

# ISAE

[www.applied-ethology.org](http://www.applied-ethology.org)

# newsletter

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## President's Piece

Dear ISAE members,

This is my last President's piece, as I will now move into my new role as Senior Vice President. Luckily I still have two more years on Council; otherwise I might be feeling very melancholic writing this!

Since last autumn ISAE has continued working on **increasing collaboration with several animal welfare-related initiatives and projects**. One of these is the EU-funded AWIN-project, which aims at collecting information on Animal Welfare-related education to an electronic database. ISAE agreed to help advertise this hub, as well as help identifying experts to evaluate the quality of the courses suggested for it. In addition, ISAE has agreed to discuss collaborative options with another EU-based project, developing animal welfare-related research activities, i.e. the AWARE-project. We hope these initiatives will help us both improve ISAE visibility, and improve the quality and quantity of information about courses and other opportunities to our members. In addition, we feel it is important that ISAE has a central role in developing animal welfare education and research.

ISAE was also invited to appoint a member to the Advisory board of the EU-funded project EU Welnet, which is currently looking at different possible structures and functions for a future EU network of Animal Welfare Centers (AWC). I attended the initial meeting in Brussels in March, 2013 and feel that the ISAE has an important role within the Advisory board in making sure applied ethology has a strong focus within the AWCs in the future. The meeting was also a good opportunity for networking with other organizations, such as various NGO's and the OIE, which with hopefully lead to further increasing the status of our Society.

During the January Council web-meeting several exciting topics were discussed and agreed on. One of the highlights was setting the definitions and criteria for our new awards: the **New Investigator and the Creativity Award**. Following announcing the awards, several excellent nominations were submitted, and we were happy to be able to plan our first award ceremony for the annual congress in Brazil. The quality of the awardees was very high, and sets a good standard for the future. **Congratulations to Liz Paul and Mike Mendl for the ISAE Creativity Award and to Brianna Gaskill for the New Investigator Award!** (See below article) It makes me proud to be President of a Society with such highly qualified members. We hope that the awards will attract even more nominations in the future; especially the New Investigator award is a great opportunity for supervisors to show their appreciation for current or previous MSc or PhD-students, or post docs, showing outstanding scientific ability.

I am also happy to tell you that Council decided to raise the sum of the **Congress Attendance Fund** from 2000 GBP to 5000 GBP this year, thus allowing for more support for students and researchers attending the annual congress than before. We hope to be able to keep the level this high in the future too, but a decision on the final fund sum will be made on a yearly basis to make sure the ISAE financial stability is not put at risk.

Finally I would like to welcome our new co-opted **Student Council members**, elected by the student membership early this year: Claes Anderson (Sweden) and Jessica Hopkins (UK). Both student representatives were present at the congress in Brazil, and I was very pleased to notice how actively and devotedly they have begun their terms. In Brazil, they organized a very successful get-together for students during one of the congress evenings, in the form of a beach party. I hope similar events will become a tradition during our congresses, to make sure new students feel welcome into our Society. In addition, there will soon be a student page added to the ISAE webpage, and there is already a Facebook discussion group for student members. *(And if you were not convinced yet of how efficient our student representatives are, and if you were not present in Brazil, I can let you in on a secret: as a result of their positive and youthful energy, the President and the Procedural Advisor ended up voluntarily swimming in the cold Brazilian autumn sea in the middle of the night!)*

It is now time for me to thank you all for your support during my term as President, and to wish all the best to our new President Jeremy Marchant-Forde. As the annual congress has already been successfully held this year, I also want to thank the local organizers, and all attending members, for making it another successful congress!

I hope to see you all in Spain in the summer of 2014, but in the meantime, I wish you all a successful and fruitful year of science!

Anna Valros

President of the ISAE

## *Bug in the system*

### **A report from the recent Council meeting, from Charlotte Stewart, Secretary**

Dear ISAE members,

Conference season is upon us once again and it's time for my last bug in the system. Council had one web based meeting, the usual winter meeting was held in January and any issues arising were discussed.

Council agreed to collaborate with the **ISAE-AWIN cooperation** by offering to provide help with spreading the word, and with helping them with the scientific standard of the courses on their hub. So check out the website <http://www.awhub.info>.

