



International
Society for
**Applied
Ethology**

Newsletter

Issue 54 • 2019 July



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President's Piece

Half a year has passed since our last Newsletter and quite a lot has happened since then. At the end of April, we received the very sad news that our Assistant Secretary, **Fiona Rioja Lang**, had passed away. This has of course been a great shock to all who knew her, including those of us on the ISAE Council. In this newsletter there is an article [remembering Fiona](#). We will also commemorate her during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 8 August in Bergen. Our thoughts are with her family, friends, colleagues and with all who knew her.

We are preparing for our upcoming [Congress](#) in Bergen, Norway, from 5 to 9 August. The final program looks very exciting and I understand the local organisers, led by Bjarne Braastad, are expecting a large attendance at the Congress! Excellent that, like at the Congress in Aarhus, Denmark, a group of 14 delegates from developing countries will join us at the Congress. The group will be a mix of PhD students, post docs, university staff and industry and government representatives. I would like to thank Open Philanthropy Project for their support and Jeremy Marchant-Forde for coordinating this program once again!

The AGM will take place on 8 August. An item on the agenda is 2 **amendments** to the Constitution: a technical point on renaming our auditor according to the rules of our Scottish Charity Register, another on adding the Assistant Communications Officer and removing the Education Officer from the Constitution. The [amendments](#) are included in this Newsletter; please have a look before the AGM. Another important agenda item is the election of new Council members: we are seeking a new **Junior Editor**, **Assistant Secretary** and **Junior Vice-President**. If you are interested in applying for one of these posts, please contact the Secretary, Marisa Erasmus, for more information. One temporary change that we decided within Council was to appoint Courtney Daigle from Texas A&M as Assistant Membership Secretary for one year, starting in August 2019. Our Membership Secretary, Gemma Charlton, will begin maternity leave this summer and needed someone to temporarily take over her post. I would like to thank Courtney for her willingness to step in.

In this newsletter, we also give you an update of ISAE's contribution to the [EU Platform on Animal Welfare](#). The Platform met on 17 June in Brussels and our Senior Vice-President, Birte Nielsen, attended. It is clear that our contribution, as well as that of other scientists, is appreciated by the Platform. Most of the current working groups are working towards delivering their reports to the Platform by the September meeting.

Also, ISAE [Development](#) is moving forward, with a current focus on India as the 2020 Congress in Bangalore is moving closer. ISAE co-organised a session during the 7th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in March. This allowed us to present ISAE and applied animal behaviour and welfare research to a large host of veterinarians and veterinary scientists from the region (and from all over the world). Birte Nielsen represented Council and presented about ISAE. Preparations for the 2020 Congress are underway and the plans will be presented in Bergen.

I very much look forward to meeting many of you during our annual International Congress. Fantastic scenery and fantastic science, no doubt. If you cannot join us in Bergen, try to attend one of the ISAE regional meetings, which will be very valuable as well.

T. Bas Rodenburg / *President of the ISAE (2017-2019)*

Updates from your ISAE Council

Changes to the ISAE Constitution

We propose two amendments to the [Constitution](#) this year. They are both described below. Each amendment will be discussed and voted upon separately during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) taking place on **August 8** at the Congress in Bergen.

1. To comply with the regulations of our Charity administrator, we need to change the wording of 'auditor' to 'independent examiner' (as the OSCR reserves the term 'auditor' for larger charities, where an accountant has to check the accounts). This results in the following proposed amendment (~~orange text will be deleted~~, green text will be added):
 3. Structure and Administration of the Society.
 - k. One or more (~~honorary auditors - delete~~) independent examiners will be appointed annually to examine the ISAE accounts prior to presentation of such accounts at the AGM.
2. For the past 2 years, ISAE has worked with the co-opted Council position of Assistant Communications Officer (Dr. Christy Goldhawk). As a Council, we see that this is a valuable addition. Specific tasks, primarily management of all social media accounts, have been assigned to the Assistant Communications Officer. We propose to add this position to the ISAE Constitution and to make this a voting Council position. At the same time, we propose to remove the position of Education Officer from the Constitution, as we decided to discontinue this position at the AGM in 2018 (we will vote separately on this removal). This results in the following proposed amendment (~~orange text will be deleted~~, green text will be added):
 3. Structure and Administration of the Society
 - c. The affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Council, which is an administrative body of people, elected by the members of ISAE, formally constituted, and meeting regularly. The Council consists of Council Officers, who are the Honorary President, the Honorary (Hon.) Senior Vice-President, the Hon. Junior Vice-President, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Assistant Secretary, the Hon. Membership Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Communications Officer, ~~(add - the Hon. Assistant Communications Officer)~~, the Hon. Senior Editor, the Hon. Junior Editor, ~~the Hon. Education Officer~~, the Hon. Development Officer, the Hon. Ethics Officer and the Hon. Procedural Advisor. These Council Officers are the trustees of the Society and have the right to vote in Council with one vote each. Council shall have powers to co-opt other Council members as deemed necessary, who shall then be non-voting Council members. All Officers and members of Council shall be members in good standing of ISAE.

The proposed change needs to be approved by two thirds of the members present at the AGM. We need your vote! Please attend the AGM on **August 8**.

Marisa Erasmus / Secretary of the ISAE

Council Position Vacancies

Dear ISAE Members,

Have you dreamed about becoming more involved in the ISAE? A number of positions are open this year and we would like to see your application!

1. Junior Editor. The Junior Editor's duties include assisting the Senior Editor with the annual special issues of *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* and coordinating the Help-with-English scheme. The Junior Editor typically serves a 2-year term.

