

The ISAE new investigator award 2016

Dr. Jean-Loup Rault, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia

This year's award recipient has two MSc degrees completed in France, a PhD from Purdue University, supervised by Don Lay, and is now working with Paul Hemsworth at the Animal Welfare Science Centre, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Having graduated just 5 years ago, he already has 27 peer-reviewed publications to his name in a variety of journals – serving as first author on 20 – as well as more than 30 conference abstracts and 5 chapters in scholarly books.

He has attracted substantial funding for his research, thus exhibiting successful grantsmanship. His expertise is not confined to one species or one area of study, but includes topics such as behaviour of free-range poultry, social behaviour of pigs, and EEG assessment of consciousness and affective states in pigs.

For this he used a novel approach of using wireless EEG on freely moving pigs. This had never been done before and has provided critical evidence to support alternatives to carbon dioxide for euthanasia. Another example of his originality is his work on the role of oxytocin and social bonds in pigs and dogs.

Whilst doing all this, he also carries a considerable teaching load, and he has supervised and co-supervised 4 PhD students, 13 MSc students, and several undergraduate students.

He shows impressive professional engagement, and is currently (to name a few):

- Welfare Advisor for the Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association
- Member of the University of Melbourne Animal Ethics Committee
- Member of the Scientific Committee for Humane Farm Animal Care
- ... and not least, secretary of the ISAE

He is productive, innovative, and a positive resource for colleagues, and has already so early in his career made significant contributions which have moved the field of applied ethology forward.

Selected publications

J.-L. Rault. 2012. Friends with benefits: Social support and its implications for farm animal welfare. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 136: 1-14.

J.-L. Rault. 2016. Effects of positive and negative human contacts and intranasal oxytocin on cerebrospinal fluid oxytocin. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 69: 60-66.

J.-L. Rault, N. Kells, C. Johnson, R. Dennis M. Sutherland, and D.C. Lay Jr. 2015. Nitrous oxide as a humane method for piglet euthanasia: behavior and electroencephalography (EEG). *Physiology and Behavior* 151: 29-37.

J.-L. Rault. 2015. Pets in the digital era: live, robot, or virtual? *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* 2:11.

J.-L. Rault, C.S. Carter, J.P. Garner, J.N. Marchant-Forde, B.T. Richert, and D.C. Lay Jr. 2013. Repeated intranasal oxytocin administration in early life dysregulates the HPA axis and alters social behavior. *Physiology and Behavior* 112-113: 40–48.