Thanks to some innovative ideas and hard work from our assistant secretary and other council members we have been able to introduce two new awards at this year's congress. Good luck to all those that have been nominated for the **Creativity Award**, and the **New Investigator Award**. If you missed out this year be sure to get your nominations in for next year!!

2013 has been a year of firsts, this year we have introduced ***Student representatives***, to encourage students to become more involved. If you're a student and you have some views to express or wish to find out more information get in touch with your student representative. Contact details are on the ISAE council webpage.

Finally I would like to finish by saying I hope you all enjoyed the meeting in Brazil this June! Here's to another great meeting.

Charlotte Stewart

## *ISAE Council News*

### **Senior Vice President – Vicky Sandilands**

Vicky is currently on maternity leave and the remainder of her duties have been carried out by Anna Valros and Jeremy Marchant-Forde.

This year we had the congress in Florianopolis, Brazil. The other congresses are as follows:

- 2014 48<sup>th</sup> Congress, 28 July – 1 August, Europa Convention Centre, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
- 2015 49<sup>th</sup> Congress, Japan (dates and venue to be confirmed)
- 2016 50<sup>th</sup> Congress, Edinburgh, UK (dates and venue to be confirmed)

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

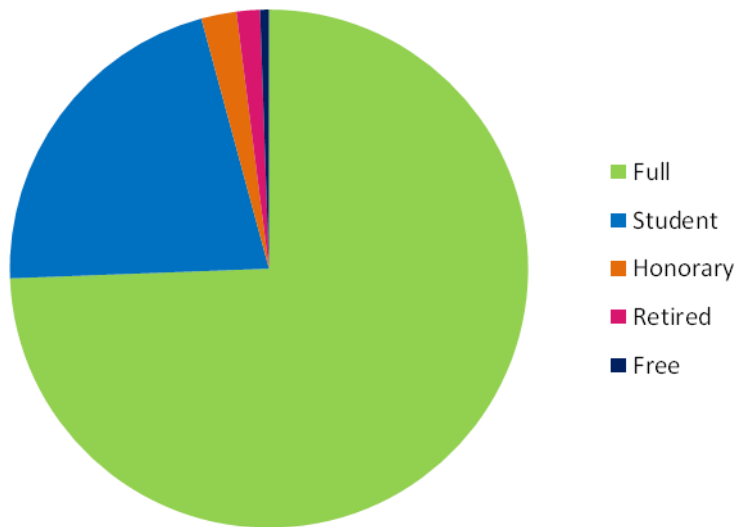
### **Junior Vice President - Jeremy Marchant-Forde**

Over the last year, we welcomed new Regional Secretaries for Benelux (Liesbeth Bolhuis & Stephanie Buijs), East Asia (Shigeru Ninomiya) and West Central Europe (Edna Hillman). Thank you all for volunteering your time and energy to the Society. The Society would also like to thank outgoing Secretaries for your service – Ingrid De Jong, Katsuji Uetake and Claudia Schmied – we appreciate all you have done.

Regional activity was limited to 1 stand-alone Regional Meeting (Australasia & Africa) and also good representation of ISAE members at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Applied Animal Behavior and the Applied Ethology Conference of the German Veterinary Society. However, there are currently 4 regional meetings potentially being planned for 2013-2014, see details in regional secretary updates.

## Membership Secretary – Keelin O’Driscoll

Membership renewals have been going very smoothly this year. As of 12 June there are 547 members in the database, which is an increase on last years’ number of 537. 341 members have already renewed for 13/14, and renewals are still coming in steadily. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of our membership by type. The membership numbers in each region is fairly stable; Table 1 shows how our current membership, and new membership since 1 June 2012, is distributed across the regions.



**Figure 1.** Breakdown of membership by type

	Total	New
Australasia/Africa	44	6
Benelux	34	5
Canada	53	3
East Asia	21	1
East Central Europe	11	1
Latin America	17	3
Mediterranean	30	3
Nordic	81	10
UK/Ireland	109	12
USA	103	8
West Central Europe	44	6

**Table 1.** Distribution of current and new membership across regions

This year we will be allowing people until the end of June before non-payees are removed from the database, so there is still some time to renew. If you have any problems with payment please get in touch.

