

ISAE

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newsletter

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President's Piece

Dear members,

Welcome to the June edition of the ISAE newsletter. I hope that the winter wasn't too hard on you (or indeed, that the summer was pleasant, depending on which hemisphere you are based in) and that you are all looking forward to what your society will bring in the forthcoming months. May I extend a warm welcome to all new members joining us since our last newsletter.

This month, your society hopes to progress with a proposed formal relationship with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). I shall be meeting with David Bayvel, Chair of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, to discuss how we can best move forward as a formal body of experts that they can refer to during the formulation of proposed animal welfare standards (for example, to become a 'Collaborating Centre', if applicable). I know many of you already work closely with OIE committees, and we hope to continue that but in a more formal basis.

Since we hired Intergage to redevelop our website, there has been a considerable period of development and organizing going on behind the scenes. Soon you will also notice considerable changes to the website's design, ease of use and a system that links up payments and membership status much more automatically. There will also be content that your Regional Secretary can control, and places where you can upload photographs of ethologically-related topics to share with others. This will be in place and 'go live' by autumn 2010.

Of course, the society's next major event is 44th international congress, held this year at Uppsala in Sweden, and I am sure that the organisers have prepared a delightful meeting for you. The programme begins with the Wood-Gush Memorial lecture, this year given by Charlotte Hemelrijk, a social behaviour expert, and is followed by a busy programme packed into four days at the Uppsala Concert and Congress Hall. Already, before the congress takes place, I would like to extend my thanks to the organisers and scientific committee for their hard work. The congresses take more than two years to arrange and every year the society members and other participants are grateful to you for your hard work.

Finally, I am going to wave my big flag that says 'join in!' again. Your society cannot run without the time, commitment, and enthusiasm that you, the members, bring to it. You can do this in a small way, by giving your Regional Secretary regular feedback on what you would like the society to be doing for the good of applied ethology, or you may choose to get involved in a more formal manner, by joining Council. However you choose to do it, please participate. The society continues to grow and develop through your continuous interest in this most fascinating of topics.

With best wishes, and hope to see you in Uppsala,

Vicky Sandilands (UK)

Bug in the system

A report from the recent Council meeting, from Charlotte Stewart, Secretary

Dear ISAE members,

First of all I would like to say hello to you all as the new bug in the system to bring you all the ISAE news and gossip. This year council had two web based meetings; a brief meeting in October and the usual February meeting to discuss on-going issues. For the past few months there have been many problems with our subscriptions and membership services co-ordination. Council members have been working hard on up-dating the **Membership services** and would like to thank you for your cooperation and your patience during this process. Hopefully all the kinks have been ironed out of the system and will be running smoothly from now on.

On a similar note the **society website** will be undergoing some changes in the near future and this will be something to keep an eye on. Discussions are continuing on improving the **membership payment** systems and this is something that Council hope to have resolved in the not too distant future.

This year seems to have a theme of progression and reviewing, and this includes amendments to the **Procedural Guidelines** - to stay up to date you should all have a wee read! I think that these were the most important points raised at our last meeting, so I would like to finish by saying we hope you see you all at the next meeting in Uppsala in August. We can look forward to another exciting, fun and dynamic meeting!

Charlotte Stewart (UK)

ISAE Council News

Secretary – Charlotte Stewart

Some very interesting and important Council positions are up for election at the 2010 AGM (at the ISAE 2010 Congress in Uppsala, Sweden on August 5, 2010), so this is YOUR chance to take part in the development of our Society. Nominations, including a short (½ page) biography should be sent to the Secretary, preferably by the end of May 2010. If you want further information on any of the duties, please contact the Secretary (charlottestewart@hotmail.co.uk) or the current officers in question (see contact details below). Remember that it is perfectly ok to nominate yourself! If you do nominate someone else, make sure to ask them first.

Below are some information on the positions in questions, for more information on the Council and the duties of the Officers, please refer to the ISAE constitution and guidelines.

The Education Officer (2010-2014)

Collates and coordinates information on teaching material and make this information available on the ISAE website to members of the ISAE, as well as responding to queries addressed to the Society regarding matters related to education in applied animal behaviour.

Education Officer: Dr. Maria Andersson: maria.andersson@hnh.sl.se

The Procedural Advisor (2010-2014)

The role of the Procedural Advisor is to (if possible) be present and serve as Procedural Advisor at all meetings of Council and the general membership, and to ensure that these meetings are conducted according to the Constitution and guidelines of the ISAE. The Procedural Advisor also reviews the guidelines annually and recommends changes for consideration by the Council, ensuring that these reviews are done within the rules of the Constitution, as well as advising on amendments to the Constitution.

Procedural Advisor: Dr. Carol Petherick : carol.petherick@dpi.qld.gov.au

The ISAE Ethics Committee is seeking 2 new members and a new chairperson this year. As a member of the Ethics Committee you will participate in discussions on ethical issues relating to the ISAE. The Ethics Committee serves as an advisor to Council and to Conference organisers' scientific committees. Preferably, members of the Ethics Committee should have broad scientific knowledge and some experience in dealing with ethical issues. Members of the Ethics Committee normally serve for a 6 year term.

