

ISAE

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newsletter

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President's Piece

Dear ISAE Colleagues,

The year is quickly coming to a close and presents a time to reflect on ISAE accomplishments and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities for our society. Members of this society are actively engaged in their science making regular deposits into the bank of knowledge on the behavior and welfare of animals. I am proud of the service our members provide to a variety of scientific, academic, government and public organizations. ISAE members continue to serve prominent roles in setting standards for animal care, benchmarks for welfare assessment, and unraveling the complexity and beauty of the animals we study.

In August we had the pleasure of visiting Merida, Mexico for our 41st International Congress. The conference accommodations were outstanding and the city of Merida provided historical and architectural context to our meeting to Mexico. I enjoyed the sharing of knowledge, the excitement of exploring ancient ruins, traversing back streets to eat an excellent meal with colleagues, or to simply sit and discuss a paper in view of the colonial city. Francisco Galindo and his local organizing committee are to be congratulated and commended for the superb effort, planning and execution of this meeting.

This year Council said goodbye to Ruth Newberry, who finished a six-year term on Council, first as Junior Vice President, then President, and finally the Senior Vice President of the ISAE. Marek Spinka completed his term as President and picked up the reins of the Senior Vice President position. Victoria Sandilands advanced to the Junior Vice Presidency from her position as Senior Editor. Ruth, Marek and Vicky are fine examples of member scientists engaged in leadership to the society. All maintain robust research programs in applied ethology yet reserve time to serve members of the ISAE. Other members of Council who have completed terms of service are Anna Olson as assistant secretary, and ordinary members Kristen Hagen and Bjorn Forkman. On behalf of the society I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to each for completing his/her service on the Council. I would encourage you to consider volunteer service and leadership to our society. We will have several positions open for nominations in 2008. ISAE members are the lifeblood of the organization. Your membership and service is an integral part of maintaining international recognition of the ISAE as a scientific resource and advocate for the advancement of science. As the society grows, leadership must become an equal opportunity for all members. Resources should not be a limiting factor for a member to consider a position on Council. I challenge our society to develop avenues of support for those members eager to serve but hail from regions or institutions that are not resource rich and historically underrepresented in leadership positions. Your ideas on how to best accomplish this goal will be much appreciated.

Our 42nd International Congress will take place in scenic Dublin, Northern Ireland under the direction of members Alison Hanlon, Laura Boyle and Niamh O'Connell. Together they have planned the scientific program, social events and arranged for conference facilities and comfortable housing options for our Congress. The scientific theme is, *Applied Ethology: Addressing Future Challenges in Animal Agriculture*, a timely topic considering the work in progress by the OIE in setting global standards for farm animal transport, slaughter, disease control, and production. I hope you will consider attending this Congress and submitting a paper for an oral or poster session. Please visit the Congress website to learn more about what our local

organizers have planned. Also, keep a watchful eye for announcements on registration, abstract submission, and housing instructions. Members or regions that would like to host an ISAE annual Congress, I invite you to contact Marek Spinka our Senior Vice President. We are open for bids for the 2011 and 2013 Congress. Please consider hosting a global community of scientists to share our science and to develop an understanding and appreciation of the unique qualities of your region.

As we move into 2008, external requests to use the scientific knowledge and expertise of our membership will likely rise. Issues that can be highly contentious and emotionally driven can test the cohesion of a geographically, politically, and culturally diverse society like the ISAE. However, it does not mean that we can not position ISAE to engage in studied discourse or offer objective, thoughtful and deliberated positions on issues of importance to our science and the care and welfare of animals. The perspective should be global, respectful of difference and developed through tested scientific and ethical frameworks that produce reasoned positions with high integrity.

I look forward to working on behalf of the ISAE. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas, concerns or thoughts on how we continue to make the best even better. May you all have a wonderful holiday season and joyful New Year.

Best Wishes,

Janice Swanson, PhD
ISAE President

Fly on the wall

Fly on the wall:

Report from the ISAE Council meeting in Merida, Mexico July 30th 2007.

Although the weather (at least here in Finland) is getting rather chilly for the Fly, before I hibernate for the winter, it is again time to give my report from the last Council meeting, held in Merida, Mexico on July 30th this year. And yes – the climate there was much more suitable for a Fly, even a little too warm for this particular one.

Council accepted and welcomed a new *Honorary Fellow* to ISAE, as proposed by Fransisco Galindo. This was done to show our appreciation for the work done by *professor Aline S. de Aluja* in promoting animal welfare and applied ethology in Mexico.

In order to make sure we can attract promising researchers to our congresses also in the future, Council discussed in length about how to best divide the *Congress Attendance Fund*. It was decided that we need more flexibility: In the future the Congress Attendance Fund Committee (CAFC) can choose to give money either for mere congress registrations or also towards travel and accommodation, to persons especially deserving of the support. The decision on who will get the money will be based on the strength of the application. In addition, in some cases preference might be given to applications from certain regions, if attendance from these would otherwise be

especially difficult. In addition, the local organisers are encouraged to apply for regional funding for support for people to attend meetings locally.

The tradition has been to hold every second *ISAE congress in a non-European country*, in order to facilitate more equal opportunities for members from different regions to attend. In the next years this will be realised, as the congress will be held in Australia in 2009 (after Ireland in 2008 and before Sweden in 2010). However, we still have received no non-European bids for the 2011 congress (even though there has been some talk about the States...). So if you feel like taking on the responsibility for organising a Congress, please do contact our Senior Vice President Marek Spinka! From experience I can promise you that it is a lot of hard work, but certainly worth it: It's a lot of fun, you get to meet heaps of interesting and nice people, and probably get a lot of media attention in your own country, which is never a bad thing considering future funding opportunities.