We have had 30 new members since the last newsletter. Please welcome to the society:

Mark Kennedy (UK/Ireland)	Luigi Baciadonna (UK/Ireland)
Gabriela Munhoz Morello (USA)	Yolande Seddon (Canada)
Marc Pierard (Benelux)	Mia Cobb (Australasia/Africa)
Giovana de Lima Toccafondo Vieira (USA)	Duncan Wilson (UK/Ireland)
Beatriz Zapata (Latin America)	Leticia Fanucchi (USA)
Janko Skok (East Central Europe)	Alexandra Moesta (West Central Europe)
Katie McDonald (UK/Ireland)	Allison Taylor (Canada)
Sally Smith (Australasia/Africa)	Jennifer Walker (USA)
Kristine Kastenbaum (UK/Ireland)	Stephanie Lurzel (West Central Europe)
Mallary Paoli (UK/Ireland)	Daniela Alberghina (Mediterranean)
Manuela Zebunke (West Central Europe)	Kaitlin Wurtz (USA)
Gemma Richards (UK/Ireland)	Jonas Rommen (Europe)
Biswas Sutapa (East Asia)	Paula Baker (UK/Ireland)
Salwan Abdulateef (Australasia/Africa)	Valerie Jonckheer Sheehy (Benelux)
Natalie Cook (UK/Ireland)	Marsha Reijgwart (Benelux)

### **Communications Officer – Laura Dixon**

In the year since I took on the CO post, I've gotten comfortable with updating the website and using the various functions available. If something does come up that I'm not familiar with Keelin and Intergage, who support the website, can point me in the right direction!

The most popular feature of the website is the Employment Opportunities page which gets updated and viewed the most - around 2000 views per month, followed by Upcoming Events at around 1400 and Ethical Guidelines at about 1250. The Search function is also frequently used, with 1700 views in May. We have a generous amount of bandwidth available each month to send emails so message me if you want an announcement sent to the membership. I'm also happy to accept various announcements, articles, conference reviews and so on for our future Newsletters.

# *ISAE Regional News*

## **Australasia and Africa –Ahmad Tatar and Rebecca Doyle**

### Regional meetings

*2012 Melbourne, Australia* – see <http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/article/other-links> for abstracts from our very successful regional meeting held in Melbourne, Australia, last year. It was kindly hosted by the Animal Welfare Science Centre, University of Melbourne and sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim (Australia) and the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS).

*2013 Palmerston North* or another venue in New Zealand – please contact Kate Littin if you are interested in holding this or attending [kate.littin@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:kate.littin@mpi.govt.nz)

*2014 South Africa* – under consideration

### Updates from the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis and AAWS

In October 2012, as a Australasian-African regional secretary for the ISAE, Rebecca was extended an invitation to be an ongoing observer on the OIE's animal welfare and bioethics collaborating center. As this center is a combination of animal welfare and bioethic research organisations in Australia and New Zealand, Bec has the ability as one of our regional secretaries to act as a communication point between the ISAE and OIE in this region. She has sat in on two meetings so far and says it's great to hear how the group intends on promoting animal welfare in our region. Current reports on OIE's actions in our region and specific updates from the collaborating center can be found here: <http://www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au/content/international-context>

AAWS have also released a newsletter recently. Topics covered include projects recently funded under AAWS, interesting articles on the effects of fire on both pets and the dairy industry, along with points on responsible animal research and guidelines for commercial fishing. The newsletter can be found here: <http://www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au>

## **Benelux region – Liesbeth Bolhuis/ Stephanie Buijs**

The Benelux region is happy to announce that a regional conference will be organized this year. This one-day event will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Pig Innovation Centre in Sterksel, the Netherlands (chosen for its central position in the region, see [www.vicsterksel.nl](http://www.vicsterksel.nl)). We plan to focus on oral presentations, although posters will be allowed at the authors' own request. Abstracts concerning studies on behaviour or welfare of farm, laboratory, companion or zoo animals can be sent to [benelux.isae@gmail.com](mailto:benelux.isae@gmail.com) until the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Visit the region's website (<http://www.applied-ethology.org/benelux>) for full details on abstract submission and registration.