For reasons of continuity and acquired skills and knowledge, a current committee member can be nominated for Chair by the Ethics Committee, but other nominations may also be taken from the Society membership. The Ethics officer and thus chair of the Ethics Committee serves for 4 years.

If you are interested in joining the Ethics Committee, please submit half a page with an overview of your qualifications and professional profile, and your motivation for becoming a member or chairperson. New members and the chairperson will be appointed by ISAE Council at the Council meeting in Uppsala in August.

For more information and submission of nominations, please consult the ISAE procedural guidelines or contact the ISAE Ethics officer, Stine B. Christiansen: sbc@life.ku.dk

Senior Vice President – Janice Swanson

ISAE Congress Bids

The ISAE Council is requesting bids for hosting the annual ISAE Congress. Hosting the annual ISAE Congress can be a wonderful exposure to, and recognition of, applied ethology faculty, research/teaching programs at your institution and the cooperating regional institutions. The ISAE provides initial assistance and guidance on organizing the Congress, an ISAE Congress Book providing conference statistics and programs from previous congresses, and the experience/support of previous hosts to assist with the planning process. We would especially like to entertain bids from non-European countries for the **2013 and the 2015 Congress'**. The 2010 Congress will be hosted in Uppsala Sweden; 2011 Indianapolis, Indiana USA; 2012 meeting will be in Vienna, Austria; 2014, Vitoria, Spain (bid received); and the 2016 meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland to celebrate our 50th anniversary. For more information or submission of a bid to host an ISAE Congress please contact: Janice Swanson, Senior Vice President ISAE swansoj@anr.msu.edu.

Communications officer and Membership Secretary – Keelin O'Driscoll and Hans Spolder

Since this time last year we have had some major changes to the way we organise our membership services and database. Last year we had some problems both with the online

payment system and with maintaining the database, so at our autumn council meeting we decided to go ahead and organise a new way of managing things. After discussing some ideas between ourselves and with several web design companies about how to overhaul the website, and possibly have an integrated online membership database, we decided to work with Intergage, a web design company based in Southampton, UK. I have been to their offices to learn how to use the new system, and am really looking forward to trying out what I've learned on our own website when it's complete. At the moment the structures underlying the new site have been built, so we are busy filling in the content and hope to be up and running within the next couple of months.

In December I took over from Mike Hooper as interim membership co-ordinator, so Hans and I have spent the past few months catching up with outstanding payments and getting the database up to date. At the moment we are fairly confident that everything is sorted out, but if any of you have any queries about your membership status or payments please get in touch and we will do our best to sort it out as quickly as possible. We are currently in the renewal 'season', and so far about 250 members have paid for 2010/2011. If you are yet to renew, the online payment system is working fine, and that is the easiest way for Hans and I to collect membership fees. It is also possible to pay for Applied Animal Behaviour Science using the online system, but unfortunately we have not been able to update the prices (currently advertised at £21 for online access and £60 for hard copies). This year hard copies cost £95 and online access £34, so if you make your payment online I can enter the system and take the outstanding amount. We are also intending to be a little stricter this year than usual about renewals, and anyone who has not renewed their membership by 1 August will be removed from the database. After that, if you want to renew, you will either have to re-apply for membership, or else pay for the missed years.

Since the last newsletter we have had many new members join the society. Please welcome:

Pierpaolo Di Giminiani (Denmark)	Jacquelyn Jacobs (USA)
Yvonne Owen (England)	Jessica Rozek (USA)
Melissa Liszewski (USA_	Katrine Fogsgaard Jensen (Denmark)
Courtney Felton (Canada)	Payana Hendriksen (Denmark)
Miranda Bourque (Canada)	Katrine Elmgreen (Denmark)
Anthony Ferraro (USA)	Malin Azel-Nilsson (Sweden)
Megumi Fukuzawa (Japan)	Alan McElligott (UK)
Amy Stanton (Canada)	Clare Browne (New Zealand)
Melisa Veillette (Canada)	Faith Burden (UK)
Claire Bowdrey (England)	Geoff Urton (Canada)
Sophie Collins (Scotland)	Agnethe Spangberg (Denmark)
Rachel Chojnacki (USA)	Patricia Turner (Canada)
Boris Chu (Scotland)	Marjolein Kops (The Netherlands)
Zofia Dobaczewska	Lotta Berg (Sweden)
Brendan Duggan (Ireland)	Winanda Ursinus (The Netherlands)
Ketan Dulal (Scotland)	Franck Peron (France)
Julie Hecht (USA)	Cynthia Todd (Canada)
Charlotte Hobbins (Scotland)	Julie Storm Rasmussen (Denmark)
Lucy Jacobowski (Scotland)	Rachel Stratton (New Zealand)
Miriam Martinez Macipe (Scotland)	Amanda McKibbon (Canada)
Priya Motupau (Scotland)	Shawna Weimer (USA)
Caitlin Naughton (Scotland)	James Millam (USA)

Anna Paluzzano (Scotland)
Sharmini Paramasivam (Scotland)
Lorna Anne Paton (Scotland)
Vasiliki Protopapadaki (Scotland)
Josep Subirana (Scotland)
Matthew Turner (England)
Katherine Ann Yanetski (England)
Liu Qing (Scotland)
Lene Moelgaard (Denmark)
Nadine Ringgenberg (Canada)