2. Assistant Secretary. The Assistant Secretary performs the Secretary's duties when the Secretary is absent or unable to serve. Among other duties, the Assistant Secretary also coordinates the selection of ISAE members to serve on expert committees, collects reports from these ISAE experts, compiles the newsletter, and coordinates the Creativity and New Investigator Awards. The Assistant Secretary normally serves for up to 4 years.

3. Junior Vice-President. The Junior Vice-President performs the President's duties when the President is absent or unable to serve. The Junior Vice-President also coordinates the Regional Secretaries, reports on regional activities and assists the Treasurer with regional funding applications.

4. Ethics Committee Members. The Ethics Committee is seeking two Ethics Committee Members this year. The Ethics Committee's duties include reviewing the ISAE Ethical Guidelines and advising the Local Congress Organising Committee about the reviews of Congress abstracts, among other duties.

Serving on the ISAE Council is a highly rewarding experience and enables you to actively participate in our Society. To learn more about the positions above, please consult the [ISAE Procedural Guidelines](#) or contact the current Council Officer in each position directly.

If you are interested in applying, please send me (merasmus@purdue.edu) 1) a paragraph outlining your interest in the position and relevant skills, and 2) your 2-page CV no later than **Friday, 26 July**.

Marisa Erasmus / Secretary of the ISAE

Communications

Due to the ongoing work on our communications strategy (which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Bergen and updated in the next newsletter) there is only a short update on social media: We are continuing to grow and engage with content, particularly employment opportunities and research publications.

If you have research published and would like it featured, please send a link to the publication to info@applied-ethology.org. Be sure to include your **Twitter** handle so that we can tag you!

Please note that Elsevier sends us the monthly list of all free 50-day ShareLinks for *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, the official journal of our Society. If at least one co-author is an ISAE member, we automatically add the link to the website and social media. If you would like to opt out of posting of your papers, please email Jennifer Van Os, Communications Officer (info@applied-ethology.org).

Christy Goldhawk / Assistant Communications Officer of the ISAE

Membership

The 2019-20 membership renewal period has technically ended. Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. Of the 622 current members, 414 have paid for at least the next year with 48 members choosing the 3-year option. Payments are still coming in so we are likely to see the number of renewals increase over the next few weeks. By the end of July, we will start to remove unpaid members from the database. If you are having any problems renewing your membership then please get in touch (isaembership@hotmail.co.uk).

Please be aware that as of August I will be going on maternity leave. During my leave, Courtney Daigle will cover the position (thank you Courtney!). I will be returning in August 2020 to continue the role.

Gemma Charlton / Membership Secretary of the ISAE

Students

Thank you Megan LaFollette for your service over the past 2 years as one of the ISAE Student Representatives! Your leadership initiative and creative ideas were highly valuable, from the helpful online resources to engaging student events at Congress.

Welcome to Laura Whalin, who was elected as an ISAE Student Representative in January 2019! Laura is a PhD student in the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia in Canada where she studies dairy calf behaviour and welfare. She is looking forward to meeting new people, working with everyone, and sharing ideas and research in the coming years!

2019 International Congress Events. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Bergen, Norway! We have planned 3 events for faculty, scientists and students throughout the conference. On Monday, August 5 (19:00 - 20:00 h) we welcome students to join us for the **Student Welcome Reception** (after the official ceremony and during the welcoming reception) to see old friends, meet new ones, and gain some professional development tips.

On Thursday, August 8 during lunch (12:30 - 13:30 h) students, faculty and scientists who pre-registered for **Eating with Ethologists** will be matched based on similar interests for an informal, small group networking lunch. During lunch, you are welcome to discuss scientific topics, research plans, career goals, position openings, etc. Faculty, scientists, and post-docs: please consider signing up (if you have not already) so that we can group you with interested students.

Students: you will be able to choose the researchers you might want to chat with over lunch; please keep a lookout for a sign-up email in the next few weeks!

On Friday, August 9 (12:00 - 13:00 h) we welcome all congress attendees to **Lunch Table Discussions!** Lunch tables will be labeled with topics (e.g. translating research to industry, attitudes towards animals, cognition and emotion, welfare policy, species-specific topics, technology, and much more!) to facilitate discussions amongst attendees. This event is a relaxed setting to connect with people of similar interests.

Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
Welcome Reception Student only section! 1900-2000			Eating w/ Ethologists All are welcome! 1230-1330 <i>Advance sign-up required</i>	Lunch Discussions All are welcome! 1200-1300

2019 ISAE congress events hosted by the student representatives

Student Resources. Consider checking out the [Educational Resources](#) section on the ISAE Website! There is information about graduate study, time management, teaching, and more.

Allison Pullin and Laura Whalin / Student Representatives of the ISAE

Finances

The report contains the mid-year, 6-month summary for the period **January 1 to June 12 2019**. The accounts are healthy with the main revenue coming from membership subscriptions and profit from the 2018 Congress in Prince Edward Island, Canada. The largest outgoing expenses so far this year were to Intergage (for membership and website services) and Elsevier (for *AABS* subscriptions for members). We have also supported the ISAE Latin American Regional meeting, continued to reimburse Congress Attendance Fund scholars for 2018 and supported ISAE Council Member representation at IPVS and ISAE nominated members on EU voluntary sub-groups where they provide independent expertise on animal welfare sub-platforms.

We expect to see transient income into our accounts prior to the August Congress as a result of Nestlé Purina renewing their sponsorship for the 2019 Congress in Bergen (pledged \$15,000 US) and supporting scholarships to attend. We also expect greater expenditure in August when the Conference Attendance Fund (allocated at over £3500) is awarded to successful applicants. This year we will pay the Congress organisers directly for registration, banquet and farewell dinners for successful applicants. This should reduce the issues faced last year with reimbursement of some applicants. Following the Congress further expenditure will be incurred for abstract books and publication services provided by Wageningen Press.

