

ISAE

www.applied-ethology.org

newsletter

Issue 45 • Dec 2014

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President's Piece

Dear ISAE members,

Welcome to the December 2014 edition of the ISAE Newsletter.

1. Elsevier Contract

The original agreement/contract was put in place in 1999, and was renewed in 2002. There were 3-year renewals in 2005, 2008 and 2011 and we were due to renew again in 2014. Council contacted Elsevier and they have drafted a new contract, which ties us in annually rather than on 3-year cycles. This will enable ISAE to react faster to any potential changes in our publishing activities.

2. Advice to Consultant Bodies

In October 2013, we were approached by International Animal Welfare Consultants Limited (IAWC Ltd) to give feedback on an update of the International Finance Corporation's (IFC – a subsidiary of the World Bank) Good Practice Note entitled "Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations" which was originally published in 2006. This document is used to guide the animal welfare requirements that IFC may include in its funding agreements for the establishment, or extension, of livestock operations in different countries. IFC paid IAWC Ltd to update the 2006 publication in light of developments in animal welfare policy and practice during the last seven years and IAWC approached ISAE to provide input. After some discussion in Council, it was proposed that we contribute, although with some misgivings about providing free-of-charge input to a company who are getting paid for their work. ISAE provided some detailed feedback and requested a monetary donation to our Congress Attendance Fund, which was turned down. Council discussed this further and ISAE will formulate a paragraph to be included in the ISAE Procedural Guidelines related to advice to paid consultant bodies.

3. Collaboration with AWIN

ISAE entered into agreement last summer with AWIN, that ISAE would become involved in the assessment of information being submitted for inclusion on the Animal Welfare Science Hub and that we would send ISAE representatives to AWIN Advisory Board meetings. Both the Sr and Jr VPs attended meetings this year.

4. Student Representatives

Council discussed the timing of the election process for our student representatives. Ultimately, it was decided that changeover would continue around the time of the Winter meeting rather than moving to the AGM. The major factor in maintaining winter-winter terms was the worry that AGM-AGM would be perceived by students as requiring a 3-conference attendance commitment. Jessica Hopkins was replaced by Sara Hintze in May 2014.

5. OIE collaboration

We met with an OIE representative at the Congress this year and have agreed that OIE and ISAE should move towards a more formal working relationship than has been current. Council are presently drafting a letter outlining potential areas of cooperation and the membership will be kept informed as we progress.

Hope you all have a good festive season and happy new year,

Jeremy Marchant-Forde
President of the ISAE

Senior Vice President – Anna Valros

Congress Attendance Fund

This year we got 7 applications for the CAF award. Based on quality of the abstracts, financial need of the applicant and motivation for attending the congress, the each member of the CAF ranked the applicants and based on the sum of these ranks we decided to fund the applicants as follows: Sunil Pal: full funding, up to a max of 1300 GBP; Sophie Brajon, Rachele Malavasi and Alison Vaughan: registration (220 € for Brajon and Vaughan each (PhD-students), 380 € for Malavasi (post doc)), plus 200 € per person towards accommodation and ; Giuseppe Vezzoli, Nienke van Staaveren, Aikaterini Zachopoulou: registration fee (220 € each, all PhD-students).

2015 49th Congress:

Hokkaido, Japan

The congress will be held at the Hokkaido University, located in the centre of Sapporo city in the northern part of Japan, from September 14 to 17, 2015 and consist of 3 days with excursions on 4th day. The chair of the local organizing committee of ISAE2015 is Professor Kondo and of the working committee is Professor Shigeru Morita. The main theme of ISAE 2015 is as 'Ethology for sustainable society' and the sub-themes are 1. Animal welfare assessment for good farm practice and production, 2. Freedom to express normal behaviour in captive animals, 3. Behavioural approaches to wild animal management and 4. Human-animal interactions and animal cognition. The conference fee will be set at around 135 Euro for ISAE members and an early registration.

