



International  
Society for  
**Applied  
Ethology**

# Newsletter

Issue 55 • 2019 December



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## President's Piece

Now it is already some months ago that I took over the Presidency. This is really a great honour and pleasure as ISAE comprises not only the world's leading applied ethologists but at the same time an extremely friendly, committed, and supportive membership. I followed [Bas Rodenburg](#), who will further help running the Society as Senior Vice President, concentrating mainly on matters related to the annual Congress. [Mark Rutter](#) joined the presidential team as Junior Vice-President, focusing mainly on regional affairs.

The [53rd ISAE Congress](#) was held in August in Bergen, Norway. We all could enjoy not only high-quality scientific presentations and discussions in a relaxed atmosphere, but also pleasurable social events and networking opportunities. A special Congress bar was a great idea to make it easier to find someone to meet up with also in the evening. [Bjarne Olai Braastad](#) and his team organized the meeting perfectly and prepared the ground for an excellent, successful meeting.

It was the second opportunity for ISAE to invite people from developing countries that are active in fields related farm animal welfare to participate in the annual Congress. This was possible by means of the Developing Countries Congress Attendance Fund (DCCAF) financed by the Open Philanthropy Project. A special pre-Congress workshop on concepts and assessment of animal welfare and a post-Congress excursion on farms completed the program for the thirteen awardees. The DCCAF is part of our strategy to support the global development of animal welfare science by spreading ISAE activities into countries where applied ethology is not yet well established. Country liaisons in those regions give valuable support in achieving this goal – and they are successful as you can see in detail in the [Development section](#) of this newsletter. One example: two of this year's DCCAF awardees now take responsibility for enhancing the field in their countries, Nigeria and Bangladesh, and we already got quite a few membership applications from there. Please let me take the chance here to give a huge thank you to [Jeremy Marchant-Forde](#) for all his hard work for this funds.

Also the next Congress is related to our growing activities in those countries, as the [54th ISAE Congress](#) will take place in [Bangalore, India](#) from August 3 to 8, 2020. The Congress is a highlight in a series of several events that took place in India during the last two years. The theme of the Congress is *Developing animal behaviour and welfare: Real solutions for real problems*. I hope it will attract many people of the region as well as ISAE members from all over the world. Don't miss this unique event – and the solutions!

As usual, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held during the Congress in Bergen. Most of the members present at the Congress joined in the AGM and waited another hour before enjoying the sun and sea view; such interested membership is really motivating! Members agreed on the suggested changes to the Constitution: a small change in wording was necessary due to our state as a Scottish charitable organisation, and the Assistant Communication Officer ([Christy Goldhawk](#)) is now a voting Council position, accommodating for the time-consuming work of this position. At the AGM new Council members were elected: [Dana Campbell](#) as Junior Editor, [Giuliana Miguel](#) as Assistant Secretary and [Mark Rutter](#) as JVP. [Janice Siegford](#) left Council after finishing her turn as Senior Editor and [Birte Nielsen](#) after a six-year Presidential time. Thank you so much for all your hard work for the Society! For further details about the AGM please see the

[Council news](#) in this newsletter and the [minutes of the AGM](#), available on the ISAE website in the Membership area.

This brings me to announce [Council positions](#) that will be open next summer: Jennifer Van Os will step down as Communications Officer and Rebecca Sommerville as Development Officer. Further, two Ethics Committee members will have to be replaced. If you are interested to actively contribute to ISAE business, you should consider to apply for one of the positions. You can find information about the tasks of the Council officers and the ethics committee in the Procedural Guidelines, available on the homepage. In addition, we currently have open the newly co-opted position of [Assistant Development Officer](#).

The ISAE is a member of the EU Platform for Animal Welfare, which was launched in 2017 and has representatives in six of the seven sub-groups on specific animal welfare topics. During the Platform's 6th meeting in October, first results of the sub-groups on animal transport, on pig welfare and on responsible ownership and care of equines were adopted and are now ready for implementation ([see more details below](#)). The new EU Commission has extended the mandate of the Platform so that its work can continue and results of other subgroups are expected for 2020.

After a year of activity, the upcoming holidays offer many of us time to slow down, relax and "refill the batteries" so that we can start the new year with new energy and motivation. With this in mind I wish you all relaxing holidays and a successful, healthy, and happy New Year and look forward meeting you in Bangalore!

Season's Greetings –

Susanne Waiblinger / *President of the ISAE (2019-2021)*

## Updates from Your ISAE Council

### Amendments to the ISAE Constitution

At the AGM in Bergen three amendments to the [Constitution](#) were approved by members. All changes are in *Section 3 – Structure and Administration of the Society*. As we are now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, we had to change the wording of "auditor" to "independent examiner" because the Scottish charity regulator reserves the term "auditor" for larger charities where an accountant has to check the accounts. Further, the position of an Honorary Assistant Communications Officer was added to the list of Council Officers and trustees of the Society, to accommodate for the amount of work of this position, which was until now a non-voting, co-opted position. The third change was the removal of the position of Honorary Education Officer.

#### *3. Structure and Administration of the Society.*

*c. ...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, 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...*

*l. One or more honorary ~~auditors~~ independent examiners will be elected annually to audit the ISAE accounts prior to presentation of such accounts at the AGM.*

**Susanne Waiblinger / President of the ISAE (2019-2021)**

## **Thank you to former Council members**

At our AGM, Janice Siegford stepped down from her position as Senior Editor and Birte Nielsen as Senior Vice-President. I would like to give both of them a very huge and cordial 'Thank you' for their valuable, extensive work for the Society!

I also would like to welcome the new Council Officers Dana Campbell (Junior Editor), Giuliana Miguel (Assistant Secretary) and Mark Rutter (Junior Vice-President), and our interim Membership Secretary Courtney Daigle, replacing Gemma Charlton during her maternal leave for one year.

**Susanne Waiblinger / President of the ISAE (2019-2021)**

## **Council position vacancies**

Dear ISAE Members,

There are a few Council Position vacancies that will need to be filled in 2020, including Communications Officer, Development Officer, and two Ethics Officers. In addition to these Council position vacancies, we are also seeking an Assistant Development Officer, which is a newly created, non-voting position. If you are interested in being part of the Council, now is your chance!

**Communications Officer.** The Communications Officer's duties include maintaining the fantastic ISAE website and distributing ISAE-related information to ISAE members, among other duties. The Communications Officer typically serves a 4-year term.

**Development Officer.** The Development Officer promotes ISAE activities in countries where the ISAE is underrepresented or not represented. The Development Officer usually serves a 4-year term.

**Ethics Committee Members.** The Ethics Committee is seeking two 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](mailto: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, 24 July 2020**.

*Marisa Erasmus / Secretary of the ISAE (2017-2021)*

### **Assistant Development Officer – new position available**

We are recruiting a new role to support the ISAE Council as a co-opted member (a non-voting voluntary role) of Assistant Development Officer.

This role will offer support to our growing ISAE activities in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The role will provide support through managing and coordinating the allocation of funds that ISAE receives and grants for our development activities in different countries. The position will be held for two years from January 2020.

With support from the Development Officer and other ISAE Council members, the role will involve the following:

- Maintain oversight of ISAE funds available for development activities
- Organise selection of awardees for development grants to attend the international Congress, including coordinating an expert judging panel
- Communicate with grant applicants
- Arrange grant transfers for the international Congress and regional development activities, with our fund holder
- Provide support to organise grantee's travel to the international Congress, when required in special circumstances
- Attend events or activities to promote ISAE, when possible

We particularly welcome applications from members based in Asia, Africa, or Latin America; although this is not a requirement.

To apply for the role of Assistant Development Officer, please send your CV and a statement of why you would like to do the role (maximum half a page of A4) to [isaedevelopment@outlook.com](mailto:isaedevelopment@outlook.com) by **6th January 2020**.

*Rebecca Sommerville / Development Officer of the ISAE (2016-2020)*

### **Communications**

Over the recent years, our online presence has grown, and engagement with members – along with the workload for the ISAE communications team – has increased. In 2017, we co-opted Christy Goldhawk for the new position of Assistant Communications Officer, which as of the AGM in 2019 became a voting Council position. The Assistant Communications Officer is in charge of

the ISAE social media accounts and will serve a 4-year term (overlapping for 2 years with the Communications Officer).