Our accounts for 2018 have been independently examined and a report submitted as part of our report to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The examination of finances indicated the accounts were all in order with data provided (evidence of income and expenditure) representing an accurate record of the ISAE accounts. No remedial actions were recommended.

ISAE Accounts for period Jan 1 to June 12 2019
Statement of Revenue and Expenses (in GBP, £)

Revenue:	
AAALAC returns	0
Congress Profit	8,120.06
Ethology Book sponsorship	0
Membership subs	10,323.00
Net Interest	37.43
Payment returns	0
Returns from regions	0
Scholarship funds from sponsors	0
Transfers in	15,000.00
Total Revenue	33,480.49
Expenses:	
AAALAC	0
Bank Charges	304.17
Conference Attendance Award	497.00
Conference Attendance Fund	0
Council Member Costs	1686.27
Elsevier AABS	1786.61
Ethology book paid	0
Membership services - Intergage	1,147.42
Regional Payments	1,000.00
SAGEPay	162.00
Scholarship funds awarded	0
Subs returns	0
Transfers out	15,000.00
Wageningen Press	0
Total Expenses	21,583.47
Excess of Revenue over expenses	11,897.02
Beg Fund Balances	54,173.02
End Fund Balances	66,070.04

Emma Baxter / Treasurer of the ISAE

ISAE Congress News

53rd Congress – Bergen, Norway, 2019

The 53rd Congress of the ISAE will take place in Bergen, Norway, from 5-9 August at the [Radisson Blu Royal Hotel](#) at Bryggen, a famous UNESCO World Heritage site. As you all know by now, the theme of the congress is '*Animal lives worth living*', and the interest has been phenomenal: we are expecting more than 400 delegates, presenting over 200 posters and with more than 100 spoken presentations, including 4 plenaries.



Have a look at the Congress website (www.isae2019.com) for more information on the venue and scientific programme, suggestions for accommodation and travel to Bergen, as well as excursions, and the programme for ISAE students. If you still haven't made up your mind to go, you can view a [video](#) presenting Bergen and the Congress facilities.

The congress also has the following Facebook site: www.facebook.com/ISAE2019.

Looking forward to seeing you ALL in Bergen in August!

Birte L. Nielsen / Senior Vice-President of the ISAE

Ethics Review of Abstracts. The ISAE Ethics Committee is responsible for the review of abstracts for the annual Congress when ethical issues have been highlighted at review. The ethics guidelines were updated in 2017. This year no abstracts were submitted for additional review by the ethics committee. The Scientific Committee identified 12 out of 375 which received an ethics score above 5. Of these, 1 was withdrawn and 11 were accepted following revision in response to the ethical concern. In general, ethical acceptability of abstracts according to ISAE guidelines was high, with an average ethics score of 1.6 out of a maximum of 10.

Alexandra Whittaker / Ethics Officer of the ISAE

Financial Support Awarded for 2019 ISAE Delegates

Congress Attendance Fund (CAF). The ISAE offers financial support to delegates who are unable to find full funding to attend the annual Congress. This year, the ISAE Congress Attendance Fund

has been able to sponsor the registration fee, the banquet and the farewell party for 11 delegates presenting their work at this year's Congress.

Developing Countries Congress Attendance Fund (DCCAF). Due to a generous sponsorship from the Open Philanthropy Project (OPP), the ISAE has been able to fully support a number of Congress delegates from developing countries. This year, no less than 14 people from Africa, South America, and Asia will be able to go to the Congress funded by the DCCAF. They come from universities (students, postdocs and faculty) as well as governments and industry. This year, their participation includes farm visits and a taught module on applied ethology. The ISAE is grateful to the OPP for making this possible, and to Dr. Jeremy Marchant-Forde, who has spent a considerable amount of his spare time organising all the practical aspects of tickets, money transfers, visas and general correspondence that come with such an undertaking.

Purina Nestlé Companion Animal Award. For many years, Purina Nestlé have donated a sum to support young researchers presenting work on dog and cat behaviour at our annual Congress. This year, 7 ISAE delegates have received funding from the Purina Nestlé Companion Animal Award, and we are looking forward to see and hear their presentations in Bergen. The ISAE thanks Purina Nestlé for their continued support of young applied ethologists.

Humane Society International (HSI) Travel Award. This year, 5 delegates have received full or partial funding from the Humane Society International to participate in and present their work at the Congress in Bergen. The recipients of the award this year come from Canada, USA, Mexico, and Australia.

Birte L. Nielsen / *Senior Vice-President of the ISAE*

Future ISAE Congresses

2020. As part of our efforts to expand the knowledge of applied ethology across the globe, especially in parts where the ISAE has fewer members, we are very pleased that the ISAE Congress next year will take place in Bangalore, India, in the week of 3-7 August. The Congress venue will be the campus of the National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) in Bangalore. The local organising committee is headed by Dr. Abdul Rahman, and the scientific committee is led by Prof. Cathy Dwyer.

2021. The ISAE Congress in 2021 will take place in the Republic of North Macedonia. To keep costs down, the Congress is scheduled later than usual to avoid peak season prices. The venue will be the Hotel Metropol in Ohrid in the week of 6-10 September.

2022 and beyond. If you and your research institute are interested in organising an ISAE Congress in future, please contact the ISAE Senior Vice-President (currently birte.nielsen@inra.fr) for more information. We usually have the ISAE Congress alternate years in and outside Europe, but the guidelines are as flexible as we make them.

