

# Animal Welfare Science Centre Newsletter

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[www.animalwelfare.net.au](http://www.animalwelfare.net.au)

## South Australian partnership in discussions to join the AWSC

The AWSC Board of Management has invited Livestock Systems Alliance (LSA) to enter into discussions towards joining the AWSC as a full partner.

LSA is a formal alliance between the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences of the University of Adelaide.

AWSC scientists already have strong links with the South Australians especially in the areas of pig and poultry research and it is clear that LSA would bring to the AWSC substantial intellectual and “bricks and mortar” capacity in animal welfare science across a range of species.

Deputy Director of the AWSC, Professor Alan Tilbrook, (Research Chief, Livestock and Farming Systems, SARDI) is leading the discussions for LSA and is excited about the opportunity to strengthen collaboration, “LSA has a significant number of scientists working in the veterinary, animal and social sciences who have strong interests in animal welfare and our strength in areas such as molecular biology will add significantly to the capability of the AWSC to carry out novel animal welfare research” he said.



## Monash University retires from AWSC

A changed environment in research focus at Monash University has led to its recent retirement from the AWSC.

Monash University played a pivotal role in the establishment of the AWSC in 1997 and the School of Psychology and Psychiatry and the Department of Physiology were enthusiastic supporters of the Centre through 15 years of Monash partnership.

Ground-breaking research on the human-animal relationship was made possible by the close collaboration between animal behaviorists, psychologists and physiologists which the Centre engendered. This unique and innovative multidisciplinary research program identified the major human characteristics, such as attitude and behavior, affecting fear responses in farm and companion animals which can seriously limit animal welfare. By demonstrating and understanding the influence of human attitudes and behavior on animals, this research has lead international research and training developments in the area of human-animal relationships.

Whilst the retirement of Monash University from the Centre is regrettable, the AWSC wishes to maintain the strong ties so that further opportunities for collaboration can be explored.

## Melbourne hosts ISAE Regional meeting

The University of Melbourne hosted a recent regional meeting of the International Society for Applied Ethology. Over 60 delegates attended the day's meeting which was convened by Dr Rebecca Doyle from Charles Sturt University. Presentations from the meeting can be accessed by following the link on the AWSC Homepage [www.animalwelfare.net.au](http://www.animalwelfare.net.au)



Rebecca Doyle, Carol Petherick, Kate Littin and Ahmad Tatar

## Mike Rickard awarded Honorary Life Membership of ANZCCART



Prof. Mike Rickard, Chair of the AWSC Board of Management, was recently awarded Honorary Life Membership of The Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching.

Mike joined the Board of ANZCCART in 1995 and served as the CSIRO nominee Board member continuously until he retired from his position at CSIRO and therefore the ANZCCART Board in 2005. During his ten years of service on the ANZCCART Board, Mike served as Chairman for five years, was a member of the Strategy Committee and represented ANZCCART both nationally and internationally with enthusiasm and distinction.

As the CSIRO spokesperson for animal welfare, his association with ANZCCART went back years before his appointment to the Board, when as leader of the CSIRO Animal Welfare Liaison Group, Mike would occasionally meet with the Board to discuss matters of mutual interest.

After he joined the Board and as a member of numerous animal welfare committees and Boards, one of Mike's greatest strengths was his ability to liaise and coordinate the activities of ANZCCART with the many like-minded organizations with whom he was associated. This was an important part of ensuring that ANZCCART remained at the forefront of all issues that fell within the domain of our operations.

Since retiring from CSIRO (and therefore the Board of ANZCCART), Mike continued to work for animal welfare in the research and teaching sector as a member and Deputy Chair of the AAWS Research and Teaching Sectoral Working Group from 2005 to 2011.

Even though Mike has spent much of his working life heavily involved with animal welfare and represented CSIRO and a number of government committees etc., he always ensured that ANZCCART's views and work were given a high profile when he spoke at relevant conferences and meetings, thereby helping to ensure the continued success of ANZCCART.

(courtesy Geoff Dandie, ANZCCART News)

## AAWS 6<sup>th</sup> workshop

Achievement, leadership and facilitating change was the theme for this 3 day workshop and sectorial discussions which was conducted in Canberra in September.

120 participants reviewed current Strategy progress and identified plans, projects and priorities for the future.

A recurrent theme across all sectors was a recognition that operator competency, training and effective communications is essential in efforts to improve animal welfare.

The AAWS Advisory committee released a communiqué which can be accessed by following the links on the AAWS website or clicking [HERE](#)

## Haynes continues shelter research in Ohio



In August this year, following the 2012 ISAE conference in Vienna, PhD student Sally Haynes (University of Melbourne) had the opportunity to travel to Ohio State University, with the aim of expanding her Australian studies on

human-canine relationships in animal shelters. During her time in Ohio Sally met with a number of OSU staff and students, developed a network of contacts and toured various facilities including animal shelters and the OSU Veterinary Medical Centre. Given the large numbers of stray and surrendered animals the US animal shelters often have to contend with, Sally was impressed by the progressive and innovative approach taken by some of the larger shelters. One of the shelters Sally visited showed a particularly strong interest in her research and discussions are currently underway for Sally to return to Ohio to examine the effects of human behaviour on dog behaviour within the animal shelter.