During 2018-2019, Christy spearheaded the creation of an ISAE Communications Strategy. The committee included: Jennifer Van Os (Communications Officer), Bas Rodenburg (then President), Susanne Waiblinger (then Junior Vice-President), Janice Siegford (then Senior Editor), Rebecca Sommerville (Development Officer), Marisa Erasmus (Secretary), the late Fiona Rioja-Lang (then Assistant Secretary), and Allison Pullin (Student Representative).

The objectives were to:

1. Provide a framework for current and future Communications Officers' work to support ISAE activities
2. Inform prioritization of activities to be efficient with volunteer Officers' time in serving the Society
3. Ensure online presence is effective and representative of the Society

The committee evaluated existing activities, identified target audiences, their needs, and strategic areas of focus, and then prioritized tactics and activities relative to target audiences. The strategic focus and activities were evaluated against the current [ISAE Mission Statement](#). The resulting strategy was discussed at the summer 2019 Council meeting in Bergen and is now posted in the [Members' section of the website](#). This strategy is not intended to be static, but rather a guide that is reviewed at appropriate intervals by ISAE members such that it remains relevant to updates in the Society and in communications

As always, if you have job or graduate student positions to advertise, conferences or courses, news items, or open-access papers or temporary free-access author links, send them to [info@applied-ethology.org](mailto:info@applied-ethology.org). If you have **Twitter**, include your handle so we can tag you!

*Jennifer Van Os / Communications Officer of the ISAE (2016-2020)*  
*Christy Goldhawk / Assistant Communications Officer of the ISAE (2017-2022)*

## Membership

Gemma Charlton, the ISAE Membership Secretary (2018-2022) was expected to begin maternity leave from August 2019 to August 2020. Courtney Daigle graciously agreed to cover the position during that time frame, and had to step in several weeks earlier than originally anticipated! The ISAE Council greatly appreciates Courtney's willingness to help and jump in at short notice.

For all inquiries relating to membership, updating your information, or your ISAE login, please contact Courtney ([isaemembership@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:isaemembership@hotmail.co.uk)).

## Students

**ISAE Student Webinars.** In 2019, ISAE saw an opportunity to bolster a community of scientists who are keen to learn together throughout the year. We recognized that traveling to conferences can be cost-prohibitive; thus, we can use technology to create a more inclusive organization. The Student Representatives proposed an idea to Congress in our 2019 winter Council meeting to

start Student Webinars. After several meetings, we began planning for a webinar series to occur twice per year.

The aims of the webinars are:

1. To promote a dialogue about research in applied ethology throughout the year
2. To offer another opportunity for students to practice giving presentations, particularly for those who may not have an opportunity to attend ISAE International Congress or regional ISAE meetings

We envisioned that each webinar would last 1 hour and feature 4 presenters (each student speaking 10-12 minutes). At the end of each presentation, we would open the floor for 3-5 minutes of questions from the webinar audience. The ISAE Student Representatives would facilitate the webinar.

With the fantastic collaboration and support of Jennifer Van Os (Communications Officer), Christy Goldhawk (Assistant Communications Officer), and Rebecca Sommerville (Development Officer), we organized a December 2019 date and advertisements to encourage students to submit original abstracts in applied ethology and animal welfare. Unfortunately, we received no submissions. We still see value in this event however, and we will present an updated plan in the 2020 winter Council meeting for future Student Webinars.

**Allison Pullin (2018-2020) and Laura Whalin (2019-2021) /**  
*Student Representatives of the ISAE*

## Editors' report

**Special issues.** The Special Issue of *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* based on the 2018 Congress in Prince Edward Island, Canada, entitled *Ethology for Health and Welfare* is now fully online including 16 papers. The preface appears at the end of this newsletter.

The Special Issue of the 2019 Congress in Bergen, Norway, is themed *Animal Lives Worth Living*. The issue is progressing nicely with 17 authors who have confirmed their contribution. This Special Issue will contain several review papers of plenary speakers as well as a selection of research papers that were presented by students and postdocs at the Congress.

In case you receive a request to review a manuscript, please consider the request and provide a timely response (even if it is a response to decline). Thank you.

**Help-with-English scheme.** The International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) has an English grammar and language editing service available to help members prepare manuscripts for publication in *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*. Mid 2019 we received 6 manuscripts for correction, but since then it has been silent. The free editing service is a real benefit of ISAE membership, so please feel free to make use of this opportunity.

ISAE members should send requests for manuscript editing assistance to the ISAE Junior Editor, Dr. Dana Campbell at [Dana.Campbell@csiro.au](mailto:Dana.Campbell@csiro.au). Please include the manuscript title, contact information, key words, and a copy of the abstract. Your manuscript will be edited by a

(native English) ISAE member who has volunteered to help you with the English of your paper. It may take up to 3 weeks before you receive the revisions as it is based on volunteers. The volunteer should be acknowledged in your paper but will not expect to be included as an author. If you are an ISAE member interested in serving as a volunteer for this program, please contact Dana for more information.

**Irene Camerlink / Senior Editor of the ISAE (2019-2021)**  
**Janice Siegford / former Senior Editor of the ISAE (2017-2019)**  
**Michael Cockram / 2018 ISAE Congress Organizing Committee**

## Finances

The report contains the annual summary for the period **January 1 to December 1, 2019**. We have reduced funds in the accounts at the end of 2019 (£45,597.05) compared with the end of 2018 (£54,173.02). To a certain extent this was to be expected as we had outstanding payments to CAF scholars from 2018, as well as an increased presence on EU sub-platforms for animal welfare which incurred some travel and subsistence expenditure. Regional payments to support ISAE2020 have also been made and additional funds were used for Council members to attend ISAE2019. The additional expenditure explains the large sums being transferred between savings and current accounts. Intergage (for membership services) and Elsevier (for *AABS* subscriptions for members, abstract books, and publication services) continue to be large expenses.

Transient income was seen in the accounts from the 2018 Congress profit and the Nestle Purina sponsorship of applicants for ISAE2019. We channeled the Congress profit into a larger Conference Attendance Fund for 2019. The Nestle Purina sponsorship totaled just over £11,500. We paid out over £12,000 due to delayed reimbursement of 2018's successful applicants. This is the result of continued bank transfer issues. Bank charges remain high, although we reduced some transfer charges by paying the CAF directly to the ISAE2019 organizers. We received a cheque for £250 from Fiona Rioja-Lang's family from donations made at her memorial service in the UK. We are grateful for this kind donation and it will help support ISAE activities at the next Latin-American meeting.

There is a concern over potential financial vulnerability as a result of Brexit. As such, ISAE Treasurer and Senior Treasurer (Emma Baxter and Marie Haskell resp.) met with the ISAE account manager at HSBC to discuss options to help protect us from potential fluctuations in exchange rates. We actioned the opening of an International Bank Account which will hold Euros and can be used to make payments to those in Europe and potentially receive money from other Euro accounts. Advantages are some protection against fluctuations in exchange rates and some small savings from any currency changes. Disadvantages are that it costs us £5 per month and we will still get charged for transactions as before (£4 per European transfer).

Our 2019 accounts will be submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator after independent examination.