Birte L. Nielsen / *Senior Vice-President of the ISAE (2017-2019)*

ISAE Regional News and Development

Development

An update from our three country liaisons: we are delighted that Andreia (Brazil) and Vijay (India) have agreed to continue in their role as country liaison for another year. Mirjana (Serbia) will complete her two years as a country liaison in August, but will stay active as a member to help organise an Eastern European meeting in 2020. I would like to thank her for her commitment over the last two years, raising awareness of ISAE in East Europe and bringing in our first Serbian members!

India. Vijay, with support from Rebecca, organised our first ISAE meeting in Delhi in December (*pictured right and below*), as briefly mentioned in the last newsletter, to officially launch ISAE in India ahead of our 2020 Congress in Bangalore. We had more than 60 attendees from across India, a mix of students, vets, researchers, government staff and NGOs; as well as Professor Clive Phillips from Australia as our guest speaker. The meeting concluded with a panel discussion about future strategies and activities of ISAE in India. The audience's main interests were about how to secure research funding for animal welfare science so that they can get involved.



Preparations are underway for the 2020 ISAE Congress in Bangalore, and Vijay and Rebecca are part of the scientific committee and Vijay will be helping with the congress organisation.

Serbia. This year we have another young new member from Serbia who has applied for ISAE membership, which is exciting to continue to gain members from Serbia.

Mirjana promoted ISAE recently in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Faculty of Agriculture in Banja Luka (*pictured below*) and the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science in Sarajevo, and hopes that we will also have new members from Bosnia and Herzegovina soon.



Brazil. Plans are underway for an ISAE meeting in Brazil later this year, which will follow on from the very successful Latin America regional meeting in Chile last year organised by the regional secretaries. Watch this space to hear more!

We are delighted to have offered 14 grants as part of our Developing Countries Congress attendance fund for the Bergen international congress this year and we look forward to welcoming them there.

Rebecca Sommerville / *Development Officer of the ISAE*

Promoting ISAE in India at the PCVC7. Together with the 2020 Congress organisers, we have been promoting the ISAE in India prior to our international conference in Bangalore next year. The chair of the upcoming ISAE2020, Dr. Abdul Rahman, also organised the 7th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference (PCVC7) of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, which was held in Bangalore, India, from 3-7 March 2019. Vijay, Rebecca (*pictured below*) and I represented ISAE at the PCVC7.

Rahman scheduled a whole afternoon session dedicated to the ISAE and its aims. The session was chaired by Michael Appleby and myself, and several ISAE members gave talks on a variety of subjects to present the type of work ISAE members do. Cathy Dwyer talked about how to use animal behaviour to improve animal welfare, and M. L. Kamboj and Pawan Singh presented work on the behaviour and welfare of dairy cattle and buffaloes. As the official ISAE representative, I gave a talk on the role of ISAE in research and education in applied animal behaviour and welfare. The whole session drew a large crowd, and a lot of interest was given to the ISAE stand with its brochures on how to become an ISAE member. The PCVC7 also gave us opportunity to meet with the local organising committee for the ISAE2020



Congress in Bangalore. The topics for the Congress is currently under development, and I can only reiterate my encouragement to you all to consider submitting an abstract!

Birte L. Nielsen / *Senior Vice-President of the ISAE (2017-2019)*

Regional Updates

The Nordic region has a new Regional Secretary: Marko Opecek, working in Norway. He follows Lena Lidfors, who did this post for the last 5 years. I want to thank Lena for her work for ISAE in the region very much. I am looking forward to working together with Marko. In Latin America, a search for new Regional Secretaries is running.

Susanne Waiblinger / *Junior Vice-President of the ISAE*

Australasia-Africa. Over the past few months we've been busy preparing for our next regional conference. This year's conference will be held at the Royal Society of New Zealand in Wellington from 21-22 November with the theme "Understanding Animals: Multi-disciplinary approaches to improving animals' lives". This will be a forum co-hosted by ISAE, Massey University, and the Australian & New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCART). This 2-day event will bring together scientists from all disciplines to discuss Applied Behaviour (Day 1), and Animal Welfare (Day 2).

This will be a fantastic event to present at, and we particularly encourage students to consider presenting their research in this fun and friendly environment. Abstract submission deadline has been extended until **14 July**, and registrations are now open! Tickets are strictly limited. Early bird rates will apply until the end of September: only \$120 for ISAE members* and \$135 for non-members* for the entire 2-day event! www.trybooking.com/nz/bsr. (*Booking fee applies). Student scholarships of up to \$1200 are also available.

Keep up to date with all of our regional news with our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ISAEAA

Abstract templates and scholarship applications available on our website: www.applied-ethology.org/Australasia-Africa.html

Amanda Doughty and Kris Descovich / *Regional Secretaries for Australasia-Africa*

Benelux. Last year October we had a symposium in Belgium (Experimental Poultry Centre in Geel), and this was a great success with 60 attendees. This year, we held our first PhD course on animal emotion, at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. This was a great success, with a full list of participants from all over



Europe (30 in total) and exciting talks by, and discussions with, experts in the field, including amongst others Prof. Mike Mendl and Dr. Lisette Leliveld. The evaluation of the course by the participants was extremely positive, and we plan to have this course every 2 years.



Lisanne Stadig and Laura Webb / *Regional Secretaries for Benelux*

East Asia. The Japanese Society for Applied Animal Behaviour recently united with the Japanese Society of Livestock Management forming the new society Japanese Society for Animal Behaviour and Management (<http://jsabm.org/>).

