



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

**The Jeanne Marchig
International Centre for
Animal Welfare Education**

Newsletter



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The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education's aim is to improve quality of life for all animals through education, training and by influencing policy at the highest level. Here we report on our recent activities overseas and in the United Kingdom, as well as providing an update on our education programmes.

In JMICAWE's home environment, Scotland, we are finally getting to see the beginning of some spring weather, the fields are filling with newborn lambs, and the mornings with birdsong. Despite the very difficult last 12 months of Covid and preventative measures worldwide, it is hard not to feel at least a little bit hopeful for the future. The JMICAWE team has now spent more than a year working from home, and all our usual travel, workshops and in-person interactions, which we all enjoy so much, have been curtailed.

We have used this time for a period of reflection and to identify new ways of working in and teaching animal welfare that do not involve us being there in person.

As you will see in this newsletter, some of this time has been spent developing online teaching material; in particular through our collaboration with Wild Welfare to develop an online, self-directed teaching resource on the welfare of captive wildlife.

We are also delighted to be able to report on a number of other positive events that have occurred over the last few months. Our colleague Heather Bacon was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours list, in recognition of 10 years' hard work in animal welfare. We are also very pleased to be able to welcome Dr Kevin McPeake to the extended JMICAWE family, as a lecturer in Clinical Animal Behaviour.



New Year Honours for Dr Heather Bacon

JMICAWE vet Dr Heather Bacon is no stranger to awards, having been given many richly deserved accolades since she joined JMICAWE at the very beginning of our journey, in 2011. We are delighted that she has now also been recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours list. Heather was awarded an OBE (Officer of the order of the British Empire) in recognition of her work in veterinary education, animal welfare and charities within the UK and abroad. Heather will collect her award later in the year.

An OBE is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed on a UK citizen, and is a wonderful and very well deserved recognition of the enormous amount of work that Heather has done, and continues to do, in the service of animal welfare. There is not space here enough to do justice to everything that Heather has achieved, but this includes her work for the school in organising and delivering teaching to undergraduate veterinary students and postgraduate students in animal welfare in veterinary contexts, dog and cat behaviour and welfare, veterinary ethics and captive wild animal welfare. She has organised and delivered workshops and training in animal welfare, veterinary practice and ethics across

Asia, including in China, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and elsewhere, and plays a pivotal role in the development of online training materials for veterinary education in animal welfare and dog population management. Heather contributes to the work of the British Veterinary Association, Federation of Vets of Europe, and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, including leading conference sessions and contributing to animal welfare publications. She also works with many charities in the UK and overseas, including Animals Asia, Wild Welfare, DogStar, Fostering Compassion, the Bear Care Group, Dog's Trust, and The Winton Foundation for the Welfare of Bears, often giving her specialist veterinary expertise in bear and zoo animal medicine and welfare for free.

If this was not enough, Heather is also a Defra-certified zoo animal welfare inspector, and has worked closely with the charity Animals Asia for many years both as their previous veterinary director, and more recently to deliver collaborative veterinary and zoo animal welfare education in Asia.

We are delighted with this recognition of her achievements from her Majesty.



Wild Welfare Online Course

The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education, in collaboration with Wild Welfare, has developed a suite of free digital education resources.

Wild Welfare's digital education programme provides accessible and engaging opportunities for animal care principles to be learned and understood. Learners will be upskilled in the essential components of animal care and management, which in turn can help improve welfare standards for animals. The online learning is designed primarily for wild animal care staff who may not have had previous opportunities to learn about animal welfare concepts and husbandry practices. A

knowledge and skills gap within animal care staff is a primary issue that, if addressed, can help improve welfare standards for animals under human care around the world. There are eight modules and each module has a learning document and an interactive quiz, with questions and activities to encourage knowledge retention and inspire learning. The programme is fully accessible from a computer or mobile device.

The Programme is endorsed by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA):

"WAZA is proud to endorse the Wild Welfare E-learning Programme. The Programme will play a valuable role in helping to improve standards of animal welfare in institutions around the world through easily accessible and engaging learning."