2016 50th Congress:

Edinburgh, UK

The congress will be the 50th Anniversary Congress of ISAE and is held in Edinburgh, UK. The preliminary plan is that the congress will take place 12th – 16th July 2016. Excursions will be held at the end of the congress. The theme of the 50th Congress will be the future of applied ethology in tackling the grand challenges (food security, climate change, increasing population). The local organising committee is chaired by Cathy Dwyer, and the scientific committee by Alistair Lawrence and Marie Haskell. In addition, there is a 50th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Mike Appleby.

The 2016 organisers have a request for help for all members:

The Archive: As part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations we would like to compile an archive of photos, artefacts, proceedings and memorabilia from the last 50 years. We already have some great finds (the Proceedings of the first meeting of the Society for Veterinary Ethology held on 4th June 1966, some very fetching ISAE ties and several conference gifts from meetings!) but would like to have a lot more. Please let us know what you have and are willing to share with everyone for the meeting: photos featuring ISAE events and personalities, conference gifts and proceedings, and anything else featuring ISAE and ISVE through the ages. Addresses and emails to send information/artefacts to will be available on the website shortly.

Founder members: We would like to invite all the founder members to come to the 50th Congress. Although we are in touch with several we would like the help of ISAE members to ensure we can contact as many as possible before the meeting.

The other congresses are as follows:

- 2017 51st Congress, Aarhus, Denmark (dates and venue to be confirmed)
- 2018 52nd Congress, PEI, Canada (dates and venue to be confirmed)
- 2019 53rd Congress, Bergen, Norway (dates and venue to be confirmed)

Thank you to the local organising committees of each of these congresses for taking on the responsibility of organising our annual meeting.

Junior Vice President's report – Birte Nielsen

All regions have been very active in the last 12 months, with 9 out of 11 regions involved in Regional Meetings (with the two missing regions being those organising the 2013 and 2014 annual congresses).

Two of the meetings were joint (USA and Canada, East and West Central Europe), and for the Benelux Region their meeting was the first in a long time for this Region. There was also good representation of ISAE members at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Applied Animal Behavior. Two regions have carried out surveys among their members: Benelux Region on the interest for regional meetings, and Canada Region on a collaborative database of research in applied ethology. There are currently 3 regional meetings being planned for 2014-2015.

Two regions have changed their secretaries in the past year: Jessica Gimpel from Brazil have replaced Maria José Hötzel as Regional Secretary for the Latin America Region; and Lena Lidfors from Sweden have replaced Satu Raussi as Regional Secretary for the Nordic Region. The Society would like to thank the two outgoing Secretaries for your service – we appreciate all you have done. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the ISAE to thank all of our Regional Secretaries (new and experienced) for volunteering your time and energy to the Society.

Secretary's report – Jean-Loup Rault

1. Winter council meeting

Council had one web based meeting, the usual winter meeting to discuss on-going issues held in the week of January 26th, 2014. Twelve out of the fifteen council members attended the meeting, along with 5 regional secretaries. Topics discussed included the journal reassessment working group, the management of regional bank accounts, ISAE solicitation for expertise from other organisations, having a list of ISAE members by specialty/research areas accessible to ISAE members, student members election terms, and management of regional list serves.

2. Council positions up for renewal 2014

A number of council positions were up for renewal (Membership Secretary, Education Officer, Procedural Advisor and Ethics Officer), and all positions have had at least one declared candidate. All candidate's statement were posted for the duration of the ISAE meeting (Vittoria-Gasteiz, Spain)

Assistant Secretary - Marije Oostindjer

ISAE awards

Last year the first new ISAE awards were handed out: the Creativity award to Mike Mendl and Liz Paul, and the New Investigator award to Brianna Gaskill.

The prize for the Creativity award is a free registration to a conference within the next 3 years, with a plenary talk on that conference about the work they received the award for. The price for the New Investigator award is also a free registration to a conference within the next 3 years.

