

Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre—2012 highlights

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at the Atlantic Veterinary College promotes animal welfare through research, service, and education.

SJDAWC animal welfare meetings at AVC:

- (with AVC Animal Welfare Club) Co-hosted the 8th annual Animal Welfare in Practice conference, on **Poultry Welfare** in September. Topics included welfare issues affecting laying hens and broiler chickens, challenges of alternative housing, and what science can tell us about feelings and emotions in chickens (keynote speaker Dr. Ian Duncan, Professor Emeritus and Emeritus Chair of Animal Welfare, University of Guelph).
- (with CVER, AVC Animal Welfare Club, and PEIHS) Co-hosted a presentation “Problems and Solutions for Free-roaming Cats” in March by Dr. Margaret Slater, Senior Director of Veterinary Epidemiology at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- (with AVC Animal Welfare Club) Co-hosted presentations by members of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) Sheep Code Development Committee on sheep and animal welfare in October.

Educational highlights:

- AVC student team placed second in the veterinary division of the 12th annual intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest, in Guelph, Ontario.
- A new first year course in animal welfare and a new fourth year course in animal welfare assessment and regulation were offered.

Graduate student highlights:

Ketan Dulal MSc started his graduate program funded by the SJDAWC and the Canadian Poultry Research Council on “Identification of risk factors during broiler transportation that influence injury and mortality” with Drs. Cockram and Revie. Cyril Roy gave presentations on his graduate work on horse transportation at the Animal Transportation Association Conference, Vancouver. Niamh Caffrey gave presentations on her graduate work on animal transportation at the Animal Welfare in Practice conference on Poultry Welfare and at the Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium, Guelph, Ontario. Jackie Ellis gave a presentation on her graduate work on the welfare of cats at the International Society for Applied Ethology, Vienna, Austria and won the Gold Award for Animal Health Research for her presentation at the AVC Annual Graduate Studies and Research Day.

Other activities:

Dr. Cockram presented the Bangladesh Society for Veterinary Education and Research Annual Lecture to the BSVER Annual Scientific Conference, Mymensingh, Bangladesh on approaches to animal welfare, chaired the NFACC Sheep Welfare Code Scientists Committee, and participated in the NFACC Code Development Committees for sheep and equines.

Three research projects were funded through the SJDAWC in 2012, and funding was renewed for four existing service projects. Please see www.upei.ca/awc for more information about these projects and other SJDAWC initiatives, including our semi-annual newsletter.