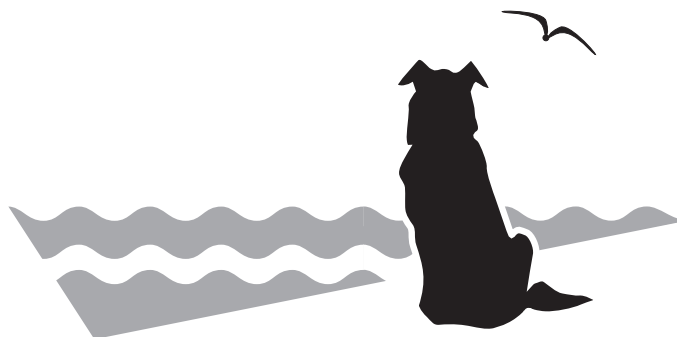


AVC NEWS

NUMBER 15 • SUMMER 2005



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

From the Coordinator's Desk



Twelve service and research projects that will benefit companion animals, horses, and wildlife recently received a total of \$235,000 through the 2005 annual funding competition of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI. This brings to over 100 the number of projects funded since the Centre was established in 1994 (originally as the Animal Welfare Unit). With this year's competition, the funds awarded for projects have surpassed \$2 million. We are extremely grateful to the Friends of the Christofor Foundation for the ongoing support that has allowed us to reach this significant milestone.

The ten new projects, along with two highly successful service projects for which funding has been renewed, are described in this newsletter. The two service projects are carried out in cooperation with the PEI Humane Society (*AVC humane dog training programme*), and the PEI Cat Action Team, with additional funding from the Pegasus Family Foundation (*Neutering feral cats on PEI*). We are also pleased to be working with two community partners (PEI Transition House Association and PEI Humane Society) in organizing a conference this fall, "Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Building a Community Response" (page 5). The conference is intended to draw together different sectors of the community to learn about the links between animal cruelty and family violence and the effects on children and families; and to promote early and effective intervention to benefit both animals and people.

Please visit our website at www.upei.ca/awc to find out about upcoming events at the Centre, and for information on all projects funded to date, associated publications and presentations, and animal welfare resources at the UPEI library.



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Message from the Research Chair



Since our last newsletter, the Centre has been involved in various practical initiatives about animal welfare. Two of the initiatives concern AVC students. First, members of the Humane Ethics Club are organizing a meeting on October 14 and 15 called "Farm Animal Welfare: In Practice" (see page 5). I am very pleased to be acting as their faculty mentor. The meeting will provide practical education and hands-on training in farm animal welfare to veterinarians, farmers, and students.

In the second initiative, four students joined me at an international meeting, "From Darwin to Dawkins: the science and implications of animal sentience" (see page 6). In the closing session of the meeting, a vote was held in support of sending a statement to the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the Office Internationale des Epizooties (World Animal Health Organisation). The statement calls for the recognition of sentience (the capacity to suffer) in many species of animals, and the acknowledgement of the need "to end cruel farming systems and other trades and practices which inflict suffering on animals." I and a large majority supported sending the statement. While the wording in it needs clarification, the spirit is admirable, and it provides a useful starting point for more coherent international protection of farm animals and other species. As several of the member governments of the various organizations are active to improving welfare standards in their respective countries, it will be interesting to see what comes of the initiative.

On the research front, the results of a survey concerning use of analgesics (painkillers) in companion animals at the time of surgery have indicated the need for further education of veterinarians. Therefore, I have been working with Dr. Kip Lemke to develop a poster, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association has agreed in principle to distribute it nationally. In a further initiative, Dr. Crook and I are working with the PEI Transition House Association and the PEI Humane Society to organize a meeting this fall, "Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Building a Community Response," to examine methods of developing a community-wide system to help address and prevent animal abuse and domestic violence.

All these practical approaches are an important part of the Centre's mandate. We are delighted to be working with different groups in this way, and we are particularly grateful to our sponsors for helping to make the projects possible.

Improving testing for platelet function in dogs

S Burton, A Nicastro, and B Horney

Dogs experience a variety of potentially fatal bleeding disorders. Some, such as von Willebrand's disease or disseminated intravascular coagulation, are due to alterations in platelets, which are an essential component of normal blood clotting.