This year the Creativity award was won by Ruth Newberry for her work on environmental enrichment and its biological significance for the animal. The New Investigator award this year was won by Joanne Edgar for her work on hen-chick interactions and linking empathy to social buffering. Congratulations to Ruth and Joanne!

I would also like to thank everyone involved in nominating and judging the candidates. Please remember to send nomination for deserving candidates to marije.oostindjer@nmbu.no: nominations can be received throughout the year.

Committees

* The report about the AAALAC activities and ISAE involvement, by Sylvie Cloutier, can be found at the end of this document. The business report from the Board of Trustees is also attached.

* ASAB: report currently missing, will come in before the council meeting

* Council of Europe: There is still nothing happening in the Council of Europe regarding animal welfare issues and ISAE involvement. This is likely to be the case for the future too. Ute Knierim and Markus Stauffacher are representatives, Markus has expressed a willingness to help finalize the CoE guidelines for farmed rabbits if animal welfare issues ever return on the CoE agenda again.

Membership Secretary – Keelin O'Driscoll (on behalf of Priya Motupalli)

Membership continues to grow slowly but steadily. Our method of three reminders, a warning, and then removal from the database works well. As of 1 August there were 526 members in the database. This year sixty four members were removed from the database for non-payment of fees for 14/15. Another 17 were removed, but subsequently paid their fees for 14/15, so were added back in. This is a similar pattern to the previous two years, since we have been using this reminder schedule.

Reinstatement after a lapse in fees

Last year (2013) at the council meeting we came to an agreement about long standing members being re-instated if they missed a year, which we announced at the AGM. However, council have decided not to continue this policy, until it is discussed further. Thus the policy that has been followed for the past 4 or 5 years (since Keelin took over managing payments) will stay in place. Members who miss a years fees have one of two options:

1. Pay the fees for the missed year(s), as well as fees for the current year, and be added back into the database without having to re-apply
2. Choose not to pay the fees for the missed years, and re-apply for membership.

Of course, if there are any special circumstances why a member may have missed a year, or missed the reminder emails (e.g. a long maternity leave), please let council know and we can review on a case by case basis.

Payment problems

There is some good news regarding problem payments. I noticed a pattern with our members that had problems paying using the website. Several seemed to be clustered in geographical areas (for instance, half of our Danish members had problems), which to me suggested that the problem was certain banks. Staff at Sagepay figured out that when our merchant account was initially set up, HSBC never provided Sagepay with a password for Mastercard payments that use a secure payment stage. This meant that people who had a Mastercard from a bank that uses a secure payment system couldn't use our payment system. Sagepay contacted HSBC and got the password, so hopefully next year there'll be a lot fewer people with problems.

AABS prices

This year we realised that the prices that we have had on our website for AABS subscriptions do not include tax. Thus we have been subsidising the total cost of journal subscription for members, because members just pay the pre-VAT price, whereas ISAE have been paying the total amount in the invoice at the end of the year. Thus next year the MS will add the tax amount on to the AABS fees on our payment page, so it will probably appear that prices have jumped up suddenly.

Mysterious payments

Finally, the problem of mysterious bank transfers is ongoing! It is extremely important that if payment of fees is being done by bank transfer, ISAE are provided with some way of identifying the person for whom it is for: ideally the persons name should be attached. If this is not possible, the member can email the Membership Secretary and Treasurer with as much detail as possible regarding how it will appear on our account, and the date that it will arrive. If this doesn't happen there is no guarantee that we'll know who the payment is for. Since January 2014, 13 out of 26 bank transfers had no names attached. Krista and I have spent a lot of time trying to track down who they belonged to, and at the moment there is just one outstanding: £35.00 from 'Regents of the Uni' on 11 July. If you know who this is for, please get in touch and let us know – it is likely that the person that the payment was for has been removed from the database for non-payment.