Shigeru Ninomiya / *Regional Secretary for East Asia*

Latin America. As regional secretaries we would like to welcome ISAE new members for the Latin America (LA) region:

- Rolnei Daros from Brazil
- Hernan Cañon Jones from Chile
- Graciela Estrada Dávila from Ecuador
- Katherin Solano León from Ecuador

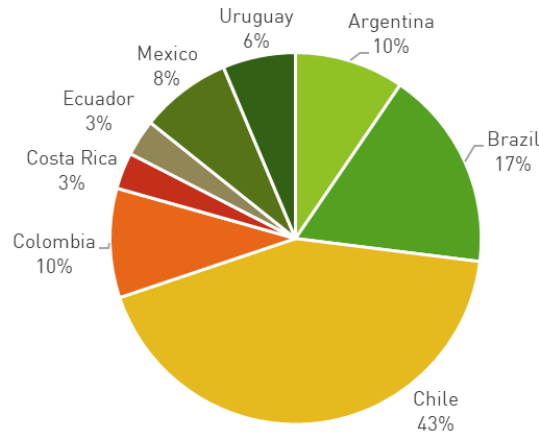
In this last 6 months, ISAE welcomed their first members from Ecuador, and we hope that the family will keep growing. We are currently 27 members in the LA Region! Since taking office, the membership in the region increased by 100%. Thanks to all the members who keep promoting ISAE.

Regional Survey. We would like to thank all our members in the LA Region for participating and sharing the survey. The results are finally out, and the final document will be available on the regional office page within ISAE website. In brief:

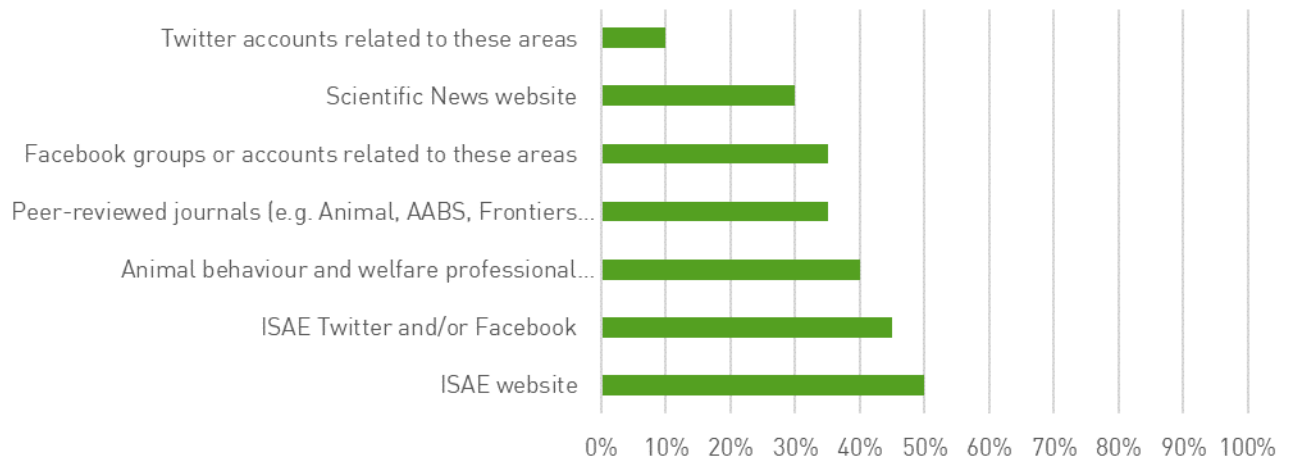
We received a total of 63 responses from which:

- 32% were from current ISAE members
- 3% were from former ISAE members
- 65% were from non ISAE members

From these, 71% of respondents were female and 29% male. Respondents were current residents of 8 countries within the LA region:



ISAE LA members use more Facebook, LinkedIn and ResearchGate, and when they want updates about animal behaviour and welfare, they go to ISAE website and ISAE social media accounts!



There are three areas where ISAE could developed tools or solutions to assist more our members in the LA Region:

- Networking
- Information about events and job opportunities
- Economic assistance

If you would like to know more about our findings and recommendations, please visit our [page](#).

Also, a reminder to members to visit and share the updates on our site ([Latin America](#)), here you could also find information about colleagues in the region. Don't forget to get in touch with us to isae.latinoamerica@gmail.com, if you have any questions or ideas, or if you would like us to share news about your research group (e.g. papers).

From the ISAE LA Regional Office, we would like to pass our condolences to Fiona Rioja-Lang's family and to all our colleagues in ISAE who work or knew her. She was an excellent professional and member who always assisted us from her position within ISAE Council, but who also helps us spread ISAE message in Mexico. She will always be missed and remembered.

Call for elections. So, the time has come for us to step to one side and let new secretaries take ISAE LA Region to the next stage. We have called to elections and invited all our members to submit their interest to become ISAE LA Region Secretary, there will be two posts available. We believe that being able to work in a team was a great idea for such a big region, and we strongly recommend having 2 secretaries from different countries, it makes work easier, more representative and more fun!

We accepted candidate applications until 30 June and set up the online voting system to be open for 2 weeks so everybody has a chance to vote. Only members who are up to date with their membership can be a candidate or vote.

Giuliana Miguel Pacheco and Tamara Tadich / *Regional Secretaries for Latin America*

Mediterranean. The secretaries presented a proposal to Laura Boyle (ISAE liaison with EAAP) and Hans Spoolder (EAAP 2020 organising committee) for a satellite workshop of ISAE Mediterranean members to be held in Porto at the 2020 EAAP Congress. Portuguese ISAE members would help with the organisational issues. A survey was conducted also amongst members on whether they could attend. A regional lunch at the ISAE 2019 Congress in Bergen is expected.

