



Animal Welfare Science Centre

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Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

10TH SEPTEMBER 2009

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ISAE 2009

The 43rd Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) was recently held in Cairns. Over 170 delegates from around the world were treated to a wide range of scientific papers over 5 days.

The AWSC was well represented, with scientists and students from the Centre presenting, authoring or co-authoring 13 papers and 7 posters.

Of special note were plenary addresses given by Paul Hemsworth which focussed on John Barnett's scientific contribution to animal welfare and by Pauleen Bennett who gave an entertaining presentation which looked at the roles dogs play in human society.

Papers included:

Effect of age on physiology and recovery behaviour of calves transported for 10 hours in individual pens. Lauber, Barnett

The use of anaesthesia and analgesia during dehorning and their effects on the welfare of Bos Indicus cattle. Sinclair, Doogan, Fisher, McGowan, Petherick, Phillips, Prayaga

A novel system to automatically measure behavioural motivation for food in cattle. Ferguson, Niemeyer, Lea, Matthews, Fisher

The effects of group size on nest-box use by Hy-Line Brown laying hens in furnished cages. Cronin, Borg, Barnett

The human-animal relationship in commercial laying hens. Edwards, Coleman, Hemsworth

Do judgement biases and emotional reactivity reflect the mental state of sheep? Doyle, Lee, Fisher, Deiss, Hinch, Boissy

Lying during transport by lambs depends on the duration of pre-transport food and water deprivation as well as the duration of transport itself. Niemeyer, Fisher, Lee, Paull, Lea, Ferguson

Development and validation of the Behavioural Assessment for Re-homing K9's

(B.A.R.K.). Mornement, Bennett, Coleman, Toukhsati

Development of the Canine Five Factor Model of personality (CFFM) and Monash Canine Personality Questionnaire-Revised (MCPQ-R). Ley, Bennett

Enrichment programs and animal welfare: catalyst or catastrophe? Cobb, Lill, Bennett

The modern work of dogs: what is it and how does it influence dog behaviour and welfare? Bennett

The effect of cat behaviour on adoption, relinquishment and retention of shelter cats. Marston, Bennett

Effects of hide provision and regular petting on the behaviour of stray and surrendered cats in a quarantine shelter. Haynes, Hemsworth

If you would like a copy of abstracts relating to these papers and posters, please contact Jeremy Skuse by email at awsc-info@unimelb.edu.au

Model to benchmark animals in research

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), through the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy is co-funding a project to develop and evaluate a model to monitor and benchmark the welfare of animals in research institutions.

With support from the AWSC, Ellen Jongman, (Research Scientist with DPI, Victoria), is leading this project which will develop and evaluate a model to monitor and benchmark the welfare of animals in research. Current and previous research at Australian research institutes will be used and the

model will be evaluated on sheep used for research conducted under Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) approved protocols. It has been decided to use sheep as a model in this pilot project as they are commonly used in livestock production research, as well as disease models in biomedical studies.

Several indices of animal welfare will be recorded for this project, to identify those indicators that are practical and predictive of animal welfare. The results of this study may be used to develop a benchmarking system of animal welfare within and between species and institutions. Recordings for the present pilot project will

include animal health and fitness indices such as mortality and morbidity, environmental parameters ("resources"), animal behaviour responses, environmental factors and level of training and experience of experimenters and technicians. Presently AEC protocols may not consistently include detailed estimates and expectations of outcomes of the most important welfare indices such as mortality, morbidity and culls (specifically due to fitness problems), and therefore the AEC (and the scientists) may not be aware when these indices exceed predictions and problems may be occurring.

For further information, please contact Ellen Jongman by email at ellen.jongman@dpi.vic.gov.au



Online surveys

1. Mia Cobb is currently conducting an online survey as part of her PhD research at Monash University.

People aged 18 and over can complete a short and anonymous online questionnaire. The questionnaire takes around 10 minutes to complete and asks questions about attitudes towards the welfare of dogs and kennel facilities, as well as a few general questions about the participant.

This questionnaire is not restricted to Australian participants and participants do not need to have had direct experience with a kennel facility to take part.

Public opinion is often a driving force in the provision of care for animals housed in captivity. Therefore, a survey is important to accurately establish the views of the general public as well as dog trainers and primary care givers (such as kennel attendant staff) who are generally directly responsible for decisions regarding the care provided to dogs housed in kennel facilities.