There has been a lot of variation between Congresses in how the abstract submission has been done, both in practical details and in user-friendliness of the system. Therefore, Council has now decided to develop a common *web-based abstract submission and review system*. In the future, this system will be available for all congress organisers, making their job easier and standardising the abstract procedure between congresses. In connection with the abstract submission system Council has also decided to include a standard *ethics checklist for authors*. The idea is to thus be able to better recognise those abstracts in need for ethical revision by the ISAE Ethics committee and to keep authors aware of ethical issues involved in animal use for research.

Another web-related issue discussed at the Council meeting was the future of the *ISAE Regional websites*. These are now kept by Regional Secretaries, often hosted on domains at their local universities or research centres. Regional web-pages also vary a lot in content and quality. Therefore, Council decided to develop the system such that in the future, all regional web-pages could be hosted by the main ISAE home page and made according to a certain format.

The Council meeting was visited by our new contact person at Elsevier, Wim Meester. His report on our official journal, Applied Animal Behaviour Science (AABS) raised a lot of questions. Among others, Council was slightly worried about the decrease in what *impact factor of the AABS* during the last year. Suggested measures to increase the impact factor included having more high-quality reviews and special issues, speeding up the publishing process and getting AABS into PubMed. In addition, it is important to make sure people refer to *in press*-articles correctly. If references are made with the words *in press*, instead of using the DOI-number, citations are not registered correctly.

Our Communications Officer, Derek Haley, does a lot of work to make sure we get these *Newsletters* regularly. And I can tell you his job is not easy: Chasing authors not doing their job in time is not what we got our Academic degrees for. Therefore, Derek wanted to make sure members really do read the Newsletter. And positively enough, this appears to be so: Most of the members attending the 2007 AGM did admit to reading the Newsletter regularly. But please remember that any of you are welcome to submit articles to the Newsletter, thus making it even more varied and interesting than before.

Finally, the Fly wants to remind all members of two important matters: Firstly, in the future, Council will try to get members more involved in the Society's matters by *circulating the annual Officer's reports to all of our members*. Council hopes this will be appreciated and any feedback is very welcome. In addition, the Fly wants to make sure the Society can work as

efficiently as now also in the future, even though two of our very important Council members are leaving their duties at the next AGM: the *Membership Secretary* and the *Communications Officer*. These are both very responsible, central and interesting positions, where you really get to know the Society and its members. Please, do not hesitate to contact the Secretary or the Officers in question if you feel like this could be your calling!

Now it's time for the Fly to hibernate, but the Bug will give you a report on Council issues in the spring, and I hope we will all meet in Dublin in August next year!

ISAE Council News

Junior Vice President – Dr. Vicky Sandilands

Hello ISAE members, and welcome to another issue of the ISAE newsletter. Having just taken over from Janice Swanson at August's AGM, I'd like to introduce myself and give you an update on the regions. I am Vicky Sandilands, based at the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayr (near Glasgow), UK. You may be familiar with me in my former position as ISAE's Editor (later re-named as 'Senior Editor') and for publication of some previous Special Issues and articles to promote the Society. Alternatively, you may even know me for my scientific work in poultry!

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Latin American region for hosting 2007's Congress, which ran smoothly and was a big hit with attendees. The weather was hot, the hotel cool, the hospitality and entertainment magnificent (the all-women band with a mean age of 75 was particularly memorable) and the scientific programme varied and interesting.

Since August, there has been considerable change among the Regional Secretaries (RS), with four RS's leaving and six joining:

- Kate Littin replaces Lindsey Matthews in Australasia/Africa region
- Rodolfo Ungerfeld replaces Francisco Galindo in the Latin American region
- Nuria Chapinal and Xavier Manteca have taken up the vacant position in the Mediterranean region (but previously filled by Elisabetta Canelli)
- Cathy Dwyer and Laura Boyle replace Charlotte Nevison in the UK/Ireland region

As you can see, there was interest in two regions to 'job share' the position of RS, and I hope that this makes the considerable workload easier plus will give members two potential points of contact in those locations. I suspect that your RS would be grateful of feedback or suggestions on activities in your region, so please email them direct if you have comments (details below).

Our thanks goes to those former RS's for all their hard work and commitment in their region. Most secretaries serve for many years, and not on fixed terms. It is noticeable that all of the regions where there has been recent RS turnover have either hosted a Congress in the past few years or are about to! I hope that this isn't a significant trend (oh come on, I had to shoe horn a science joke in here somewhere); Laura (involved in ISAE Congress 2008) and Kate (involved in ISAE Congress 2009), don't panic...

Please note the contact details for all RSs is available both on the ISAE Home Page, and at the back of this Newsletter.

Some recent or upcoming regional activities include:

- The next ISAE regional meeting (Canada and USA) will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing Michigan in summer 2008.
- The next Nordic Symposium of the ISAE will be held in Oslo, Norway 16-18 January 2008 (http://www.umb.no/iha/nordic_symposium_isae/)
- An excursion to a large scale animal production system utilising self-supplied feed in Okayama prefecture, 28th September, 2007, Japan
- The Benelux region will have a joint meeting with the Dutch Society for Behavioural Biology on November 29th 2007
- ISAE 2008 will be held in Dublin, Ireland (UK/Ireland region)
- ISAE 2009 will be held in Cairns, Australia (Australasia/Africa region)
- East and West Central Europe regions will be holding a joint meeting in spring 2008
- Latin American region will hold its first regional meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, during June 2008

I wish you all a pleasant autumn and winter, and hope to see many of you in Dublin next year.

Best wishes,
Vicky

Procedural Advisor – Dr. Carol Petherick

The Society's Procedural Guidelines

A decision was made at the last Council meeting to change the timing of the Council e-meeting. It was usually held in December, which was probably a hangover from the days when the Society held its "Winter Meeting" and Council meeting at the Royal Veterinary College in London. The plan is to hold the e-meeting in February in future.

