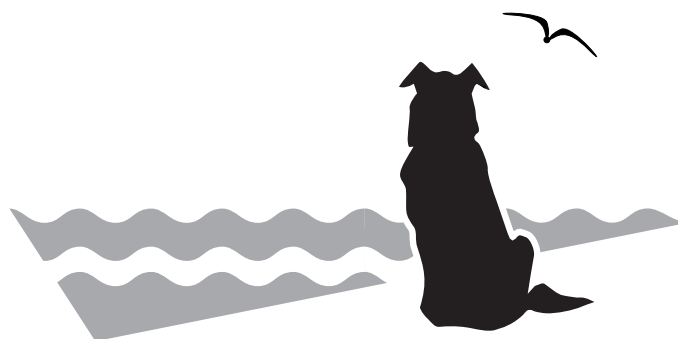


AWC NEWS

NUMBER 13 • SUMMER 2004



Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

From the Coordinator's Desk



Welcome to the 2004 summer edition of *AWC News*, the newsletter of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island. In **New Projects** you will find descriptions of the nine projects funded through the Centre in 2004. Four are new endeavours, and five are successful service projects that have received renewed funding.

In **Conference News**, there is information about the Australian Veterinary Association meeting in May, where I participated in the Animal Welfare and Ethics programme. The first day was on *Animal Cruelty Human Abuse—What Can Australian Vets Do?* It became apparent during the end-of-the-day discussion that Australian veterinarians have many of the same questions as Canadian vets about suspected animal abuse—how to recognize it, to whom to report, and about civil liability. The Animal Welfare Committee of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is looking at ways to help vets answer these questions. Animal abuse was recently reaffirmed as one of three key issues for the CVMA Animal Welfare Committee; the others are farm animal welfare and codes of practice (revision of the *Code for Canadian Kennel Operations*, and creation of a feline code).

The Centre is pleased to feature on page 6 an article by Dr. Norma Guy, head of the AVC Clinical Behaviour Service, on separation anxiety in dogs. **Other News** contains an update on Bill C-22, amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code to improve protection for animals. Unfortunately, despite wide support, the Bill was not passed by the Senate before the Federal election was called in May.

For further information on the Centre or its projects, and for regular updates, please visit our website at www.upei.ca/awc

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Message from the Research Chair



I recently attended the first international conference on communication in veterinary medicine, organized by Dr. Cindy Adams of the Ontario Veterinary College. There was a variety of delegates from veterinary practice, academia, and human medical fields, and a free exchange of creative ideas about training students, veterinarians, and their practice teams in effective communication. Skills in communication are essential if veterinarians are to show leadership in animal welfare, individually to clients and colleagues, and collectively as a profession.

Many might dismiss the need for training in communication as irrelevant to the busy veterinarian. However, in human medicine there are extensive research data demonstrating that communication training increases patient satisfaction and substantially reduces formal complaints to hospitals and the professional licensing bodies. These findings verify our common experience as patients of family physicians or medical specialists. It is reasonable to expect that training in communication might have similar effects in veterinary medicine. One of the most important elements of good clinical communication is that of obtaining the patient's perspective, and, in the case of veterinary medicine, the owner's perspective. This element is crucial for any discussion of welfare issues, particularly in farm animal practice where veterinarians must first demonstrate competency, efficiency and value for money, enabling clients to trust them and their expertise. In addition, the veterinarian must be aware of welfare issues and possible solutions, beyond questions of animal health.

In Canada, the existence of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre reflects the importance of animal welfare in veterinary medicine. It is also encouraging that welfare is being taught at the Canadian veterinary schools. Further to this, education in both animal welfare and professional communication, and their integration into the clinical years of the veterinary curriculum, would enable the Canadian veterinary profession to show leadership in animal welfare to the public. Leadership is indicated because, as the only animal-oriented profession, veterinarians are invested automatically with public trust and have a responsibility to lead in questions of animal use. An integrated approach to training in animal welfare science, ethics, and law is being applied at the veterinary school in Bristol, UK, and could provide a model for other schools.