Treasurer's report – Krista McLennan

Statement of Revenue and Expenses
For year ending 31st May 2014

	<u>Current</u> <u>Account</u>	<u>Deposit</u> <u>Account</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Revenue:</u>			
Membership subs (Inc journal subs)	17,033.83	0.00	
Net Interest	0.00	19.80	
Returns from regions	444.00	0.00	

Scholarship funds from sponsors	2,630.81	0.00
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>20,108.64</i>	<i>19.80</i>

Expenses:

Fees for credit card payments	74.00	0.00
SAGEPay (on-line payment fees)	360.00	0.00
AAALAC	121.78	0.00
Conference Attendance Fund	1,693.44	0.00
	(4,724.25)	
Bank charges	1,017.12	0.00
Membership Services-Intergage	1,816.80	0.00
Elsevier AABS	4,257.57	0.00
Regional Payments	1,515.85	0.00
Council Member costs	547.43	0.00
Subs returns	40.00	0.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>11,322.21</i>	<i>0.00</i>
	(14,474.80)	

Excess of Revenue over expenses	8,786.43	19.80	£	8,806.23
	(5,633.84)			

Beg Fund Balances (31 May 2013)	14,029.57	35,286.18	£	49,315.75
End Fund Balances (31 May 2014)	22,816.00	35,305.98	£	58,121.98
	(19,663.41)			

Values in parentheses reflect payments that were still waiting to go out after the reporting period.

The value available for the conference attend fund was higher this year than for 2012-2013. This value should increase for the year 2014-2015.

Communications Officer – Laura Dixon

The website has been working well and Intergage are helpful with any issues that do arise. I have produced and distributed the June 2013, December 2013 and June 2014 Newsletters since my last report. The current congress committee has also produced Newsletters to keep the membership updated about congress progress and I have helped distribute these to the membership. Keelin, Krista and I have been busy the past few months with membership renewals which seems to have progressed well. There is an on-going issues with Sagepay not accepting some payment card types but the only solution would be to change the system completely which would be a huge effort, especially as 95% of the time it works fine. Those that can't pay online are provided bank details to do a money transfer and this seems to work for everyone.

Happily, there still seems to be a fairly constant stream of employment positions to post and this is the page that gets updated most often. There have been a few regional position changes in the last year and their details have been updated. Do let me know if you see any that are incorrect as sometimes details are provided in multiple spots and I may miss one! The home

page gets the most views each month, for June 2014 it was 6896 views, followed by the Employment Opportunities page at 3384, Ethical Guidelines at 1488 and ISAE Meetings at 1071. We have 10GB bandwidth available each month to send emails and this is more than adequate as we've never come close to exceeding this limit. Emails to members usually range from 10-20MB, so we have the potential to send quite frequent emails without exceeding the bandwidth.

As always, a reminder to message me if you want an announcement sent to the membership or posted on the website. I'm also happy to accept various announcements, articles, conference reviews and so on for our future Newsletters.

Senior and Junior Editors' report - Stephanie Torrey (Sr Editor) and Margit Bak Jensen (Jr Editor)

The Special Issue based on the 2012 congress is being published as Special Sections within regular issues of AABS. Please look for these highlighted papers within the journal!

We have been working with ISAE Brazil Organizer Carlos Pinheiro Machado to prepare a Special Issue based on the 2013 congress and recent regional congresses. We have 9 submissions around the theme 'Behavioural Indicators of Sickness'. Papers are under review and we hope to have the issue out this calendar year.

A Special Issue based on the 2014 congress in Vitoria-Gasteiz is in the works. Look for this Issue to be published in 2015.

The Impact Factor of AABS for 2013 was released, and it has increased slightly to 1.626. AABS is now categorized under both Animal Science and Behaviour categories, which increases its competitiveness. Members at the AGM asked about the regularity of using the ARRIVE guidelines during review of papers for AABS, and abstracts for ISAE congresses. This is something the AABS editorial board, and future congress organizers will examine.

We want to highlight that all published AABS papers are given a SHARELINK, which provides 50 days free Open Access to each article. Elsevier has also developed www.appliedanimalbehaviour.com which is a mobile-optimized site that provides links to the current content, and allows for the creation of freely accessible collections. Please check out this new resource.