To access the course:

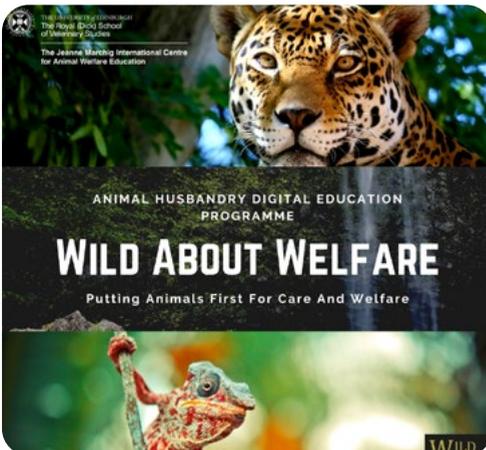


wildwelfare.org/resources-elearn-programme

To find out more about JMICAWE's online courses and resources



www.ed.ac.uk/vet/jeanne-marchig-centre/cpd





Our recent Publications and achievements

Corbani, T, Martin, JE, and Healy, S (2021). The impact of acute loud noise on the behaviour of laboratory birds. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 7, e607632. DOI: [10.3389/fvets.2020.607632](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2020.607632)

Gladden, N, Ellis, K, Martin, JE, Viora, L, and McKeegan, DEF, (2021). Administration of ketoprofen affects postpartum lying behaviours of Holstein dairy cows regardless of whether parturition is assisted. *Veterinary Record*. e300. DOI: [10.1002/vetr.300](https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.300)

Machadoa, NAF, Martin, JE, Barbosa-Filho, JAD, Diasb, CTS, Pinheiroa, DG, de Oliveira, KPL and Souza-Juniord, JBF, (2021). Heat zones in the loam and their relation to the heat stress of piglets during transport in tropical climate. *Journal of Thermal Biology*, 97, 102882. DOI: [10.1016/j.jtherbio.2021.102882](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtherbio.2021.102882)

Pearson, G, Waran, N, Reardon, R, Keen, J, Dwyer CM, (2021) A Delphi study to determine expert consensus on the evaluation of the equine stress response. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 237, e105291

Van Dyke, R, Miele, A, Connor, M, (2021) An Investigation into the Perceptions of Veterinarians towards Calf Welfare in New Zealand. *Animals* 2021, 11(2), 421; doi.org/10.3390/ani11020421

JMICAWE-associated PhD student, Syamira Zaini, has successfully defended her PhD thesis considering the human behaviour change approaches to improving the welfare of cats in the veterinary clinic. Syamira is currently working in Malaysia and hoping to continue to work to improve cat welfare. Many congratulations to Syamira on her success!

Interview with Dr Kevin McPeake



This year the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies welcomed Dr Kevin McPeake on board as a Lecturer in Clinical Animal Behaviour. As he will be working closely with JMICAWE we thought it was good to get to know him a bit more!

How did you get into this profession? What drew you to it?

I cannot remember a time where I wanted to be anything other than a vet and luckily I was able to pursue this! However it was not until I was a vet working in my first role in small animal practice in Norwich that I became interested in behaviour. At that time, I felt ill-equipped to help these clients and patients that displayed problem behaviours, which resulted in me furthering my own knowledge of clinical animal behaviour and ultimately, specialising in this discipline.

What made you want to come join the R(D)SVS team?

The R(D)SVS is world leading, so I was very excited when the opportunity arose to join the team. My role is varied encompassing all my interests including teaching, clinical work and research, therefore I see R(D)SVS as the perfect place for the next stage of my career.

What do you want to achieve in your new role?

I am interested in developing the delivery of behavioural medicine into veterinary undergraduate teaching. My behaviour clinic is just in the process of being launched within the Hospital for Small Animals – the clinic will bring huge benefit to the clinical teaching on both the online MSc Clinical Animal Behaviour, and to undergraduate vet students in the future. I am particularly excited about advancing the field of clinical animal behaviour through collaborating with specialists in other disciplines within the Hospital for Small Animals.

In your career, what is one of the best achievements you have accomplished?

Over the period of a few short months from the end of 2020, I submitted my PhD (and thankfully passed my viva), and passed my board exams to become a European Specialist in Veterinary

Behaviour Medicine. 2020 was a tough year for many reasons, and I deem these accomplishments my biggest achievements to date!

What is something you would like to see happen in the future of animal welfare?

My main focus is in that of our companion animal species, especially in the assessment and treatment of problem behaviours. Medical problems, particularly those resulting in pain, can commonly cause or exacerbate problem behaviours. However, often these are overlooked, and the resulting undiagnosed and untreated pain has an enormous negative impact on animal welfare. In the future, I hope that the veterinary profession can lead the way in being the first port of call for animals whose owners have concerns about their behaviour, so medical problems can be considered and ruled out.

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