## ISAE Accounts for period Jan 1 to Dec 1 2019

### *Statement of Revenue and Expenses (in GBP, £)*

#### **Revenue:**

AAALAC returns	0
Congress Profit	8,120.06
Ethology Book sponsorship	0
Membership subs	16,895.40
Net Interest	78.48
Payment returns	0
Returns from regions	0
Scholarship funds from sponsors	11,584.05
Transfers in	49,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>85,927.99</b>

#### **Expenses:**

AAALAC	650.04
Bank Charges	568.17
Conference Attendance Award	7,287.30
Conference Attendance Fund	0
Council Member Costs	5,121.32
Elsevier AABS	1786.61
Ethology book paid	61.02
Membership services - Intergage	3,062.13
Regional Payments	4,000.00
SAGEPay	356.40
Scholarship funds awarded	12,013.85
Subs returns	0
Transfers out	49,000.00
Wageningen Press	10,597.12
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>94,503.95</b>

Excess of Revenue over expenses	- 8,575.97
Beg Fund Balances	54,173.02
End Fund Balances	45,597.05

**Emma Baxter** / *Treasurer of the ISAE (2017-2021)*

## ISAE Congress News

### Recap of the 53rd Congress – Bergen, Norway, 2019

**Senior Vice-President's recap.** This year's ISAE Congress took place in Bergen in Norway, and it was organized by Bjarne Braastad and his team from NMBU. The 416 delegates from 38 countries experienced the beauty and hospitality of Bergen and the excellent conference hotel, located in the famous Bergen harbour area. The Wood-Gush memorial lecture was given by Prof. Felicity Huntingford, who has worked for many years in the area of fish behaviour and later also on fish welfare. Her work was very suitable for the Wood-Gush lecture, as it brought new insights from fish biology to the meeting, and Prof. Huntingford also bridged the gap to more applied approaches and animal welfare.

The Congress had 104 spoken and 183 poster presentations, with a plethora of interesting new results in the world of applied ethology, giving rise to plenty of knowledge as well as questions and discussions. The excursions were again organized mid-conference, which meant that more delegates could benefit. All groups met up for a dinner with an incredible view over the fjords on top of mount Floyen. The Congress dinner drew the crowds, and as usual lots of dancing occurred (to any kind of music – even music one would normally discredit as undanceable). I think all who attended will agree that we were taken care of extremely well during the whole meeting and the organization of the Congress was impeccable!

Thank you to the organizers for ensuring a great Congress with lots of science, discussions, and social activities. A special thanks goes to Bjarne Braastad, who led the organizing team with great success. He did this for the second time, having also organized the ISAE Congress in Lillehammer in 1999 (which happened to be my first)!

**T. Bas Rodenburg** / *Senior Vice-President of the ISAE (2019-2021)*

**Student Representatives' recap.** During the 2019 ISAE International Congress in Bergen, Norway, the student representative events were a success. They were organized by the student representatives Allison Pullin and Laura Whalin. This year we ran three different events: Student Welcome/Networking Session, Eating with Ethologists, and Table Topics. We ran a follow-up survey to gain additional feedback and present our findings below (n = 159, 50% students and 50% non-students). For all of the events, the majority of participants were satisfied with them (84% for Student Welcome/Networking Session, 97% Eating with Ethologists, and 83% for Table Topics).

The **Student Welcome/Networking Session** was held on the first night of Congress during the welcome reception/opening ceremony. It was advertised in the Congress program, student Facebook page, and website before the Congress. After initial hors d'oeuvres and a welcome from the Bergen mayor, the Congress organizers announced that all students were welcome to come to a separate part of the building for a student event, which also had food and drink. Here the student reps welcomed the students and encouraged networking through a "speed networking" activity, similar to speed dating. Students then formed 2 lines and took turns introducing

themselves. After the session we welcomed everyone to join us at the Piano Bar to continue chatting in a more relaxed venue. This event was attended by one-third of students (51 out of 134 total). Overall, students thought it was a good opportunity to meet people they could then talk to throughout Congress, good timing to have at the start of Congress, and valued having a less intimidating, student-centered space to meet other students rather than crowds with supervisors. The majority of students found the “speed networking” activity helpful (78%). Key future suggestions include noise control, breaking students into smaller networking groups, not having the event at the same time as the main welcome reception, and having more time for the event overall. For promoting the event, e-mail and the Congress program were key in advertising the event.

**Eating with Ethologists** paired student attendees with established ethologists of similar interests, with a goal to promote networking opportunities for students at the International Congress. Prior to Congress, we were fortunate to have 73 eager professors, postdocs, and industry scientists volunteer to participate in the event. Using this list of scientists, a total of 95 students registered and identified their top three scientists to network with. We created student-scientist groups based on students’ top preferences, pairing no more than three students per scientist. A total of 43 scientists from the initial pre-Congress survey were matched to the 95 students. As a result, one-third of Congress attendees were part of this event (138 out of 395 total Congress attendees) and specifically the majority of students (70.9%) at Congress attended Eating with Ethologists (95 out of 134 total Congress student attendees). The main reasons for not attending the event were being too busy/having other conflicts or not specified (“other reason”).

Nearly all of the people who attended Eating with Ethologists were satisfied with the event (97%). People reported that they enjoyed the networking opportunity to connect with others that they might not have had the chance to otherwise, particularly to share career advice, work-life balance tools, and feedback on research in small, casual groups. Some participants even reported making connections for research collaborations! People found the event to be enjoyable, mutually beneficial for both students and scientists, well-organized and communicated, and clearly marked in the Congress venue. Feedback for improving the event included noise control during lunch, wanting more time for discussions, and identifying in advance which specific topics of conversations students are most interested in discussing with the scientists (e.g., encourage students to come to the lunch prepared with an elevator pitch and a few questions they are most interested in discussing). In terms of promoting the event, e-mail was crucial. Over half of the attendees reported that they heard about the event via e-mails from Student Representatives and Congress organizers, as well as the ISAE newsletter.

**Table Topics** returned to Congress for its second year. This event was created to encourage lunch conversations among Congress attendees with similar research interests. This event was attended by one-fourth of Congress attendees (98 of 395). The most popular topics were technology and welfare, why do we eat what we eat: people’s attitudes towards animals, and compassionate conservation. Attendees were mostly satisfied with the event (83%), but there were helpful comments for improving the event in the future. Overall, attendees thought it was a

great opportunity to meet people, have various discussions, and the event was well-organized. Key suggestions for the future include ensuring there is an expert on the topic sitting at the table, considering fewer and more broad topics, and having the event earlier in the week.

<b>Table topic</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
Communicating research to producers and the general public	4
Cognition and emotion	7
How do we translate and implement research into industry practices	4
Technology and welfare	10
Social behaviour	7
Human-animal interactions	6
On-farm welfare assessment	6
Why do we eat what we eat: peoples' attitudes towards animals	10
Welfare education	6
Play behaviour	6
Veterinarian assessment of welfare	6
Research reproducibility crisis: solutions and future steps	6
Compassionate conservation: collaborating with different disciplines	10
Welfare policy	6
Abnormal behaviour	4

Overall, we really enjoyed the conference this year and appreciated the help and organization of Harald (at First United), Bjarne Braastad, and Ruth Newberry (at NMBU)! It was a pleasure working with you all, and another round of applause for a successful Congress in Bergen!

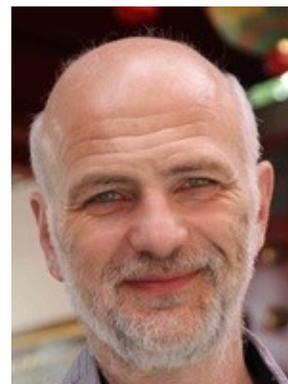
A special thanks to Allison Pullin for her two years of service to ISAE as a Student Representative. Allison has been a positive, organized, and supportive Council member- from keeping records of meetings, to helping set up events, to supporting new ideas for Congress. Best of luck as you finish your PhD at UC Davis – the chickens are lucky to have you looking out for them!

**Allison Pullin (2018-2020) and Laura Whalin (2019-2021) /**  
*Student Representatives of the ISAE*

## ISAE award winners

**Honorary Fellows.** The two outstanding scientists elected Honorary Fellows in 2019 and granted a lifetime membership to the Society were Drs. Marek Spinka and Ruth Newberry.

**Dr. Marek Špinka** is a longstanding member of ISAE and was the Society's President from 2005-2007. He has been and still is a very active and successful scientist and group leader, with many collaborative projects with other ISAE members. His research has focused on empirical research in social behaviour, communication and welfare in pigs and cattle, as well as on theoretical work on behavioural synchrony, animal emotions, and animal agency. His work on maternal behaviour in pigs



and play behaviour in farm animals has had a great influence on the field and he is still considered one of our experts in these important fields today.