Please follow this link to read the 'Participant Information Explanatory Statement' in full and to commence the survey:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/spppm/surveys2009/mcobb>

Please forward this invitation to any colleagues, friends, family or other contacts who may also be interested in participating.

2. Vivian Ewe is conducting a research project towards a postgraduate diploma of psychology at Monash University.

She is seeking people over the age of 18 years who are willing to complete a short on-line questionnaire about whether you believe dogs can detect human emotions.

This research is important because dogs are increasingly used to provide emotional support for their owners, as well as in therapeutic contexts. Previous studies suggest that some dog owners think that their dogs are capable of detecting and then responding to times they feel specific emotions. Other owners deny that this is correct.

With this questionnaire we aim to investigate these attitudes, to find out how widespread the different beliefs are and if they vary depending on human characteristics such as age, gender or experience with dogs.

Please follow this link to read the 'Participant Information Explanatory Statement' in full and to commence the survey:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/spppm/surveys2009/wewe/>

Please forward this invitation to any colleagues, friends, family or other contacts who may also be interested in participating.



ProHand® Red Meat Abattoir

The current training materials for managing and handling animals in lairage at Australian abattoirs were rewritten in 2005/6 to incorporate the new National Animal Welfare Standards. It was apparent in redeveloping these materials that while they deal well with the procedural and regulatory aspects of managing and handling animals at abattoirs, there was a need to develop training materials which target the attitudes and behaviours of stockhandlers with regard to working with sheep and cattle at abattoirs.

Grahame Coleman and Paul Hemsforth led the project (funded by the National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council Limited, MINTRAC) which firstly assessed the current attitudes and performance of stock handlers and secondly developed a multimedia training package to influence attitudes and behaviour of stock handlers when handling cattle and sheep in the lairage.

With the further refinement of the QA standards for the livestock processing industry, there is a need to underpin the standards on a sound basis. One important strategy to underpin these standards is appropriate training support in the area of animal handling and stockpersonship.

While there was considerable variation between stockpeople in their attitudes and behaviour, there were some significant correlations between stockperson attitudes and behaviour as well as some significant correlations between stockperson behaviour and acute stress responses in sheep and cattle at Australian abattoirs. These observed relationships indicate the opportunity to improve stockperson behaviour at Australian abattoirs by targeting attitudes (and behaviour) for improvement with appropriate educational and training material, which was developed in the second part of this project.

The final stockperson training package has been delivered to MINTRAC for integration into their existing training programs and the Centre is currently training industry trainers so that they may deliver the package.

ProHand® is an original concept developed by Australian Pork Limited in 1996

Seminar Series 2009



Richard Bolt, Secretary DPI
Vic, opening the seminar

The AWSC presented a key seminar in August which highlighted the admission of The Ohio State University as a partner in the Centre. Themed “Animal Welfare Issues and RD&E requirements”, the seminar generated considerable discussion both during the Q&A sessions and over lunch.

Speakers

- **Prof. Grahame Coleman**, AWSC, Monash University
“Human attitudes and behaviour: can an understanding of these human characteristics improve animal welfare?”
- **Dr. Pauleen Bennett**, AWSC, Monash University
“Thinking critically about animals in society: is this where animal welfare education should be heading?”
- **Prof. James Kinder**, AWSC, The Ohio State University, USA
“Animal Welfare Education and Training Developments in the USA”
- **Prof. Paul Hemsworth**, AWSC, The University of Melbourne
“Handling and housing: how important are they to an animal’s welfare?”
- **Assoc. Prof. Andrew Fisher**, AWSC, The University of Melbourne
“Painful husbandry procedures: how can they be improved to reduce pain?”
- **Prof. Alan Tilbrook**, AWSC, Monash University
“Understanding stress responses: can we develop strategies to reduce stress and improve welfare?”
- **Dr. Ellen Jongman**, AWSC, DPI Victoria
“Benchmarking animal welfare: can this development improve animal welfare?”



Jim Kinder, Dept Animal
Sciences, OSU

Abstracts are available on our website; click please link [here](#)

Upcoming seminars

Animal Welfare Symposium at The Ohio State University:

“Building Partnerships to Address Animal Welfare”

The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Department of Animal Sciences in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences are hosting an Animal Welfare Symposium, to celebrate the partnership with the Animal Welfare Science Centre of Australia. The symposium is planned for Friday, October 16, 2009 at the Nationwide and the Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus, Ohio.

The goal of the symposium is to build partnerships to pro-actively address animal welfare issues in Ohio and beyond. Speakers will examine current research on animal welfare, and discuss the implications for livestock and poultry production.