The Help with English Scheme was utilized 10 times in the last year. We remind members that it is a service that can be used for papers being submitted to any journal. We also request the assistance of new volunteers for the program. Please contact Margit to participate, either as a reviewer or author needing assistance.

Procedural Advisor's report – Moira Harris (on behalf of Michael Appleby)

This will be my last Procedural Advisor's report as my term of office ended this year at the AGM in Vitoria-Gasteiz. I have now handed over the role to the new Procedural Advisor, Mike Appleby, and wish him good luck. I extend my thanks to Council and the ISAE members for their support over the last four years.

Duties

The Procedural Advisor ensures that the Society is following its own rules, by ensuring that meetings are conducted according to the ISAE's Constitution and Procedural Guidelines. He/she

also annually reviews and updates the Guidelines (which are designed to capture the collective memory of the Society and provide transparency and guidance in how it is run) and advises on amendments to the Constitution (our 'rules', which can only be amended with the agreement of the Annual General Meeting).

Constitution

The Constitution changes infrequently and only when absolutely needed. This year, the AGM approved a small change to the description of how people apply for membership. Thus, Section 4 ('Membership') b. now states:

"The name, qualifications and personal statement of each candidate should normally be submitted via the online application form available on the ISAE website."

Procedural Guidelines

The Procedural Guidelines are reviewed and updated annually, each September.

Updates in September 2014 included

- Clarification of titles and terminology for the Ethics Officer / Chair of Ethics Committee and Ethics Committee members;
- Confirmation that long-standing Society members who accidentally miss a single year's subscription payment can be reinstated without re-applying by paying for the missed year;
- Confirmation that ISAE will support the opening/maintenance of regional bank accounts by providing a reasonable minimum balance or paying reasonable annual charges, if required;
- Guidance on agreeing terms in advance (e.g. a donation to the Congress Attendance Fund), before providing expertise to a 'for-profit' entity such as a private company or consultancy;
- Clarification of prizes for the New Investigator Award and congress student poster winners;
- Additional guidance on the Congress Attendance Fund (applicants should provide a budget, state how much they are asking for and whether they will still be able to attend if they do not receive the full amount requested).

Education and Development Officer's report – Laura Hanninen (on behalf of Michael Toscano)

This report concludes the previous period I served as an ISAEs' education and development officer, and I also suggest some ideas for the future council and education officer to think over.

Teacher-network:

I set up a Linked-in pages (Academic teachers in applied ethology) for stimulating conversation between the academic teachers in our field. At first the pages worked out quite nice, but they are now taken over by some semi-academic persons, and do not serve their purpose any more. I suggest setting up a new members-only social media for the academic teachers in our society (Facebook, Linked in etc.).

Also in the future, ISAE congress-organizers and the future education officer might want to consider having teachers' meetings during congresses. This activity was already tested in

Mexico and Vienna, worked quite nice, I think, and might be developed even further in the future.

Information spread

Future thinking is required (and left for the following officer to decide) what kind of an education information we want to spread and for whom? Currently the www-education pages seem to serve the outside-society needs.

A hub for applied ethology and animal welfare-related teaching material was set up by an EU-funded research project AWIN (Animal Welfare Indicator). This hub might, in principal, serve for the future for spreading of courses etc. among ISAE members (but also outside). However, the AWIN project itself is about to end and they have suggested ISAE to take over the hub. Future will show if it is a relevant task for ISAE and education officer to do.

Education officer is around to be utilized by the student reps, and to organize the pol for the new student representatives. Future will show how much student reap would like to and need to use my future colleagues!

Development

This additional task added to the education officers' post needs to be further thought. How we spread information about ISAE to countries from which we don't have any representatives in ISAE, or do we have to?