He started his career after studying Zoology with a PhD at the Czech Agricultural University with a thesis on sexual behaviour in laboratory rats. After that he gathered experience in applied ethology during research stays at SLU in Sweden, Wageningen University in the Netherlands, Universities of Guelph, Saskatchewan and British Columbia in Canada, as well as at Washington State University and the University of Colorado in the USA. After working at the Institute of Animal Science in Prague for three decades, he is currently affiliated with the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. He has been vital for developing applied ethology in East-Central Europe, for instance through leading the EU-project AWARE to support animal welfare education, research, and implementation across Europe, and that has led to many collaborations between scientists in West and East-Central Europe that are still thriving today.

Besides being an outstanding scientist dedicated to the aims of the ISAE, he is an extremely friendly, open person and an excellent and never-tired, energetic dancer. After being regional ISAE secretary for East-Central Europe and organizing the 31st ISAE Congress in Prague in 1997, he served in the roles of ISAE Junior Vice-President, President, and Senior Vice-President from 2003-2009. He has also participated in ISAE activities that promote applied ethology in developing countries across the world.

Speaking in the words of the nominator: "This impressive list of activities clearly qualifies Dr. Marek Špinka for ISAE's Hall of Fame!" More information about Špinka's work can be found [online](#).

**Dr. Ruth Newberry** more than fully met the requirements of being a person of eminence in the field of the aim of the Society. Her contributions to the Society range from scientific to leading our organization as its President (2003-2004). Under her watch, the ISAE Ethics Committee (formed 2002) was developed and published its [Ethics Guidelines](#) (Sherwin, et al. 2003).



Newberry is a resilient and flexible scientist who is integrative, intuitive, and intentional about her work, and she provided leadership in the field of animal behaviour and welfare in North America for decades. The strength of her science lies in depth and breadth as well as exceptional creativity. Newberry's work is primarily grounded in career-long research on poultry and pigs, but in addition she and her students work on different species of lab, pet, and zoo animals. The impact of her scientific work has resulted in a better understanding of animal behaviour and welfare including seminal work on the principles of environmental enrichment, understanding the behaviour of pigs when housed extensively (via work at the Edinburgh Pig Park), translating the behaviour of poultry into strategies for welfare assessment and alternative housing systems, and examining some of the more "fun" elements of applied ethology that are often linked to welfare such as play, personality, and contra-freeloading behaviour. Newberry's creativity in research was acknowledged when she was received the 2014 ISAE Creativity Award.

She has also contributed enormously to advance animal welfare in the industry, translating her research into practical improvement. As a founder member of the United Egg Producer's

Scientific Committee on Hen Welfare, she made major contributions to the advancements of hen welfare in the US industry. Newberry has demonstrated through her career the love for our organization, advancing our discipline, and making sure that ISAE is here for the generations of scientists to come. She has contributed as a scientist, a teacher, a mentor, a valued colleague, a member and an officer of the ISAE; and her dedication to ISAE as an organizer of the 2018 ISAE International Conference at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences was felt by all the Conference attendees. More information about Dr. Ruth Newberry can be found [online](#).

**New Investigator Award.** The recipient of the 2019 ISAE New Investigator Award was **Dr. Emily**

**Miller-Cushon.** Miller-Cushon is Assistant Professor at the University of Florida, a position she took immediately after completing her PhD at the University of Guelph in 2014. Her research is focused on evaluating links between management, behavioural development, cognition, and welfare of dairy calves. Her research highlights the importance of early life experience for long-term animal welfare and has greatly added to our knowledge of behavioural development in dairy calves. This also has clear applied implications for dairy calf management. Besides the quality of her scientific work, she is outstanding also in her productivity: in her short scientific career, including a maternal leave, she has 29 peer-reviewed publications (23 of which are first or senior-author, including 2 invited reviews), 35 conference abstracts, and has written 2 textbook chapters. More information about Dr. Emily Miller-Cushon can be found [online](#).



**Creativity Award.** The 2019 ISAE Creativity Award was given to a member who was a participant in the inaugural meeting of the ISAE – at that time Society for Veterinary Ethology – in June 1966: **Dr. Benjamin Hart.** Hart’s strong interest in animal behaviour combined with his veterinary



medical background consistently guided his research to perceive new questions to understand behaviour of domestic animals, both small and large. The jury awarded him for bringing animal behaviour into veterinary sciences. Especially important is his influential paper in 1988 on sickness behaviour as an evolved, programmed behavioural strategy. This paper spawned a new field of research and was cited more than 1300 times as of July 2019. Similarly, he has published on behavioural defences against parasites and pathogens, effects of castration on behaviour in different domestic animals, and on age-related cognitive dysfunction in different dog breeds. Hart is now a distinguished Prof. Emeritus at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. More information about Dr Benjamin Hart can be found [online](#).

**Susanne Waiblinger / President of the ISAE (2019-2021)**  
**Giuliana Miguel / Assistant Secretary of the ISAE (2019-2023)**

## 54th Congress – Bangalore, India, 2020

The 54th Congress of the ISAE will take place in Bangalore, India, **3-7 August 2020**. The venue will be The Chancery Pavillion Hotel in Bangalore. The theme of the Congress is *Developing animal behaviour and welfare: Real solutions for real problems*. Abstract submission is now open, with a deadline of **14 February 2020**. Registration is also open, with a deadline for early-bird registration of **15 May 2020**. Visit [www.isae2020.com](http://www.isae2020.com) for more information on the venue, scientific sessions, accommodation, travel to India, excursions, the programme for ISAE students, and the possibility for obtaining a travel award.



A video of Bangalore can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/KGnl-IXB8bU>.



**Congress Attendance Fund.** The ISAE has a Congress Attendance Fund (CAF) to cover the registration fees of 8-10 ISAE members for the annual International Congress, this year in Bangalore, India. The fund will be allocated to needy ISAE members to cover the Congress registration fee and potentially contribute towards accommodation (but not travel) expenses.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a member of the ISAE (or have submitted an ISAE membership application) before submitting their CAF application. The applicant must have submitted an abstract, and money will only be allocated if their presentation is accepted. Applications for funding will be reviewed by the CAF Committee and will be prioritized on the basis of financial need and quality of the abstract. Researchers and students from developing countries are especially encouraged to apply for this support (but see also the DCCAF). Please note that support from the CAF to any one person is limited to once in any 5-year period – so if you have received funding in the last 5 years, please do not apply.

The application must contain all of the following information:

1. Name of applicant
2. Postal and email address
3. The year the applicant became a member of the ISAE or the date membership application was submitted
4. Status of applicant (e.g. student, active researcher, unemployed researcher, etc.)
5. A full justification explaining why the applicant should be given an award. There is no fixed format for this justification, as reasons will vary between applicants, but if no justification is given, the application will not be considered
6. A budget for attending the Congress. This should indicate if support for accommodation costs is requested, as well as information on whether other funding is available or have been applied for to cover the remaining costs of attending the Congress

The application itself should not be more than one A4 page. It must be accompanied by a short CV, including a list of publications and/or presentations by the applicant (including local and

regional meetings) and a copy of the abstract submitted for the Congress. These should be submitted as one PDF file, with the applicants last name as filename (e.g., RODENBURG.pdf).

Applications for the ISAE 2020 Congress are due **4 March 2020** and should be sent to Bas Rodenburg ([t.b.rodenburg@uu.nl](mailto:t.b.rodenburg@uu.nl)). Applications arriving after this date will not be considered. Successful applicants will be notified immediately following acceptance of Congress abstracts.

**T. Bas Rodenburg** / *Senior Vice-President of the ISAE (2019-2021)*

## ISAE Regional News and Development

### Development

We are excited to announce that we have three new country liaisons for ISAE, in three new countries! Please welcome:

**Dr. Mabel Aworh-Ajumobi – Country liaison for Nigeria.** Aworh-Ajumobi is an Epidemiologist with a decade of experience in veterinary epidemiology, public health, research and leadership, amongst others in government and four of these years were as Head of the Animal Welfare Unit of the Department of Veterinary Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Abuja, Nigeria.