Corinna Clark (UK)
Julie Johnsen (Norway)
Kristian Ellingsen (Norway)
Birgitte Seehus (Sweden)
Christina Phillips (USA)
Laura Webb (The Netherlands)
Yezica Norling (Sweden)
Daiana de Oliveira (Brazil)
Beatrix Eklund (Sweden)

ISAE Regional News

Annual JVP report June 2010 (Anna Valros)

ISAE Regional news May 2010

As the Junior Vice President of the ISAE my duty is to coordinate regional activities and thus I have the privilege of getting an insight into how the Society is doing on a global scale. And I am happy to notice that the regions keep being very active: During 2009 three regional meetings were held and during the first half of 2010 four further regional and national meetings were held.

At the Nordic regional meeting in January 2010, Satu Raussi from Finland was elected as our new Nordic regional secretary. It is my pleasure to welcome Satu, and I wish to thank the previous Nordic RS, Margit Bak Jensen from Denmark for her excellent work during the last five years.

Please, see below for more details about regional activities.
Anna Valros, JVP

Australia, New Zealand, Philippines & Africa – Kate Litten

We now have around 80 members in our region, with a healthy influx following the 2009 Congress.

The Congress was a major event for the region last year. Because it is the subject of a separate report, I won't comment any further on it here, except to say we all thoroughly enjoyed it as an opportunity to catch up with other regional members and make new research contacts. And of course to say thank you sincerely to all the Congress sponsors.

Judging by publications, job vacancies, affiliations of new members and news reports, there seems to be a growth in the study of applied ethology in this region, especially in relation to companion animal behaviour and animal welfare. I have been trying to encourage members to make more use of the website for news and will soon start another 'membership drive' by circulating membership posters to all current regional members.

A couple of members have expressed support for the idea of a regional symposium to be held in New Zealand. This was mentioned in last year's report, but the date has been pushed back and

we will see how we go with this for late 2010 or early 2011. There may still be the possibility of joint funding from other organisations, depending on the topic(s).

Canada – Jen Brown

2009 Regional Meeting

A joint regional meeting of US and Canadian ISAE members was held on July 17-18, 2009 in Montreal, Quebec. The meeting was organized by Nicolas Devillers and Stephanie Torrey at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. A total of 80 members from all over North America were in attendance, and enjoyed 40 oral and poster presentations. Dr. Don Kramer, a behavioural ecologist from McGill University, gave the keynote address speaking on fear behaviour in wild and domestic species.

2010 Regional Meeting

Ruth Newberry and Sylvie Cloutier at Washington State University are hosting the 2010 regional meeting which will be held in Pullman, Washington on May 26 and 27. The next US/Canadian regional meeting will likely be held in 2012- the offer is open to potential hosts for this meeting!

Canadians return home

In late 2009, Ed Pajor returned to Canada to take up a new position as Professor of Animal Welfare at the University of Calgary Faculty of veterinary Medicine. Ed is a native of Ontario, and completed his PhD in biology at McGill University, specializing in animal behaviour. Prior to returning, Ed worked as a faculty member in the Department of Animal Sciences at Purdue University.

In February of this year, Lorna Baird was appointed Executive Director of the Alberta Farm Animal Care. Lorna is originally from Manitoba, and recently completed her PhD in Animal Science at Queen's University of Belfast, where she studied lameness in dairy cattle.

Welcome home, Ed & Lorna!

In the news

Congratulations to Stephanie Torrey and husband, John Vuk, on the birth of their son, Elijah Vuk! Elijah was born on March 2, and is growing fast. Steph has recently returned to Guelph from Lennoxville, and has shifted her focus from swine to poultry research.

In 2009, Derek Haley joined the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph as an Assistant Professor in Applied Ethology and Animal Welfare. Prior to his appointment at OVC Derek was in Edmonton, working as an Assistant Professor in Applied Ethology at the University of Alberta.

In the fall of 2009, two researchers joined Harold Gonyou in the ethology group at the Prairie Swine Centre in Saskatoon. Fiona Lang has recently completed her PhD in applied ethology at the Scottish Agricultural College, and joins Prairie Swine as a Research Associate focusing on the welfare of sows and piglets. Jennifer Brown completed her PhD at the University of Guelph in 2009, and will focus on the welfare of grower/finisher pigs.

In April and May 2010 Knut Bøe of the University of Life Sciences in Norway visited ethologists across Canada, stopping in Guelph, Saskatoon and Vancouver. Knut presented results of his research on sow housing and group gestation and farrowing systems in Norway.

Canadian Regional Secretary

Stephanie Torrey completed a three year term as Canadian regional secretary in 2009, and has passed the torch to Jennifer Brown. Many thanks to Steph for her dedicated work in this role, and especially for organizing the 2009 regional meeting! If Canadian members have any job listings or other items of interest, please forward them to jennifer.brown@usask.ca

The Canadian membership currently stands at 63 members.