NEW PROJECTS—2004

Acupuncture for the treatment of heaves in horses

Drs. A. Ortenburger, J. McClure, and L. Parsons

Recurrent airway obstruction, or heaves, is a common chronic respiratory disease of adult horses, similar to asthma in people. It is a progressively debilitating condition that prevents the horse from being exercised and results in a gradual decrease in the horse's quality of life, generally to the point where euthanasia is the only humane option. Signs include coughing, wheezing, difficulty in breathing, and exercise intolerance. With appropriate treatment, the signs can usually be managed so that horses can breathe easier and return to more normal activity levels. As with human asthma, there are a variety of drug treatments available, not all of which benefit all patients, and some of which can cause serious side effects.

Acupuncture is an inexpensive, non-invasive, safe procedure that has been used with some success by veterinarians to treat heaves in horses. Acupuncture has been available at the Atlantic Veterinary College since 1996, when an acupuncture service was started by Dr. Ortenburger, with a grant from the SJDAWC. This project is a clinical trial to look at the therapeutic effect of acupuncture in horses by comparing various respiratory function measurements in horses with heaves that do and do not receive acupuncture treatment. Horses in the trial will benefit by both treatment and diagnostics, and the results will shed light on the effects of acupuncture in horses affected with this debilitating condition.

Vagal manoeuvres to lower heart rate in dogs and cats

Dr. É. Côté

Vagal manoeuvres are simple, gentle, physical manipulations that are performed by veterinarians to temporarily slow an animal's heart rate. These may be used in a patient with a fast heartbeat during a physical exam or an electrocardiogram, to assist the veterinarian to better evaluate a heart murmur or to determine the reason for the rapid heartbeat. Vagal manoeuvres may also be used as a short-term treatment for certain dangerous, uncontrollably rapid heart rhythms.

The two most common manoeuvres are ocular pressure (rubbing of the closed eyes), and carotid sinus massage (gentle rubbing of the patient's throat). The principle underlying the use of vagal manoeuvres has been known and used in human medicine for centuries, but although recommended in veterinary cardiology texts, there is little to no objective information to guide veterinarians in their use.

In this study, Dr. Côté will compare the effectiveness of the two main types of vagal manoeuvres in slowing the heart rate in healthy dogs and cats. The information will help veterinarians to use and accurately interpret the effects of vagal manoeuvres in their own patients.

Selenium and vitamin E levels in horses on PEI

Drs. J. Wichtel, J. McClure, and T. Muirhead

Selenium and vitamin E are essential components of the diet of livestock, including horses. Unfortunately, deficiency in these

nutrients is an ongoing problem in Eastern Canada, mainly due to insufficiency of selenium in soil, which results in low levels in hay, pasture, and grain. Inadequate levels of these nutrients are known to cause muscular and neurological diseases, a decreased immune response, and decreased thyroid function in horses. Broodmares deficient in vitamin E and selenium give birth to foals who can subsequently develop severe problems such as the often fatal white muscle disease.

Preliminary data indicates that selenium and vitamin E levels are deficient or marginal in many adult horses on PEI. This study will look at levels of these nutrients in three groups of Island horses—older horses, broodmares and foals, and racehorses—to establish the prevalence of these deficiencies. The ultimate goal is to be able to make recommendations to horse-owners and veterinarians about appropriate supplementation with vitamin E and selenium, so as to prevent the serious problems associated with deficiencies in these nutrients.

Wildlife rehabilitation (including orphaned wildlife care)

Drs. H. Gelens, C. Runyon, and P.-Y. Daoust

Concerned members of the public often bring orphaned or injured wild animals (birds and small mammals) to the Atlantic Veterinary College. Sometimes these animals require medical attention, sometimes temporary nursing and supportive care (especially for orphaned wildlife), and sometimes the best thing for them is humane euthanasia. Unfortunately, mortality among these animals is often high, due to the lack of accurate information and the inherent difficulties in the rescue and care of different species of wildlife. Since this project began in 1999, over 400 animals have received care, resulting in an increase in the number of successful releases back into the wild, expanded veterinary student participation, and the establishment of networks with other wildlife rehabilitators.

