GIVING RESCUE DOGS A NEW LIFE

As many of you may remember JMICAWE Outreach Veterinary Education Manager, Heather Bacon and our Welfare Veterinary Nurse, Hayley Walters spent their annual leave assisting in a dog rescue shelter in Nakom Phanom in Thailand earlier this year. They were helping to treat over 2,000 dogs that had been rescued from the meat trade industry and were being illegally transported to Vietnam. Many dogs that had collapsed from starvation were hospitalised and it was whilst treating the sick dogs in the hospital that Heather and Hayley met two little dogs, which they would eventually bring back to Scotland. As you can see from the photo below, both Mothi and Stewart have settled in very well, and are loving their walks around Edinburgh and East Lothian. A bit like their owners they took some time to get used to the ‘fresh’ Scottish weather! If anyone would like further information on what has happened to the remaining dogs then please contact the Soi Dog Foundation.

CHINESE STUDENT WINS THE ANIMALS ASIA SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY MSc IAWEL

The JMICAWE is delighted to announce the first recipient of the Animals Asia Foundation International Animal Welfare Ethics and Law scholarship. The award was won by Yang JingJing, known by her English name of Jenny. This award allows Jenny to study the field of international animal welfare ethics and law at postgraduate level whilst continuing to work fulltime in China in her role as a clinical pathology specialist. Well done Jenny, we are delighted to welcome you on to the MSc IAWEL programme. For more details about this Masters please visit: www.ed.ac.uk/international-animal-welfare.

WORLD ANIMAL WELFARE DAY

In collaboration with the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) team, the JMICAWE team provided the Animal Welfare Education interactive stand at the Animal Welfare Showcase event held by SRUC at the Roslin Institute on 4th October. The team were able to demonstrate the range of tools used for increasing knowledge and understanding of animal welfare worldwide. Along with the display of manikins and models used to aid teaching of clinical skills and animal handling in the veterinary surgery, demonstrations were given on the life-size Dystocia cow and calf, designed to help teach veterinary and animal science students how best to deal with difficult cattle births prior to them experiencing this in live animals.

JMICAWE WORKING IN THAILAND

The JMICAWE team will be working with the Veterinary Science Dept. at Kasetsart University, Bangkok in November this year, where they will be running a Veterinary Education and Animal Welfare Training event for faculty members.
WINNER OF THE IG NOBEL 2013 PRIZE

Congratulations go to Dr Fritha Langford, for being part of the SRUC team who won the 2013 Ig Nobel prize for Probability. The Ig Nobel awards are for ‘Science that makes you laugh, then makes you think’.

“We used pedometer-like sensors attached to the legs of dairy and beef cattle and used the recordings from these to analyse the patterns of cow behaviour. As we shed light on cow behaviour patterns we can then apply this to help pick up potential problems and improve cattle health and welfare.”

Dr Fritha Langford

SUCCESSFUL CVMA WORKSHOP in CHINA

During the third week of October, Nat Waran, Fritha Langford and Heather Bacon accompanied by international colleagues, travelled to China where they were co-organising and presenting animal welfare, at the 4th China Veterinary Conference.

They shared a range of practical and research experiences relating to both the development of animal welfare in veterinary education and practice, the influence of evidence-based research on livestock husbandry, transport and food safety, an issue that is currently of significant importance in China.

By linking animal welfare to its practical benefits, such as improved health, improved productivity, improved food safety and improved research and education outcomes, even those with little interest in the subject may be inspired to develop better practices that benefit animals around China.

The conference was supported by the Animals Asia Foundation and WSPA, and attended by colleagues from SRUC, the World Veterinary Association, the Federation of Vets of Europe, and the OIE.

Over the next year the JMICAWE will be working with the CVMA to develop successful teaching practices and integrate animal welfare throughout the Chinese Veterinary curriculum.

SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR SERIES

We are honoured that so many international animal welfare academics, have agreed to come and talk to our students at the R(D)SVS and for their talks to go online via our website.

Currently in 2013, we have heard the following speakers Dr Rowena Packer, Professor Thomas Hartung and Dr Claire Corridan and we are very much looking forward to hearing Iain Valentine and Luke Gamble later in 2014.

EDINBURGH WELCOMES KERALAN GUESTS

This year we were fortunate to host a number of visits by staff and their students from the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University in India.

In June we were pleased to welcome 6 senior Indian veterinary academics led by Edinburgh University Alumni, Professor Usha who is the Director of pig genetics and production research. During their week-long visit, the group learned about the way in which the RDSVS PG and UG students are taught using a variety of different methodologies, how farm and Zoo practicals are integrated into problem based learning exercises, how knowledge about animal welfare is introduced throughout the curriculum and the way in which the curriculum is designed around Day 1 skills.

“It has been a wonderful experience for us to learn about vet education in Edinburgh. This visit has helped us to make suggestions for improving vet education in Kerala. I am sure this visit will open up next stages of joint initiative”

Professor Usha

The second visit was led by KVASU’s Director of Wildlife studies, Dr George Chandy who brought a group of Postgraduate students to Edinburgh.

The visit has been highly inspirational and has touched our hearts and minds’. We are now awaiting the arrival of our third set of visitors from the KVASU with who we have a MoU relating to animal welfare and conservation medicine.

“all of us were travelling out of India for the first time and for a few of us this could be once in a lifetime opportunity. One of the students in our team was an indigenous tribal girl from Wayanad, from extremely backward socio-economic status…”

Dr George Chandy

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