East Asia – Katsuji Uetake

Japanese Society for Applied Animal Behaviour (JSAAB), which is not a regional organization of the ISAE but includes most of ISAE members in East Asia Region, had an annual meeting on 30 March 2010 at Meiji University (Surugadai campus, Tokyo). There were 45 oral presentations and symposium on quantitative genes controlling “behavioral desperation” in rats (Presenter was Prof. Ebihara of Nagoya University).

East Central Europe - Boris Bilčík

Number of members from East Central Europe region decreased to 10, including one with free membership and 5 students.

The main event in 2009 was the “Joint East Central and West Central Europe Regional Meeting” which took place in Vienna, Austria, on 25-26 September 2009. The meeting was organized by West Central Europe Region and hosted by Christoph Winckler. The abstract book is available at http://www.applied-ethology.org/Westcentraleurope_files/Book_of_Abstracts_ISAE_Regional_Meeting_Vienna_2009.pdf

The next Joint East Central and West Central Europe Regional Meeting is planned for year 2011 near Prague, Czech Republic.

Nordic – Margit Bak Jensen & Satu Raussi

Regional meeting 2009

The Nordic Symposium of the ISAE was in 2009 held in Bjerringbro, Denmark on the 19th- 21st January. There were 42 participants. The program included two main themes. The theme ‘Animal assisted therapy’ was introduced by a plenary talk by Dr. Colin Hendrie, who is a senior lecturer in Human and Animal Ethology at the Institute of Psychological Sciences, University of Leeds. The theme ‘Social behaviour’ was introduced by a plenary talk of Dr. Machteld van Dierendonck, who is a clinical ethologist and equine welfare expert at the Veterinary Faculty of Utrecht University. The symposium also included 18 regular presentations, of which 8 were student presentations, on a range of interesting topics. Every year the Klaus Vestergaard price is awarded the best student presentation. At 2009 the price went to Stephanie Buijs, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden & ILVO-Animal Science, Belgium, for her presentation entitled “Spatial distribution and behaviour of broiler chickens at different densities”.

Regional meeting 2010

The 2010 Nordic winter Symposium of the ISAE was held at Siilinjärvi, Finland at 20th to 22nd January. The programme included seven sessions and 25 presentations in total. A keynote lecture was presented by Karen McComb from the University of Sussex. Karen gave a speech on animals’ communication and cognitive abilities: insights from playback experiments on elephants, horses and cats.

Promotion of Baltic membership

At the Nordic symposium 2009 we discussed the need to promote ISAE membership in the Baltic countries. Of the 86 members in the Nordic region of the ISAE at 2009 there is only one member from the Baltic countries. Therefore in following years we aim to promote ISAE membership in the Baltic countries. The following were proposed: a) to encourage scientists and lecturers in ethology in the Baltic countries to participate in the next Nordic symposium in Finland and in the international conference in Sweden 2010, b) to encourage membership in the Baltic countries and to advice about the congress attendance fund of the ISAE, c) to encourage Baltic members to arrange the regional symposium in 2011 and to help them do that, d) to try to find external funding to promote ISAE activities in the Baltic countries, e) to establish an email list of scientists and lecturers in ethology, or interested in ethology, in the Baltic countries. At spring 2009 Lena Lidfors from SLU has helped Margit Bak Jensen to establish contact with Andres Aland, Associate Professor in Animal Hygiene at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Estonian scientists are willing to organize the 2011 regional meeting.

Election of new regional secretary

Nominees for the regional secretary post were asked at the end of the year 2009 and a new secretary was announced at the Nordic meeting in Finland 2010. Margit Bak Jensen has served as regional secretary since January 2005.

The home-page

The home-page for the Nordic region was managed by the secretary Margit Bak Jensen. The page was updated several times during the year, for example when there were details on the Nordic meeting in Finland <http://www.isae-nordic.agrsci.dk/>.

As of May 2010 the Nordic region has 104 members.

UK & Eire – Cathy Dwyer

As of 21st March 2010 membership for this region stands at 189 members.

The UK and Eire region held the first Regional Meeting for a number of years at Harper Adams University College on January 13-14th 2010. Despite the snowy weather, which prevented the Keynote speaker from making it, about 30 people managed to brave the wintery conditions to enjoy the hospitality of Moira Harris and Mark Rutter, sample the Harper Adams wine and cheese in the newly opened Food Academy, tour the on-site microbrewery, hear some interesting papers on subjects as diverse as fetal lamb behaviour, rabbits need for height and responses of pigs to an elevated plus-maze, and participate in workshops on the 3Rs and wildlife welfare. The proceedings of the meeting are available on the UK/Eire website.

Following a discussion with members from the Irish part of the region we have asked Council to change our name from UK and Eire to UK and Ireland, as a name more fitting for the 21st Century.

United States of America - Candace Cronney

The North American Regional Meeting of the ISAE will be held May 26-27 at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. The local organizers are Ruth Newberry and Sylvie Cloutier. The keynote address will be given by Jim Ha of the University of Washington.

Plans are underway for the 2011 international Meeting of ISAE in Indianapolis, IN, USA. Details are to be announced by Jeremy Marchant-Forde on behalf of the planning committee. In particular, suggestions for speakers for the Wood-Gush memorial lecture are sought.