Revisions were made to the Procedural Guidelines after the e-meeting with the revised document being made available to members in February or March. In future, the Guidelines will be revised in September after the Council meeting and AGM held at the annual Congress, and should be available to members by October/November.

The Guidelines were developed to smooth the running of the Society, increase the transparency of its operations, document the corporate memory and provide consistency from one administration to the next. Please take the time to have a look at them; after all, they are very relevant to you as members of the Society. I would particularly urge future congress organisers to take careful note of the section on "The Congress", as this section contains a lot of important and useful information.

Council would also welcome any feedback on the Guidelines, so if you have any comments, then please get in touch with me.

Carol Petherick
Procedural Advisor

ISAE Regional News

Benelux – by Ingrid de Jong

As the ISAE Benelux region has not many members (about 44 members, of which about 60% is 'active') it is difficult to organize a meeting of the ISAE Benelux section only. Last year we had the opportunity to participate in the meeting of the 'Netherlands Society for Behavioural Biology' (NVG). This society has more members as compared to the ISAE Benelux region and organizes a yearly 2-days meeting with presentations on more fundamental aspects of ethology, especially from PhD students working at the departments of Biology of several Dutch universities. Last year we had five presentations from ISAE members in a separate session of this meeting, and both we as well as members of the NVG were enthusiastic. It gives us the opportunity to learn and discuss on more fundamental topics in ethology, and it gives the NVG members the opportunity to learn and discuss our more applied work.

In November we again organized a joint meeting. This year we had a session with 8 presentations on applied ethology. Our Belgian colleagues from the University of Namur presented their work on dogs (prenatal stress and aggressive behaviour). In addition we had presentations on studies in pigs (welfare monitoring and a consumer demand study), chickens (feather pecking and sexual behaviour in broiler breeders) and two presentations on reward-related behaviour. The responses of NVG members and ISAE members were positive and we intend to continue the collaboration next year. On the ISAE homepage you can find a link to the full program of the meeting.

Ingrid de Jong, regional secretary of the ISAE Benelux

ISAE Members on the Move

Harry Blokhuis moves from The Netherlands to Sweden

In May 2007, Harry Blokhuis was appointed as professor in Ethology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden. He is in the department of Animal Environment and Health. In his research Harry will focus on different areas including the study of the role of positive affect in the regulation of behaviour in chickens and the interaction between rider and horse. He is also interested to develop further interaction between ethology and the veterinary education. Harry will continue to coordinate the European project Welfare Quality for the Animal Sciences Group of Wageningen University and Research Centre in Lelystad.

Contact details:

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Derek Haley moves jobs in Alberta, Canada

In July 2007, Derek Haley was appointed as an assistant professor of Applied Ethology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. This was a newly created faculty position that will involve both teaching and research. Derek will be calling for applications to fill graduate studentships starting in 2008..

Contact details:

Tel.: +1 780-492-0105; E-mail: derek.haley@ualberta.ca

Meeting reviews

41st International Congress of the ISAE 2007

Merida, Mexico

30 July to 3 August 2007

The 41st International Congress of the ISAE was held in Merida, Mexico from 30 July through 3 August 2007. After seeing the pictures of the beautiful Yucatan region where the congress was held at the meeting in Bristol in 2006, I immediately decided I would go. What struck me most about arriving in Mexico, was how relaxed the people were. Sometimes this relaxed attitude was a bit annoying, for instance when you are waiting for your room at the hotel after 12 hours traveling. At other times, however, I found it very pleasant that people were so easy-going. The city of Merida was very enjoyable, with nice bars and restaurants. The congress hotel was very luxurious and offered great congress facilities. My own hotel had a certain rougher charm, but was also very acceptable. We had a very interesting scientific program for the congress. Personal highlight for me was the plenary talk given by Fred Provenza, who offered a very impressive and interesting talk on behavior-based grazing management. Otherwise, being a chicken person, I was happy to see sessions on feather pecking as well as on poultry welfare. The social program was also of high quality, especially the excursions and the banquet. During the excursions, I visited the ancient pyramids and temples at Uxmal. That was very impressive to see and to hear all the stories about the old customs and rituals that were performed there (confirming that cannibalism is not only performed by chickens). The day before the congress, I visited Chichen Itza, which had just been named as one of the new Wonders of the World, and that was even more impressive, but also much more crowded with tourists. After the excursion to Uxmal we had a great barbeque at a hacienda. The day after, we visited another hacienda for the congress banquet. This was a very enjoyable evening, with a great performance of four Mexican grannies singing and dancing on stage. And of course, also the congress delegates ended up singing and dancing on the dance floor (but that goes without saying at an ISAE congress). We ended the congress with a beautiful sunset on the roof of the hotel (and of course with a few margaritas). I had a great time in Mexico, both scientifically and socially and I would like to thank Francisco Galindo and his fellow-organisers for their warm welcome in Mexico!

Bas Rodenburg

21st IGN-Meeting 2007

Animal Suffering and Well-being, International Symposium on the State of Science

Giessen, Germany

20-21 September 2007

This year's conference of the International Society of Livestock Husbandry (IGN) was organized by the Division of Animal Welfare and Ethology of the Justus-Liebig-University of Gießen and took place on the campus of veterinary medicine in Giessen. Initially planned as a small and cosy convention, the meeting gained big-conference character with about 160 delegates, who came together to discuss the current state of animal welfare science. The controversial nature of the topic was reflected by the variety of delegates ranging from hardcore scientists to political activists. These were complemented by a gratifying number of practicing veterinarians and students from 15 different countries. Hanno Würbel and his team provided for an enjoyable and trouble-free meeting, and assured that nobody would suffer from hunger, thirst or thwarting of any other essential behavioural needs, thereby paying due respect to human welfare as well. Animal welfare is a topic of great public interest. Although our understanding of animal welfare issues has greatly increased in the recent past, debates remained highly controversial and emotional. Individuals differ in their relationships with, and dependence on, animals, leading to differences in the weighing of arguments. The aim of this meeting was to provide an overview and discuss the possibilities and limitations of the scientific methods that are currently available to add scientific evidence to such debates.