Existing tests of platelet function are crude in nature and somewhat uncomfortable for patients, or require shipment to specialized laboratories, which is expensive and time-consuming. The situation has improved recently in human medicine with the development of a simple machine, the Platelet Function Analyzer (PFA)-100, which assesses the function of platelets through a measurement called closure time. The machine has been validated for use in dogs, and the AVC Diagnostic Services Laboratory has acquired a PFA-100. One objective of this project is to establish normal values for closure time in healthy dogs, prior to using the analyzer to assess platelet function in dogs with bleeding disorders. A second objective arises from a report that low red blood cell counts in anemic animals may interfere with the analyzer results. This project will also, therefore, assess the red blood cell level below which a patient sample can no longer be reliably evaluated.

Pedometer-based physical activity in dogs

C Chan, S Ihle, and C Tudor-Locke

Nearly half of pet dogs are overweight, but there has been little research done, outside of diet studies, to determine the best means of helping dogs to reach and then maintain a healthy weight. In people, an increase in physical activity is a crucial component of weight management. Dr. Chan's previous research has shown that the use of pedometers, small devices that count steps taken, can help motivate people to increase their physical activity. The objective of this project is to determine if pedometer-based physical activity programmes can also motivate people to increase their dog's physical activity levels. Owners enrolled in the study will receive pedometers for themselves and their dogs.

Fecal survey of parasites infecting humane society animals

G Conboy, E Cawthorn, and H. Barkema

Dogs and cats are susceptible to infection with a wide range of intestinal parasites, including worms and *Giardia*, a protozoan parasite. These can have a serious effect on the health of infected dogs and cats, and some, such as the roundworm *Toxocara canis* and some strains of *Giardia*, can also infect people.

This project will provide for fecal examination of all dogs coming into the PEI Humane Society, in order to determine if the current parasite control programme is appropriate. It will also provide fecal examinations for all cats available for adoption. Another benefit of the project will be to furnish information about the parasites of greatest regional importance in PEI. Such information is necessary in order to design efficient and effective parasite control programmes, and to determine whether drug manufacturers' recommendations for frequent dewormings are warranted or excessive. No survey of this type has ever been carried out on PEI, and none in Atlantic Canada since 1986.

Stress reduction by environmental enrichment in shelter cats

S Dohoo and N Guy

Thousands of cats enter shelters in Canada each year. Initially, they are brought into a receiving and assessment area where they are vaccinated and held for several days. Some are claimed by their owners, some are euthanized, and as many as possible are moved into the adoption area of the shelter. Regardless of the ultimate fate of the cats, each is under considerable stress in the strange new environment of the receiving area. It may be their first time in a cage; there are the strange sights, sounds, and smells of other animals; and unfamiliar humans are caring for them. Stressed cats are at increased risk of disease, and may be difficult to handle, which lessens their chances of adoption.

Cats who are offered places to hide within their cages generally have reduced levels of anxiety and fear. The BC SPCA has developed "hide and perch" boxes that give cats a place to hide or an elevated spot for resting within their cages. These boxes are becoming more widely used by humane societies; however, the boxes are generally too big for the cages in the initial receiving area.

Working with the PEI Humane Society, Drs. Dohoo and Guy will assess a simple method of providing cats in these smaller cages a place to hide if they feel the need, by placing a simple curtain over one half of the door, leaving the other half uncovered. This will allow anxious cats the choice of hiding behind the curtain. Using various objective observations, the stress levels will be compared between cats in the modified cages, and those in unmodified cages. If the curtain proves to be successful in reducing stress, this will provide a simple, cheap, and effective way to improve emotional well-being and reduce the risk of infectious disease for large numbers of shelter cats.

Neutering feral cats on PEI

P Foley and H Gelens

Most communities have populations of feral cats in their midst, which are a source of concern to community members, veterinarians, and animal control agencies. These semi-wild cats are the offspring of stray or abandoned animals, which typically live in areas where they are able to find some food and shelter. These cats are often unhealthy, with a significantly reduced lifespan due to illness and injury—much of this related to uncontrolled reproduction. An alternative to euthanasia of these cats is a "trap, neuter, and release" programme. These programmes are being carried out in many areas of North America, and result in cat populations that are more stable (zero to low birth rate) and healthier (tested, vaccinated, and with reduced fighting associated with mating behaviour).