She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 2004 and obtained her Master in Public Health (Field Epidemiology) degree from Ahmadu Bello University Zaira, Nigeria in 2012. She is a Cohort 2 graduate of the Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program since 2011 and has conducted research focused on One Health issues. Mabel has led research and survey teams, and currently has 11 publications in peer-reviewed journals.



She is a member of the Antimicrobial Resistance Technical Working Group in Nigeria and head of Nigerian delegates to two Codex Committee meetings since 2015 including Codex intergovernmental task force on Antimicrobial Resistance.

She is a goal-getter irrespective of the challenges with good interpersonal skills and a passion for learning. Her current research is titled *Multi-Drug Resistant Escherichia Coli in Humans, Poultry and Poultry Environment in the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria: Potential Risk for Human Health*.

Email: [maworh@ncsu.edu](mailto:maworh@ncsu.edu)

**Mr. Jashim Uddin - Country liaison for Bangladesh.** Uddin graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Post graduate in Master of Science in Surgery, and PhD (ongoing) in Animal Welfare. Since 2012, Mr. Uddin has been working as a faculty member at the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University of Rajshahi. Uddin's job responsibilities include teaching and research, focusing on animal welfare. He is presently on study leave for his PhD degree.

Previously he also worked at UNDP as a technical officer (Livestock), and as a Veterinarian at Community based Dairy Veterinary Foundation, Bangladesh.

Uddin's PhD research work is entitled *Infrared thermography - Could it be used to indicate stress and productivity in dairy cows?* He was directly involved in the experimental design, data collection and analysis. He recorded cows' behaviours, milk productivity and infrared thermography of key external body surface regions, such as eyes, using a large number of cows (260) from the University of Queensland Dairy herd, across 3 consecutive periods, once a month apart. This was a follow up experiment of a pilot study on some extreme left (15) and right (16) lateralised cows of that herd.



He has published several journal papers in a related international journal (*Applied Animal Behaviour Science*) regarding lateralised behaviours of dairy cows and its relation to milk productivity and infrared temperature of eyes and coronary band of forelimbs. He has also attended several international conferences on animal welfare, for example, 53rd Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), Bergen, Norway (5th to 9th of August, 2019), and ISAE Australasia-Africa Regional Meeting, Brisbane, Australia at November, 2017.

Email: [j.uddin@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.uddin@uq.edu.au)

**Dr. Manja Zupan - Country liaison for Slovenia.** Zupan has been involved in many studies focusing on different behaviours and aspects of farm animal welfare particularly in pigs and poultry in her home country as well as abroad and has shown great project management skills leading national projects. Zupan has also organised many workshops bringing together people from different



backgrounds and promoting an extensive link between them. With her teaching experiences and writing popular articles, Zupan has seen a great possibility to spread the knowledge to younger generations and farmers. Zupan has published 23 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals in the discipline. She is a member of a national Scientific Committee for Animal Welfare formed by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and a member of Regional Animal Welfare Centre for Balkan region and coordinator for Biotechnical faculty.

In 2004 Zupan was awarded the Prešeren Prize for the undergraduate thesis for work on the behaviour of broilers in different housing systems, and in 2008 the international IGN Research Prize for PhD thesis on pre-laying behaviour of laying hens. In 2010 Zupan received a Scholarship for mobility project funded through EEA/NFM financial mechanism for working in Norway on the topic of tail-biting in pigs. Under her supervision, a student was awarded a national Prešeren Prize for MSc thesis investigating personality in Lipizzan horses in 2018 while in 2019 the national research agency awarded me with one of the best research of the year in the topic of play in pigs. Receiving these research awards, is a further evidence that Zupan has managed her work to be recognized and has gained a national and international reputation as an ethologist. The participation in different COST actions is giving Zupan the opportunity to build on her skills as a coordinator and promoting her space in a trans-national cooperation.

Email: [Manja.ZupanSemrov@bf.uni-lj.si](mailto:Manja.ZupanSemrov@bf.uni-lj.si)

We are also fortunate to have ongoing support from our other country liaisons:

Dr. Vijay Pal Singh - Country liaison for India. Email: [vp.singh@igib.in](mailto:vp.singh@igib.in)

Dr. Andreia De Paula Vieira - Country liaison for Brazil. Email: [apvieirabr@gmail.com](mailto:apvieirabr@gmail.com)

**Rebecca Sommerville** / *Development Officer of the ISAE (2016-2020)*

## Regional updates

Latin America has two new regional secretaries: **Ariel Tarazona** (Columbia) and **Maria José Hötzel** (Brazil). Maria and Ariel take over from Giuliana Miguel Pacheco and Tamara Tadich, and I would like to thank Giuliana and Tamara for all their work coordinating the Society's activities in Latin America. Giuliana will stay on the ISAE Council as Assistant Secretary. The USA region will be looking for a new regional secretary in the New Year, and members in the USA will be contacted in due course.

**Mark Rutter** / *Junior Vice-President of the ISAE (2019-2021)*

**Australasia-Africa.** On the 21st and 22nd of November we held our annual regional conference themed: *Understanding Animals: Multi-disciplinary approaches to improving animals' lives.*

This was a fantastic success with 100 scientists converging on the Royal Society of New Zealand in Wellington to attend, network, and present. Tickets sold out a month before the event, and we were particularly pleased with the number of students who were able to attend and present on their research. The 2-day program focused on applied behaviour and animal welfare, with a particular intention to bring together researchers across different fields in order to spark collaborations.

The conference was organised in combination with Assoc. Prof. Ngaio Beausoleil from Massey University & Animal Welfare Aotearoa, and Drs. Tamara Diesch and Kate Littin from the Ministry of Primary Industries, NZ, and involved more than 25 scientists on the scientific committee.

We hosted three fantastic plenary speakers over the event. On day 1, Prof. Nat Waran, Professor of One Welfare and Executive Dean at the Eastern Institute of Technology, presented on the topic of *One Welfare: Supporting positive outcomes for animals and humans.* Her presentation demonstrated how animal and human welfare are inextricably connected, and how we need to apply a human-centric lens if we want to progress animal welfare and effectively influence attitudes and ultimately behaviours towards animals.

On day 2, we were lucky enough to host Prof. David Mellor from Massey University, with whom we celebrated his illustrious career, and the lasting legacy of his work in animal welfare science, particularly in the development of the "Five Domains" model. David presented on *Animal welfare science: Moving from problem-solving towards promoting positive experiences.* We wish him all

the best for his retirement! To honour David's career, Dr. Rebecca Ledger gave the "DJ Mellor plenary talk" presenting her ground breaking work in British Columbia, Canada. Rebecca's presentation *Pulling together multidisciplinary perspectives to achieve worthwhile animal welfare legal precedents* demonstrated the theoretical and practical implications of pursuing animal cruelty cases specifically on the grounds of mental suffering. It was a fantastic example of how animal welfare science can be applied to real effect in creating tangible and lasting impact.

We would like to say a big thank you to our sponsors: Principal sponsor DairyNZ, Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), The Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), Allflex, and Massey University. Their support allowed us to host within a fantastic venue, offer student scholarships, attract amazing plenary speakers, and keep the registration as low as possible.

A special mention also to the tireless volunteers who helped out over the two days. Their efforts were instrumental in keeping everything running smoothly. A big thank you to Sophia, Heidi, Morgan, and Emma!

The full abstract book for the conference is available on the ISAE website in the [Australasia-African regional page](#). Now we start looking forward to our 2020 conference! Please leave space in your diaries at the end of November next year, and as soon as we have more details we will let you all know. Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for all details.

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

**Benelux.** On **May 13, 2020** we will hold the 2019-2020 Benelux Regional Meeting at a farm that has been keeping calves with their mothers until weaning at about 3 months of age. This farm is also interested in the circular agriculture approach and has purchased pigs to feed the leftovers from their cheese production business to. The meeting this year will be titled *Elevating animal lives*, and we aim to place a little more focus on the positives of animal welfare. Join us if you are in the neighbourhood!

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

**Canada.** The North American ISAE Regional Meeting will be held from **Friday, May 1st - Saturday, May 2nd 2020** at the University of California, Davis, USA.

Visit the [conference page](#) at the UC Davis Center for Animal Welfare website for registration and accommodation information. Banquet cost is included with registration, and multiple mini-excursions are being planned.

