

Prof. Paul Hemsworth

B.Ag.Sci (Hons), PhD, University of Melbourne

International Society for Applied Ethology, Honorary Fellow



A short biography of Prof. Paul Hemsworth, written by Jean-Loup Rault in May 2016

Paul Hemsworth was born 29th September, 1950 in Melbourne Australia. He has had a strong interest from an early age in wildlife, agriculture and biology. He graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) in 1973, and following a brief period as a scientist with the Department of Agriculture, Werribee, Victoria, he completed his PhD in 1978 at the University of Melbourne studying social and sexual factors affecting reproduction of the domestic boar. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship 1980 at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, studying human-animal relationships in commercial pig farms, he returned to Department of Agriculture, Werribee, Victoria as a research scientist and then principal scientist until 1997. Paul was a G.A. Miller Research Fellow at the Department of Animal Science, University of Illinois, Illinois, 1982-1983 and Daniel Alpine Scholar at the Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis, USA, 1993. From 1997, he has been the Director and Professor, Animal Welfare Science Centre, The University of Melbourne. Awards and recognition for his leadership and scientific contribution include the 1996 Animal Welfare

Research Award by the British RSPCA and the British Society of Animal Science and the David Wood-Gush Memorial Lecture at the 33rd International Society for Applied Ethology, Norway 1999.

Paul is internationally recognised for his contribution to our field and his pioneering research with Professor Grahame Coleman on the role of human-animal interactions on farm animal productivity and welfare. This unique and innovative multidisciplinary research program identified the major human characteristics, such as attitude and behaviour, affecting fear responses in farm animals which through acute and chronic stress can seriously limit farm animal productivity and welfare. By understanding the influence of human attitudes and behaviour on animal fear, stress, productivity and welfare, this research has shown the applicability of training programs in the dairy, pig and poultry industries targeting the key influential human characteristics to improve farm animal welfare and productivity. More recently this research has included studying the effects of human-animal interactions in zoos and domestic settings.

Paul has a long track record of publications with more than 190 peer reviewed full publications, and 65 as first author. In total, he has over 450 publications, including chapters in 35 internationally distributed books on farm animal welfare and productivity and the author of one internationally-recognised book on human-livestock interactions (two editions). He is in the top 1% of scientists for individual impact in Plant and Animal Science (385 citations of 34 articles published over last 10 years) and in all scientific fields (512 citations of 47 articles published over last 10 years) in the latest worldwide ISI ranking (source: Web of Science).

During his career he mentored and graduated 19 PhD and 34 MSc and Honours students. Paul has developed and taught the subjects Animal Welfare and Ethics, Animals in Society and Applied Animal Behaviour to science students at an undergraduate level and the subjects Animal Welfare and Behaviour of Farm and Companion Animals at a post-graduate level at the University of Melbourne.

Paul is currently Director of the Animal Welfare Science Centre, a joint Centre of the University of Melbourne, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (Victoria, Australia), the University of Adelaide (Australia), the South Australian Research and Development Institute and Ohio State University (USA). The Centre provides a focus and direction for the partner organisations' academic and research resources in animal welfare and the Centre's research and teaching capacity is considerable, with scientific expertise in the key disciplines of animal behaviour, psychology, stress physiology and veterinary medicine. As Director of the Centre, He is responsible for leading and coordinating the overall allocated academic and research resources of the partner organizations in the Centre. There are currently 16 scientists, 20 post-graduate students and 6 support staff operating within the Centre across the partner organizations. There are also substantial specialized research and teaching facilities associated with the four partner organizations that are utilized by the Centre's researchers.