Emma Fàbrega and Daniela Alberghina / *ISAE Regional Secretaries for Mediterranean*

Nordic. Marko Ocepek is the new Regional Secretary for the region. He is currently a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Norwegian University of Life Sciences. His research is focused on pig behaviour in relation to productivity, environment, housing, nutrition, welfare, genetics, and their interactions, which are crucial for ensuring the future sustainability of pig farming.

Susanne Waiblinger / *Junior Vice President of the ISAE*

UK and Ireland. The UK and Ireland region holds meetings once every 2 years. Our last 2 regional meetings have seen an increase to a new high in the number of delegates attending. We held an extremely well attended meeting in 2018 and hope to follow this success with the next meeting which is planned for around February 2020. We would be delighted to hear from any members who would like to offer to **host the meeting** at their institute or to discuss what would be involved in doing so. Recent meetings have featured a large number of excellent presentations from student and post-doc researchers and we are keen that the next meeting continues to be an attractive venue for early-career researchers to present.

Simon Turner and Amy Quinn / *Regional Secretaries for UK and Ireland*

West Central Europe. We currently have 55 members in the West Central Europe (WCE) Region, including 3 new members.

Meeting announcements. 51st International Congress on Applied Ethology of the German Veterinary Society 28–30 November 2019 in Freiburg, Germany.

For several years now, the ISAE WCE Region and German Veterinary Society (DVG) have included a time slot during which PhD students are offered the opportunity to give short presentations of their projects, introducing the topic and methodology. This format informs scientists of planned and ongoing research projects in their fields and allows students to present and discuss their projects early on. Interested students can still apply for this year's short presentations. For more information, please contact Antonia Patt (antonia.patt@fli.de).

Further, we will have the annual general meeting of the WCE Region during this conference.

Antiona Patt / *Regional Secretary for West Central Europe*

Other News

Remembering Fiona Rioja-Lang

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the untimely death of our friend and colleague Dr. Fiona Rioja-Lang. Fiona was the Assistant Secretary of the ISAE since 2017 and was an active member of our Society.



Fiona was a graduate of the MSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare at the University of Edinburgh and completed her PhD with SRUC and the University of Edinburgh in 2009 on dairy cow welfare and feeding behavior. After her PhD, she spent 2 years as a postdoc at the Prairie Swine Centre in Canada working on dairy cow and pig welfare. Since 2011, Fiona was living with her family in Yucatan, Mexico and continued to work remotely for the Prairie Swine Centre and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) of Canada. Most recently before her death, Fiona had been working remotely as a Research Fellow for the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education at the University of Edinburgh investigating

the priority animal welfare issues in the U.K.

Fiona was a wonderful colleague, who will be remembered for her enthusiastic, open and friendly approach to her work and her positive attitude to life. She was committed to animal welfare and has made a significant contribution to the lives of animals, from her personal work with the street dogs in Mexico to her academic work on farmed livestock. Fiona was particularly interested in how we can optimise the housing design of farm animals to improve animal welfare. She was well known and loved in the animal welfare community.

In order to share some of Fiona's legacy with her family, Dr. Christy Goldhawk (ISAE Assistant Communications Officer), Dr. Julie Wittrock, and Dr. Giuliana Miguel (ISAE co-Regional Secretary, Latin America) have come up with the lovely idea to curate a collection of stories and photos into a book for Fiona's family. If you would like to share your memories of Fiona, the e-mail address is: lettersoffiona@gmail.com. ISAE will commemorate her at the Annual General Meeting during the Congress in Bergen on 8 August 2019.

Bas Rodenburg / *President of the ISAE*

EU Platform on Animal Welfare

The EU Platform on Animal Welfare had a meeting on 17 June 2019, which our SVP Birte Nielsen attended on behalf of ISAE. One of the main outcomes of this meeting was the information that the mandate of the platform is likely to be expanded until 30 June 2021. This is good news, as many working groups are still in the middle of delivering their advice to the Platform. It was also good to see that the current Commissioner (Vytenis Andriukaitis) stressed the need for scientific evidence in order to make changes to animal production systems.

Birte took this opportunity to highlight ISAE's potential role in the Platform: "I am representing the International Society for Applied Ethology. We are an independent, scientific society, and our members work in applied animal behaviour and animal welfare science. I can only echo the Commissioner's call for science-based arguments, and will encourage both member states and NGO's to invest in the scientific study of animal behaviour and welfare, in particular practical solutions to the problems we face – members of the ISAE are experts in exactly these issues."

This is exactly why we are active in the Platform and have ISAE experts on five of the six working groups. The Platform has 2 official working groups, financially supported by the European Commission (EC). The first is on Animal Transport and the second on Pig Welfare. ISAE has an expert on both official working groups: Dr. Mette Herskin for Animal Transport and Dr. Emma Baxter for Pig Welfare. Then there are four voluntary working groups, with ISAE experts on three of them: Horse Welfare (Dr. Janne Winther Christensen), Fish Welfare (Dr. Moira Harris), Pullet Welfare (Dr. Bas Rodenburg) and Dog Trade. These voluntary groups are established on the initiative of the Platform, but are not supported by the EC. For these voluntary working groups, ISAE provides financial support to the ISAE experts.