## **Canada – Nicolas Devilliers**

I carried out my first full year in the role of Regional Secretary, having taken over for Jennifer Brown in May 2012. My intention is to serve until May 2014 so if there are any Canada region members who might like to take over, please get in contact with me.

There were not a lot of activities in Canada this year. I tried to update and keep updated the Canada webpage. Last North American meeting was in Banff in [May 2012](#). The next one will be held in East Lansing in [May 2014](#) joint with the USA Region.

I have a project to develop a collaborative database to share information between research centers and universities in Canada about research on-going and future research projects to help developing collaborations and students' exchange. I hope being able to start that in the coming year.

## **East Asia – Shigeru Ninomiya**

The annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Applied Animal Behaviour (JSAAB) was organized on March 29 at Yasuda Women's University in Hiroshima University. This meeting featured 12 oral presentations, 41 poster presentations and one symposium 'Scientific study on animal welfare in zoos'. All ISAE members in Japan are registered as members of the JSAAB.

ISAE2015 is planned to be held at the Hokkaido University, Sapporo on September 14-17.

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## **East Central Europe region - Radka Šárová**

Our main "event" in 2013 will be the "Joint East Central and West Central Europe Regional Meeting" which will take place in Skopje, Macedonia, on October 9-10, 2013. The meeting will be organized mainly by the East Central Europe Region in cooperation with the AWARE project. The next Joint East Central and West Central Europe Regional Meeting is planned for year 2015.

## **Mediterranean Region- Emma Fàbrega-Romans**

During the first semester of 2013, it was discussed again whether the Mediterranean members of ISAE would hold a regional this year. After an informal poll, it seems that the most attractive idea is to have a short networking regional meeting associated with the UFAW congress in Barcelona in July 2013. The secretary collected all the information to prepare the meeting in the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*. However, the regional secretary has been awarded and OCDE fellowship for a short stay in Canada in July 2013, so it will not be possible to coordinate the regional meeting this summer.



## **Nordic Region - Satu Raussi**

An survey about the development of Nordic ISAE activities was sent out in the beginning of 2013. 35 members responded to the enquiry. Great thanks for participation!

These were the most supported opinions:

- The Nordic ISAE winter symposium should be organised either every year or every 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- January is good date for the Nordic ISAE symposium and 2 full days is preferred length
- Workshops, specific mini-seminars in connection to the symposium and more presentations from senior researchers are wished for the program
- The symposium could sometimes be organised together with another European region
- Meeting colleagues, networking and listening to talks are the most important reasons to participate to the Nordic ISAE symposium
- Symposium should be cheaper for ISAE members than for non-members
- More representation from Nordic Region in ISAE council is wanted

[Read more about the enquiry from Nordic ISAE homepage](#)

## **UK/Ireland region - Laura Boyle, Cathy Dwyer**

The last regional meeting of the UIK/Ireland branch of the ISAE was held in Harper Adams in [February 2012](#). The next meeting is planned for Edinburgh in winter 2013/2014 (probably January). The date has not been finalised yet. The theme of the meeting will be 'Animal health and welfare'

## **USA region – Maja Makagon**

The US region has begun planning the 12th North American Regional Meeting of the ISAE (held jointly with the Canada region). The meeting will be hosted by Michigan State University on May 23-24, 2014. Updated information about the meeting is being posted on our regional ISAE website ([http://www.applied-ethology.org/united\\_states\\_of\\_america.html](http://www.applied-ethology.org/united_states_of_america.html)).

## West Central Europe region - Edna Hillman

The West Central Europe people had a meeting during the Applied Ethology Conference of the German Veterinary Society in Freiburg, Germany, **November 2012**. This "Freiburg conference" is usually attended by the majority of the West Central Europe regional group and has thus proved to be a good place/time to discuss ISAE issues. At this meeting, I took over the position as regional secretary from Claudia Schmied (Vienna). The following activities have been started/are being planned in the region: - The 2013 Regional Meeting will be organised together with the East Central Europe Group (Radka Sarova) and will take place **Oct 9-10, 2013** in Skopje. - To increase networking between the PhD students in our region, we want to organise a special "PhD session" during the Applied Ethology Conference of the German Veterinary Society in **November 2013**. We are currently discussing the details (length of talks, form of presentations etc.).

