46 511 67220; fax +46 511 67204; email <a href="mailto:linda.keeling@hnh.slu.se">linda.keeling@hnh.slu.se</a>
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Neville Prescott	Silsoe Research Institute, Animal Science & Engineering Division, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4HS, UK. tel +44 (0)1525 860000; fax +44 (0)1525 861735; email <a href="mailto:neville.prescott@bbsrc.ac.uk">neville.prescott@bbsrc.ac.uk</a>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Janice Swanson	Kansas State University, Det. of Animal Science & Industry, 134C Weber Hall, Manhattan KS 66506, USA. tel +1 913 5321244; fax +1 913 5327059; email <a href="mailto:jswanson@oz.oznet.ksu.edu">jswanson@oz.oznet.ksu.edu</a>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeremy Marchant	School of Agriculture & Horticulture, De Montfort University, Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Nr Grantham, Lincs., NG32 3EP UK. tel +44 (0)1400 272521; fax +44 (0)100 272722; email <a href="mailto:jnm@dmu.ac.uk">jnm@dmu.ac.uk</a>
<i>Communications Officer</i>	John Eddison	Department of Agriculture & Food Studies, Seale-Hayne Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Land Use, University of Plymouth, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 6NQ, UK. tel +44 (0)1626 325626; fax +44 (0)1626325605; email <a href="mailto:jeddison@plymouth.ac.uk">jeddison@plymouth.ac.uk</a>
<i>Editor</i>	Ray Stricklin	Dept. of Animal Science, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20540, USA. tel +1 301 4051382; fax +1 301 3149059; email <a href="mailto:william_r_stricklin@umail.umd.edu">william_r_stricklin@umail.umd.edu</a>
<i>Legal Assessor</i>	Bill Jackson	19 Raven's Croft, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 7HX, UK. tel/fax +44 (0)1323 733589