Eight invited speakers gave plenaries distributed across the two day meeting. On the first morning, Petra Mayr (Zürich, CH) set the scene in ethical terms by advocating minimisation of suffering as the least common denominator of a pragmatic approach to animal ethics. This was followed by Christoph Maisack (Bad Säckingen, D), who introduced the meaning of the terms suffering and well-being according to German animal welfare legislation. In the afternoon, Berry Spruijt (Utrecht, NL) added some neurobiological background to the discussion. According to him, emotional states are indispensable biological functions in a hierarchically organized brain, whereby suffering reflects a cognitive perception of an extreme emotional state. After learning that at least mammals may consciously perceive their emotional states, the next talk focused on the 'lowest' vertebrates in the evolutionary hierarchy, the fish. Victoria Braithwaite (Edinburgh, UK) convincingly demonstrated that at least some fish (rainbow trout) do seem to have the capacity to feel pain consciously.

Early the next morning, David Fraser (Vancouver, CA) gave a brilliant talk on how science shaped our understanding of animal welfare. His guided tour through the history of the human perspectives on animals revealed how much our views on animals depended on culture, and how the perceived gap between humans and other animals shrunk over the centuries, while moral concern over animals increased. This was followed by another terrific talk by Mike Mendl (Bristol, UK), who took the neurobiology of animal emotions further into the domain of neuropsychology, introducing promising cognitive measures of emotional states that may help us reveal to what extent non-human animals are consciously aware of sensations and emotions, and what emotional states animals are experiencing at any given time. After another methodological talk by Richard Kirkden (Linköping, S) on the problems with current approaches to the study of "what animal want" by preference tests and operant tests of motivation, Jonathan Balcombe (Washington, USA) ended the series of invited talks with an entertaining, yet thought-provoking fireworks of anecdotes of pleasure in the animal kingdom, to illustrate the moral significance of the full spectrum of animal emotions. His talk was followed by the official launch of the German edition of his book "Pleasurable Kingdom".

The invited plenaries were complemented by 11 oral presentations and 23 posters covering a wide variety of topics and species, including the screening for genetic resistance to diseases in pigs (Gerald Reiner, Giessen, D), measuring pain in crustaceans after declawing (Bob Elwood, Belfast, UK) and in calves after dehorning (Elisabeth Kahrer, Wien, A), non-invasive methods for the assessment of emotions in sheep (Nadine Reefmann, Ettenhausen, CH) and dogs (Franziska Kuhne, Giessen, and Barbara Schöningh, Hamburg, D), and cognitive enrichment in farm animals (Gerhard Manteuffel, Dummerstorf, D). Melissa Bateson (Newcastle, UK) beautifully complemented Mike's talk by showing that captive starlings also show pessimistic cognitive bias when housed in barren environments, while her student Lucy Asher confirmed Richard's earlier concerns by showing that starlings' preferences in motivation tests are highly context-dependent.

Despite the shared Graal's quest of finding reliable ways to assess and improve animal welfare, the variety among the delegates also led to intense debates. However, there was something for everybody, and while the hardcore scientists got excited about the sheer beauty of some of the more ingenious ways of assessing subjective experiences in animals scientifically, the welfare activists enjoyed the more emotionally laden anecdotes. Coffee breaks and poster sessions provided ample opportunities for exchanging these different views.

Besides the exciting scientific program, the perfect catering was a major contribution to the success of the meeting, although the meat-eaters were given a hard time in the face of a significant majority of vegetarians. The social side of the meeting was rounded off by a wine reception, followed by the "social dinner" (has there ever been a non-social dinner at a meeting?) in the local "Bootshaus".

Taken together, it was a great meeting, thanks to high-quality science, lively discussions, perfect organization (we are, of course, totally unbiased...) and an enjoyable atmosphere. As usual, there were also some particularly funny situations (e.g. one speaker consistently pointing her laser pointer toward the computer screen for about 10 minutes before someone shyly dared to catch her attention), as well as emotional moments (e.g. Hanno receiving a heavy bottle of old whisky from IGN President Andreas Steiger). Even if time was short, some more seeds of passion for the science of animal welfare may have been seeded, which – hopefully – will eventually benefit the animals.

Helene Richter and Laurence Coutellier
Division of Animal Welfare and Ethology
University of Giessen

**German Veterinary Society – Applied Ethology Section
39th International Congress**

Freiburg i. Br., Germany
22-24 November 2007

This year's congress opened with the startling announcement that the head of the DVG (German Veterinary Society), H. H. Sambras, had resigned from office. His successor is M. H. Erhard, the head of Ethology and Animal Husbandry of the newly formed "Animal Welfare, Ethology and Animal Husbandry" group.

130 participants from Germany, Switzerland and Austria attended the meeting to present their current research on housing of domestic and wild cattle, motivational aspects of normal and disturbed behaviour, and automatic data recording. Although cattle were the main research focus of the congress, sheep, goats, chickens and pigs were represented as usual. In the well-known free-paper session, work on canids and hamsters was presented.

The beautiful premises in Freiburg always create a welcoming atmosphere for the conference attendants - although the anticipation of a 15-minute discussion may well reduce the welfare of the speaker. Coffee breaks allow for more relaxed scientific exchange as well as networking. In the evenings, participants stroll through the town and into their favourite places (if they haven't closed down since the previous year) for further informal discussions of the day's most fascinating (or controversial) studies.