The project has been funded again this year, to build upon and improve the existing level of care for injured or orphaned wildlife at AVC, including the purchase of specialized supplies. The project will also continue to provide practical experience for veterinary students interested in wildlife care, equipping them to play a leadership role in their communities once they graduate. The end goal for all patients is successful release back into the wild.

Medical and surgical care of homeless dogs and cats

Drs. C. Runyon and J. Miller

Funded since 1994 through the SJDAWC, this project will continue to address the problems of pet overpopulation and homeless animals in the region. During the past 10 years, more than 2,500 dogs and cats have received care through this programme. In 2002 and 2003, over 50 dogs and cats from the PEI Humane Society, the Moncton SPCA, and the Amherst Animal Shelter were neutered at the AVC and returned to the shelter for adoption. Over the same time period, over 350 stray dogs and cats were brought to the AVC Teaching Hospital by the PEIHS or good Samaritans, for treatment of illness or injury. These animals receive physical examinations, x-rays, and/or other diagnostic procedures; emergency medical care; and continued medical or

surgical care (including neutering) as required, in consultation with the shelter. Some lost animals are claimed by their owners. Most animals, once healthy, are placed in homes through standard shelter adoption. Some animals are placed in “special needs” adoptive homes because they require specific care during recovery. Animals with severe illness or extensive injuries are humanely euthanized.

The project has been funded for a further two years. There are many benefits. Neutered animals are more adoptable and healthier, and they won’t “accidentally” produce any litters. Sick or injured dogs and cats found by, or brought to, the PEIHS have immediate access to treatment. Due to the close working relationship developed with the animal shelters, there is increased awareness and discussion of companion animal welfare issues for AVC students.

AVC humane dog training programme

Dr. N. Guy

Most dogs that are given up to animal shelters in North America are adolescents (six months to two years of age). Many of these dogs may appear boisterous and unruly, and have had little training. Through this project, funded initially in 2001, a programme was developed by AVC students to work with the PEI Humane Society, its dogs, and their new owners. Student trainers work with an average of 190 dogs per year at the PEIHS, to provide them with positive social interaction, training using behaviour modification, and more outdoor exercise. After the dogs are adopted, the students are available to provide support and counselling for new owners as to what to expect, as well as training advice. An attempt is made to contact all new owners within a week of adoption, whether or not the dogs have worked with the AVC student trainers.

This project has received funding for another year. Behaviour modification using positive reinforcement (clicker training) is used. No aversive, or punishment-based, techniques are employed. Interaction with the students provides much-needed enrichment for the dogs while they are at the shelter, and the reduction in unwanted behaviours increases the likelihood that the dogs will be adopted, and will fit in happily in their new homes. Working with shelter dogs and their new owners is a valuable experience for the students, who as veterinarians will often have to advise clients on pet behaviour.

AVC humane education programme

Dr. N. Guy

Since the beginning of this project in 1997, volunteer veterinary students and their pets have made over 350 visits to classrooms from kindergarten to grade 12, to motivate children to think about the welfare of animals, and to increase their awareness of human responsibility for animals in their care. Although the programme is based in PEI, a number of presentations have been given in the other three Atlantic provinces. Topics include choosing a pet that is right for you and your family, bite prevention, how to communicate with your pet, caring for your pet, and first aid. For older grades there are discussions about our societal responsibilities to pets, with reference to pet overpopulation and euthanasia. Lesson plans, videos, and a French-English colouring book have been put together as supplements to the visits.

This programme continues to receive rave reviews from teachers and students at all grade levels. Lesson plans have been supplied on request to several humane societies across Canada, and to interested school teachers in the region. Funding has been extended for this project for the next year, to hire a student coordinator and to cover travel expenses and the cost of materials. Teachers interested in a presentation for their classroom may contact Dr. Norma Guy at (902)566-0923.