ISAE members on the move

Lucy Asher moves from Royal Veterinary College (London) to University of Nottingham

Dr. Lucy Asher has recently moved from a Research Associate position at the Royal Veterinary College to take up a position as Lecturer in Epidemiology and Animal Behaviour at the University of Nottingham's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. In her new role she will be primarily working on a project concerning the epidemiology of guide dog behaviour and she will be working closely with the new Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine (CEVM) at Nottingham.

Dr. Lucy Asher
Room B34 Veterinary Medicine and Science
Sutton Bonnington
Loughborough
LE12 5RD
e-mail: lucy.asher@nottingham.ac.uk

Satu Raussi moves from MMT Agrifood Research Finland to Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare

Our Nordic regional secretary, Satu Raussi, has moved from a principal research scientists post at MTT Agrifood Research Finland to the Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare where she works as a director.

Her new contact info is:
Satu Raussi, director
Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare
e-mail: satu.raussi@helsinki.fi
tel. +358504156570
<http://elaintenhyvinvointikeskus.edublogs.org/>

Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci. news -- from Elsevier

What authors want

Applied Animal Behaviour Science authors find publication speed an important consideration when selecting a journal to submit a research paper. These same authors rank *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* as one of the best journals to submit articles to when it concerns publication speed. Accepted manuscripts are published online within 6 weeks and articles appear in the printed issue approximately 3 months after acceptance.

Another important factor for authors when selecting a journal to submit is the Impact Factor. Last year, the Impact Factor of *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* increased to **1.823** and the journal is ranked 7th out of 47 journals in the ISI Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science Category.* This year's Impact Factor will come out around mid-June. Keep an eye on the journal home page to find out what the new Impact Factor will be: www.elsevier.com/locate/applan

One of the main reasons to select a journal for submitting an article, is the fit of the article with the journal's aims and scope. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* is the official journal of the ISAE and provides a unique forum for the publication of topical articles on the application of ethology to animals managed by humans. This journal scope nicely corresponds with the aims of the ISAE.

Therefore, submit your article today and your paper could directly influence and benefit from the high impact and benefit from the fast publication times. Manuscripts should be submitted online using the Elsevier editorial system at: <http://ees.elsevier.com/applan>

Elsevier also continues to offer a subscription to *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* to ISAE members at highly reduced rates. Remember to select the option to subscribe to *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* when renewing your ISAE membership.

* © 2009 Journal Citation Reports, published by Thomson Reuters

Meeting Reviews

The ISAE Newsletter welcomes reviews from all meetings of potential interest to ISAE members.

2010 UK/Eire regional meeting, January 13-14, 2010, Harper Adams University College, Shropshire, England – reviewed by Gemma Charlton



On January 14th, 2010, more than 30 delegates battled and braved the snow to attend the UK and Eire ISAE region meeting. The one day conference was held in the new West Midlands Regional Food Academy at Harper Adams University College, Shropshire, UK.

To welcome delegates to the meeting a selection of local cheese and biscuits were available at the evening reception on January 13th. This provided an opportunity for delegates to meet each other and chat in a relaxed environment.

On the day of the meeting, unfortunately, the keynote speaker Dr Rob Atkinson from the RSPCA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) was snowed in, so he unable to attend to give his presentation on 'Welfare of wildlife'. As always, the show must go on, so after a bit of re-shuffling eight speakers gave presentations during the morning session on a range of

topics. Talks included ‘Interactions between neonatal lamb vigour and faecal soiling at weaning in three breeds of sheep’, ‘How low can they go? The effects of height restriction on the behaviour of pet rabbits’ and ‘Pain assessment during calf castration and disbudding’.

During the afternoon, delegates had a choice of attending one of two workshops on ‘Welfare of wild animals’ or ‘Application of the 3Rs in applied ethology/welfare’. After the 45 minute discussions the main points of each session were reported back to the rest of the delegates. The welfare of wild animal’s discussion group decided that it was not easy to define what a wild animal is. However, they did agree that although the definitions of animal welfare can be applied to wild animals as captive animals, the ethical considerations are different, as humans have a responsibility to care for captive animals. During the 3 R’s discussion it was noted that statistics are often used as an excuse for not reducing animal numbers. It was therefore suggested that ISAE have a statistician that members can contact for assistance (possibly for a fee) in designing experiments with reduced animal numbers. It was also agreed that there are differences in ethical standards around the world, but all journals should ensure they only accept papers that demonstrate a high standard of ethical consideration and practice. Following the workshops delegates were given the opportunity to discuss the activities the region would like, and it was agreed that the UK and Eire ISAE region will try to organise an annual meeting. The proceedings of the meeting and the main points from each discussion group can be found online through the ISAE website.



Overall the meeting received some very positive feedback and was a success. On behalf of the participants of the UK and Eire ISAE regional meeting, I would like to thank the organisers: Moira Harris, Mark Rutter, Keelin O’Driscoll, Laura Boyle, Cathy Dwyer and Charlotte Nevison for their hard work. We hope to see you at the next UK and Eire regional meeting!