Such a programme was established through the SJDAVC at the Atlantic Veterinary College in 2001, in cooperation with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT) and the Town Council of North Rustico. Bi-monthly neuter Saturdays are held at the AVC, wherein cats are trapped and brought in by CAT; anesthetized; tested for two common serious infectious diseases; vaccinated; neutered, and tattooed for identification; and, after recovery from anesthesia

and surgery, released by CAT members back to the original area. The veterinary services are provided voluntarily by AVC students, staff, and faculty. Since 2001, over 1,400 feral cats have been neutered through the efforts of CAT—over 600 of them through this project. The most recent renewal of funding will continue to support bi-monthly neuter days over the next two years, to neuter approximately 30 cats on each occasion.

In a separate project funded through the SJDAWC by the Pegasus Family Foundation—the **Pegasus feral cat neutering programme**—a further 300 feral cats were neutered at AVC during 2004. Additional feral cats are neutered at participating Island veterinary clinics with funds privately raised by CAT. This neuter programme benefits the individual cats, by decreasing fighting activity and preventing the spread of disease. On a broader level, the programme is also decreasing the proportion of reproducing feral cats on PEI, with the ultimate goal of achieving negative population growth.

Chlamydial status of genital tracts of cats on Prince Edward Island

L Gabor

Chlamydia is a common cause of upper respiratory disease and eye infections in cats, and can progress to pneumonia. It has been speculated that persistent infection in the genital tract is one of the main routes of infection for the general cat population—particularly for kittens—and may be a major cause of infertility in breeding catteries as well as wild populations. In humans and in koalas with chlamydiosis, genital persistence occurs, and may be both a major route of infection and a reservoir for infection.

Through this project, in cooperation with the feral cat neutering project, the genital tracts removed during neutering of female cats will be examined and tested for *Chlamydia* using a new diagnostic procedure (polymerase chain reaction testing). This study will determine whether *Chlamydia* is present in PEI's cat population, through determining if genital persistence occurs. Dr. Gabor will also catalogue the general genital health of feral cats at the time of neutering, and correlate that with the presence or absence of *Chlamydia*.

Comparing two treatments for epilepsy in dogs—graduate student funding

C Gaskill

Epilepsy is a fairly common condition in dogs. Most dogs cannot be cured, but with appropriate therapy, seizures can be satisfactorily controlled in 70 to 80 per cent of epileptic dogs. Phenobarbital and potassium bromide are the anticonvulsant drugs most commonly used, either alone or in combination. Until recently, phenobarbital was considered the drug of choice. However, the use of this drug sometimes causes serious liver damage. To avoid this, potassium bromide is being recommended more and more as the first line of treatment for epilepsy. This increased usage of potassium bromide is occurring despite a lack of studies to determine its safety and effectiveness.

In this study, originally funded in 2003, Dr. Gaskill is monitoring epileptic dogs being treated with phenobarbital or potassium bromide, to compare the safety and effectiveness of these two drugs in order to develop more appropriate recommendations

for treatment of this condition in dogs. The additional funding in 2005 will provide support for a graduate student to carry out various aspects of the project, completion of which is expected in spring 2007.

AVC humane dog training programme

N Guy and E Cawthorn

Funding has been renewed for two years for this programme, initially funded by the SJDAWC in 2001. Through this project, which has become a well-established component of the daily activities at the PEI Humane Society (PEIHS), veterinary students with an interest in shelter issues and dog training are employed to work at the PEIHS on a full-time basis during the summer months, and a part-time basis during the school year. The students' responsibilities are primarily for the social enrichment and training of the dogs on the adoption floor, using only positive reinforcement (clicker training). This contact helps to reduce anxiety for the dogs, while they learn behaviours that can make them more appealing to potential adopters. The students' secondary responsibilities include interacting with, and educating, potential adopters and other visitors, and assisting the shelter manager in the management and evaluation of some of the dogs that are brought to the shelter. The students themselves gain hands-on knowledge of shelter issues, as well as experience working with shelter dogs and their new owners, which will serve them well as veterinarians advising clients on pet behaviour.

Litterbox size preference of domestic cats

N Guy and M Hopson

Inappropriate elimination, or failure to use a litterbox, is one of the most commonly reported behaviour problems in cats. It is a frequent reason for relinquishment of cats to shelters, abandonment of cats, and euthanasia. Owners and veterinarians alike express frustration in the management of this problem. Most cats with inappropriate elimination are apparently normal on physical examination and diagnostic testing. Many treatments are used, sometimes including anti-anxiety medication.

