



ISSUE 11 – Summer 2018

## Animal Welfare News

### Update from Director, Professor Cathy Dwyer

It has been another very busy year for JMICAWE, with the addition of two new members to the team: Dr Fiona Lang is working on a project to develop a prioritisation of welfare issues in the UK; and Jess Davies adds additional vet nursing expertise to the Centre. Jess originally joined us as maternity cover for Hayley Walters, but we are delighted that Jess will stay with us into the future. Other great news this year is the very well deserved award of an MBE to Hayley. The award recognises Hayley's significant contribution, and that of all vet nurses, in delivering animal welfare improvements. We have also launched a dog welfare assessment app in May, which has already been taken up by a number of centres to allow them to track the welfare of dogs going through their neutering programmes.

For more detail on these and our many other projects, I hope that you find our Newsletter interesting and informative. As ever we are always keen to hear your feedback and to address any queries.

### JMICAWE vet nurse receives MBE in The Queen's New Year Honours List



Congratulations to Hayley Walters who has been awarded an MBE in recognition of her outstanding contribution to improving animal health and welfare in developing countries through education, charity work and research.

Recently back from maternity leave, her son Cameron having arrived last July, Hayley is now working remotely, initially on a part-time basis.

### Project Updates

#### Dog Welfare Assessment App

JMICAWE launched the **Dog Welfare Assessment app** (Android and iOS) in May 2018. The app will enable dog handlers and veterinary medical staff to capture data on the various stages of the spay-neuter-return process and it will generate a scorecard which will provide links to resources and guidance on our website, so that corrective action can be taken to ensure that dog welfare is as positive as it can be. Whilst recognising that managing dog populations requires a high number of dogs to be spayed/neutered, it is important that the



welfare of individual dogs is not lost during this process. The app enables organisations to benchmark dog welfare and the data collected can provide useful evidence for the quality of the dog's experience.

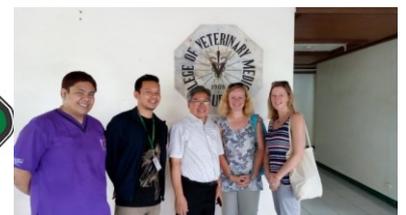
The app has been featured in the [Vet Times](#) (April 2018) and the [Vet Record](#) (June 2018). Dog welfare guidelines, resources, and details of how to download the new FREE dog welfare assessment app: <http://edin.ac/dog-welfare>

### Training in Farm Animal Welfare in China

JMICAWE is continuing its work, funded by the Open Philanthropy Project, to develop training materials in farm animal welfare for farmers, veterinarians and technicians in China. The project aims to develop effective and practical methods to deliver education on animal welfare and to overcome barriers to the implementation of animal welfare improvements. This project is being delivered in collaboration with farm animal welfare specialists from SRUC; and PhD student, Stephanie Easton, is evaluating the effectiveness of different educational methods. We are collaborating in China with the International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW), the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), and Shandong University in delivering this project. A series of collaborative workshops and seminars were delivered in Beijing, Chongqing and Tai'an in May to more than 100 participants. Evaluation of the effectiveness of these workshops is currently underway.

### Animal Welfare Science Workshop - Philippines

JMICAWE's Cathy Dwyer, Heather Bacon & Jess Davies delivered a two-day workshop on Animal Welfare Science for Veterinarians, in collaboration with the Philippines Veterinary Medical Association, in Manila in February to about 40 participants. The workshop included presentations on farm animal welfare, dog population management and ethics, as well as practical sessions using models and manikins to teach clinical skills. Feedback was very positive and a second workshop is planned for February 2019.



Heather then attended the WSAVA Conference, whilst Cathy & Jess visited Cavite State University's veterinary faculty in Los Banos.

## Delphi Project

Dr Fiona Lang has been making great progress on a project (funded by the Animal Welfare Foundation of British Veterinary Association) to conduct a Delphi study, which aims to create an overall ranking of welfare issues for managed animals in the UK. Fiona has recruited over 150 experts in animal welfare to help rank priority welfare issues of 10 different species groups. An in-person workshop is planned for early September where the final lists will be decided upon.

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

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## Improving Veterinary skills, knowledge and attitudes towards dogs in South Asia

Funded by the Dogs Trust, and working in collaboration with Sri Lankan NGO Dogstar Foundation, Heather is leading a project to improve veterinary knowledge and skills in order to optimise their Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return service.

Additionally CPD training on rabies management, behaviour & handling, & surgical skills was delivered to government vets in conjunction with Dogstar Foundation in Sri Lanka.



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In conjunction with the Dogs Trust project, three representatives from KVASU, Kerala and the University of Peradeniya, Kandy spent a fortnight in Edinburgh in June/July discussing international veterinary education. They spent the first week in lectures and the clinical skills lab, and the next 5 days shadowing clinics in the Hospital for Small Animals, and also the Equine and Farm units. The feedback from our visitors was hugely positive and there will be a follow-up visit to Sri Lanka and India in the Autumn.



## Implementing a veterinary nurse (VN) training programme in India & Sri Lanka

JMICAWE's Cathy Dwyer, Heather Bacon & Jess Davies returned to both countries in February to evaluate progress at KVASU, Kerala and University of Peradeniya, Kandy. Heather provides this update on the project:-

"I am delighted to report that our previous trips have already resulted in measurable changes in the management of animals at both hospitals. Inpatient dogs are now being given walks every day to toilet; access to water is available 24 hours a day; a separate cat ward has been instigated with spacious cages for feline patients; and cleaning protocols are now in place in inpatient and outpatient areas. These small but significant changes make a huge difference to the experience of the animal when it is hospitalised and the introduction of a veterinary nurse training course would further improve patient care.

A 12-stage plan is now in place to ensure that the implementation of the training programme goes smoothly and all parties (teaching staff, students, vets in practice, veterinary councils) are happy with the curriculum and final outcome."



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### News in Brief

- ❖ Julie Dixon has recently completed her PhD (funded by JMICAWE) – congratulations to her
- ❖ Heather has been appointed as a DEFRA zoo inspector and will be involved in updating the SSSMZP that underpins the licensing of zoos in the UK
- ❖ WSAVA Global guidelines on animal welfare finalised
- ❖ Our online and on campus MSc courses continue to be popular with a wide range of participants.
- ❖ The success of our MOOCs continues <https://www.coursera.org/>
- ❖ The past year has seen visiting experts including Barry Kipperman, Kevin McPeake, Linda Ryan of Inspiring Pets & Al Bunyan of Dogs Trust. Temple Grandin returns to Edinburgh in May 2019.
- ❖ Dr Louise Buckley has recently joined the team as Programme Co-ordinator for the online MSc in Clinical Animal Behaviour. Numbers on this MSc are increasing year-on-year – 50 students are set to start this September, compared to 39 last year.
- ❖ Our PhD students are working hard – in addition to Gemma Pearson & Syamira Zaini, we now have a further 3 PhD students: Marie Rowland, Stephanie Easton & Wendy Watson.

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