Health management services for the PEI Equine Retirement Society Inc.

Dr. W. Duckett

The PEI Equine Retirement Society Inc. (PEIERS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of horses destined to be destroyed or shipped for the meat industry, and to finding new homes for them as pets or pleasure horses. Since its founding in O’Leary in 1996 by Mr. Dale Cameron, the Society has taken in 27 horses, of which 15 have been placed in new homes, 4 have been euthanized due to intractable health problems, and 8 are currently at the facility. Through the support of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, AVC has provided preventive medical care to the horses at the Society from the beginning.

With this project, funding is continued for two more years. The programme includes a physical exam on all horses that come to the PEIERS, a parasite monitoring and control programme for the facility, dental work, routine vaccinations, and minor surgical and medical procedures as needed. The programme includes vaccination against Eastern, Western, and West Nile Virus Encephalitis, and screening of all horses arriving at the facility for equine infectious anemia. AVC senior veterinary students, interns, and residents all participate in the care of these horses. This project provides significant benefits to the horses through basic preventive medicine in preparation for adoption, and by minimizing respiratory disease and parasite burden at the facility.

Health management services for the Handibear Hills Equine Sanctuary

Dr. W. Duckett

Similar to the project *Health management services for the PEI Equine Retirement Society Inc.*, this project will provide preventive medical care to the horses at the Handibear Hills Equine Sanctuary. This facility in South Granville, PEI, is owned by Ms. Yogi Fell, who for 20 years has provided a refuge for horses that need a home. Young people and adults spend time at Handibear Hills with the horses, learning to ride, groom, and generally care for them.

This project will provide regular dental care and vaccinations for the 24 horses at the sanctuary, and establish a parasite monitoring and control programme. The programme includes vaccination against Eastern, Western, and West Nile Virus Encephalitis. AVC senior veterinary students, interns, and residents all participate in the care of these horses.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Dr. Crook was an invited speaker at the **Australian Veterinary Association Welfare and Ethics (AVAWE)** stream of the AVA Annual General Meeting in Canberra, May 3–5, 2004. The first day, organized by Dr. Steve Atkinson, was devoted to the topic *Animal Cruelty Human Abuse—What Can Australian Vets Do?* Speakers included representatives from law enforcement, the domestic violence field, and the humane movement, as well as veterinarians and an Australian Senator. Dr. Crook spoke on *The role of veterinarians in addressing animal abuse—the Canadian approach*. Other presentations were on Australian research linking abuse of animals and people (E. Gullone), the importance of reporting animal abuse from a police point of view in order to augment the database when police are searching for violent offenders (J. Clarke), the behavioural manifestations of abuse (Dr. K. Seksel), and the role of legislators.

The response to the one-day session has been gratifying. There was lively discourse at the panel discussion that ended the day, and Dr. Atkinson has received inquiries from many quarters for copies of the Proceedings. A number of influential people have become interested in developing guidelines in Australia, including some form of protocol for local community groups and police to use in establishing support, training, and reporting mechanisms.

On the second day of the AVAWE conference, Dr. Crook gave presentations on *The role of the Canadian Council on Animal Care in Canadian animal welfare*, and on *Feral cat management in Prince Edward Island, Canada*.

Also in May, recent AVC graduate Dr. Leanne Kline spoke on behalf of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the University College of Cape Breton conference, **Linking violence: An interdisciplinary conference on the relationship between violence against animals and humans**. Dr. Kline's talk was entitled *The role of veterinarians in addressing animal abuse*.

Dr. Hewson attended the first **International Conference on Communication in Veterinary Medicine**, held in Ontario from June 13 to 16. The conference was organized by Dr. Cindy Adams from the University of Guelph, whose research project, *The veterinarian's role in recognizing and reporting animal abuse*, was funded in part by the SJDAWC and was completed in 2002 (see *AWC News, Fall 2002*). The meeting comprised a mixture of keynote talks, workshops, and short podium presentations on all aspects of communication in veterinary medicine.

