



Animal Welfare News

Memorandum of Understanding Signed in India Alongside Ongoing Collaborations



The last six months have seen a vast amount of ongoing work between the JMICAWE team, R(D)SVS and various organisations in India. Director Prof Nat Waran and the team have continued to work with the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University, and recently delivered workshops on the development of 'best practice' for high welfare within the veterinary clinics. They also helped deliver workshops on wildlife welfare and conservation alongside the Edinburgh University Conservation Medicine team.

Whilst there, Prof Nat Waran met with Indian Government Minister Maneka Gandhi, who was instrumental in creating India's Animal Welfare Ministry and who is passionate about raising animal welfare standards in India. Discussions between Prof Waran and Mrs Gandhi covered a variety of topics, including the importance of international collaborations for helping with capacity building and empowering the veterinary profession in India with the skills and knowledge to advocate for animal welfare.

Collaborating With The Indian Council Of Agricultural Research (ICAR) International For A Two Day Workshop

We are delighted to have been able to collaborate with ICAR in running an international workshop at the ICAR headquarters in Delhi in February this year. The meeting, which was jointly held between the University of Edinburgh's RDSVS and Roslin Institute and India's Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) enabled us to have positive discussions and to develop collaborative research and education opportunities with the aim of improved animal production, health and welfare. It was extremely heartening to see just how committed the ICAR Director, Professor Ayyappan, was to helping to mainstream Animal Welfare within the production animal research programmes. The workshop culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ICAR and the University of Edinburgh in order to cement what we hope will be a long and fruitful relationship.

JMICAWE Assist in Training Vets in Europe

At the end of March this year, JMICAWE's Heather Bacon attended the 9th regional workshop on animal welfare for veterinary practitioners, held in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. She was invited to present on European wild animals in captivity and the welfare of captive wildlife.

The event, which is one of a number of initiatives held by the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers in conjunction with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and the Union of Veterinarians in Bulgaria, aims to provide European vets with a deeper understanding of animal welfare issues, following on from a similar event held in Poland last year.

Improving the Welfare of Street Dogs – Launch of the ICAM 'Are We Making A Difference' Resource

The second international conference on Dog Population Management was held at the beginning of March in Istanbul by the International Companion Animal Management Coalition. Heather and two of our online MSc Animal Welfare students, Lindsay and Barbara, attended and presented at the conference. With high numbers of stray or street dogs becoming an increasingly global concern in terms of environmental and zoonotic disease issues, as well as dog welfare, evidence-based approaches to dog management are an essential new area of research. This was the subject of the presentation given by Heather on the work the JMICAWE team have been engaged with through out the last year. Sponsored by the Dogs Trust we have been developing and then testing welfare indicators using a scientific approach, to enable TNR (Trap- Neuter – Return) programmes to be sure that the individual welfare of dogs going through a TNR programme is not compromised.



Another outcome at the conference was the launch of a new guide to assess the success and impact of dog population management interventions, authored by Dr Elly Hiby. This substantial and much needed resource, produced with input from the JMICAWE and colleagues at SRuC, was enthusiastically received by the Animal Welfare NGOs at the meeting. The comprehensive document evaluates success in terms of dog population measurements, dog welfare and human-animal relationships. ICAM have also created a tool to help people navigate the document and create their own tailored version – see the ICAM website for more information.

Street Dog Film

Alongside the research work, the team has produced a short film entitled 'Street Dog' which looks at the welfare of dogs involved in Trap-Neuter-Return programmes. It can be viewed on YouTube via this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-UEb9K0gpE

Equine Farriery Buddy Enhancing Equine Welfare

As leaders in the field of equine welfare, JMICAWE were delighted to help fund the 'Blacksmith Buddy' in veterinary student practical farrier classes. The Buddy was developed by a Farrier to help train others in their profession for preparing the hoof, shoeing and removing shoes from horses without having to use a live animal in their early training. This is also an important learning tool for our students, as many practicing vets will come across lame horses that need shoes removed – frequently in an emergency. By providing the Blacksmith Buddy, JMICAWE can ensure improved welfare of horses as students can use this important resource to learn the correct positioning of the horses leg for shoe removal and applying nerve blocks.



"Just wanted to say I found that practical class and especially the blacksmith buddy very useful, especially as a non-horsey student who is actually petrified of horses!" – R(D)SVS Student

MSC in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare Students Sharing Their Knowledge Worldwide

Our on campus, MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare students of 2014-15 have now completed the taught element of the programme. We've had a great year so far with trips to the Highland Wildlife Park, farms (dairy, beef, pigs, sheep) as well as handling sessions with horses, visits to labs and slaughterhouses, and a research project at Edinburgh Zoo. The students are now off to carry out their Dissertation projects all over the world (USA, Canada, Switzerland, Indonesia, UK, Ireland) and we're looking forward to seeing their dissertations in August. With over 30 students carrying out a project each – that's a lot of knowledge that will be generated within Animal Welfare Science!

We'd also like to congratulate one of our 2013/14 graduates, Marie Knauer, for securing an internship in Hamburg with FOUR PAWS in their campaign department. FOUR PAWS is an international animal welfare organisation focussing particularly on bears and big cats. We wish her all the best in her future career.



Developing Veterinary Nurse Training In Kerala

We are pleased to announce that in November 2015, members of the team will be accompanying 8 veterinary nurse students from Edinburgh Napier University to Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in India to deliver a collaborative vet nurse training workshop. In order to be accepted on to the trip, the students have

had to submit applications and attend interviews. More about this in the next newsletter.

Second Free Animal Behaviour And Welfare MOOC Launched

The second running of our incredibly popular 'MOOC' (Massive Open Online Course) in Animal Behaviour and Welfare began on Monday 9th February. We have added an extra week, to include information and discussion on animal slaughter and welfare issues/research as well as the use of animals in research. During the course of the 6 week period, attendees were provided with a real world view of animal welfare as well as information about the research that is being carried out to help improve animal welfare. The MOOC comprised of short videos, interactive sessions and discussion boards on topics ranging from; why animal welfare matters from a global perspective; how science can help to advance animal welfare; why animal feelings are central to animal welfare; the truth about dogs and cats; the ethics and welfare of keeping animals in zoos and how we can deal with farm animal welfare problems.

Hayley Pulls It Off – A Second Nomination For JMICAWE's Welfare Veterinary Nurse

In July last year, Hayley Walters was awarded the prestigious Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Golden Jubilee Award in honour of her outstanding contribution to the improvement of animal welfare in the veterinary nurse profession. She was thrilled to learn that she has been nominated again; this time for CEVA Welfare Nurse of the Year. A team from CEVA visited JMICAWE to film a short clip about Hayley and her work both domestically and internationally involving the improvement of animal welfare, including her work as an anaesthesia nurse here in Edinburgh and her work abroad teaching students how to use manikins instead of live animals to practice their veterinary clinical skills. The winner of the award will be announced in a ceremony at the beginning of April – we wish Hayley the best of luck!



News in Brief ...

- ❖ JMICAWE Director Prof Nat Waran gave one of the presentations in the World Veterinary Association's Second Global Webinar in December. The presentation looked at the use of the MOOC for assisting veterinary education and training.
- ❖ March has seen the JMICAWE team run the Animal Behaviour and Welfare elective for final year Vet Students for a second time. The three week course included both classroom and practical study of animals in all types of situations including research animal welfare, welfare on the farm and shelter dog and cat welfare. We had a great response from the students.
- ❖ Student vets at the R(D)SVS attended a one day workshop at the end of last year on Animal Advocacy led by Titus Alexander, whose international work when working with World Animal Protection, focused on veterinary education in animal welfare.

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