## *ISAE members on the move!*

Dr Heleen van de Weerd joined Cerebrus Associates Limited at the end of last year. Dr Jon Day founded this consultancy to offer advice research and innovation services to human and animal food businesses, animal-nutrition suppliers and research organisations. As a principal consultant, Heleen will use her experience and skills in applied animal welfare research to advise stakeholders in the field of farm and laboratory animal welfare. Website: [www.cerebrus.org/](http://www.cerebrus.org/)

Ahmed Tatar began a new job at the Ramin Agricultural and Natural Resources University (est. 1955), Ahwaz, Khuzestan province, Iran as a teacher and researcher in the Department of Poultry Sciences. Ahwaz is capital of Khuzestan province and located on the south west of Iran in an arid region - built on the banks of the Karun River and situated in the middle of Khuzestan Province. Ahwaz has a desert climate with long, extremely hot summers and mild, short winters and is consistently one of the hottest cities on the planet during the summer, with temperatures regularly at least 45<sup>0</sup>C, sometimes exceeding 50<sup>0</sup>C, with many sandstorms and dust storms during the summer period and lows of 5<sup>0</sup>C in the winter months. Khuzestan province is one of the most important oil and agriculture regions of Iran and the university is one of three agricultural specialty universities in Iran. ([www.ramin.ac.ir](http://www.ramin.ac.ir)).



### **2013 Initiatives for the journal *Applied Animal Behaviour Science***

On behalf of the Publisher and the Editors-in-Chief of AABS we are delighted to inform you about a number of new initiatives that have been introduced to the Journal over the past few months. Please see below for a list of new and exciting services on offer to authors, reviewers and readers.

AudioSlides: Authors now have the option to also create an AudioSlide to accompany their accepted paper and have it published online. AudioSlides are simply a small PowerPoint presentation with audio, which can enhance the summary of an article (introduced March 2013). See an example at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2013.03.015>

Free Referencing Style: Six main reference styles are used as a base so authors can submit their paper with one of the six styles as long as the references are consistent and correct. Elsevier's typesetters will convert the references to the relevant journal style (introduced April 2013).

Author Accepted Manuscript: In order to increase the speed of availability of articles, indexing and citations via search engines such as Google, Elsevier will roll out a new service to make AABS articles available online as soon as possible after acceptance and prior to being copyedited. This is known as an "author accepted manuscript". When the fully copyedited version is ready for publication, it simply replaces the author accepted manuscript version.

We expect author accepted manuscripts to be online just over one week after acceptance, if the accepted papers move to production and typesetters immediately after acceptance.

This new service, which Elsevier intends to introduce during June 2013, will benefit authors hugely by ensuring that their article is accessible at the very earliest opportunity. In addition, it will help to increase JFLM journal usage, as fast publication is known to drive usage.

**2012 Impact Factor Result**: Thomson Reuters released the 2012 impact factor results on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June. AABS received an impact factor of **1.497**, ranking the journal 12<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 54 journals in the *Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science* category. Congratulations AABS!

## Congratulations

### Congratulations to Ahmad Tatar on being chosen for the Iranian Top Ph.D. Student in the Agricultural Sciences Category

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual selection of Iranian top students in 2011-2012 was performed by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology. 6400 graduate and postgraduate students compete annually for this scientific award. The six main categories were: agriculture and natural resources, technical, humanities, veterinary, basic sciences and art. Ahmad Tatar who is the ISAE Australasia and Africa regional co-secretary was selected as the paramount Ph.D. student in the agriculture category. He received his award from Dr. Ahmadinejad, President of Iran.