Dr. Hewson gave one of the podium presentations, describing a teaching video that she had developed for the 2003 meeting of the Student Chapter of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (see *AWC News, Summer 2003*). The video shows short scenes from farm animal and companion animal practice, illustrates some of the difficulties that a new graduate may encounter in showing leadership in animal welfare to clients and colleagues, and examines how communication skills might assist. The presentation generated considerable interest, and faculty from five veterinary schools in Canada, the US, and Australia ordered copies of the video. This has generated some income

for the SJDAWC, and provided another way to make the Centre known more widely.

Upcoming 2004 Invited Lecture in Animal Welfare

This year's lecture will be given by Katherine Houpt, DVM, PhD, of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Dr. Houpt is head of the College's animal behaviour clinic and is a founding member of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. She is the author of a leading veterinary textbook in animal behavior, *Domestic Animal Behavior for Veterinarians*, now in its third edition. Dr. Houpt will be with us on November 12 and 13, and will talk about behavioural aspects of equine welfare. For more information, please see our website (www.upei.ca/awc).

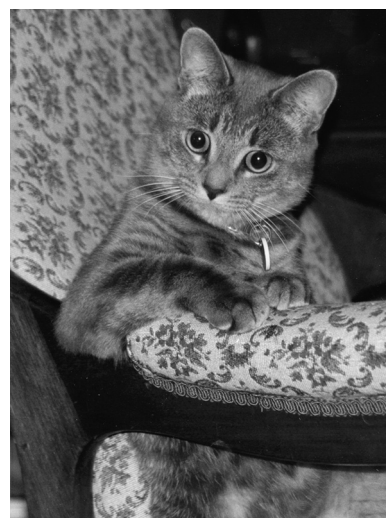
OTHER NEWS

Grants

Dr. Hewson has been awarded \$5,600 by the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada (AWFC) for a collaborative national survey of veterinarians' use of painkillers for medical and surgical conditions in cattle, pigs, and horses. The SJDAWC will contribute funding to cover the equine component. We are very grateful to the AWFC for their support and are pleased to be working with them. To our knowledge, the survey will be the first of its kind. It will complement the two national studies of veterinarians' use of analgesics in dogs and cats undergoing surgery, which were sponsored by the SJDAWC in 1994 and 2001. The new survey will be conducted in the late fall.

Pegasus Fund

In early 2004, Dr. Eric and Ms. Suzanne Butler established a fund through the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre to assist with the neutering of feral cats at the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Through the Pegasus Fund, an average of five feral cats weekly



"Pegasus" Butler, in whose memory the Pegasus Fund was created.

are neutered through a trap-neuter-release (TNR) programme coordinated with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT). Procedures are similar to those established for the separate SJDAWC-funded *Feral cat neutering project*. Surgery is carried out by Dr. Peter Foley and senior veterinary students, and CAT members coordinate trapping and release of the cats.

Trap-neuter-release programmes such as this one are intended

to improve the health and population dynamics of feral cats, and to reduce animal suffering. Such programmes are believed to be an effective and humane way to address the problems associated with feral and abandoned cats. We are grateful to the Butlers for this generous donation that has enabled the expansion of the feral cat neutering programme on PEI.

Dr. Crook receives national award

Following her receipt of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's Humane Award in 2002 and a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003, Dr. Crook has again been recognized for her longstanding and practical commitment to animal welfare. On June 7, she received the Frederic A. McGrand Award, the highest award given by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. Dr. Crook was honoured with this award at the PEI Humane Society's Annual General Meeting, for her work locally with the PEIHS, provincially in helping to draft companion animal welfare regulations, and nationally with the CVMA's Animal Welfare Committee, which she chaired from 1999 through 2001, and to which she was reappointed in 2004. In presenting the Award, Pat LeGrow of the PEIHS cited Dr. Crook for her leadership in the veterinary community in the recognition of the link between abuse of animals and people, and the role veterinarians can play in addressing animal abuse; for her role in drafting and presenting the powerful CVMA presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee in support of the proposed animal cruelty amendments to the Criminal Code; and for her contribution to the development of animal welfare policies during her six years on the board of the PEIHS.

