

THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES



THE JEANNE MARCHIG INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION

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ANIMAL WELFARE NEWS

ANIMAL WELFARE ONLINE COURSE A HUGE SUCCESS



In the summer we launched our free MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). It was a huge success with around 33,500 people signed up from more than 160 countries – with 20% of these described as developing economies. The level of engagement was superb, involving

people as wide ranging as the CEO's of NGO's, policy advisors, veterinarians from all over the world and students of all ages and backgrounds.

Running for 5 weeks, it included documentary style videos, interactive packages, learning resources and quizzes and could be accessed on computers, smart phones and iPads. A range of people signed up and then dipped in and out when they had time over the 5 weeks. On line discussion forums were buzzing with lively discussion and people debating topics. We had great engagement and people.

Our MOOC will run again in 2015. This time we will have both Mandarin and Spanish options available too. Remember the course is free, so why not sign up? Our aim is to provide credible information about what animal welfare is, why it matters, how it is measured and also to discuss the main issues faced by animals all over the world.

Find out more at: www.coursera.org/course/animal or you can contact us using the details at the end of this newsletter.

JMICAWE SUPPORTS ONLINE LEARNING COURSES THROUGH WAP'S ANIMAL MOSAIC FOR ASIAN VETERINARIANS

JMICAWE is delighted to be cooperating with World Animal Protection (WAP) to support the delivery of a Continuing Education Post-Graduate Online course for helping with capacity building veterinarians in Asia with respect to animal welfare science.

This year, WAP is hosting an online course focused on the understanding of the basic concepts behind animal welfare science, ethics and law, and how these are relevant to veterinarians in Asia. It also looks at how to assess animal welfare and involves a hands-on workshop. Find out more about this exciting new course at www.animalmosaic.org/education/onlinecourses/

PRESTIGIOUS WELFARE AWARD GOES TO JMICAWE TEAM MEMBER HAYLEY WALTERS

In June it was announced that Veterinary Nurse Hayley Walters had won the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Golden Jubilee Award, in honour of her exceptional contribution to her profession. Hayley travelled to London to collect her award at the college's Annual General Meeting and Awards Day on the 11th July.

The Dick Vet and JMICAWE were very proud with her award, in recognition of her exceptional contribution to her profession. Created in 2011, she is only the 3rd person to receive it.



I'm thrilled to receive the award and hope it will raise awareness of the importance of veterinary nurses in improving animal welfare not just in practice but internationally as well.

Hayley Walters



Hayley Walters and VN Council Chairman Kathy Kissik
(Photograph courtesy of Ian Holloway, RCVS)

EXCITING WORK WITH IFAW CPD COURSE

JMICAWE has been collaborating with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in developing a Continuing Professional Development Course specifically designed for their staff all around the world. IFAW are very excited about the course, which the JMICAWE team have been helping to develop since January and will be rolled out over the next few months.

'IFAW Animal Welfare Science, Conservation and Ethics' course is particularly tailored to meet IFAW objectives. A key aim of the programme is to enable IFAW staff to access information showing how an evidence based approach to discussing issues related to welfare and conservation can be used to develop effective, credible policy, practice and advocacy.



At IFAW, we work hard to ensure our materials are evidence based and the Edinburgh University JMICAWE team has helped to create a Professional Development Animal Welfare Programme that will assist our staff in understanding different approaches and attitudes to animal welfare and the need to base information on scientific assessments within an ethical decision making framework.

Cindy Milburn
Director of Animal Welfare Outreach and Education, IFAW

IMPROVING DOG WELFARE THROUGH RESEARCH

Dog overpopulation is a significant issue in some countries, leading to bites, infectious disease and conflict with humans. Trap-neuter-return or TNR is advocated by both animal welfare groups and the OIE as a useful tool in controlling dog populations – however what is the experience of the dog? Could TNR programmes sometimes be creating welfare problems by focussing on the population rather than the individual?

These are all questions that we wanted to answer as part of JMICAWE's Dogs Trust funded research project – after all, 'What we can measure, we can manage' and if we can identify key problem areas in TNR programmes, those problems can then be fixed.

With this in mind Heather Bacon and Hayley Walters from the JMICAWE team travelled to Botswana to develop and refine an evaluation scheme to assess the welfare of individual dogs within a TNR programme. The programme that was selected was that run by the Maun Animal Welfare Society in Botswana, a project with an excellent reputation. We knew it would be well run, and we wanted to validate the criteria we had selected for assessment to see if they would be practical in an established project setting.

The trip was extremely useful in highlighting which welfare measures could be applied in a TNR setting and which could not, and the healthy, much-loved dogs in Maun are a testament to the hard work of MAWS in running the project.

We're now in the process of refining our welfare assessment for dogs in TNR and will be validating this later on in the year in India.



KC - the fantastic veterinary assistant at MAWS

A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR AND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND CONTINUING MSc STUDENTS

We are delighted to welcome 38 new students from 13 different countries (spread across all 6 habitable continents) who have enrolled on our online Masters in International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law this year. This brings us to over 100 students currently studying with IAWEL. We officially started on 15th Sept following a very successful induction week for new starters with 5 live sessions for the new students to start to interact with staff and their fellow students.

Meanwhile our on-campus MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare students are also enjoying the new term after a successful induction day welcoming over 35 eager students. The JMICAWE team wish both our online and on-campus students the very best for the new academic term and we very much look forward to working with them over the coming year.

WORLD ANIMAL WELFARE'S KEY DRIVERS IN ASIA ANNUAL MEETING

As part of a JMICAWE collaboration with the World Animal Protection group working in Asia, our team member Dr Jill MacKay visited Taiwan in August as our representative to take part in World Animal Welfare's Key Drivers in Asia annual meeting. WAP brought together several important researchers and veterinarians throughout Asia to act as 'Key Drivers', promoting animal welfare and animal welfare education in veterinary schools and agricultural colleges throughout the continent. Her role as an invited speaker enabled her to discuss her work with JMICAWE and SRUC in production animal welfare assessment and how we utilise online environments in teaching and advocacy. The meeting also incorporating practical visits to two dog shelters and a zoo to give the key drivers some experience with animal welfare assessment in a practical setting.



I was amazed at the amount of progress each key driver had made since last year. Animal welfare needs this passion and drive to move forwards internationally and I'm very proud to have been a part of that.

Jill MacKay



NEWS IN BRIEF ...

- JMICAWE is delighted that a further resource has now arrived to complete the R(D)SVS equine simulator model. The reproductive tract will allow students to palpate a normal reproductive tract and ovaries at different stages of the reproductive cycle gaining valuable clinical skills.
- In July, JMICAWE Director Nat Waran attended the 7th International Colloquium on working Equids as a guest of the Brooke, where presentations and discussions took place about how we can raise the awareness of the link between improving equine welfare and human wellbeing. See Tweet #workingequines
- In May JMICAWE team and colleagues from the Vet School, Roslin Institute and SRUC were delighted to welcome visitors from India for a tour of the school and facilities. Our guests included officials and senior staff from the Indian Government and Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU). Visiting as part of the Edinburgh-India Inaugural Conference organised by the Edinburgh-India Office, it heralded a successful and impressive event and generated many ideas for next steps in capacity building around research skills and education for vets in Kerala and Karnataka.
- Last month JMICAWE Director Prof Nat Waran was delighted to meet renowned businessman and philanthropist Bill Gates when he visited Easter Bush in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The organisation has a strategic focus on agricultural development and research to improve farming productivity in a sustainable way.

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