The first topic leading to an agitated discussion was cross-sucking in calves, to which no clear solution has been found over the past few decades. Similarly impassioned discussion was provoked by U. Knierim's presentation (University of Kassel, Germany) on qualitative behavioural assessment which (according to the opinions of few) might be a useful approach for assessing the subjective experiences of animals when used in conjunction with established animal-based approaches. Auditors responded with arguments that data only show that humans have similar impressions of what animals may feel, and that no evidence about the subjective experiences of the animals can be assessed with this approach.

Far less controversial was the contribution of J. Aschwanden (ART Tänikon, Switzerland), who found that dominance rank and presence of horns did not influence the individual distances maintained by goats feeding side-by-side in a pen; early grouping and stable groups can, however, improve undisturbed feeding. Another highlight was F. Bütikofer's paper on observations of ear postures in combination with cardio-respiratory parameters to distinguish positive and negative emotional states in sheep (ART Tänikon, Switzerland). C. Luif (BOKU Vienna, Austria) observed more non-REM sleep phases in sows in farrowing pens than in those in farrowing crates, although he stressed that the assessment of REM and non-REM sleep cannot be consulted to rate animal welfare in different housing systems just yet.

The conference was closed by H. Würbel (University of Giessen, Germany), who presented his thoughts on why applied ethologists exist and why we choose such a job. Altruism? Maladaptive? Or ethically valued job leading to a good reputation? Who knows?!

The highlight of Thursday evening was the annual IGN award ceremony for up-and-coming scientists, in which "The Good Shepherd" is given to one of three laureates. This year, Dr. Claudia Schmied (UVW, Austria) was chosen to host the statue for her work on the reactions of cattle to intra- and interspecific grooming, thereby advancing research on positive welfare and human-animal interactions.

All papers presented at the meeting are available in the KTBL-Schrift 461 in German, but with abstracts, tables and figures in English. Next year's topic is going to be how far we have progressed in improving animal welfare and the relevant legislation over the past few decades. Criticism was voiced that legislation at most ensures the minimum requirements of animal species in order to avoid the worst welfare. The aim is to see how far we have (or have not) come in implementing our ethological findings in legislation and how to achieve improvements faster.

Nadine Reefmann

Centre for Proper Housing of Ruminants and Pigs, Federal Veterinary Office, Switzerland.

Legal Scene

“Murder” of cat in Texas

The International Herald Tribune on 30th November 2007 published a story about a cat which had been living under a bridge in Texas. John Newland, the bridge toll collector, had given the cat food and bedding and named it “Mama Cat”. It was found shot dead on November 8th and police arrested a man called James Stevenson. Stevenson was indicted for feloniously killing a domestic animal. He claimed he did it to protect a bird which was being attacked by Mama Cat on the seashore. The case invoked exceptionally strong feelings amongst cat lovers and bird lovers alike. The trial opened on November 14 2007 and lasted for three days. The lawyers must have been rubbing their hands in glee.

The question the court had to decide was one of ownership. Did the provision of food and bedding by Newland confer ownership of the cat or was Mama Cat a feral cat? If the latter no offence had been committed. Konrad Lorenz was quoted in court “The mind of the cat is a delicate and wild thing”. The jury deliberated for two days and could not agree on a verdict. A mistrial was declared and the prosecutor has said he will not retry the case.

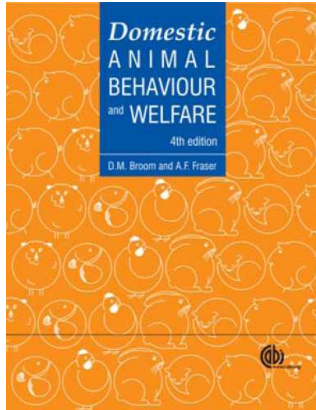
Under the law of England and Wales, wild and also feral animals are not owned by anybody but if they are looked after by somebody that can confer ownership depending on the circumstances. US law is derived from English Common law. But what would John Wayne have thought about all this?

Hunting ban not incompatible with human rights or EU law

The prohibition of hunting wild animals with dogs and hare coursing imposed by the Hunting Act 2004 was not incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights or inconsistent with the treaty establishing the European Union the House of Lords decided on November 28th 2007, dismissing appeals. The House of Lords is the final court of appeal in England and Wales. Appeal might be made to the European court but there is no indication that this is likely.

So far there has only been one successful prosecution brought under the Act and that was overturned on appeal.

New Reading in Applied Ethology



Domestic Animal Behaviour and Welfare 4th Edition (Previous edition: “Farm Animal Behaviour and Welfare”) by **Donald .M. Broom and Andrew F. Fraser** University of Cambridge Veterinary School (Retired).

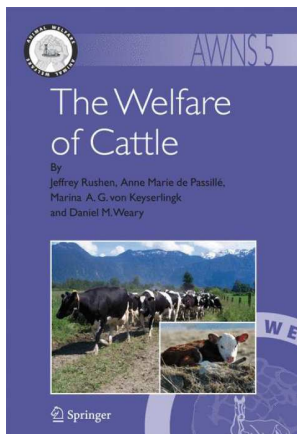
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The Welfare of Cattle by Jeffrey Rushen (Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agassiz); **Anne Marie de Passillé** (Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agassiz); **Marina A.G. von Kyserlingk** (Animal Welfare Program, University of British Columbia, Vancouver); **Daniel M. Weary** (Animal Welfare Program, University of British Columbia, Vancouver)

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“This book, written by the leading international research scientists in the field, is the first to cover all aspects of research into the welfare of dairy, veal and beef cattle. The book provides a thorough and critical review of the most up-to-date research on the welfare of cattle, covering behaviour, nutrition and feeding, housing and management, stockmanship, and stress physiology, as well as transport and slaughter. It provides a detailed and critical analysis of the main indicators of animal welfare and covers the main threats to animal welfare in modern cattle production systems. Although the focus is largely on cattle in developed countries, this book should also be of relevance in developing countries, where issues affecting the welfare of domestic animals are beginning to be addressed. The book is intended for researchers and research students in veterinary and animal science and animal welfare science, as well as professionals in the beef and dairy industries.”

Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction: what is animal welfare? Part 1: Indicators of animal welfare Chapter 2. Health, disease and productivity Chapter 3. Stress and physiological indicators of animal welfare Chapter 4. Animal behaviour Part 2: Challenges to animal welfare Chapter 5. Acute or short term challenges to animal welfare Chapter 6. Housing for adult cattle Chapter 7. Housing for growing animals Chapter 8. Feeding and nutrition Chapter 9 Stockmanship and the interactions between people and cattle Chapter 10. Conclusions.

Courses and Training in Ethology

University of Helsinki – PhD level course in abnormal animal behaviour

The Finnish research school for animal welfare is organizing a PhD course on Abnormal animal behaviour next summer (9 to 13 June, 2008). (Yes, it is at the same time than the Ruminant lameness congress in Finland, due to unfortunate bad luck.). The course venue is a lovely sport academy, at the border of the Nuuksio National park. And 7 experts, from animal and human science, are teaching at the course (G. Mason, C. Nicol, L. Kostal, L. Keeling, A.Zanella, J. Malmkvist & P. Piepponen).

For more information please visit the following link:

<http://www.vetmed.helsinki.fi/hyvinvointikeskus/tutkimus/abnormal%20behaviour.htm>

American Psychological Association (APA) – Advanced training institutes

APA's Advanced Training Institutes (ATIs) expose psychological scientists to emerging technologies and the most current research methodologies. ATIs provide training and hands-on experience in a variety of areas, such as conducting research with geographic information systems and with longitudinal methods, modeling, and measurement. ATIs are hosted each summer at prominent research institutions across the country, such as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Virginia.

Psychological scientists - new and established faculty, researchers, post-docs, and advanced graduate students - are invited to apply. APA membership is not required for acceptance, but members do receive discounted tuition. The criteria used to select ATI attendees can be viewed at [ATI Criteria](#). Applications for each program can be submitted by following the links on each individual ATI program's web page.

For more information please visit the following link:

<http://www.apa.org/science/ati.html>

Applied Animal Behaviour Science news from Elsevier

A new look for *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*



After having featured on 107 volumes, starting with the first issue of 2008 *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* will no longer be recognisable by its red cover. After all these years you will no doubt be very familiar with the graphic circular design on the journal cover, however there were discussions on the suitability of the design. A competition amongst ISAE members to come up with new ideas did not result in a new cover. After discussions with the ISAE council and Editors, this summer a professional designer was brought in. The designer was briefed to come up with a new look for the journal: reflecting the wide scope of animal species covered in the journal, emphasising the behaviour aspect and the interaction with humans. All of which should have a modern feel and be within the general guidelines of Elsevier journal covers. Of course it is virtually impossible to include all of these requirements and reflect

such a wide scope on just one cover page. However, we are very pleased with the ideas the designer came up with and the new cover it resulted in. We hope the ISAE community will quickly adopt the new design and that you will soon recognise the new *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* as your journal. Whether it is online, on the shelves of your institute's library or in your own mail box, please remember to look out for the modernised look of *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*.

Editorial changes

Following the recent appointments by the ISAE council, two new Board Members were appointed. Joe Garner is appointed as the Senior ISAE Editor, responsible for the annual ISAE Special Issues in *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*. Joe Garner is assistant professor of Animal Science at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, USA with expertise in abnormal behaviour, statistics, enrichment and animal welfare in lab animals and poultry. Joe will be assisted by the Junior ISAE Editor Hanno Würbel who, besides editing the ISAE Special Issues, will also act as a reviewer for regular manuscripts submitted to the journal. Hanno Würbel holds a professorship at the Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen, Germany and is an expert in abnormal behaviour, stereotypes, stress and enrichment in laboratory animals, mice, rats, dogs and horses. Meanwhile the Editorial Board of *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* has said goodbye to Vicky Sandilands, who has been involved as guest editor for ISAE special issues since the 2003 issue. The Publisher would like to thank Vicky for her contribution to producing some outstanding, high quality special issues for the journal.

The Editors-in-Chief would like to have an increased focus on Review Articles in the journal. Ideally this change in strategy should result in the commissioning and publishing of more high quality reviews of active current interest. Björn Forkman has indicated that he no longer has time to sufficiently fulfill the increased editorial tasks of the Reviews Editor. We would like to thank Björn for his work on Review Articles in the journal and are pleased that he will continue to serve as a regular Board Member for *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*. The Publisher is

pleased to announce that Dan Weary is willing to take over the position of Reviews Editor. Dan Weary is specialised in objective indicators of welfare, vocalisation, hunger and feeding behaviour in dairy cows and dairy calves. In addition, he also has interest in sickness behaviour, lameness and gait. Dan is working at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. With Dan taking over the Reviews Editor responsibilities, the Book Review Editor position has become vacant. The Editors-in-Chief are currently searching for a suitable replacement for the position of the Book Reviews Editor. Suggestions for this position are welcome and anyone interested in this position can send their nominations to Wim Meester, the Publishing Editor of *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* (w.meester@elsevier.com).

Getting published faster

Due to the success of the journal, we are receiving more and more excellent contributions. The increased number of accepted submissions has resulted in a longer print publication time. We are aware of this situation and would like to highlight some measures, which should assist in making your research available to the scientific community faster. Articles accepted for publication by *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* are available on ScienceDirect (www.sciencedirect.com) as *Articles in Press* within 6 weeks after acceptance. These articles have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication, are copy edited, formatted and published online. These articles can be fully cited using the unique Digital Object Identifier (DOI – this can be found at the bottom of the title page of your article) as follows: author(s), article title, journal (including the year in which the article became available online), and the DOI. Approximately 2 months before print publication - articles are assigned to its volume, issue and page numbers. At this stage all bibliographical details are available and are identical to the details that will appear in the final printed version of the journal. Meanwhile, for 2008 we are planning to publish more papers per issue resulting in publishing even more outstanding work in the field of applied animal behaviour and reducing publication times.