(ISAE member Gemma Charlton is currently doing her PhD at Harper Adams University College and Reaseheath College with Dr. S. Mark Rutter, Prof. Liam Sinclair and Martyn East. Her research is looking at the welfare implications of grazing high yielding dairy cows. She attended the 43rd International Ethological Conference in Cairns, Australia, where she gave an oral presentation on the preference of dairy cows for indoors vs. pasture.)



Nordic ISAE symposium 2010

Nordic regional secretary Satu Raussi

This year the Nordic winter Symposium of the ISAE was held at Siilinjärvi Spa hotel Kunnonpaikka, Finland at 20th to 22nd January.

The programme included seven sessions and totally 25 presentations. The first session on Wednesday afternoon involved presentations on the effects of human behavior and attitudes to animals. On

Thursday morning we enjoyed a keynote lecture presented by [Karen McComb](#) from the University of Sussex. Karen gave a speech on animals' communication and cognitive abilities: insights from playback experiments on elephants, horses and cats. Other themes on Thursday were for example anticipatory behavior and reward cycle in chickens. Precision livestock farming (PLF) session was held at the MTT research station Maaninka. Dr. Matti Pastell from the University of Helsinki gave a plenary speech on application of Precision Livestock Farming to promote animal welfare. We also visited in MTT's new cow barn in Maaninka. Friday's sessions included for example calf health, tail biting and the value of sand floor in blue fox.

Every year the Klaus Vestergaard price is awarded to the best student presentation. This year the price went to Therese Rehn, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden for her presentation entitled "Using reunion with a familiar person as a positive event to investigate behavioural indicators of a positive mental state in dogs".

Margit Bak Jensen, our previous Nordic secretary told us about ISAE Nordic regional matters at the end of the first symposium day. Special thanks to Margit for being an excellent Nordic secretary for many years!

Next Nordic ISAE Symposium at 2011 will be held at Tartu, Estonia. Anders Aland with David Arney and Anne Pavlenko from the Estonian University of Life Sciences hoped to see us all and many more ISAE members at the first time in Estonia!

Finally, great thanks to the local organisers of the Nordic ISAE Siilinjärvi symposium. Leena Ahola from University of Eastern Finland did a great job with her team: Jaakko Mononen, Sari Hänninen, Leena Tuomisto, Mikko Järvinen and Paula Martiskainen. Thanks to MTT Maaninka research station for warmly welcoming us. It was not warm outside, but the landscape was beautiful and warm baths in Siilinjärvi Spa hotel thawed us out.

Cambridge Animal Welfare Course



COURSE ON ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE, ETHICS AND LAW

**St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, UK
12–24 September 2010**

Through a combination of lectures, videos and discussions, this course is designed to cover the curriculum for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeon's "[Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law: Introduction and Theory](#)" Module. However, it is also suitable for those just interested in learning about/updating their knowledge of animal welfare. Past attendees have included veterinarians (working in practice or for government or animal charities), animal welfare

researchers and students, and animal charity workers/campaigners, and have come from a wide variety of countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the USA.

The Course, made up of five Sections, is taught by academics and professionals from many universities and organizations: Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge; Department of Biomedical Science and Biomedical Ethics, University of Birmingham; Department of Law, University of Aberdeen; Department of Veterinary Science, University of Bristol; Department of Life Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University; Department of Biological Sciences, University of Lincoln; Chester Zoo; Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA); and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW).

Content of the Course

Section 1: Welfare Concepts and Assessment, and Zoo Animal Welfare, 12-14 September 2010

Section 2: Law and Companion Animal Welfare, 15-17 September 2010

Section 3: Horse Welfare, 18 September 2010

Section 4: Principles of Ethics in Relation to Animal Use, 20-22 September 2010

Section 5: Farm Animal Welfare, 23-24 September 2010

Participants can pick and choose the sections they wish to attend – it is not required that you attend all in one year. However, those people who do not have a background in biology, zoology or veterinary science should attend Section 1 first.

All Sections of the course will be held in Cambridge at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, UK (<http://www.caths.cam.ac.uk>). The College, which was founded in 1473, is in Trumpington Street, in the centre of the city.

For further information contact:

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For enquiries, either phone (+44 (0)1223 330846) or send an e-mail (alp18@cam.ac.uk)

It is also possible to register online – go to: <https://sales.admin.cam.ac.uk/events/>

Those who register will be sent a reading list in August by e-mail. A maximum of 20 people can attend any one section. If fewer than 8 people register for a section, that section will be cancelled and all monies will be refunded. The deadline for registering is

Monday 30 August 2010.

What is Behaviour?

What constitutes 'behaviour'?