It is believed that the most common reason for a cat to fail to use a litterbox is that it is in some way considered to be inadequate by the cat. The significance of the level of litterbox cleanliness, for example, is well-recognized. Yet the normal preferences for cats for an elimination area remain poorly described. Experience with cases referred to the AVC has indicated that markedly increasing litterbox size can have a dramatic and immediate positive effect on litterbox use. This project is a trial to determine whether indoor cats show a significant preference for a larger litterbox, as compared to the area provided by commercially available litterboxes. Given the high frequency of this behaviour problem, and the significant outcome for the cats and their owners, this project has the potential to identify a simple and effective component of the successful treatment and prevention of inappropriate elimination in cats.

Improved pain control for surgery on the front leg of dogs

K Lemke, L Lamont, P Moak, and B Horney

Regional nerve blocks are used to reduce requirements for general anesthetics and improve heart and lung function during surgery, and to reduce postoperative pain and stress after

surgery. Injection of local anesthetics blocks sensation to the part of the body that will be operated upon, which reduces the need for other anesthetic and analgesic (pain-relieving) drugs.

In veterinary medicine, effective regional anesthetic techniques are used for surgical procedures of the head, chest, abdomen, and hind limb, but a reliable technique for procedures of the front limb has not been developed. A new paravertebral regional technique has been developed at the AVC that addresses the deficiencies of previous techniques. This study will compare traditional therapy (general anesthetics with opioids) to a combined anesthetic technique (general anesthetics with opioids and paravertebral blockade) in dogs undergoing surgery of the front limb. The specific objectives are to look at the effects of the paravertebral blockade on intraoperative anesthetic requirements and cardiopulmonary function, and on postoperative pain, stress responses, and platelet function. The ultimate goal is to improve pain management and reduce perioperative complications in dogs undergoing front limb surgeries.

A diagnostic test for French heartworm

F Markham, G Conboy, and H Stryhn

French heartworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*) is a parasite (a roundworm) which infects the blood vessels in the lungs and heart of dogs and red foxes. It causes serious disease and death, through damage to the heart and lungs and potentially other organs. The main sign of infection is a chronic cough, for which there are also many other causes, and, eventually, heart failure. The parasite was first diagnosed in Newfoundland in 1996 and has not yet been found in other regions of Atlantic Canada, but given the frequency and speed of travel between Newfoundland and other areas, and the abundance of red foxes and slugs (the intermediate host) in the rest of Atlantic Canada, it seems likely the parasite will spread.

Standard stool tests for parasites do not always detect French heartworm larvae, leaving some dogs undiagnosed. In a previous SJDAWC-funded project, Drs. Markham, Conboy, Miller, and Vezburger developed a blood test to detect *Angiostrongylus* worm antigens—proteins excreted by the worms—in the blood of infected dogs. This test shows great promise in detecting infection much sooner, and in dogs not shedding larvae, before damage has already occurred to the heart and lungs, which would greatly improve the chances for a complete recovery.

One goal of this project is to further refine the test by purifying the antigen and obtaining a continued supply of specific test reagents. The second purpose is to screen dogs at a Newfoundland clinic—including apparently healthy dogs, those with signs suggestive of *Angiostrongylus* infection, and hunting dogs—to confirm the accuracy of the test and compare it to newer versions of the test, and to determine the general prevalence of infection in this area.

Improved diagnosis in equine diarrhea

J McClure

Acute diarrhea is a life-threatening and costly disease in horses. The three most common infectious causes are bacterial—*Salmonella*, *Neorickettsia risticii*, and *Clostridium difficile*. Clinically speaking, these three bacteria cause similar illnesses, but the appropriate antibiotic therapy differs amongst them. To reduce

mortality and the duration of illness, it is important to start appropriate antibiotics early; yet current diagnostic tests for these diseases require three to five days, or longer, before the results are available.