ISAE Regional News

Australasia and Africa – Ahmad Tatar and Rebecca Doyle

The Australasian-NZ-African Region will be held a regional meeting in Sydney on Wednesday 29th October 2014. The theme was 'Forward thinking - applying ethology to solve behaviour and welfare questions'. A pdf of the abstract book can be found online at http://www.applied-ethology.org/australia_new_zealand_phillipines_and_africa.html

Our region will also be submitting a proposal to hold one or two sessions at the International Ethology Congress in Cairns in 2015 themed around applied ethology. Details on the congress can be found here: <http://www.behaviour2015.org> and see below for the article on the Cairns IEC.

Benelux – Liesbeth Bolhuis and Stephanie Buijs

We were very pleased to hear that most participants of the ISAE Benelux conference in 2013 indicated that they would like to attend an annual regional meeting, so we organized another one in 2014! The one-day ISAE Benelux conference was this time held at the Vencocampus in

Eersel, The Netherlands, and included a small excursion tour during which innovations in the poultry industry were presented. There were over 50 participants from more than ten different organisations. Also posters were presented this time. Session topics were 'Early life', 'Group housing of farm and lab animals' 'Resources and enrichment' and 'Development and evaluation of tools and protocols'. Apart from presentations on cattle, pigs and chickens, also studies on parrots, humans, rabbits, horses, sheep, goats and ferrets were discussed. The presentation prize for students was awarded to Marjolein Poen, veterinary student at Utrecht University, for her talk entitled 'Analysis of six spatiotemporal variables derived from pressure mat measurements: exploring their use as discriminative diagnostic tool for detecting piglet lameness'.

We really enjoyed this conference day and wish to thank all participants again, and others who helped to make this day a success: Inonge Reimert for organisation of this day, reviewing abstracts and being a member of the poster jury; Caroline Clouard for reviewing abstracts; Bas Kemp, Christel Moons, Franz Josef van der Staay and Frank Tuytens for chairing sessions; Frank van Eerdenburg and Michiel de Krom for being a member of the presentation prize jury; Jan Wijnen for technical and organisational assistance; UFAW for sponsoring some of the attending students; Vencocampus for their assistance, and of course the ISAE.

Canada – Nicolas Devillers and USA - Maja Makagon

The *13th North American Regional Meeting* should be held in Spring 2016. Location is still to be determined.

You will find the proceedings of the last *North American Regional Meeting* held at Michigan State University in East Lansing (MI, USA) on May 30-31, 2014 on the ISAE meetings page.

East Asia - Shigeru Ninomiya

The ISAE2015 will be held in Japan. See <http://www.isaab.org/isae2015/> for details.

Every year in March, Annual Meeting of Japanese Society for Applied Animal Behaviour (JSAAB) is arranged in Japan.

We are now discussing cooperation with the JSAAB in an effort to reinforce our regional activities. Joint meeting and/or symposium is a possibility.

East Central Europe - Radka Šárová and West Central Europe - Dr. Edna Hillmann

The next Joint East Central and West Central Europe ISAE Regional Meeting is planned for the year 2015.

UK/Ireland – Laura Boyle and Cathy Dwyer

The 50th ISAE congress in 2016 will be held in Edinburgh. See the Senior VP's report for more details.

Employment Opportunities

Canine Science and Technology Project Manager

Location: Department for Transport, London, UK

Contact: [View details](#), job reference 1435063

PhD: Poultry Science

Location: Texas A&M University, Texas, USA

Contact: Gregory Archer, garcher@poultry.tamu.edu

Research Student

Location: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden

Contact: Stefan Gunnarsson, stefan.gunnarsson@slu.se

Director of Animal Well-Being

Location: Iowa Select Farms, Iowa, USA

Contact: Jen Sorenson, jsorenson@iowaselect.com

PhD: Dairy Calves

Location: University of Florida, Florida, USA

Contact: Emily Miller-Cushon, emillerc@ufl.edu

PhD: Refinement of Humane Endpoints

Location: University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Contact: Dorte Bratbo Sorensen, brat@sund.ku.dk