Subscriptions for ISAE members

As a member of the ISAE you can exclusively benefit from a heavily reduced subscription rate to *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, the official journal of the ISAE. For 2008 you can choose between a print-plus-e subscription for EUR 95 per year, or an e-only subscription for EUR 32 per year, for 2008. This is an exceptional offer, since the only other way to receive the journal is via an institutional subscription. For 2008 volumes 108 – 114 (28 issues) are announced. E-access will allow you to see all full-text content from 1995 onwards, all *Articles in Press*, and all titles and abstracts before 1995. To subscribe to *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* please contact Moira Harris, the ISAE Membership Secretary (mharris@harper-adams.ac.uk).

For a complete overview of Elsevier's offering in Animal Science, Veterinary Science and Veterinary Medicine please visit and bookmark

<http://www.elsevier.com/anivet>

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>.

Position	Location	Contact
Post-doctoral Position Social behaviour of farm animals	Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK	Dr. Christopher Wathes cmwathes@rvc.ac.uk
Research Assistant Behaviour and welfare of pet rabbits	University of Lincoln, UK	Dr. Jonathan Cooper jcooper@lincoln.ac.uk
Research Scientist Neurobiology of emotional behaviour in birds	INRA Nouzilly, France	Dr. Philippe Chemineau philippe.chemineau@tours.inra.fr
Research Scientist Animal-human relationships and consequences on pig's adaptation to new rearing environment	INRA Nouzilly, France	Dr. Jean-Baptiste Coulon jbc@clermont.inra.fr
Research Scientist Feeding behaviour and new feeding practices in birds	INRA Nouzilly, France	Dr. Jean-Baptiste Coulon jbc@clermont.inra.fr
PhD Studentship Positive affect and the behaviour of chickens	Swedish Agricultural University (SLU)	Dr. Harry Blokhuis harry.blokhuis@hnh.slu.se
Full Professor position Behavioural physiology of farm animals	Universität Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany	Please view the PDF on the website.
Tenure-track Faculty position Animal behaviour and welfare	University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Calgary, Canada	Dr. Alistair Cribb acribb@ucalgary.ca
Tenure-track Faculty position Agricultural Animal Well-being Specialist	The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA	Dr. Päivi Rajala-Schultz paivi.rajala-schultz@cvm.osu.edu
MS Studentship Behavior and welfare of laying hens	Clemson University, SC, USA	Dr. Peter Skewes pskewes@clemson.edu
Assistant or Associate Professor Applied Animal Behavior	University of Maryland, College Park, USA	Dr. Inma Estevez iestevez@umd.edu
Auditors / advisors Animal Welfare Institute	Animal Welfare Institute, USA	vivian@awionline.org
Post-doctoral Position Development of a MSc program in animal welfare	University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada	Dr. Tina Widowski twidowsk@uoguelph.ca
MSc Studentship	Iowa State University, USA	Dr. Anna Johnson-Butters

Behavior and well-being of grow-finish pigs		johnsona@iastate.edu
Director Animal Science Programs	Humane Farm Animal Care, Herndon, VA, USA	adeledouglass@aol.com
Assistant Director Animal Welfare Division	American Veterinary Medical Association, Schaumburg, IL, USA	Ms. Lori Keane lkeane@avma.org
MS Studentship Gestating sow preferences for different housing systems	University of Purdue, West Lafayette, IN, USA	Dr. Ed Pajor pajor@purdue.edu
Post-doctoral position (1 year) Animal cognition	Centre of Eco-Etho Research & Education, France	Dr. Marthe Kiley-Worthington mkileyworthington@googlemail.com
M. Phil. (1 year) Farrowing systems to improve sow and piglet welfare	Centre for Animal Welfare & Anthrozoology, University of Cambridge, UK	Ms. Sue Tennant st374@cam.ac.uk
Post-doctoral position (3 years) Welfare of ducks	Centre for Animal Welfare & Anthrozoology, University of Cambridge, UK	Ms. Sue Tennant st374@cam.ac.uk
Section Leader Animals Behavior Program	Nestle Petcare St. Joseph, MO, USA	Mr. Myron Davis mdavis@protisei.com
Welfare Quality help in training and mobility for young researchers	Various (See details for more information)	Dr. Isabelle Veissier veissier@clermont.inra.fr
Software & Instrumentation Sales Engineer Neuroscience & Zoology	Noldus Information Technology, USA	Mr. Bart Van Roekel bart@noldus.com

International Society for Equitation Science: News

It's been a very exciting year for ISES. Over a wonderful Italian meal at the Equitation Science Symposium in Milan in 2006 it became clear that interest in equitation science was growing and we should think about forming a society to support its development.

Volunteers formed a Founding Committee and started work on a draft constitution inspired by and based on ISAE's excellent constitution.

The Committee were delighted when 2007 Local Organiser Camie Heleski obtained a grant from the USDA which provided funding for the Michigan symposium at the Kellogg Centre. Camie is to be congratulated and warmly thanked for hosting a very exciting and stimulating meeting. As is becoming a tradition at ISES local opportunities for eating, socialising and riding were enjoyed by enthusiastic participants!

On the final day of the Michigan meeting ISES held its first General Meeting, where the draft constitution was presented, discussed and adopted, and Council Officers elected. Since August

ISES Council has been busy working on suggestions raised in Michigan, and several amendments to the constitution have been agreed and implemented.

Papers from ISES 2007 are being prepared for publication as a special edition of the journal Applied Animal Welfare Science, which should be published in time for ISES 2008 in Dublin which will be held as a satellite meeting to ISAE 2008.

