

YEAR IN REVIEW 2012

IMPROVING WELFARE AMONG WORKING EQUINES

Dr H.R. (Becky) Why, Senior Lecturer in Animal Welfare and Behaviour, Veterinary School, University of Bristol, UK; gave the 2012 Peter Stratton Memorial Lecture in Animal Welfare. Dr. Why's talk, titled "Improving the lives of working horses (and their owners) in the developing world" gave an overview of the welfare issues faced by the estimated 93.6 million horses, mules and donkeys in developing countries. The majority of these animals are used for transportation and agricultural purposes. Poverty, lack of knowledge, and lack of resources means owners may not be able to provide adequate veterinary or hoof care for their animals. In many cases, working horses often face physical problems that result in acute or chronic pain. Because many owners are dependent on horses for subsistence, there is often no opportunity for horses to rest if injured or ill resulting in suffering and the shortened ability of the animal to work. Often entire families are dependent on a single animal for their livelihood, and under these circumstances, human and animal welfare are inextricably linked. Dr. Why's research with working equines focuses on methods of animal welfare assessment and improvement, and aims to provide targeted interventions to improve the lives of both animals and their owners.

Peter R. U. Stratton, a Vancouver businessman and visionary, was so successful in his commercial endeavours he was able devote the last 50 years of his long life to philanthropy. Peter campaigned for the passing of Canada's first Humane Slaughter Act in 1960, and helped to create the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada in 1965. A bequest by his late wife, Katherine, allowed the Foundation to sponsor an annual lecture in Mr. Stratton's honour, under the auspices of the UBC Animal Welfare Program.



AWFC

THE ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION OF CANADA
FONDATION DU BIEN-ÊTRE ANIMAL DU CANADA



IMPROVING SHELTER EXPERIENCE FOR DOGS

Living in a shelter can be a very traumatic experience for an animal – something Nancy Clarke has witnessed first-hand over her years working at the Vancouver Animal Shelter.

"Animal shelters are very stressful environments for dogs," said Clarke, a PhD student in the UBC Animal Welfare Program. "The noise in shelters can have damaging health and behavioural effects, causing [dogs] to develop bad behaviours that can make them less appealing to potential adopters."

In an effort to improve the welfare of dogs living in animal shelters and increase their chance of adoption, Clarke is researching the link between lack of rest and the amount of barking noise in several Lower Mainland shelters. The idea took root in 2002, when Clarke was working as Manager of Animal Control Services at the City of Vancouver. She observed that, as the day wore on, the noise level in the shelter rose and the dogs became more agitated. In response, Clarke instituted an hour-long afternoon "siesta" to give them an opportunity to rest. "We noticed that the noise levels went down quite substantially," she said.

In 2012, Clarke started her PhD and began gathering data on how much time dogs spend resting, and the difference between their home resting behaviour and their behaviour when temporarily kennelled. This spring, she will try to prove if there is indeed a definitive reduction in noise level when a resting period is introduced at shelters. Assisting Nancy on her project are Camila Oyamada, (DVM, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil, doing a research internship with Animal Welfare), and Kaur, BSc (UBCApplied Animal Biology undergraduate).

"It's a cost effective solution for rescue organizations that depend on public donations to operate," she said. "Ultimately, if it proves to be effective, I'd like to see all shelters adopt daytime rest programs."

Projects such as Clarke's are made possible thanks to the generous support of donors. For more information on how you can help create a more sustainable future for companion animals, please visit: <http://awp.landfood.ubc.ca/support/>



A NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL WELFARE SYSTEM FOR CANADA

This year the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC), issued its first major recommendations designed to create a coherent system for farm animal welfare across Canada. The 30-page report is the result of a 2-year consultation process led by David Fraser. The Council was formed in 2010 to advise governments and the animal-production sector on all aspects of the health and welfare of farmed animals in Canada. Fraser has been a member of the Council since its creation. <http://www.ahwcouncil.ca>

A National Farm Animal Welfare System for Canada



NFAHW COUNCIL

Bringing the Collective Together
nonhuman animals, humans and practice at the university
Panel discussions among scholars from the sciences, social sciences and humanities

EVENT C2
GOVERNANCE OF NONHUMAN ANIMALS AT THE UNIVERSITY IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY
THURSDAY 29 MARCH
5:00—7:00
GREEN COLLEGE COACH HOUSE