Behavioural biologists do not always agree on what constitutes behaviour. A recent article by Levitis *et al.* (in press) has attempted to tackle the issue of defining the term 'behaviour'. With

the help of ISAE and two other societies, Animal Behaviour Society and Society for Plant Neurobiology, the article aims to examine what is understood by 'behaviour'. The paper begins by highlighting the importance of definitions in research and the fact that there are a number of working definitions for 'behaviour'. Indeed in a number of articles, behaviour is often assumed as no definitions are provided and this is thought to add to the confusion of the term. Through a survey sent to the three aforementioned societies, the authors analyse the understanding of behaviour through a list statements. The paper reports that there is contradiction between respondents and have related this to their knowledge and affiliations. However the study also points out that there are contradictions within individual responses (over 50% of all respondents gave contradictory answers), indicating that individuals rely on inferential rather than definitional use of 'behaviour'. This may also suggest that individuals are confused of the definition of 'behaviour', and for working behaviour scientists this should raise some concern. The authors of the paper state that it would be important to have a working definition of behaviour to provide guidance and set boundaries for future use and this would allow for consistency between researchers. The authors have developed a definition:

"Behaviour is: the internally coordinated responses (actions or inactions) of whole living organisms (individuals or groups) to internal and/or external stimuli, excluding responses more easily understood as developmental changes."

The authors do acknowledge that the definition is not complete in an operational sense but hope that it will serve to stimulate further debate and consideration of the term 'behaviour'. This is a thought provoking article that highlights some interesting findings. Perhaps we use the term 'behaviour' too freely before clarifying its meaning and guidance on how it has been/should be used. This would requires further investigation and discussion.

Animal welfare survey

Online survey on the EU policy on animal welfare - Your chance to express your opinion about EU policy

On 1st June 2010, an online survey was launched as part of an evaluation of the EU Policy on Animal Welfare (EUPAW) which is being carried out for the European Commission, Directorate General Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) by external contractors.

Information about the evaluation can be found on the project website: www.eupaw.eu
The evaluation is concerned with EU animal welfare actions over the 2000-2008 period and is being carried out with reference to farm animals, experimental animals, pet animals and wild animals (kept in captivity or submitted to a treatment controlled by humans).

The online survey is intended for individuals, organisations and other stakeholders and aims to seek their views on four types of EU action (legislation, research, communication and international activities).

Individuals or organisations can participate in this survey which is accessible directly through the following link: <http://www.ghkint.com/surveys/EUPAW/>

The survey will remain open until Friday 31st July 2010.

Please feel free to circulate this invitation to other interested individuals or organisations

Blogging as an Ethologist

Blogging as an ethologist – worth the while?

By Anna Olsson, IBMC – Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology, Portugal olsson@ibmc.up.pt

A blog (a portmanteau of the term "web log") is a type of website or part of a website. Blogs are usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog. (Wikipedia)

Most ISAE members have probably contacted with a blog at some point – as readers, writers or simply as consumers of mass media discussions of the phenomenon. An increasing number of scientists blog – how many of them are ethologists I hope to have found out by the time the next ISAE News is out! – and for a variety of reasons. Some are relatively personal and internal: a need for ventilating and sharing experiences of academic life beyond the coffee room of the own institution. But most science blogs are directed towards a wider audience and are a form of science communication.

What makes the blog such an interesting tool for scientists is that it provides a direct link of communication between scientist and reader. You get to send your message independently of whether a journalist or an editor thinks it's interesting. And the way the message is sent is the way you've written it – not the way the journalist thinks it sells the most. It's also a much more interactive way of communicating: you get direct feedback from your audience and get the opportunity to engage in a genuine science dialogue with non-scientist readers.

As a blogging ethologist you can make sure that interesting international science findings from the field become available to a larger audience in your home country (and others sharing your language). The importance of this is nicely illustrated by a comment from a reader to a post I had written covering a recent Canadian paper presenting a scale for mouse pain face expression: "Without these kind of posts such results are silently buried in Nature Methods. I wish more Swedish scientists would blog". And equally important, you can contribute a science perspective on issues on the political or media agenda. Of course, if you have even the slightest animal welfare twist to your expertise, you will find plenty of such issues!

Technically it's not difficult at all: writing a blog is not like editing a web page – it's more like using a word processor. But it takes time. Writing a thorough post with scientific content takes me up to half a day – and most of that time is spent on blog-specific activities. In addition to thoroughly reading the paper and thinking about the results in a wider context (which I would do anyway), writing about the mouse pain face required writing the actual text, searching for other relevant links, asking the author for a figure, obtaining journal permission for reproducing that figure and formatting the whole thing properly for the blog in question.

There's of course the eternal tension between communicating science to a wider audience – which everyone says is important – and actually doing research and communicating it to our peers – which is what most of us are rewarded for doing. A lucky few may be directly rewarded in their career also for science communicating, but most of us need to be careful to strike the

right balance. My own trick is to try to produce material that serves several purposes. For example, the mouse pain face paper will be my contribution to the next in-house journal club, and I've also recycled a few opinion pieces for newspapers. Another good idea is to team up with others. In fact, the two science blogs for which I write are both collective efforts. This ensures a steady flow of new posts appearing on the blog (essential to keep the audience interested) without placing too much strain on one single author. And don't underestimate your undergraduate students – with a bit of guidance they often make excellent guest contributors. Last year, one of my colleagues asked as part of the examination for his third-year ethology students that they – individually or in groups – wrote a commentary for a magazine, a newspaper or for the university blog. The two clear and concise posts which appeared as a result are among the highly commented and definitely valuable contributions to the university blog. (Incidentally this is also a good way of making sure that students write themselves as they are less likely to copy Wikipedia in a blog post than in a written report!).