Questions about the regional meeting and abstract submission can be directed to Dr. Tina Horback ([kmhorback@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kmhorback@ucdavis.edu)).

The UC Davis team looks forward to welcoming attendees to California this coming May!

**Yolande Seddon / Regional Secretary for Canada**

**East Asia.** ISAE2020 will be held in Bangalore, India on August 3-7. <http://www.isae2020.com/>

The annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Animal Behaviour and Management was organised on March 30, 2019 at Azabu University in Japan. This meeting featured 15 oral presentations and 26 poster presentations. The next meeting in Sapporo, Japan is planned to be held in September 2020.

**Shigeru Ninomiya / *Regional Secretary for East Asia***

**East Central Europe.** On Nov 14th, 2019 a conference on Forensic Scent Identification was held at the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The aim of the conference was to confirm whether the protocol used by Czech police during this procedure corresponds with the latest scientific knowledge. The speakers were experts in this field from the Netherlands, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

**What is Forensic Scent Identification?** It is a method of matching the odour of a perpetrator, collected at a crime scene, to the scent of a suspect. Trained dogs are used to match the scents. Forensic Scent Identification can be an important part of evidence at a trial. However, sometimes it is the key evidence, which may be a problem and in some cases can even cause judicial error. This is because the previous police methodology allowed dog handlers to arrange the line-ups for identification. This may cause problems, because the dog handlers knew the identity of the suspect in the line-up in advance. According to research done at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague led by Dr. Ludvík Pinc, the dogs whose handlers knew the identity of the suspect in a line-up were "more successful" than the dogs whose handlers did not know the identity of the suspect. This means that the handler can unconsciously influence the decision of the dog. This conclusion is similar to the results of other researchers and shows how important the blind scenario principle is when using trained animals. The "Clever Hans effect" is very well known in ethology, and it is necessary to bring this knowledge into practice, even when applying police protocols. Based on scientific research, the protocols of the Czech police were changed. This shows the high importance of scientific contribution on different topics. Further steps should be taken to re-open problematic court cases, and evidence re-examined taking into account the problems with the previous Forensic Scent Identification protocol.

**Radka Šárová / *Regional Secretary for East Central Europe***

**Mediterranean.** A regional lunch at the ISAE 2019 Congress in Bergen was organised with a few members and participants, but not members from Mediterranean countries. Our aim was to promote the Society and some of them were interested in becoming members. We hope to have more ISAE members from the Mediterranean countries next year. Discussions are ongoing about having a satellite ISAE meeting during the EAAP meeting in Porto next year.

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

**Nordic.** Marko Ocepek is the regional secretary for the Nordic Region since 2019. He works at the Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway. He is reachable by email ([marko.ocepek@nmbu.no](mailto:marko.ocepek@nmbu.no)) or on telephone +47 67232623.

**Members.** In second half of 2019, the Nordic Region has 78 ISAE members (one more than the year before). The members come from Denmark (21), Finland (10), Sweden (26), and Norway (21). There are no members from Iceland or the Baltic countries at the moment.

**The Nordic ISAE Winter Meeting** will be held **28-30 January 2020** in Tartu, Estonia, organised by Estonian University of Life Sciences (David Richard Arney and Maria Soonberg). Planned plenary talks will be held by Dr. Geoff Hosey and Lea Tummeleht (Wild animal behaviour and welfare), Dr. Björn Forkman (Companion animal behaviour and welfare), Prof. Harry Blokhuis (Farm animal behaviour and welfare), Prof. Adrian Smith (Laboratory animal behaviour and welfare), and Dr. Lene Lidfors (Animal welfare in animal assisted interventions).

Norway organised the 53rd International Congress of the ISAE in the first week of August in 2019. There were 416 participants from 37 countries, with good media coverage.

**PhD courses.** The Nordic countries have a tradition of inviting each other's PhD students to PhD courses and there is the NOVA/BOVA/NordPlus funding that can be used for paying PhD courses and exchanges of PhD students and teachers between the Nordic and Baltic countries. Courses will be available for the PhD students in 2020. There is a network for organising NOVA Ethology PhD courses and another for Animal Welfare NOVA PhD courses.

**Facebook.** The Nordic Region had a Facebook page where all ISAE members can join but for some reason is shut down at the moment. The page will be open soon, available for all members.

**Marko Ocepek / *Regional Secretary for Nordic***

**UK and Ireland.** The next regional meeting of the UK and Ireland region will be held at the De Vere East Midland Conference Centre on the campus of the University of Nottingham on the **4th of March 2020**. We have received 13 abstracts to date. As in previous meetings we've chosen to offer 15- or 5-min oral presentations to give all presenters the opportunity to speak. The meeting is jointly organised between the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University. We're looking forward to another fascinating and enjoyable meeting and to catch up with friends and colleagues.

The regional meeting organising committee includes: Amy Quinn, Teagasc; Simon Turner, SRUC; Lisa Yon, University of Nottingham; Naomi Harvey, University of Nottingham; Mark Farnworth, Nottingham Trent University. For further inquiries, contact Amy Quinn ([amy.quinn@teagasc.ie](mailto:amy.quinn@teagasc.ie)) or Simon Turner ([Simon.Turner@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:Simon.Turner@sruc.ac.uk)).

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

**USA.** The North American ISAE Regional Meeting will be held from **May 1-2, 2020** in Davis, California, USA. See the [Canada](#) update above or the [US regional page](#) for more details.

The 19th annual [Animal Welfare Judging Assessment Competition](#) sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association was held November 22-24 in Fort Collins, Colorado. Undergraduate, Veterinary, and Graduate teams, and individuals from more than 20 schools and 3 countries competed to assess 4 scenarios: sheep slaughter, captive African painted dogs, broilers, and laboratory zebrafish. Participants were tasked with comparing two-real world scenarios to determine which parts of each scenario represented good species-specific welfare. Using peer-reviewed research from behaviour and welfare experts around the world, participants synthesized the research and scenario to provide eloquent reasons for their welfare assessments. The opportunity provides teams and individuals with the opportunity to practice public speaking, learn about 4 distinct species, and develop a greater knowledge of animal welfare principles. This event continues to grow and additional teams, especially those from abroad, are highly encouraged to get involved.

*Peter Krawczel / Regional Secretary for USA*

**West Central Europe.** The 51st International Congress on Applied Ethology, organised by the German Veterinary Society took place from November 28nd to 30th, 2019 in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. This year's keynote lectures dealt with the welfare of farmed fish and Precision Livestock Farming. This traditional annual congress also serves as a meeting place for many of the ISAE members of the region and serves to hold the annual general meeting of the West Central Europe Region. The regional ISAE organised a time slot for PhD students to give short presentations on their projects, introducing the topic and methodology. This short format has been part of the programme for quite a number of years now and aims to inform scientists of ongoing research projects in their fields as well as allow students to present and discuss their projects early on.

*Antonia Patt / Regional Secretary for West Central Europe*

## Other News

### EU Platform for Animal Welfare

On 7th October 2019 the 6th meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare took place in Brussels, where I participated for the first time to represent ISAE. The EU Commission established the Platform in 2017, and the new Commission just recently decided to extend the mandate of the Platform until 30 June 2021. The main aims of the Platform are better application of EU rules on animal welfare through exchanges of information and best practices and the direct involvement of different stakeholders, the development and use of voluntary commitments by businesses to further improve animal welfare, and the promotion of EU animal welfare standards. The Platform

has established in total seven working groups on specific animal welfare topics, with ISAE representatives in most of them. Two of the subgroups were officially established by the Commission, on welfare of pigs (ISAE representative: Emma Baxter) and on animal transport (Mette Herskin), and five were initiated by platform members: equids (Janne Winther Christensen), fish (Moirra Harris), pullets (Bas Rodenburg), dog trade (no ISAE representative), and, started most recently in May 2019, piglet castration (Heleen van de Weerd).

