



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.

We are delighted to share our recent activities with you in our first newsletter of 2023. As you will see, with the lifting of pandemic restrictions on travel, we have been able to get out and about a little more at last, after three years of time spent largely working from home or staying in Edinburgh.

Dr Rebecca Doyle was able to travel to visit her collaborators in East Africa, and I have just returned from a trip to Asia. We have used our time at home to create online resources and our collaboration with Wild Welfare has been really productive, now available in three languages and reaching learners in 42 countries.

We have also worked with University of Queensland to create a package of learning materials in Animal Welfare focusing on Chinese learners. Our previous work to develop written learning materials for our collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi also continues to recruit many students and is having an impact on understanding of animal welfare across India.

Finally, we would like to wish our readers: Gong Hei Fa Choi (恭喜发财) for the New Lunar Year of the Rabbit 2023!

Prof Cathy Dwyer
Director of JMICAWE

Recent Activities

Oct 2022: World Animal Day: JMICAWE and SRUC hosted an in-person event for World Animal Day in October. The event addressed three important 2022 milestones in animal welfare:

- 200 years since the world's first piece of animal welfare legislation in the UK
- 100 years since the first female vet was recognised by the RCVS

- 100 years since the birth of David Wood-Gush, one of the pioneers of animal welfare research and teaching.

The event included presentations from Alistair Lawrence, Ruth Newberry (both students of Wood-Gush), and Dr Andrew Gardiner (Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies), an expert on veterinary history.

Oct 2022: Prof Cathy Dwyer delivered a recorded presentation at the 4th China Animal Welfare Conference on international perspectives of companion animal welfare, drawing on the expertise within the

JMICAWE team. This was delivered as part of our ongoing collaboration with Animals Asia, where JMICAWE has just signed an MOU to work together to develop teaching materials for a Chinese veterinary audience.

Oct 2022: Dr Rebecca Doyle travelled to Ethiopia to work with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) team on a project researching animal welfare and agroforestry across the country. The project, funded by Biovision, works with smallholder farmers and local support services to diversify their farming opportunities, and build their capacity to improve the welfare of their animals. Since visiting, the ILRI team conducted comprehensive training on animal welfare and agroforestry to local communities in Humbo and Meki districts.



Oct-Nov 2022: Dr Rebecca Doyle presented at the Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) in Botswana with her ILRI colleague Gezahegn Alemayehu to share the results of a recent publication on animal welfare knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) amongst Ethiopian farmers. The session 'Goals, needs and commitments for animal welfare in Africa in

the SDG context' was also co-organised by JMICAWE, alongside FAO, 4PAWS, and ILRI, and included a presentation from Dr Yilkal Kebede, the Ethiopian Director from the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for animal welfare and livestock traceability.



Recent Activities

Nov 2022: JMICAWE hosted two scientists from the Bangalore vet school, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Science University, for two weeks of training in animal welfare research. Dr Vivek Patil and Dr Mahadavappa Gouri spent their visit learning about the different research approaches that are used in animal behaviour and welfare

research in Edinburgh, and will be using their training to benefit graduate students in the new Animal Welfare Research Centre they are developing in Bangalore with support from the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the Open Philanthropy Project.

Nov 2022: Our new course: Animal Welfare Online in China went live. This project, led by Dr Miguel Somarriba Soley for JMICAWE, was developed in collaboration with University of Queensland, International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW) and external collaborators. The free online course is taught entirely in Mandarin and is developed specifically for a Chinese audience. The aim of the

course is that students become able to understand animal welfare scientifically and assess welfare using evidence-based indicators. It includes information on production animals, companion animals and laboratory animal welfare. If you want to know more about the course please email info@animalwelfarestandards.org, (Please specify: Animal Welfare Online in China Course Registration)

Dec 2022: Dr Yuki Otani gave a presentation on animal welfare science to vets and keepers at Noboribetsu Bear Park and Noboribetsu Marine Park Nixe, in Japan in collaboration with Wild Welfare.



Jan 2023: Prof Cathy Dwyer travelled to Singapore, Malaysia and India to meet with and discuss animal welfare with prospective veterinary students. She also met with a previous PhD student, Dr Nur Nadiah Yusof, who is now developing animal welfare science research projects with her students at her university in Malaysia. Prof Dwyer finished the trip at the Bangalore Vet School where she gave a presentation



on Developments, Challenges and Opportunities in Animal Welfare Research at a workshop on animal welfare hosted by the Asia regional meeting of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. She also moderated a discussion on animal welfare issues in India with students and government vets, and led a research discussion for graduate students interested in conducting research in animal welfare science.

Student Updates

Ellie Wilcox, an MSc Applied Animal Behaviour And Welfare student, won the UFAW Animal Welfare Student Scholarship and presented at the UFAW students conference on 14 Dec for her dissertation 'Development of a pinniped cognitive bias test'.

Amy Duley, a graduate of MSc International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law, published her dissertation along with her supervisors titled: 'Irish cattle farmers' experiences and perceptions of negative framing of farm animal welfare in the media'.

Jessica Wilcox, a visiting veterinary undergraduate student from University of Glasgow, spent the summer working with the team focusing on racehorse welfare (Prof Cathy Dwyer, Dr Gemma Pearson, Dr Tamsin Coombs, Dr Marie Rowland, Cynthia Naydani) as part of the Beaufort

Cottage Educational Trust summer scholarship scheme. Jess presented her work on developing an attention bias test at Rossdale's Equine Hospital, Newmarket. The research team are supported by The Horse Trust and Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Team Changes

After 10 years as Director of our flagship online MSc programme in International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law, Dr Fritha Langford has moved on to pastures new and we are happy to welcome **Dr Laura Dixon** into the role. Dr Dixon will be supported by Dr Marie Rowland and the rest of the programme team.

We are also delighted to welcome **Emily Gorman**, a senior critical care veterinary nurse, to the JMICAWE



team for the next 12 months. Emily will be working with the team to help promote our resources, focusing especially on veterinary nursing and welfare in the clinic, and is looking forward to being able to visit some of our partner organisations overseas. We also congratulate **Dr Miguel Somarriba Soley** on his promotion to Deputy Director for our on-campus MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare programme.

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