Left to Right:  
Dr. Kamran Daneshju (Iranian  
Minister of Science, Research and  
Technology)  
Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
(President of Iran)  
Dr. Ahmad Tatar

## ISAE Award Winners



### ***New Investigator Award – Brianna Gaskill***

Brianna Gaskill received the new investigator award for the high-impact start she made early in her career. She finished her PhD fairly recently and already established herself as one of the predominant researchers in the field of laboratory mouse welfare. Her research is already being implemented into recommendations and she has several good quality papers already published, and is building up a solid reputation within the field.

### ***Creativity Award - Mike Mendl and Liz Paul (award accepted by Don Broom)***

Mike and Liz received the creativity award for their innovative work on the cognitive bias approach. This approach has been widely accepted as a way to assess animal emotion under different circumstances, by applied ethologists but also neuroscientists and psychopharmacologists. The paper in which they first describe the approach has been widely cited and has been followed up by many other groups, as is evident from the many papers published on the topic and from the large number of presentations on cognitive bias at the ISAE Vienna 2012



## *ISAE-AWIN Collaboration*

AWIN (Animal Welfare Indicators) is an E.U. funded project, partly involving research and partly animal welfare education. The Animal Welfare Science Hub ('Hub' <http://animalwelfarehub.com>) is an interactive and personalised portal which includes information about courses and other teaching materials on a variety of animal welfare topics. It is intended that the Hub will continue well beyond the duration of AWIN.

The Hub will list details of animal welfare courses and other teaching materials produced by any organisation. Other materials might be short, downloadable learning materials or "learning objects", for example some video-based material with questions and answers for students. One unique aspect of the Hub is that the posting of courses and learning materials will be subject to peer review. To achieve this aim, AWIN is collaborating with ISAE in order to guarantee scientific quality now and in the future.

Courses produced as official university courses, so with full approval of the university, will be listed on the Hub without further review. However, all other courses, including those that have university contributions but are not formally university courses, will not be listed until checked by an animal welfare scientist. ISAE would be stated on the Hub as the approving body and would arrange this checking, via the Education Officer. This is necessary to ensure that scientifically incorrect materials, or materials presenting an unbalanced viewpoint, perhaps that of an industry body or animal protection society, would not be put directly on the Hub but could be put there if presented in a correct and balanced way.

AWIN envisages that, when the Hub coordinator receives course details or a learning object, the ISAE Education Officer would be informed of the level, area of specialisation and language of the material and would pass it to an ISAE member who would review it. Since there are many people who could do such reviewing, it is not anticipated that it would be a heavy load for any reviewer, just something like a paper to review. AWIN has produced guidance documents, approved by ISAE, for reviewers of courses or learning objects on the Animal Welfare Science Hub.

AWIN and ISAE hope that ISAE members and others will enter information about their courses and other teaching materials about any aspect of animal welfare on the Hub. For further information see the Hub, the AWIN web-site <http://www.animal-welfare-indicators.net> or contact the ISAE Education Officer [laura.hanninen@helsinki.fi](mailto:laura.hanninen@helsinki.fi).

Donald M. Broom and the AWIN team

## *Employment Opportunities*

Employment opportunities related to applied ethology that are brought to the attention of the Communications Officer, are posted to the ISAE Home Page. Below is a sample of positions currently available. Please check the ISAE Home Page for further details and for application deadlines: <http://www.applied-ethology.org/employment.htm>.

- **Researcher/Senior Researcher:** Cattle or pigs  
**Location:** Institute of Animal Science, Prague  
**Contact:** Marek Špinka, [spinka.marek@vuzv.cz](mailto:spinka.marek@vuzv.cz)
- **Research Assistant/Associate**  
**Location:** Pennsylvania State University, USA  
**Contact:** Dorcas Holt [drh3@psu.edu](mailto:drh3@psu.edu)
- **AWARE Mobility Desk:** Linking young researchers and host labs

## *48<sup>th</sup> Congress of the ISAE in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain*

28 July – 01 August 2014, Europa Convention Centre, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain  
Visit [http://www.applied-ethology.org/isae\\_meetings.html](http://www.applied-ethology.org/isae_meetings.html) for upcoming news.