Postdoc: Calgary Stampede Performance Animals

Location: University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Contact: Ed Pajor, eapajor@ucalgary.ca

PhD: Walsh Fellowship Opportunity

Location: Teagasc, Fermoy, Ireland

Contact: Emma Baxter, emma.baxter@sruc.ac.uk, Keelin O'Driscoll, keelin.odriscoll@teagasc.ie

Animal Welfare Scientist

Location: Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Celle, Germany

Contact: Lars Schrader, lars.schrader@fli.bund.de

International Ethology Congress

The International Ethology Congress will be held in Cairns next year (Aug 9 – 14th). Abstracts are now open and there is an applied ethology stream entitled 'Applied Ethology – exploring our impact on animals'

The study of animal behaviour remains one of the most important scientific tools by which we can assess our impact on the animals with which we interact. An important aspect of the interaction is the impact on animal welfare, which is of significant concern for all stakeholders that utilise or affect animals, including those in biomedical research, agriculture, zoological institutions, and the pet industry. This symposium examines both the behavioural responses of animals to humans and the use of behavioural measures to assist in evaluating and enhancing animal welfare. Topics could include:

- *Advances in behavioural indicators of positive and negative welfare*
- *Cognitive capacity of animals and implications for management*
- *Behaviour as a reflection of affective state*
- *Behavioural management for improved welfare*
- *Human-animal interactions*
- *The interface between human impact and species conservation/species control*
- *Life-history effects on welfare*

If you're planning on coming and are interested in having some lab visits, but aren't sure where to go, please email Bec Doyle (regional secretary) rebecca.doyle@unimelb.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you down here!

ISAE Australasia/Africa Region

A Dog with Aggression or a Dangerous Dog?

Professionals in the field of applied canine behavior are often tasked with evaluating a dog and classifying the dog's behavior. If we approach this from the mindset, 'is it possible that this dog will display aggression and bite another dog or person in the future', then every dog would be deemed dangerous as it is possible that any dog given the right set of circumstances will bite. Very often the difference has to do with the owner. A dog with mild aggression and an irresponsible owner can be deemed dangerous after an incident, where a dog with severe aggression is not simply for the fact that no court case has occurred. We have often had clients that sustain daily injuries from their dog but as it is not reported, the dog is not designated as dangerous.

While each jurisdiction might have their own definition of what makes a dog a dangerous dog, the designation is usually secondary to an incident with the court looking for the behaviorist to give a professional assessment on the probability of a future incident. Under these guidelines, we will often recommend designating a dog 'dangerous' from a legal perspective but this does not necessarily mean the dog is unsafe to work with; just as a dog not involved in a court case might be too aggressive for the owner's to safely work.

When determining if a dog is workable, many factors must be considered.

A few are:

1. Will the initial work be conducted by the behaviorist or by the owners? For example, a dog with moderate to severe possessive aggression might be workable if staying in house with the behaviorist reducing the intensity and reaction to mild before continuing with the owners, but the same dog would not be safe for the owner's to initially implement the modification program.