KENNETH SHARPE POLITICAL SCIENCE, SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
MAX CAMERON POLITICAL SCIENCE, UBC
MANEESHA DECKA LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
MICHAEL BURGESS CHAIR IN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS, UBC
MODERATOR: **KEN CARTY**
UBC, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH FOR THE BC CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH – ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

David Fraser, Dan Weary and Nina von Keyserlingk, and Post-doctoral researcher Elisabeth Ormandy took part in a thematic lecture series “Bringing the Collective Together: Nonhumans, Humans and Practice at the University”, hosted by UBC’s Green College. In February and March the series, convened by UBC Professor Laura Janara and her students in Political Science, brought together scholars from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities to discuss the ethics, governance and institutional practice of animal research at UBC. Some of the key questions raised included: How well does current governance of animal research resonate with democratic values? What exactly do the animals that get used in research annually at UBC experience? Does the current oversight system encourage development of non-animal methods? The Animal Welfare Program has received new SSHRC and CIHR funding to continue to work on the questions and issues that were raised. This will include hosting an “Expert forum on models for public engagement in decisions about the use of animals in biomedical research” in November 2013.

Milestones & Awards

Graduate student Devina Wong’s paper “Rodent Euthanasia Methods Under Scrutiny” received favourable coverage in *Nature*, an international science journal, in December. PhD candidate Joanna Makowska and Professor Dan Weary co-authored the paper.

David Fraser, Nina von Keyserlingk and Dan Weary, NSERC Industrial Research Chairs in Animal Welfare, and their students, have between 2009 – 2012, published 108 refereed journal articles, given 154 invited talks and conference presentations, written 32 technical reports and had their research work published in 82 conference abstracts and other conference proceedings.

Journal of Dairy Sciences invited review: *The welfare of dairy cattle - key concepts and the role of science* (Vol 92, Issue9, 2010), by Animal Welfare Program faculty members Nina von Keyserlingk, Jeff Rushen, A. M. de Passille and Dan Weary, was JDS 5th most downloaded article of 2012.

UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL WELFARE, SOUTH AMERICAN STYLE

Compreendendo o Bem-Estar Animal – that’s the title of the Portuguese translation of David Fraser’s book *Understanding Animal Welfare*, published this year in Brazil. The translator, Prof. José Fregonesi, is one of many South American scientists who have begun teaching and researching animal welfare science. Others – all of them friends of the UBC Animal Welfare Program – include Brazil’s Carla Molento, who works on the humane management of stray dogs, Chile’s Carmen Gallo, who studies animal transportation, and Stella Huertas of Uruguay, who helped draft the global animal welfare standards for beef cattle adopted this May by the World Organization for Animal Health. Why is there such interest in animal welfare science in South America, given that public concern about animal welfare is not particularly strong in most southern hemisphere countries? Part of the answer is that in promoting animal welfare in these countries, farm productivity and consequently revenue, are boosted. Traditionally, research in animal science has tried to find ways to increase the productivity of animals, even if this created animal welfare problems. Today’s animal welfare science puts animal welfare first. And when we do this, we often find that what’s best for animal welfare also promotes the farmer’s bottom line.

Compreendendo o **BEM-ESTAR ANIMAL**
a ciência no seu contexto cultural
David Fraser
Tradução José Antonio Fregonesi

ALUMNI FOCUS

Andreia de Paula Vieira, DVM, completed her PhD in 2012. Andreia’s thesis was “Effects of the early social environment on the responses of dairy calves to novel events”. Upon graduating, Andreia was hired to work as research scientist on the Animal Welfare Science Hub, www.animal-welfare-indicators.net/site. This project is designed to bring animal welfare research together on a single, universally accessible, web-based site.

Shortly after her return to Brazil to take up her new position, Andreia wrote her colleagues in the Animal Welfare Program: “Since leaving Canada, today was the first time I’ve been on a dairy farm (I am starting talking with farmers to identify their needs and develop research applied to solve their issues). To my surprise, when I went into the calf barn, I saw that all the calves were pair-housed (felt like there is hope!). I can’t describe in words how happy I was to see all the time I spent with calves resulting in real change. I found out later that the farm owner saw one of Nina’s presentations. Just wanted to share this feeling, this is true happiness for a scientist.”