## *Future Meetings*

### **ISAE Meetings**

- **49th International Congress**  
2015 Japan (dates and venue to be confirmed)
- **50th International Congress**  
2016 Edinburgh, UK (dates and venue to be confirmed)

### **Regional Meetings**

- **12th North American Regional ISAE Meeting**  
Spring 2014, Michigan State University

***Other meetings of potential interest can be found on the Upcoming Events page:***  
[http://www.applied-ethology.org/iqs/cpti.14/isae\\_events.html](http://www.applied-ethology.org/iqs/cpti.14/isae_events.html)



## 2013 HIS Award Winners



The 2013 Humane Society International (HSI) travel award winners were awarded partial funding to attend the ISAE meeting in Florianopolis, Brazil in recognition for their excellent work and contribution to improving the welfare of farm animals. HSI is proud to support them:

### 1. Julia Adriana Calderon Diaz

"Does rubber flooring influence postural and spatial behavior in gestating sows?"  
Teagasc Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre and University College  
Dublin, Ireland

Advisors: Laura Boyle and Alan Fahey

### 2. Gabriela Morello

"The effect of non-uniform environmental conditions on piglet crushing and maternal  
behavior of sows"  
Purdue University, USA

Advisor: Jeremy Marchant-Forde

### 3. Courtney Lynd Daigle

"The body-behavior connection: associations between WQ® measurements and non-  
cage laying hen behavior"  
Michigan State University, USA

Advisor: Janice Siegford

### 4. Jennifer Chen

"Dairy cattle preferences for sprinklers delivering different water volumes"  
University of California, Davis

Advisor: Cassandra Tucker

### 5. Christian Nawroth

"Dog-like comprehension of human social cues in young domestic pigs?"  
Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Advisor: Eberhard von Borell

## *Canine PTSD*

Over the past dozen years the amount of military working dogs deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq has greatly increased. As the military started seeing their benefit and ability to detect IED's thus saving soldiers lives, their numbers drastically increased down range. Along with this increase, there are more dogs suffering from post traumatic stress disorders. Many of these dogs have done multiple deployments and as with their human counterparts PTSD is not an uncommon occurrence resulting in various forms of anxiety or aggressions. Unlike their human counterparts however, their treatment is a lot different with most of the dogs suffering from this, being retired out or put down. In the past, one of the more common treatments have been to place the dog on Xanax and see if they got better. This would be no different than tranquilizing a soldier but never addressing why the PTSD occurred. As a retired Sergeant from a large law enforcement agency, I know how tough it is to get any governmental agency to change the way they do things, as most large police departments handle canine PTSD in similar manners.

We have treated several of these retired dogs and some from creative units with a lot of success. The toughest part is having the handler 'back track' to when the problem actually started. With the exception of the dog being injured, the PTSD usually started as a gradual problem and often was overlooked until it started interfering in the dogs performance but we have found the quickest resolutions have been when we can get the handler to remember when the dog started acting 'not himself'. The times that we can get a handler to remember when the dog had a slight change in their behavior, we can have them walk us through the previous few missions and usually with questioning determine what started the ball rolling, so to speak. While this is not technically necessary, it makes designing a modification program much easier, more effective and much quicker. Since forward chaining will often cause behavioral responses to manifest into other areas and to other stimuli, trying to design a modification program based on the current reaction is much less reliable. If you can pinpoint what started the association, you can have a much easier time desensitizing the dog to the traumatic event but since they cannot 'open up and talk' we must rely on their handler's memory and Very often the traumatic event is not something we would look at as traumatic from a human standpoint. A MWD (military working dog) can constantly be in the vicinity of explosions, yet develop the initial problem from being overheated in a truck on the way to or from a patrol / search site. For example, we had one dog that lost his footing, sliding down a cliff (nothing unusual for them). The handler noticed his dog reacting a little different but only slightly and did not think anything of it. Several weeks later, they were in an area that received incoming RPG rounds and while the dog was not injured, several men in the team received injuries. After this, the dog did not search forward as he should and started showing slight aggression towards people coming near him. The handler thought the RPG for some reason spooked him even though they are trained around explosives. In actuality the rockslide from the RPG is what intensified the reaction. When tested the dog displayed a heavy reaction when several rocks were rolled over by him. We placed him on Clonidine for a few weeks while we had conducted several modification sessions to address the rocks and once that was resolved, he had no reaction to explosions. Luckily this was done 'off the record' and our boy went back to work with none of the head sheds any the wiser. Had we simply



placed him on Xanax and worked with sudden auditory stimuli, we would not have been successful.