Bas Rodenburg / *President of the ISAE*

Subgroup on Welfare of Pullets. The pullet welfare subgroup has now met 4 times (on 29 October 2018 in Copenhagen, 23 January 2019 in The Hague, 12 March 2019 in Copenhagen, and 4 June 2019 in Paris). I have been able to attend 3 of these meetings; for the third meeting Anja Riber from Aarhus University replaced me.

Pullets are young laying hens which are kept on rearing farms from day-old to approximately 18 weeks of age. Welfare of adult laying hens is regulated by the Laying Hen Directive (1999/74/EC), but no EU legislation exists for the welfare of pullets. Only directive 1998/58/EC applies, concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, but this directive only supplies general guidelines for all species.

The task the working group has set itself is to provide specific guidelines for pullets that would allow specification of Directive 1998/58/EC. The working group is composed of representatives of several member states, NGOs, industry and ISAE. In the first meeting, we have started discussing a draft document outlining aspects that are important to pullet welfare and that may also affect the welfare of the same birds during the laying period (prevention of feather pecking, keel bone damage, etc). This discussion continued during the subsequent meetings. On the whole, discussions are very constructive and we are moving forward.

A major challenge is the stocking density at which pullets are kept. From an animal welfare perspective, restricting stocking density in pullets at approximately 15 birds/m² would be

beneficial, but in commercial production often much higher stocking densities of around 25 birds/m² are used. In the final document, we will probably describe the scientific evidence for specific welfare risks (such as feather pecking) at higher stocking densities. The draft document will be circulated to the Platform members during the summer and presented at the Platform in September 2019.

Bas Rodenburg / *President of the ISAE, Expert on the Pullet Welfare working group*

Subgroup on Pig Castration. This group emerges from the momentum built with the [European Declaration on Alternatives to Surgical Castration of Pigs](#). This voluntary Declaration was signed by meat industry, retailers, scientists, veterinarians and animal welfare NGOs in 2010, with the intention of abandoning this painful procedure and to replace it with viable alternatives by 2018.

As 2018 has come and passed (and in 2017, more than 60% of pigs in the EU were still castrated), the European Commission funded a study on 'Establishing best practices on the production, the processing and the marketing of meat from uncastrated pigs or pigs vaccinated against boar taint'. The [report](#) was presented at pig castration subgroup meeting in Brussels with most relevant stakeholders present. The research highlights best practices found in different (representative) Member States, at different points in the supply chain:

- **Farm:** reduce boar taint in entire males through management techniques on farm; vaccinate pigs against boar taint (immune-castration), and provide assurance that vaccinated pigs do not present detectable boar taint.
- **Slaughterhouse:** detect boar taint, quantify and manage positive carcasses; obtain assurance from farmers that vaccinated pigs do not contain detectable boar taint, and deal with meat with detectable boar taint.
- **Retail and food service:** increase the market value of meat from uncastrated pigs, and promote meat from vaccinated pigs.

These best practices provide a range of options for supply chains seeking to transition away from surgical castration. The group identified gaps and bottlenecks in the study findings, e.g. up to date economic impact studies of different scenarios. Interestingly, stopping with castration is one of the few animal welfare issues with a clear economic benefit for the producer, as entire males have improved feed conversions, so feed costs are reduced. However, there are challenges with animal management on-farm (sexual behaviour of males) and issues in different markets. For example, there is a large variation of acceptance of entire boars in slaughterhouses, the penalties paid and acceptance by consumers (boar taint can be perceived in cooked pork by some people). Vaccination works in some markets/countries, but is also associated with challenges such as marketing and assurances that pigs have been vaccinated correctly.

As is often the case, various stakeholders have different views on what is the best way forward for the group they represent. The intermediate remedies, as highlighted by the Declaration (anaesthesia and analgesia) are now implemented in an increasing number of EU Member States, but this also comes with several concerns and limitations (e.g. are the anaesthetics and analgesics effective and welfare friendly and who is responsible for administration?). What was

clear from the meeting is that there is the intention to work towards a (voluntary) ban on castration and that the costs for this should be shared along the supply chain, without market distortions.

Heleen Van De Weerd / *Procedural Advisor of the ISAE*

David G.M. Wood-Gush Memorial Trust Fund

Following the death of Professor David Wood-Gush (1922-1992), a memorial fund was set up in 1993 to endow an annual lecture to be given in his memory in connection with the annual international congress of the ISAE. The first David Wood-Gush Memorial lecture was given by Professor Ian Duncan in 1994 and, as most of you are aware, the tradition has been continued ever since. It is encouraged to favour speakers of eminence in their field who would not normally contribute to an ISAE Congress, who may or may not be ISAE members, and who can both inspire and provoke the members of the ISAE on subjects relating to applied ethology.

We have recently reorganised the steering committee of the memorial fund to ensure a steady, sustainable, and organised renewal of the committee. The new steering committee will always consist of the 5 most recent former Senior Vice-Presidents of the ISAE (i.e. they have previously been Presidents of the ISAE, and they have now left the ISAE Council). In addition, the chair of the original Wood-Gush committee, Prof. Alistair B Lawrence, will be part of the new steering committee for the first 3 years to ensure a smooth transition between committees. The composition of the committee means that all members know the spirit of the Society and have some experience with the selection of previous Wood-Gush speakers.

Once the local organising committee for the annual ISAE Congress has a list of names of potential speakers, the steering committee approves or rejects each of the suggestions, and may add suggestions of their own. It is then up to the local organisers to invite the Wood-Gush Memorial speaker from the approved list of candidates (subject to their availability).

Birte L Nielsen / *Senior Vice-President of the ISAE*

Collaboration with EAAP and Other Scientific Societies

In the ISAE Constitution, one of our aims is “to encourage, where appropriate, links between applied animal behaviour science and other disciplines. This can be realised by encouraging presentations, discussions and publications and by maintaining contacts with appropriate scientific societies”.