Real-Time PCR has promise as a diagnostic test because it can give rapid and reliable same-day results at an affordable cost. Real-Time PCR tests have been developed for *Salmonella* and *Neorickettsia risticii* in horses, but not for *Clostridium difficile*. This project is a pilot study to determine if, as anticipated, a Real-Time PCR assay developed for the identification of *Clostridium difficile* in people will work in horses affected with the same bacterium. If the pilot project is successful, the next step will be to develop a Real-Time PCR test that can detect all three bacteria, if present, from one fecal sample. Having a reliable rapid test for these common pathogens will greatly improve the ability to diagnose and treat horses with acute diarrhea in a timely manner, thereby reducing the duration and severity of their illness.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Building a Community Response September 22–23, 2005

Veterinarians and veterinary staff, social workers, human health care workers, humane society workers and volunteers, teachers, students in veterinary medicine and nursing, and those working in the field of family violence are invited to attend this conference and workshop, to be held in Charlottetown in September. Topics will include the link between animal abuse and family violence, the effects on children of witnessing violence in the home, recognizing and addressing animal abuse, and building community partnerships to promote early and effective intervention. Speakers will include **Judee Onyskiw**, RN, PhD, Canada Research Chair in Family Violence and Children's Health, University of New Brunswick; **Mary Zilney**, MSW, RSW, Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County; and **Marie Suthers-McCabe**, DVM, Director, Center for Animal Human Relationships, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

The conference is organized by the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, the PEI Transition House Association, and the PEI Humane Society, with support from the Community Mobilization Programme and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. Please go to www.upei.ca/human.animal.abuse for more details and the registration form.

Farm Animal Welfare: In Practice October 14-15, 2005



This conference, to be held at the Atlantic Veterinary College in the fall, will provide practical education and hands-on training in farm animal welfare to veterinarians, farmers, and students. Maritime veterinarians will be eligible for continuing education credits.

Temple Grandin, PhD, of Colorado State University, will give the keynote address by video link; **Kip Lemke**, DVM, MSc, DACVA, of AVC, will speak about pain management techniques for practices such as dehorning and castration; and **Suzanne**

Millman, PhD, of the University of Guelph, will speak about on-farm welfare assessment, and travel with a small group of students and veterinarians to two farms to conduct assessments.

The conference is being organized by the AVC Humane Ethics Club. Please watch for more details and registration information at www.upei.ca/awc or contact shunter@upei.ca

OTHER NEWS

Update on Federal Animal Cruelty Bill

The legislation was reintroduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Justice on May 16, 2005. The new bill, now called C-50, is essentially unchanged from the previous legislation (C-22), except that C-50 specifically affirms and protects the traditional hunting and fishing practices of Aboriginal peoples, which was the primary concern that led to C-22 being stalled in the Senate.

The proposed legislation would change the Criminal Code so that animal cruelty crimes would no longer be classified as crimes against property but would be in their own distinct section. The penalty for intentional cruelty to animals would be increased from the current maximum of six months to five years. Judges would be able to raise the fine for summary convictions to \$10,000 from the current maximum fine of \$2,000, with no cap on fines for indictable offences. Instead of the current maximum two-year prohibition, judges would be able to impose up to a lifetime ban against owning an animal for anyone convicted of animal cruelty. Finally, the legislation would give judges the authority to order anyone found guilty to pay restitution to the animal welfare organization that incurred costs in caring for the animal(s) involved.

This legislation has been before Parliament for more than five years. It has received careful scrutiny in both the House of Commons and the Senate, and many organizations have provided input through the respective Standing Committees. The legislation is widely supported across Canada and has the expressed support of organizations such as the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the Association of Chiefs of Police, the provincial governments of Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, humane societies, and groups representing researchers, hunters, trappers, and farmers. It is widely believed that this legislation would make a significant contribution to the protection of criminally abused animals in Canada.

Dr. Hewson gives anniversary lecture

On March 15, Dr. Hewson was the guest of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin, National University of Ireland where she gave a lecture as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the university's founding. She spoke on the topic "Burdened or benefitting? Do animals get a fair deal in today's world?" She also gave a seminar during her visit.