During the meeting in October the Platform adopted several documents of the sub-groups on animal transport (recommendations regarding export of cattle and transport during extreme temperatures), pigs (indicators for tail biting risks), and equines (practices for keeping, care, training and use of horses), and platform members are invited to disseminate documents and implement recommendations and proposals. However, in some topics, consensus between all stakeholders could not yet be achieved (e.g. transport of unweaned animals), and the need for further dialogue was emphasized. Further, it was clear the adopted documents are, in part, a compromise, and more ambitious outcomes would have been preferred by some members (including ISAE representatives) – and thus the documents should be updated in the future, especially in light of scientific evidence. These discussions hint at the difficulties in such a diverse group to reach consensus, but at the same time underline the significance of documents agreed on by all stakeholders. ISAE representatives work hard to stress the importance of scientific evidence and get the documents science-based, but this cannot always be fully achieved.

In addition to the reports of the subgroups, there was a speech of the Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis on the achievements with respect to animal welfare in the last five years, and Hans Spoolder gave a progress report on the first EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for pigs. Further, Susanne Ahlström presented results of a survey of the member states' chief veterinary officers (CVO) that was performed during the Finish presidency. Most CVOs consider the EU animal welfare legislation not comprehensive enough, support additional legislation and are in favour of an animal welfare labelling scheme for animal products. They in general considered the EU Animal Welfare Strategy of 2012-2015 sufficiently ambitious, and the majority of CVO considered the need for a new welfare strategy.

More information on members of the platform, on meetings (including video recordings of the meetings), and conclusions can be found [online](#) and details of subgroup work are reported below.

*Susanne Waiblinger / President of the ISAE (2019-2021)*

**Pig subgroup.** Work by the pig subgroup is now complete. The original work was extensive and detailed the evidence base and gaps in the knowledge on tail-biting risks related to health, competition and aggression, diet, and measuring tail damage at the slaughterhouse.

The final recommendation reports were condensed into two documents:

1. Measuring tail damage at the slaughterhouse and setting common thresholds, and;
2. Indicators for tail biting risks relating to compliance criteria on health, dietary factors and space and competition.

These recommendation documents were presented to the main platform on Oct 7th 2019. The response from the Platform was inviting the EU Reference Centre on animal welfare for pigs to consider the document *Indicators for tail biting risks relating to compliance criteria on health, dietary factors and space and competition* within the framework of its Work Programme for the future. The Platform also invites its members to use this proposal, to develop it further in their research frameworks, and in proposals to strengthen official controls using animal welfare indicators. In relation to the document *Measuring tail damage at the slaughterhouse and setting common thresholds*, the platform acknowledges the principle, but dialogue on the technical details is necessary before recommending its dissemination and use.

**Emma Baxter / ISAE representative, EU Animal Welfare Platform**

**Subgroup on transport.** The three subgroups on animal transport all managed to produce documents. However, in the final stages, some members of the platform (representing industry) would not endorse the document focusing on *unweaned animals*. In the document, members of the subgroup, including the ISAE representative, had used the twelve Welfare Quality criteria to list important risks for calf welfare during transport: prolonged hunger, thermal comfort, and health/fitness of the calves. For each of these three, the document included 1) a discussion of the effect of long transport on welfare of unweaned calves; 2) tried to identify animal-based indicators to be used before, during, and after transport; 3) proposed recommendations of good practices; and 4) identified knowledge gaps. The document was created as a co-work between scientists, NGOs, and representatives for industry. However, during the hearing phase, some members of the platform would not endorse the document, and hence there is no official outcome of the *unweaned animals* subgroup. As it is stated in the official Platform documents, further dialogue is needed.

The two other subgroups, *exports of cattle* and *extreme temperatures*, both produced a number of relevant documents, and the Platform now invites its members to disseminate the recommendations of the documents and take actions in line with the documents and proposals. These should contribute to improve the welfare of animals and to better enforce the EU legislation on animal transport.

All endorsed documents as well as a formal description of the outcome of the transport subgroup can be seen [online](#).

**Mette Herskin / ISAE representative, EU Animal Welfare Platform**

**Subgroup on equines.** The horse guide has been finalized and is available [online](#). The group has also finalized the donkey guide, and our chairwoman will send it to the Platform for comments.

**Janne Winther Christensen / ISAE representative, EU Animal Welfare Platform**

**Fish welfare subgroup.** The voluntary subgroup on fish welfare met most recently in Brussels in October 2019. Having decided to focus on two issues that are important across all stages of production, transport, and slaughter - water quality and handling - the group chose to concentrate on four farmed species: rainbow trout, common carp, European sea bass, and

gilthead sea bream. A draft guidelines document has been produced which includes a section on behavioural indicators of welfare in farmed vertebrate fish in general and these four species in particular. At the next meeting, which will be held in Athens early in 2020, it is hoped that these guidelines will be finalised and accepted by all of the subgroup members.

In common with the other official and voluntary subgroups, the fish welfare group consists of representatives of member countries, professional associations including fish producers and ISAE, NGOs, and independent experts. Achieving consensus among these parties has not been a straightforward task, and the group members vary in their acceptance of and desire to include different types of evidence. Thus, the Guidelines on Water Quality and Handling for the Welfare of Farmed Vertebrate Fish document is informed by a combination of provisions from the Council of Europe Recommendation concerning farmed fish, published scientific findings (which are relatively few for fish compared with terrestrial farmed species), and expert opinion based on practical experience.

*Moira Harris / ISAE representative, EU Animal Welfare Platform*

**Subgroup on pig castration.** The subgroup on pig castration held its second meeting in October 2019. This group followed on from the momentum built with the [European Declaration on Alternatives to Surgical Castration of Pigs](#), a voluntary Declaration signed by the meat industry, retailers, scientists, veterinarians, and animal welfare NGOs in 2010, with the intention of abandoning this painful procedure and replacing it with alternatives by 2018. However, this deadline has passed and in 2017, more than 60% of pigs in the EU are still castrated.

The second meeting in October had presentations from different organisations. The director of Meat Technology from the Danish Technological Institute presented a rapid instrumental method for measuring the boar taint components androstenone and skatole in pork fat, that can be used at the slaughter line. It is developed as an objective and quantitative alternative method for a commonly used method, the human nose. The new method has been validated, but is not 100% fail safe, which is why detection limits need to be set. The equipment requires a big investment that needs to be recouped through producers who pay for boar taint detection.

Directors of Arvesta Animal Nutrition (a Belgian feed company) presented a new animal feed, Taintstop, that can be used as a preventive measure to reduce skatole. The feed contains fibre that promotes probiotic fermentation in the hindgut to reduce skatole formation (chicory, resistant starch, other fermentable substrates) and catalyses the breakdown of skatole (and androstenone) in the liver and kidney. Trials have shown that the feed is effective (when provided the last 2 weeks before slaughter) in reducing skatole, but was less effective in reducing androstenone. The feed provides high satiety levels due to fibre inclusion (digestive comfort), which is good for pig welfare. The costing model showed that the feed is comparable with costs of immuno-castration, but with gains in carcass composition, better FCR, and less manure (nitrogen emissions). The discussion focused on the need to have a different price for boars without boar taint, which requires changes in the value chain.

The final presentation was from the University of Belgrade (Serbia) on the Balkan perspective on ending boar castration. A 2017 survey done as part of an EU Cost-Action ([IPEMA](#): innovative approaches in pork production with entire males), identified 3 clusters within the (around 5000)

respondents from 13 Eastern countries. The first cluster showed consumers with little concern on ethical issues, and with an ambiguous attitude on paying more for meat from animals treated with dignity (these consumers often have a difficult economic situation). The second group were highly concerned about animal welfare, but less willing to pay more. Cluster 3 consumers were highly concerned about welfare and found it easy to act on this and pay for more expensive, higher-welfare meat. This group contained a high proportion of wealthy consumers. Overall, the average consumer was ambivalent on castration as they think castration is artificial, but they still prefer to eat meat from castrated pigs.

Another group of polled stakeholders were meat companies and around 60% thought their sales would be affected (if there was no castration) and that meat quality would be affected (80%). However, in practice, only about 50% of the companies said that they receive complaints about strange odours in meat.