This handful of reflections are born out of my 2-3 years experience of blogging as a professional scientist, but in fact I hadn't given any of this much thought when starting. In reality, I blog because I simply can't resist telling others about things that matter to me. But also because it's a way of keeping myself updated on a wide range of issues and of making more out of the things I read and think about. If any of this applies to you, and you enjoy writing, then you're definitely a potential science blogger.

If you're thinking of getting started, the internet is, not surprisingly, your best source of information. For the simplest approach, you select a blog provider (such as Blogger, Wordpress or Typepad to name three of the most common) which will host your blog. They're all free and which one to choose is a question of taste. A web search for "blog provider" will take you to a number of sites comparing different hosts. You will want to choose a catchy name for the blog as this will be part of its address (and you will probably find that many of the good names have been taken already – most unfortunately without being put to any good use). Then set aside a couple of hours to play around with the tool provided at the selected site and see how you can make the blog look the way you like (here again a computer-savvy student may be an excellent resource!) before you start posting. And as soon as you've got a handful of posts and feel confident you'll carry on, make your blog known to the world.

If you write your own blog already – tell ISAE about it! If you read Portuguese or Swedish, come and visit me at animalogos.blogspot.com (focusing specifically on animal issues) and forskarsbloggen.typepad.com (the researcher blog of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, covering a range of topics), respectively.

If you don't yet have a blog, and especially if there isn't one in your field and your country, consider getting together with some colleagues and set one up. All of us, especially if writing in a not-so-widespread language, have the chance of making a unique contribution to a credible, professional discussion of animal and animal welfare issues. Your voice makes a difference!

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. Below is a sample 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
Postdoctoral position: Welfare of laying hens	Michigan State University, US	Dr. Janice Siegford siegford@msu.edu
PhD studentship: Lameness in pigs	Teagasc, Ireland, and Warwick, UK	Dr. Larua Green Laura.green@warwick.ac.uk
Research studentship: Welfare assessment in horses	SLU Skara, Sweden	Stefan Gunnarsson Stefan.Gunnarsson@hnh.slu.se
PhD position: Influence of the human-animal-relationship and rearing conditions on the coping ability of breeding animals	ART, Tänikon, Switzerland	Dr. Tanja Kutzer tanja.kutzer@art.admin.ch
PhD position: Differential and personality research in primates	Free University Berlin, Germany	Dr. Jana Uher (see details)
PhD position: Health disorders in dairy cows	University of Nantes-Anger & Oniris, France	Nathalie Bareille Nathalie.bareille@oniris-nantes.fr
2 X faculty positions in bovine heard health (animal welfare and infectious diseases)	University of Calgary, Canada	Dr. Herman Barkema barkema@ucalgary.ca
Account manager: Animal behaviour research/neuroscience	Noldus Information Technology, Wageningen, The Netherlands	Mr. Arjan Veenboer +31-317-473300
MSc position: Lameness in gestating sows	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Swine R&D centre, Sherbrooke, Quebec	Nicolas Devillers Nicolas.Devillers@agr.gc.ca
Animal behaviour investigator	Protection Mondiale des Animaux de Ferme (PMAF), France	Ghislain Zuccolo ghislain@pmaf.org

45rd Congress of the ISAE in Indianapolis, US



45th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology
Indianapolis, USA
31st July – 4th August 2011

Preliminary Notice

The organizing committee is pleased to announce that the 45th Congress of ISAE will take place at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, between 31st July and 4th August 2011, so please mark your diaries!

The central theme of the conference will be “Scientific evaluation of behavior, welfare and enrichment”. Within this, specific topics will include:

- Zoo animal behavior, welfare and enrichment
- Laboratory animal behavior, welfare and enrichment
- Engineering environments and measurement technologies for science and welfare
- Pain, distress and human end-points
- Free papers

Additionally, we are excited that potential delegates travelling to Indy will have the opportunity to combine their attendance at our meeting with:

- International Ethological Conference/Animal Behavior Society Joint Meeting (BEHAVIOR 2011) in Bloomington, Indiana from 25th – 30th July (possible joint session with ISAE 2011)
- 5th International Workshop on Assessment of Animal Welfare at Group and Farm Level (WAFL 2011) in Guelph, Ontario from 8th – 11th August
- 20th Annual Conference of the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ 2011) provisionally in Indianapolis, Indiana on 5th August (possible satellite meeting of ISAE 2011)

More information will be available at www.ars.usda.gov/meetings/ISAE2011 as it becomes available. For further information, please contact Jeremy Marchant-Forde, Chair – Organizing Committee, Jeremy.marchant-forde@ars.usda.gov .

We are also on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/group.php?gid=91789302828&ref=ts>

Future Meetings

ISAE Meetings

- **44th International Congress**
August 3-7, 2009 in Uppsala, Sweden

- **East and West Central Europe Region**

2011 in Prague, **Czech Republic**

- **45th International Congress**

July 31- August 4, 2011 in Indianapolis, **USA**

Other meetings of potential interest can be found on the Applied Ethology Home Page:

<http://www.usask.ca/wcvm/herdmed/applied-ethology/meetings.htm>

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