



Animal Welfare News

Update from Director, Professor Cathy Dwyer



I hope you find our Newsletter interesting and informative. For more details on these and our many other projects please follow us on Twitter, Facebook or by signing up to our blog.

BSAVA Congress & Awards

Heather Bacon & Hayley Walters have been working hard over the past year to organise the first ever BSAVA session on behaviour welfare and ethics at Congress. Both presented three times each on Friday 7th April, during sessions targeted at Vet nurses, but Vets could, and did attend - every presentation was a sell-out!



The whole week of BSAVA Congress was a resounding success, and particular mention should be made of Heather being awarded The J.A. Wight Memorial Award, sponsored by Blue

Cross. This award is presented annually to a veterinary surgeon who has made an outstanding contribution to the welfare of companion animals. Our sincere congratulations go to Heather.

University of Bogor, Java, Indonesia

In February, Jess & Heather delivered a 1-day seminar on Clinical animal behaviour, handling and pain management at The University of Bogor Vet school. The seminar, coordinated by Dr Ligaya at Bogor, was attended by 80 veterinary and paraveterinary students and live-streamed to an additional 50 veterinary practitioners. Dr Ligaya said "Animal welfare and behaviour is of increasing importance to vets in Indonesia, and this subject is very important for improving animal welfare in the clinical environment." The JMICAWE hopes to build on this successful seminar to partner with the University of Bogor to further develop their veterinary curriculum in the areas of animal behaviour, welfare and veterinary ethics.

Wild Welfare & PKBSI, Sumatra, Indonesia

Heather and Jess travelled to Lampung in Sumatra to meet up with Wild Welfare. Together they collaborated with the Indonesian zoo association, PKBSI, to hold a 3 day workshop on zoo animal health and welfare. Attended by around 40 participants from zoos across Indonesia, the workshop highlighted the importance of good animal welfare in achieving good animal health, focussing on behavioural management and preventative care. The workshop also highlighted the work of Wild Welfare and PKBSI in developing a welfare certification scheme for zoos in Indonesia, and offered participants practical guidance on achieving improved welfare for zoo animals.



Saving Vietnam's Wildlife

Heather and Jess visited Vietnam to meet the team at Save Vietnam's Wildlife in Cuc Phuong National Park where they spent 4 days exchanging knowledge of endangered carnivore veterinary care and management.



A Sonosite Titan ultrasound machine, two probes, an intravenous fluid pump and refractometer had been donated and were presented to the SVW team. This equipment will provide essential support in safeguarding the health

and welfare of the pangolin – the world's most trafficked mammal - as well as other critically endangered carnivores such as Owston's civet, and more common carnivores including Asian short-clawed otters, binturong and leopard cats.

Over the course of the visit Heather and Jess delivered training in anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging and surgical techniques, and in return were keen to learn from the experienced team at SVW about the health and husbandry of captive pangolins and other small carnivores.

University of Los Banos, Philippines

Prof Cathy Dwyer & colleagues Dr Fritha Langford & Prof Marie Haskell visited the Philippines to present a 2-day workshop on "Using Animal Behaviour to Improve Animal Welfare" at University of the Philippines' Los Banos (UPLB) Campus to students, faculty and Deans of 10 Veterinary Colleges across the Philippines.

It was a return visit for Cathy who visited the Vet School with Jess Davies in 2018. Our thanks to Dean Torres (centre of group below) for co-ordinating this visit.



India

Cathy travelled to India where she presented in an animal welfare symposium organised by Dr Abdul Rahman at the Bangalore Veterinary College, as part of the 7th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, now in its 52nd year. The College is setting up its very own Animal Welfare Research Centre, so an entire day of the conference was devoted to animal behaviour and welfare, and discussions relating to the functioning of the Centre. JMICAWE will be helping with capacity building for staff and students to help make the Centre a success story for Indian animal welfare. Bangalore will also be hosting the 54th International Society for Applied Ethology Congress in 2020 with the support of JMICAWE.



Cathy spent a day at the Bhannergatta Bear Rescue Centre seeing the work done by Wildlife SOS in rehabilitating ex-dancing bears. Cathy was greatly moved by the kindness and care of the staff, and their wonderful approach to practical animal welfare.

Cathy ended her trip with a visit to Delhi, spending a day at the Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS) to discuss opportunities to support development of courses at the National Institute for Animal Welfare, particularly focusing initially on teaching animal welfare and related skills to para-vets. Finally she visited the Indira Gandhi National Open University, where JMICAWE and SRUC colleagues are contributing to the development of a post graduate diploma in animal welfare, to be launched later this year.

Training in Farm Animal Welfare in China

We are delighted that the Open Philanthropy Project has agreed further funding in support of our work in China in providing training in farm animal welfare. This will continue to support our PhD student, Steph Easton, in evaluating the impact of different training methods, and will allow us to deliver further training in various aspect of pig welfare. We will also recruit a second China-based PhD student to support this work later in the year. We are planning to be in China in the autumn to meet with collaborators, and to deliver workshops in farm animal welfare.

Prioritisation of UK animal welfare issues research project

The full report on this research project was delivered to the Animal Welfare Foundation of the BVA earlier this year, and its main findings will be presented in scientific papers shortly. Cathy presented some of the findings at the BSAS Conference in Edinburgh in April, and is scheduled to present again at the AWF Forum in London on 5th June, and the UFAW conference in Bruges in July. Our thanks to Dr Fiona Lang for all her work on this project.

<https://bsas.org.uk/BSAS2019/bsas-2019-invited-speakers>
<https://www.ufaw.org.uk/ufaw-events/advancing-animal-welfare-science>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/jeanne-marchig-centre/activities/delphi>



News in Brief

- ❖ Temple Grandin returns to Dick Vet on 16th May for a student-led afternoon of talks & interviews on animal welfare.
- ❖ Visiting academic Dr Susan Hazel of University of Adelaide is the invited speaker at a Human Behaviour Change Seminar to be held on 1st May
- ❖ Our online and on campus MSc courses in animal welfare continue to be popular with a wide range of participants, and have attracted scholarship funding to support some overseas students.
- ❖ The success of MOOCs continues <https://www.coursera.org/>
- ❖ The past few months have seen several visiting experts including Helen Spence to speak to our final year UG students.
- ❖ The 3rd student-led Veterinary Ethics Conference will be held 28 & 29 September 2019, with the support of JMICAWE.
- ❖ Our 5 PhD students are all working hard, and have presented their work at various conferences throughout the year.

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