The Local Organiser for ISES 2008 is Dr Jack Murphy of University College Dublin and will be held 2nd - 4th August 2008. The first conference announcement will be published on the new ISES website which has been developed by ISES Communication Officer Elke Hartman. Further news and updates will be available www.equitationsscience.com. The first call for abstracts will be from 1st February 2008.

We look forward to seeing you in Dublin

Best Wishes

Debbie Goodwin
Honorary President ISES

42nd Congress of the ISAE in Dublin, Ireland

www.isae2008.com

Cead Mile Failte.

The 42nd Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology will be held at University College Dublin, Ireland from 5-9 August 2008. Our aim is to make the congress dynamic with a new approach to workshops that will facilitate the exchange of ideas between participants.

The social programme will include a spectacular Gala dinner at historic Trinity College in the heart of Dublin city, as well as a Welcome and Farewell Reception. A variety of excursions are being planned including an opportunity to attend the world famous Dublin Horse Show, Dublin Zoo and ancient Celtic sites such as the Knowth Megalithic Passage Tomb.

We look forward to welcoming you to Dublin!

Alison Hanlon, Laura Boyle and Niamh O'Connell

Main theme: Applied ethology: addressing future challenges in animal agriculture.

Sub themes: Behavioural problems of captive and domestic animals
Applied ethology in organic and pasture-based production systems
Novel welfare indicators
Applied ethology and animal breeding
Automated data collection methods
Free communications

Deadlines: Deadline for abstract submission - **3 March 2008**
 Completion of abstract peer review - **1 April 2008**
 Deadline for submission of revised abstracts - **1 May 2008**
 Opening of registration - **18 January 2008**
 Deadline for early-bird registration - **9 May 2008**

43rd Congress of the ISAE in Cairns, Australia

ISAE2009, Cairns, Australia

The Congress is still more than 18 months away, but we know that funding applications to attend conferences often have to be made well in advance and, also, for many of you, this will be a major travel undertaking that could involve some planning, particularly if you wish to combine business with the pleasure of a holiday in this part of the world (highly recommended!). So, we thought that you might find it useful to learn a little bit about the Congress and the location of it.

The Congress will be held 6th-10th July 2009 and the theme is “Applied Ethology for Contemporary Animal Issues” with the following sub-themes:

- Welfare assessment and enhancement
- Management of unwanted animals
- Animal emotion and cognition
- Animals in extensive and natural environments
- Animal-human interactions

So, hopefully, there will be something for everyone. More details of what topics these sub-themes will cover will be available on our website, which we hope to have operational early next year.

We have taken the advice of previous congress organisers and have taken-on a professional organisation, ICMS (<http://www.icms.com.au/>) to assist us with the preparations. This company has, on a number of occasions, worked with the Cairns Convention Centre (<http://www.cairnsconvention.com.au/>), which is the venue for the Congress.

Cairns itself (<http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/>) is a relatively small city, which makes getting around it quite easy. It is also very much a “holiday” and “conference” city, so is an ideal place for the Congress. For those of you who don’t know, Cairns is located in tropical north Queensland (<http://www.tropicalaustralia.com.au/>) and, should you be considering extending your stay to take a holiday, offers easy access to the Great Barrier Reef, tropical rainforest and the “outback”.

We will let you know as soon as our website is “live” and you can then find out more about the Congress and other holiday destinations in both Australia and New Zealand, but we hope that this brief update and links give you a taste of what you could experience and enjoy, and that many of you will now start making plans to attend ISAE2009.

Carol Petherick (Chair), on behalf of Local Congress Organising Committee

Future meetings

ISAE Meetings

- **ISAE – Nordic Region Meeting**
January 16-18, 2008 in Oslo, **Norway**
- **ISAE – Joint East & West Central Europe Meeting**
May 15-17, 2008 in Bratislava, **Slovakia**
- **ISAE – Latin America Region Meeting**
June 6-7, 2008 in Montevideo, **Uruguay**
- **ISAE – Joint Canada & USA Regions Meeting**
Dates and location to be determined, (likely May or June) 2008 in the **USA**
- **42nd International Congress**
August 5-9, 2008 in Dublin, **Ireland**
- **43rd International Congress**
July 6-10, 2009 in Cairns, **Australia**
- **44th International Congress**
Dates to be announced, 2010 in Upsalla, **Sweden**

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>

2008

- **Livestock Transportation Conference – American Meat Institute**
February 13, 2008 in Kansas City, MO, USA
- **Animal Care and Handling Conference – American Meat Institute**
February 14-15, 2008 in Kansas City, MO, USA
- **Behaviour and individuality in primates and other mammals**
March 17-18, 2008 in Lisbon, Portugal
- **Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC) – Annual Conference**
April 3-4, 2008 in Red Deer, AB, Canada
- **Farm Animal Welfare and the Interface with Disease**
April 16-17, 2008 in Bristol, UK
- **Animal Transportation Association – AATA's 34th Annual Meeting**

May 18-21, 2008 in Dresden, Germany

- [Recent Advances in Animal Welfare](#) – UFAW Animal Welfare Conference
July 3, 2008 in Birmingham, UK
- [Canine Science Forum – On dogs & related Canids - From genes through behaviour to society](#)
July 5-9, 2008 in Budapest, Hungary
- Across species, across disciplines, across borders: Opportunities for animal welfare and epidemiology scientists – [Click here to e-mail for more information](#)
July 14-16, 2008 in Ames, IA, USA
- [European Conference on Behavioural Biology](#) – 4th Conference
July 18-20, 2008 in Dijon, France
- Animal Behavior Society
August 14-19, 2008 in Snowbird, UT, USA
- 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare
October, 2008 in Cairo, Egypt
- [Intl. Workshop on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm & Group Level](#) – 4th Meeting
September 10-13, 2008 in Ghent, Belgium
- International Society for Comparative Psychology – 14th Biennial Meeting
October 9-11, 2008 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

ISAE Council for 2007-2008

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