2. If the behaviorist is conducting the work
 - a. Is the aggression predictable?
 - b. Is the behaviorist able to identify the signs of escalation before aggression?
 - c. Is the work area set up to safely work with the behavioral reaction?
 - i. This must include the behaviorist, staff, other clients and the public.
 - d. Ego's aside, does the behaviorist have the skill to handle the problem without putting themselves or the dog at risk of physical or emotional injury?
 - e. Are you reasonably confident that you can significantly reduce the behavior within the time frame given by the owner?
 - f. Will the owners be able to safely continue the work after the dog is returned?
 - g. Is conducting the work in the dog's best interest?
3. If session will be conducted with the owners doing the work, can an effective modification program be safely implemented with a reasonable degree of success?
 - a. What is the client's home environment?
 - i. A couple in their 20's living alone might be able to safely implement a very systematic, gradual modification program but if they have young children the same modification program might not be safe.
 - ii. Are the owner's mentally and physically capable of it? For example, we had a client that wanted to work with their dog but they were caring for a family member that suffered from dementia and would leave the outside door open, letting their dog out. While the couple desperately wanted to work with their dog, it simply was not safe for the public to do so.
 - b. Can they safely practice the designed modification program without putting anyone else at risk?
4. How intense or deeply rooted is the behavior?
 - a. For example, a dog that reacts with contact bites when removing food but once the trigger (food) is removed the behavior stops. That dog is often easier and safer to resolve than a dog that postures over the food and fixates on the human even after the trigger (food) is removed / picked up.
5. What is the reaction to the behavior when triggered?
 - a. A dog reacting with multiple low intensity contact bites with no forward / offensive locomotion versus a dog that goes into a predatory state with forward / offensive locomotion.
6. What is the duration of the behavior?
 - a. After the trigger is removed, how long does the dog stay in a heightened state?
7. Are there medical issues that need to be ruled out (i.e. hypothyroidism, injury / pain, CBC needed)?
8. Does the dog have secondary issues or triggers? During the evaluation phase, even after a detailed intake form and detailed interview, the behaviorist should always perform a complete evaluation (ASPCA's SAFER evaluation is a good start). An owner might be embarrassed to disclose every behavior or might not consider a reaction significant or unusual.

- a. How stable is the dog?
 - b. Absent the chief complaint, what other behavioral issues exist?
9. Can the dog be redirected?
- a. Can the dog be redirected early in the escalation?
 - b. Does the dog have the ability to learn a new behavioral reaction or does he/she require pharmacological intervention prior to starting a modification program?

After concluding a complete evaluation and determine the type of aggressions the dog is display, and ideally the underlying cause (the initial association and how it manifested), the behaviorist should be able to begin designing an appropriate modification plan. With the gathered data an educated guess can be made regarding the expected progress over a specified time period; however, it should also be made clear to the client that an animal's behavior can never be guaranteed and the progress can vary. At this point, the behaviorist must determine if it is probable and realistic to safely work with the dog. As many of the factors are subjective and can vary depending upon the skill, education and experience of the behaviorist, the decision cannot be an emotional one. The behaviorist must always maintain the highest ethics and consider all the information. With modern technology, video clips can be emailed to colleagues or video conferences can be conducted if a second opinion is needed. The behaviorist cannot help anyone if they are injured by a dog and while everyone in the field wants the best for each dog; our first responsibility must be to ensure the reasonable safety of their owner and the public.

Sincerely,

Shari & Daniel Forst, BCCABC
Canine Case Squad
Florida, NY USA

ISAE Working Group on Journal Issues

At the AGM in Brazil 2013, it was suggested to look into the agreement between ISAE and the publisher Elsevier to ensure that we still have the best deal by having Applied Animal Behaviour Science as our official journal. Our current contract with Elsevier was created in 2000, and Council decided to form a working group in January 2014 to look into different aspects of this agreement, including alternatives. The working group consists of council members Priya Motupalli (replacing Keelin O'Driscoll), Anna Valros, Margit Bak Jensen, Stephanie Torrey, and Birte Nielsen (chair).

The group is looking into the pros and cons of having Applied Animal Behaviour Science as the society's journal, and comparing these with the feasibility, pros and cons of other options, including changing to another existing journal, or creating our own (new) journal.

Among the aspects we are considering are the Society's influence on the journal, whether it covers the aims of the ISAE, the accessibility of the articles, both for ISAE members and target readers, the possibility and cost of Open Access, the administrative work for the ISAE, and the review/editorial load.

The process has been more labour intensive than predicted, and often it has been difficult to get the relevant information from various sources. The working group is continuing its efforts. Among other things we have carried out a membership survey in November 2014 to assess the importance of issues such as Impact Factor and Open Access for ISAE members. We are pleased that 38% of all ISAE members took part. Once the working group has gathered all of the information we will present the result of the survey to the ISAE membership.

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