

## Dr Janice Swanson received ISAE Honorary Fellowship in 2024



Throughout her career, Janice has made significant contributions to the field of applied ethology through her research, teaching, mentorship of faculty and students, and, most notably, service to the community to advance change in animal welfare policy in the United States. We, the nominators, represent individuals that have worked alongside her in these efforts (T. Widowski), have been mentored by her as a graduate student (M. Erasmus) and early career faculty (J. Jacobs), and we believe Janice fully embodies the mission of the Society and the spirit of this award. The ISAE advances applied animal behavior science and inspires innovation through research and education to inform best practices for management and human-animal interaction, ultimately to better the lives of animals. Janice's lifetime research and teaching epitomizes the ISAE's mission. Recent work has focused on laying hen behavior, including investigating causes for and solutions to feather pecking behavior, and the importance of dustbathing behavior in non-cage systems. Along with Drs. Joy Mench and Janice Siegford, Janice led a multi-institutional project as part of the Coalition of Sustainable Egg Supply to

comprehensively assess the animal welfare, farm worker health and economic implications of different laying hen housing systems within the context of the USA. This work was instrumental in providing important guidance and best practice advice to the laying hen industry in the US in advance of the current transition of 100s of millions of laying hens to non-cage systems. Her earliest and most recent work focused on beef cattle with investigations related to low-stress handling, sustainability, and adaptive pasture management. Janice's impact extends to other species, with projects addressing the behavior and welfare of horses, donkeys, camelids and laboratory animals. Throughout her research career Janice effectively translated ethology research to application in terms of standards for housing human-animal interaction and animal management. Many of her 50+ peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters focus on animal welfare policy, legislation and ethics. Numerous additional technical publications set policies relating to animal welfare, such as the 2018 Council for Agricultural Science and Technology Task Force Report and the Federation of Animal Science Societies Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (the Ag Guide). The Ag Guide is used by all institutional animal care and use committees at US universities and other organizations, influencing the care and welfare of millions of animals across the US.

Janice began her career as technical information specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Information Center. This was one of the earliest formal government establishments to address animal welfare issues in the United States. In that role, Janice authored dozens of scientific reviews and bibliographies on a variety of topics related to farm and laboratory animal welfare and legislation, which were used to inform animal care professionals and policymakers. Starting in her first academic position and throughout her career, Janice assumed leadership roles, first as professor, interim department head and Director of the International Meat and Livestock Institute at Kansas State University, and later as professor, department chair, and Director of Animal

Welfare at Michigan State University. She is selfless with her time and energy and will be the first to volunteer her expertise when needed. In addition to providing expertise in animal welfare to agricultural organizations and food industries, Janice served on numerous scientific advisory boards for organizations such as zoos, lab animal and governmental agencies. Through her various positions and roles, she has had a significant influence on commercial and private industry, successfully bridging the gap between science-based evidence and practical needs of farm systems. She is sought out for her expertise, as evidenced by the 174 invited talks that she has given at industry meetings and internationally. She has persuaded numerous large stakeholders in animal care, such as Darden Foods, McDonalds, and Cargill to include behavior and animal-based measures into their welfare standards, thus having immeasurable effects on animal welfare for millions of lives worldwide. She currently serves as the chair of the scientific animal welfare advisory committee for United Egg Producers, comprising over 90% of the US egg industry. Janice has also made major contributions to scientific societies and journals, including serving the International Society for Applied Ethology for over 15 years- first as US Regional Secretary, then as Secretary, and finally, as President of the ISAE (1994-2011).

On top of her impressive scientific and industry contributions, Janice introduced and inspired thousands of students to the fields of applied ethology and animal welfare science. Throughout her academic career she has taught courses in applied animal behavior, animal welfare, and ethics to agriculture and veterinary students, thereby exposing many students to a field they may not have considered and a new appreciation for the science of ethology. She has received several teaching awards, including from the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Association of Colleges and Teachers in Agriculture in recognition for her scholarly teaching excellence. In addition, she has mentored graduate students and post-docs to much success, having helped advise them into and through academic positions, continuing her legacy and contributions to the field of ethology. The American Veterinary Medical Association awarded Janice the 2024 Humane Award for her work in the field of applied animal behavior and welfare, recognizing the positive influence she's had on animal lives through her career. She was immensely honored to receive this award but when we mentioned we wanted to nominate her for the ISAE Honorary Fellowship award, she was humbled and said that this would be the greatest honor as the ISAE is her home society and its mission mirrors her career focus.