The Centre congratulates Dr. Crook on this recognition for her dedication to the service and well-being of animals and her work with the Animal Welfare Centre, the PEI Humane Society, and the Canadian veterinary profession.

Animal Welfare Centre graduate students

In December 2003, Nina Wojciechowska successfully defended her MSc thesis, *Development of a novel instrument to assess canine quality of life*.

Update on Federal Cruelty to Animals Bill

Bill C-22 contains important amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code to improve protection for animals against cruelty. The Bill would replace sections 444 to 447 of the Criminal Code, which are largely unchanged since they were enacted in 1892. The Bill would move cruelty to animals out of the property section of the Criminal Code, and provide tougher punishments for killing or harming an animal, or for failing to provide adequate care.

The Bill has been scrutinized intensely since it was introduced in December 1999. There is broad support for the Bill from the Canadian public, all parties in the House of Commons, veterinarians, police associations, farmers, researchers, humane societies, and many other groups across the country. However, the Bill has been held up before the Senate for over a year.

In May this year, we wrote a joint letter with Dr. Ian Duncan, Chair in Animal Welfare at the University of Guelph, to members of the Senate asking that Bill C-22 be retained on the agenda of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, for consideration before the end of the parliamentary session. Unfortunately, the Senate adjourned on May 14, five days before the Bill was scheduled for discussion, and, with the election call, Parliament prorogued shortly thereafter.

A great deal of careful thought and effort has gone into the preparation and fine-tuning of this Bill over many years. We will encourage the new government to reintroduce these amendments in the fall when the Parliament convenes. Further information about the Bill can be found on the SJDAWC website (www.upei/awc).

Animal Welfare Series brochures

We are pleased to have available a French version of our declawing brochure, *Dégriffage*, translated courtesy of l'Académie de médecine vétérinaire du Québec. The other five brochures in the series are: *So You Want to Buy an Exotic Animal...*, *Tail Docking and Ear Cropping*, *Feral Cats*, *Declawing*, and *Caring for Your Horse*. All six brochures may be viewed on the Centre's website (www.upei.ca/awc), and may be obtained by contacting Dr. Alice Crook (902-628-4360; acrook@upei.ca). Up to 25 copies may be ordered at no cost, while, for larger orders, a nominal fee of 10 cents per brochure plus postage is charged. Leaflets on other welfare topics, such as the purchase of companion animals, are in progress.



BEHAVIOUR NOTES

Life lessons for puppies

Dr. Norma Guy (AVC Clinical Behaviour Service)



Miniature schnauzer puppy

As you head to work, a feeling of dread settles over you. What will happen today? What is going on while you are away? You might even delay going home at the end of the day, trying to avoid facing the inevitable. Once you are home, you don't dare leave again. Come to think of it, you haven't been out to dinner or a movie in months.

Owning a dog with serious separation anxiety can be an emotionally and financially draining experience. You're supposed to be attached to your dog, and your dog is supposed to be attached to you, but it is very sad to think that those dogs who are most willing to be our best friends may spend their entire lives anxiously waiting for someone to come home. Owners find themselves resenting their dog, and feel as though it is controlling their lives. Most owners can accept that an animal who is physically suffering or who has a terminal disease should be humanely euthanized. It is a much more difficult decision to euthanize a dog because it is so attached to you that it is destroying your furniture. Dogs with this problem, however, may be suffering through bouts of severe anxiety on an almost daily basis for most of their lives.

Separation anxiety is not really a disorder; it is actually normal behaviour. It serves to keep parents and offspring together, and to maintain cohesive social groups. We run into problems with dogs because they have an enormous capacity for attachment and they typically live in very intimate contact with their owners. Dogs are social creatures who invest a lot of energy in maintaining relationships, both with people and other animals. What most owners do not understand, however, is that in order for most dogs to accept being left alone each day, they must be deliberately taught how to accept solitude.