The general discussion focused on what the views of this subgroup are and how to present these to the main EU Welfare Platform. The group also wants to work further on the Declaration of Brussels (2010), with many of the stakeholders present (although the absence of some parties, such as suppliers, retailers was noted), even though that means dealing with different views. It was also highlighted that it is unclear what role the recently formed reference centre on pigs can play in this debate.

**Heleen van de Weerd** / *Cerebrus Associates*  
*ISAE Procedural Advisor (2018-2022)*  
*ISAE representative, EU Animal Welfare Platform*

## **Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest**

The 19th Annual [Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest](#) was held on 22nd-24th November 2019, at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA. A record 244 people attended, of which 165 were students from 25 universities who competed, divided into Undergraduate, Graduate and Veterinary student divisions. The AVMA-supported competition teaches students to assess the welfare of animals in a variety of settings using science-based methods and reasoning. After weighing the evidence, participants present their evaluations. High scorers win prizes in individual, team, or overall categories. This year, the welfare scenarios were: 1) captive African painted dogs, 2) broiler chickens, 3) laboratory zebrafish, and 4) sheep slaughter, with the sheep slaughter scenario comprising the live assessment.

After an educational Friday evening, the competition itself spans two days. On the first day, students evaluate a live scenario and present their findings to a panel of judges. This portion of the contest may be competed as a team or as an individual. On the second day, each student independently evaluates three virtual scenarios and receives scores based on their evaluation as well as their defence of their findings. For those participating as part of a team, the top three individual scores are combined with the live assessment exercise score to determine the overall team score. Along with demonstrating the welfare needs of a range of species, the competition gives students the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and oral presentation skills. Enhanced knowledge of animal welfare, a strong analytical mindset, and well-honed

communication skills are valuable takeaways that serve AWJAC participants throughout their education and careers.

The scenarios were drawn up by Janice Siegford, and colleagues and judges included ISAE members Sylvie Cloutier and Stephanie Torrey. Teams from the University of Guelph won both the Veterinary and Graduate Student divisions, with a team from the University of Minnesota winning the Undergraduate division. Caleb Brezina, Emma Heuchan, and Hailey Everhart won the individual honors. Congratulations to all participants and many thanks to AVMA and Merck for their continued support of the contest, together with funding from Charles River.

For information on next year's contest, feel free to contact me ([Jeremy.marchant-forde@usda.gov](mailto:Jeremy.marchant-forde@usda.gov)) or AVMA's Dr. Sharon Kuca ([SKuca@avma.org](mailto:SKuca@avma.org)).

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

## **World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standard on laying hens**

**World organization set to recognize the behavioural needs of hens. Call to action for ethologists!**  
The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) is the inter-governmental organization mandated to safeguard international trade in animals and animal products. In 2001 they begin addressing animal welfare and developing globally applicable, science-based standards as part of their Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes. The OIE has standards on transport and slaughter, stray dog population management, laboratory animals, and several for animals on the farm. They are now in the process of developing standards for the welfare of laying hens, and there is an opportunity for stakeholders to have final input.

The draft OIE laying hens chapter was written by a small group of scientists (some of whom are ISAE members), veterinarians, and industry, and covers handling, housing, nutrition, molting, painful procedures and other management topics, each with suggested animal-based measures. The OIE Codes are not binding, and are passed based on the consensus of the 182 member countries. The latest draft, newly released by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission, contains good language on the behavioural needs of hens, stating that perching, nesting, foraging and dustbathing are “motivated” behaviour, and housing systems that provide opportunity for the hens to display such behaviour are “desirable”. However, many OIE member countries are voicing their opposition to the draft chapter, in an effort to maintain the use of battery cages. The chapter is expected to be put before the OIE General Assembly for a vote in May of 2020.

The formal process for providing input is through the OIE Delegate from each member country, usually the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), typically in the animal health section of the member country Ministry (or Department) of Agriculture. You can [contact the office of your CVO](#) and submit your comments and suggestions on the draft or simply indicate your support for the chapter. As an ISAE member, your voice may carry particular weight, given the Society's expertise in the behaviour of animals. A sign-on letter with the names of over 50 ethologists, veterinarians, and other professionals was sent to the OIE in October, but the OIE needs the support of its Delegates—the highest authority in the OIE—in order to pass the chapter.

As ISAE members will know, there is a long history of research on the welfare of laying hens and housing systems used for egg production. It was one of the original questions that sparked the study of animal welfare as a scientific discipline. Working through the OIE, there is an opportunity to truly apply the science, and facilitate global progress toward higher welfare housing systems, which are economically viable and successful.

For assistance, questions, or advice on effective engagement with your CVO, please [contact](#) the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW). We would love to hear from you!.

*Sara Shields / Humane Society International*

## Employment and Education Opportunities

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

- **Faculty position**, Laval U, Canada (closes January 5, 2020)
- **Faculty position**, U Wisconsin-River Falls, USA (closes January 19, 2020)
- **Faculty position**, Dalhousie U, Canada (closes January 31, 2020)
- **Faculty position**, Auburn U, USA (closes February 14, 2020)
- **Research Assistant**, Nestlé Purina, France (starts January 2020)
- **Research Scientists (multiple)**, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (close in 2021)
- **Researcher**, IRTA, Catalonia (closes December 31, 2019)
- **Postdoc**, Justus-Liebig-U Giessen, Germany (closes December 31, 2019)
- **Postdoc**, U Nottingham, UK (closes February 3, 2020)
- **Postdoc**, Queen's U, Canada (closes February 14, 2020)
- **PhD position (3 yrs)**, Aarhus U, Denmark (closes February 1, 2020)
- **PhD positions (4 yrs; 5 available)**, Newcastle U, UK (close January 26, 2020)
- **MSc position**, Leibniz Inst, Germany; U Vet Med, Austria (closes January 15, 2020)
- **MSc project (6 months)**, Wageningen U, The Netherlands (closes January 6, 2020)
- **MSc position**, Tarleton State U, USA (starts Fall 2020)

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](http://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](mailto: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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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Applied Animal Behaviour Science

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/applanim](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/applanim)



Preface for the Special Issue of the 52nd International Congress of the ISAE

In 2018, the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. The main theme of the Congress, *Ethology for Health and Welfare*, was chosen to reflect the prominence that applied ethology has in the field of animal welfare and to encourage the development of applied ethology in studies to promote animal health. We have selected papers that provide examples from the themes of the Congress.

We have several papers that reflect the origins of ISAE as the Society for Veterinary Ethology, presented under the heading of veterinary aspects of ethology and welfare. One paper on laying hens by Jacobs et al. and one on dairy cows by Moncada et al. examine the effects of external parasites on behaviour. The relationship between temperament and how rabbits respond to anaesthesia is discussed in a paper by Krall and Hutchinson. Brajon et al. explain the influence of the social environment on perinatal mortality in laboratory mice.

The central and diverse role that ethology has in advancing understanding of animal behaviour and improving welfare is illustrated by several applied studies on methods to improve dog welfare by Mugenda et al., Dollion et al., Overall et al., and Stella et al. Viera de Castro et al. and Marini et al. reported on training of dogs and sheep, respectively. Animal welfare for goats was addressed by Sutherland et al.

The Wood-Gush Lecture, titled *The other-minds problem in other species*, by Stevan Harnad provided the stimulation that comes from developments and approaches used in allied disciplines and the challenges that can arise from differing thinking on how animals might perceive and experience their world. His paper can be found at [http://](http://generic.wordpress.soton.ac.uk/skywritings/2018/08/09/otherminds/)

[generic.wordpress.soton.ac.uk/skywritings/2018/08/09/otherminds/](http://generic.wordpress.soton.ac.uk/skywritings/2018/08/09/otherminds/).

Broom's paper on balancing animal welfare with other sustainability issues provides a topical discussion of how welfare might be considered in a broader context.

As scientific studies have advanced our understanding of applied ethology, a major role of the ISAE is to apply our science to real-world issues that affect the management of animals. The session on putting ethology into practice was designed to stimulate discussion of best practices and challenges in achieving this goal. It was introduced by Grandin who discussed her experiences in "*Crossing the divide between academic research and practical application of ethology on commercial livestock and poultry farms*".

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2019.104904>

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