It is often tough to 'look at the big picture' and then go back and pick apart the small details that might have started the problem when evaluating canine PTSD, but if you do so you can be very successful. Sadly, the military's poor success rate stems from an old approach stemming from traditional training, and not being open to the study of applied canine behavior which is a fairly new field and has only been taken seriously within the last 10-12 years. The poor success rate will continue if the higher ups continue to look at the dog as a piece of equipment on an inventory / supply sheet, and do not consider how the dog's brain processes auditory and visual stimuli. This is also coupled with the traditional training viewpoint where the dog is leading the handler into combat situations. When PTSD occurs, there is no one in the dog's mind he can look to for he or she to make sense of what is happening usually resulting in anxiety and or fear and often defensive aggression. Hopefully the military will slowly start to progress in how they handle canine PTSD as most of these dogs can have their problems resolved with some work; far less work and money than it costs to train a new dog.

Daniel & Shari Forst

Canine Case Squad [www.caninecasesquad.com](http://www.caninecasesquad.com)

## *ISES Conference Announcement*

**Are you fascinated by Horse Behavior & Welfare?  
There's still time to register!**

**The International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) announces the 9<sup>th</sup> annual conference with the theme of "Embracing Science to Enhance Equine Welfare and Horse-Human Interactions" to be hosted by the University of Delaware and the University of Pennsylvania (USA) on the 18th – 20th July, 2013.**

This premier event will gather together over 200 equine scientists, veterinarians, applied ethologists, advanced practitioners (horse-trainers, instructors & riders), advanced students pursuing equine science degrees and influential stakeholders in the equine industry to present and discuss research related to the field of equitation science. It will focus on ways of improving horse training as well as encouraging the development of science-based criteria to measure the welfare of the horse in their interactions with humans.

Keynote speakers for the 9th International Society for Equitation Science Conference include:

- Dr. Natalie Waran (Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal welfare education at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh University) & Dr. Hayley Randle (Duchy College) - Advancing evidence based practice and learning in equitation
- Dr. Hilary Clayton (Michigan State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, McPhail Equine Performance Center) - Research on the Rider-Saddle-Horse Interface
- Dr. Jan Ladewig (Department of Large Animal Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen) - What about the other 23 hours?: How does what we do during the other hours when we are not training impact behavior and welfare?
- Dr. Andrew McLean (Australian Equine Behaviour Centre) & Dr. Paul McGreevy (Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney)- Arousal, affective state and attachment

**For additional information including conference registration, please visit the following link. <http://www.equitationscience.com/upcoming>**



## *Animal Pain PhD Course Announcement*

Registration for the Ph.D. course '**Animal pain**' to be held November 4-8 2013 is now available.

The target group is PhD students and researchers within science, veterinary, agricultural and health sciences working with animals, including animal model studies, experimentation, in zoo and animal parks, and with scientific questions related to pain biology.

There will be room for 30 participants. The course aims to offer a solid background of the theory and research in pain biology, via lectures by leading researchers and practitioners within the field, central literature and group work focusing on the biological perspectives of pain.

The course is accredited to 5 ECTS points.

This year we proudly present 3 key-lectures,

Dr. Matt Leach, Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom: Assessment of pain using behaviour and facial expressions in a range of species. For more information on Dr. Matt Leach see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/cbe/people/profile/matthew.leach>

Dr. Lynne Sneddon, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom: The neurobiological basis of pain – can fish feel it?  
For more information on Dr. Lynne Sneddon see <http://www.liv.ac.uk/integrative-biology/research/projects/fish-indicators-stress-health/about/>

Prof. Dan Weary, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada: Aversion testing and pain testing – experimental designs and inferences regarding welfare and pain states. For more information on Prof. Dan Weary see <http://www.landfood.ubc.ca/directory/faculty/professors-and-instructors/dan-weary>

Please check the course web site for further information:

<http://projects.au.dk/animal-pain/>

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