Animal science has traditionally been – and still is – approached in a grid-like fashion, with researchers working within discipline/species cells. Collaboration among scientific societies with similar interests and subject areas can only be of benefit to everyone involved. Many ISAE members are also associated with other scientific societies, and this provides ample opportunity to establish closer links. An initiative from Hans Spoolder and Laura Boyle, who are both active in ISAE and the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP), has strengthened the collaboration between ISAE and EAAP; this is one way to break down the discipline barriers.

The ISAE Congresses are now advertised in the EAAP newsletter, and the ISAE includes information on EAAP activities on our website and social media feed. We are currently working on ISAE members getting free access to the proceedings from EAAP congresses; the next of which is the 70th Annual Meeting of the EAAP, and will take place in the city of Ghent (Belgium), 26-30 Aug 2019 (www.eaap2019.org).

If you are involved in other scientific societies which may be interested in collaborating and sharing information with the ISAE, please contact the ISAE Senior Vice-President.

Birte L Nielsen / Senior Vice-President of the ISAE

Collaboration with the OIE

In March 2017, the ISAE established a collaboration with the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE). The OIE is a corporate member of the ISAE, and the ISAE is represented at the OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum, which meets annually to discuss current animal welfare issues of global importance and to develop initiatives to move forward. The latest meeting of the Forum was 11-12 April 2019, where transport of animals was the topic, with focus on identifying challenges and exploring solutions in animal transport (land, sea and air).



Figure: Overview of the OIE international standards on animal welfare (www.oie.int)

Like all of the OIE animal welfare standards, their transport standards are evidence-based and the involvement of scientists, many of whom are ISAE members, in the development and improvement of these standards is hugely important. The collaboration between the OIE and the ISAE is up for discussion in 2020, where we expect our agreement to be renewed.

Birte L Nielsen / Senior Vice-President of the ISAE

Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest

The 19th Annual AVMA Animal Welfare Assessment Contest® (awjac.org) will be held November 22-24, 2019 at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, CO, USA and will feature virtual scenarios about captive African painted dogs, laboratory zebrafish, broiler chickens, and a live scenario of sheep slaughter.

The contest gives undergraduate, graduate, and veterinary students an opportunity to apply and improve their animal welfare knowledge. Founded at Michigan State University in 2001, the Animal Welfare Assessment Contest – also known as AWJAC, for the acronym by which it was formerly known (Animal Welfare Judging/Assessment Contest) – was modeled on traditional livestock, horse and meat judging competitions to encourage students to learn about welfare while competing with students from universities across the globe. The competition teaches participants to assess the welfare of animals in a variety of settings using science-based methods and reasoning. AWJAC's primary goal is to provide a unique educational experience while strengthening students' reasoning skills and welfare knowledge. The contest spans 3 days, starting the first evening with a pizza dinner and keynote address on livestock slaughter from Temple Grandin. On the second day, students will work in teams or individually to evaluate a live scenario focusing on sheep slaughter at CSU's new on campus slaughter facility and present their findings to a panel of expert judges. On the final day, students will individually evaluate 3 virtual scenarios featuring captive African painted dogs, laboratory zebrafish, and broiler chickens and subsequently present their findings to individual expert judges.

ISAE has been involved in the contest since its inception under the guidance of Camie Heleski, Adroaldo Zanella and Ed Pajor with consistent support from Suzanne Millman and Michael Cockram. Teams have been coached by ISAE members such as Ian Duncan, Monique Pairis-Garcia, Peter Krawczel, and many more. The scenario-writing team is headed by Janice Siegford with generous support from countless species experts over the years, and numerous ISAE members have served tirelessly as judges, including (but not limited to) Cassandra Tucker, Ed Pajor, Cathy Dwyer, Joe Stookey, Judy Stella, James Serpell, Ruth Newberry, and Nicolas Devillers.

For more information please contact Jeremy Marchant-Forde (Jeremy.marchant-forde@ars.usda.gov) or AVMA's Dr. Sharon Kuca (skuca@avma.org).

Jeremy Marchant-Forde / ISAE Representative on the AWJAC Advisory Board

Employment and Education Opportunities

Some current [employment and education opportunities](#) related to applied ethology include:

- **Faculty position**, Oregon State U, USA (closes August 31, 2019)
- **Faculty position**, Texas Tech U, USA (closes September 1, 2019)
- **Lecturer**, U Glasgow, UK (closes July 22, 2019)
- **NGO positions (2)**, Animal Welfare Institute, USA
- **Postdoc**, FLI, Germany (closes July 15, 2019)
- **Postdoc**, U Pennsylvania, USA
- **Postdoc**, US Dept Agriculture / Purdue U, USA
- **PhD positions**, US Dept Agriculture / Purdue U, USA
- **PhD position**, U Strasbourg, France (exam July, 2019)
- **PhD positions**, U Florida / U Tennessee, USA (start August, 2019)
- **MSc position**, Michigan State U, USA (starts Fall, 2019)
- **MSc positions (2)**, Prairie Swine Centre / U Saskatchewan, Canada

For details on how to apply and for the most up-to-date information on employment and education opportunities, visit the [ISAE website](#) and follow us on social media:

- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/appliedethology
- **Twitter:** [@appliedethology](https://twitter.com/appliedethology)

To advertise a position: send the job title, location, contact email address, application deadline, and a URL and/or a pdf flyer to info@applied-ethology.org. Listings are updated weekly and will be removed 3 months after the posting date if no closing date is given.

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