At the invitation of Prof Tina Widowski, Sally then travelled to the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. There she gave a seminar to staff and students from Animal and Poultry Science and Veterinary Medicine on human-companion animal relationships before meeting with a number of post-graduate students to discuss their companion animal focused research projects.

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Sally also visited the poultry research facilities, a local animal shelter and the University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Sally would like to sincerely thank everyone who was so helpful and accommodating during her visit to OSU, in particular, Ann Ottobre, Jeanne Osborne and Debra Gallagher (Animal Sciences) and Linda Lord, Jeanette O'Quinn and PhD student, Judi Stella (Veterinary Medicine). Special thanks must also go to Sara Crawford, who kindly organised accommodation with her very generous parents. Sally gratefully acknowledges the support of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy with her project.



Jeanne Osborne  
lecturing Animals in  
Society students at OSU

**AUSTRALIAN  
ANIMAL  
WELFARE  
STRATEGY**

## AWSC Farewells Judy Nash

Judy Nash has left the AWSC to take up a position as Animal Ethics Administrator at the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne.

Judy graduated in 2004 from the University of Melbourne in Parkville. She has worked as a Research Assistant with the AWSC since 2005. Her attention to detail and willingness to "go the extra mile" was valued at the AWSC and we wish her well in her new position.



## New Students at AWSC



We recently welcomed **Josh Aleri** New PhD Student from Kenya (Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi) will be working on Dairy Health and its Welfare. His research project, (supervised by Andrew Fisher and Michael Pyman) will

involve field work in Australian dairy farms, Laboratory analysis and epidemiological statistical associations. Josh will focus on dairy immunology and welfare to identify tools that assist dairy heifers to cope better during their transition stage.



Jessica Pempek  
with Maurice  
Eastridge on  
graduation  
at OSU

### Jessica Pempek

Jessica completed her MS degree in animal welfare at The Ohio State University in August 2011, with her thesis titled "Effects of Alternative Housing Systems and Feeding Systems on the Behavior and Performance of Dairy Heifer Calves". We're pleased to report that she has returned to OSU in August 2012 to begin a PhD in the welfare of Jersey calves. Her supervisor is Maurice Eastridge and her work is partially funded by the American Jersey Cattle Association.

### Megan Larsen

Megan is undertaking an Honours year at The University of Melbourne under the supervision of Jean-Loup Rault and with the assistance of Sally Sherwen. Her research project will investigate the Effects of Visitor Presence on the Behaviour and Physiology of the Koala.

### Recent refereed journal publications

Hemsworth, P.H., Cronin, G.M., Barnett, J.L., Butler, K.L., Jongman, E.C., Karlen, G.A., Coffey, A., and Arnold, N.A. (2012). Behavioural responses of lambs to plastic clips as an alternative procedure to mulesing. *Australian Veterinary Journal* 90: 373-380.

### Recent refereed conference publications

Cobb, M.; Branson, N.; McGreevy, P. (2012) Advancing the welfare of Australia's iconic working dogs. Poster. Canine Science Forum. July 25-27, Barcelona, Spain.

Muns Vila, R., Farish, M., Rault, J-L. and Hemsworth, P.H. (2012). A positive mindset in the face of stress. Proceedings of 46th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology, 31 July-4 Aug 2012, Vienna, Austria. P26.

Haynes, S.J., Coleman, G.J. and Hemsworth, P.H. (2012). The relationship between human and dog behavior in animal shelters. Proceedings of 46th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology, 31 July-4 Aug 2012, Vienna, Austria. P33.

Webb, C.L. and Hemsworth, P.H. (2012). Effects of citronella and odourless cold airspray on aversion in dogs. Proceedings of 46th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology, 31 July-4 Aug 2012, Vienna, Austria. P88.

Jongman, E., Butler, K., Rice, M. and Hemsworth, P.H. (2012). Early adaption of lambs to a feedlot system. Proceedings of 46th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology, 31 July-4 Aug 2012, Vienna, Austria. P152.

Hemsworth, P.H., Rice, M., Giri, K. and Morrison, R. (2012). Effects of group size and floor space allowance on aggression and stress in grouped sows. Proceedings of 46th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology, 31 July-4 Aug 2012, Vienna, Austria. P154.

Hetti Arachchige, A.D., Jongman, E., Wales, W.J., Fisher, A.D. and Auldist, M.J. (2012). Time budget of dairy cows in feeding systems based on total mixed ration fed in conjunction with reduced grazed pasture. Proceedings of 46th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology, 31 July-4 Aug 2012, Vienna, Austria. P156.

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