Speakers and panellists include:

- **Dr. Naomi Botheras**, Extension animal welfare specialist, Dept Animal Sciences, OSU
- **Dr. Candace Croney**, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, OSU
- **Dr. Bobby Moser**, Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, OSU
- **Dr. John A.E. Hubbell**, Interim Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, OSU
- **Dr. Jim Kinder**, Chair, Department of Animal Sciences, OSU,
- **Dr. Bill Saville**, Chair, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, OSU
- **Dr. Paul Hemsworth**, Director of the Animal Welfare Science Center, The University of Melbourne
- **Dr. Wesley Jamison**, Associate Professor of Communications, Palm Beach Atlantic University
- **Dr. Ruth Newberry**, Associate Professor, Center for the Study of Animal Well-Being, Washington State University
- **Dr. Harold Gonyou**, research scientist, Prairie Swine Center, Saskatoon, Canada
- **Dr. Janice Swanson**, Professor of Animal behavior/welfare, Michigan State university
- **Jack Advent**, Executive Director, Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
- **Gene Bauer**, President and Co-founder, Farm Sanctuary
- **Mike Bumgarner**, Vice-president, Center for Food and Animal Issues, Ohio Farm Bureau
- **Julie Maschhoff**, Co-owner and Vice president of public relations, Maschhoff Pig Company



For details and registration, please click [here](#)



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If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact our Executive Officer, Jeremy Skuse at our Parkville Offices.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please send an email to:

awsc-info@unimelb.edu.au

Quoting "remove" in the subject line.

SNIPPETS

Ohio animal care ballot language approved

The Ohio Ballot Board has approved language for the ballot initiative on agricultural animal care that will go to voters this fall.

The initiative would amend the Ohio State Constitution and would create the "Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board" and put livestock and poultry welfare under the authorities of the state based on standards determined by Ohio farmers, food safety specialists, veterinarians, consumers and county humane societies.

The Ohio ballot initiative was authorized in legislation passed by the Ohio House and Senate and signed by Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland.

Past post-graduate students – where are they now?

Adele Arnold (PhD, Melbourne)

Post Doc research fellow, University of Melbourne; Post Doc research scientist, Animal

Behaviour & Welfare Unit, AgResearch NZ; currently Developer - Animal Welfare, DairyNZ

Naomi Botheras (PhD, Melbourne)

Animal Welfare Extension Specialist, The Ohio State University

Kate Breuer (PhD, Monash)

Post doctoral researcher University of Newcastle, UK; Scientist ADAS, UK; currently Animal Welfare Policy Officer, RSPCA (Victoria).

Peter Cransberg (Masters, Melbourne)

Scientist, DPI Victoria; currently poultry consultant

Fleur Dwyer (D.Psych, Monash)

Studying medicine at UQ

Lauren Edwards (PhD, Melbourne)

Post Doc research fellow, University of Melbourne

Joanna Engel (Masters, Ohio)

PhD student, University of Melbourne

Marcus Karlen (Masters, Melbourne)

PhD student, University of Melbourne

Keven Kerswell (PhD, Melbourne)

Research Assistant, University of Melbourne

Amanda Kobelt (PhD, Melbourne)

Entomologist, DPI Vic

Mariko Lauber (PhD, Melbourne)

Animal Welfare Education Officer, DPI Vic and Lecturer, University of Melbourne

Jacqui Ley (PhD, Monash)

Companion animal behaviour consulting and post doc research

Linda Marston (PhD, Monash)

Post Doc research fellow at Monash

Andrew McLean (PhD, Melbourne)

Consultant, horse behaviour

Naomi Pearson (Masters, Melbourne)

Bureau of Animal Welfare, DPI Vic

Bree Pierce (PhD, Monash)

Clinical trials manager with a pharmaceutical company

Sabine Roussel (PhD, Melbourne)

Lecturer, INA P-G, Paris, France

Rebecca Morrisson (nee Sargent) (PhD, Melbourne)

Research Scientist, Rivalea Australia

Ken Smith (Masters, Ohio)

Auditor of farm facilities in US for US certification organisation

Anne Turner (PhD, Monash)

Post Doc research fellow, Monash University; currently Lecturer, School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Deakin University

Neva Gladman (Master of Animal Welfare, Melbourne)

Currently Bureau of Animal Welfare Project Coordinator, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria. Currently completing Graduate Certificate in Communications.