When someone adopts a puppy, they generally focus on two things: housetraining and getting a good night's sleep. Even owners with little understanding of dog behaviour usually manage to accomplish these two goals, probably because they are natural developmental events. It is also obvious to owners that they must succeed, or suffer the relatively immediate consequences of soiled floors and disrupted sleep. Less obvious to owners are the long-term behavioural consequences of the way they manage their puppy.

Puppies experience separation anxiety the moment they are taken from their dam and littermates. From Mother Nature's point of view it is dangerous for a puppy to be alone, so they will use distress vocalizations intended to bring help. Allowing puppies to cry for prolonged periods or punishing them for crying is cruel. It is the same thing as punishing them for being insecure, which is obviously not helpful. Handled properly, puppies will pass through this phase with confidence and more independent behaviour.

Learning to be comfortable in a crate should be viewed as an important life-skill for all dogs. Even if an owner does not wish to crate an adult dog on a regular basis, almost every dog will be exposed to this situation at some point in their lives, often in a veterinary hospital or for travel. It is easiest and kindest to introduce this experience to a dog in a gradual way while they are very young. Having the ability to limit a puppy's movement in the home will also speed up housetraining. Proper crate training, however, does not mean leaving a young dog confined and isolated for prolonged periods. Too much time spent alone in a crate invariably produces an aversion to the crate, along with separation anxiety and other behaviour problems. At night, it is all right for the owner to temporarily sleep next to the puppy's crate, or position the crate next to the owner's bed, as it will help the puppy to settle and teach it to feel secure. With time, the puppy will be happy to sleep in his crate, even if no one is nearby. An owner sleeping near the crate for the first little while is more likely to prevent problems with separation anxiety than cause them.

Because puppies are so cute, and because they are easy to pick up and carry, people make the mistake of letting them spend all their waking hours close to the family. Although it is great for puppies to receive lots of social interaction, this constant contact can make them excessively dependent on people. The simplest and most humane way to encourage some independence is to set up the home so that the puppy can't always follow family members wherever they go. Depending on the floor plan, you could use baby gates or a folding exercise pen to limit a puppy's movement without always having to put it in the crate. Most people will use the kitchen as the restricted area because the floor is easily cleaned and it is a natural hub of activity. While family members typically spend a lot of time in the kitchen, they also come and go from the room. The puppy may vocalize a bit when left alone, but it will gradually learn that people who disappear from sight will soon return. This is a very natural way of introducing the concept that solitude is nothing to worry about, particularly if the owners make a point of not drawing attention to themselves as they depart and return. Deliberately leaving something interesting for the puppy to chew or play with while it is alone will speed up the process.

Housetraining and a solid night's sleep are minor issues in comparison to the importance of raising dogs that are mentally stable and prepared to cope with our lifestyle. Preparing dogs to handle some time alone doesn't just protect the furniture, it protects the dogs themselves from a lifetime of anxiety.



MANDATE

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre exists to promote animal health and well-being in the broadest sense.

Objectives:

- 1) The Centre promotes research projects and service activities where there is a clear potential for tangible benefits to animals.
- 2) The Centre serves as a resource centre to compile, generate, and disseminate information relevant to the well-being of animals.
- 3) The Centre strives to raise the awareness of the public and the veterinary profession on broad questions of animal welfare and animal use, and to provide accurate, scientifically based information on these questions.

Support the Animal Welfare Centre

We welcome the generosity of animal welfare supporters and friends of the Atlantic Veterinary College. Planned gifts established in the name of a donor, friend, or family member can be a fitting and lasting tribute. If you are interested in learning about ways you can support the work of the Centre, please contact Dr. Alice Crook at 902-628-4360 or acrook@upei.ca

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre gratefully acknowledges the continued support of the Friends of the Christofoer Foundation.