Calming signals in dogs

On May 10, 2005, the SJDAWC sponsored a public presentation at the Atlantic Veterinary College by Turid Rugaas, the internationally recognized dog trainer, behaviourist, and author who makes her home in Norway. She was recently in Nova Scotia for a series of workshops. A capacity audience of over 120 people, including dog owners, trainers, breeders, veterinary technicians,

veterinarians, and children packed an AVC lecture theatre for her two-hour presentation. Ms. Rugaas is highly regarded for her work on the body language of dogs, which resulted in her book, *On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals*. Her self-described goal is to promote a better understanding of dog behaviour, leading to better treatment of dogs. With her background in many areas of animal training, and her unparalleled ability to recognize the signs of stress in dogs, Ms. Rugaas gave an enlightening presentation that was very well-received by the audience. Many audience members expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to hear what they felt was an eye-opening and positive message for those who live or work with dogs, or simply care about their welfare.

From Darwin to Dawkins

On March 17 to 19, Dr. Hewson attended an international meeting in London, "From Darwin to Dawkins: the science and implications of animal sentience." Four AVC students also attended, sponsored by the SJDAWC Student Project Fund: Cathy Schmall and Lara Cusack (Class of 2005), and Shawn Llewellyn and Tasha Kean (Class of 2008). The students were kindly hosted by the Royal Veterinary College, which generously made the Principal's Flat available to them.

The meeting was organized by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) Trust, an advocacy organization that has a long history of working for the application of scientific findings to the improvement of farm animal welfare, and the betterment of conditions for those species. There were 640 delegates from 52 countries. While at the conference, Dr. Hewson met colleagues who have visited the SJDAWC in the past: Dr. Joe Stookey from the University of Saskatchewan, who gave the Centre's annual invited lecture in 2003, and Dr. Mike Appleby of the Humane Society of the United States, who was the inaugural speaker in 2001.



Canadian vet students (including four from AVC) at the conference

The conference had a high public profile with an opening address by Dr. Jane Goodall, and with at least one of the main speakers being interviewed on prime-time national radio. There were speakers from around the world, including China, which, in one province, is beginning to develop general animal protection laws. The attendees came from a range of backgrounds and organizations, including humane organizations, veterinary medicine, government, academia, farming, the media, and the fast-

food industry. Talks included reviews of scientific, philosophical, and theological arguments about different aspects of sentience (understood as the capacity to suffer and thus be conscious of undergoing negative physical or emotional experiences such as pain, fear, and loneliness). There were also talks about the sustainability of conventional farming, in terms of animal welfare, human welfare, and the environment. That session included a presentation about the Food Animal Initiative, which is a farm in Oxfordshire, UK, where animals are kept to ideal welfare standards, set up with a view to seeing if this is viable commercially. That project is sponsored by McDonalds, the supermarket chain Tesco, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In another session, Professor Don Broom of Cambridge University outlined research done in his lab which indicated that cattle show distinct behavioural and physiological responses of excitement at the moment when they learn the appropriate manipulation to achieve a goal, such as access to food. Dr. Broom dubs this "the eureka response," and it points to a higher level of consciousness than may have been accorded to cattle to date. Policy was examined in another session that included a presentation by food policy analyst Dr. Tim Lang of City University, who suggested that animal welfare groups might make common cause with health protection groups because the conditions that cause suffering to farm animals are driven by the market for cheap food, and overconsumption of the latter is contributing to significant and costly health conditions in human beings (e.g., obesity, diabetes mellitus, and heart disease). In this analysis, current farming practices bring considerable burdens to animals and consumers.

On the third day of the meeting, there were excursions to a conservation facility for wild animals (Marden Wildlife Park) and a mixed organic farm (Sheepdrove Organic Farm), which were both very instructive. A number of academics who went on the farm excursion were struck by the lack of training provided to

veterinary and agricultural students about the principles and practice of organic farming. The farmers themselves (who were all professional) also commented on this, saying that in the past they had had to proceed by trial and error because there was no guidance available. All stated that they had seen no other options, because they perceived conventional farming to be unsustainable as well as being an unpleasant working environment (e.g., in the case of pigs, spent almost entirely inside).

In the closing session, delegates voted in support of sending a statement to the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the Office Internationale des Epizooties (World Animal Health Organisation). The statement called for the recognition of sentience in many species of animals, and the acknowledgement of the need "to end cruel farming systems and other trades and practices which inflict suffering on animals."

SPONSORS

The Centre has recently received renewed funding for the third six-month phase of the *Pegasus feral cat neutering programme* (page 4). We are very grateful to the **Pegasus Family Foundation**, through the Peninsula Community Foundation, for this continued support.

Help animals by supporting the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
We welcome the generosity of animal welfare supporters and Friends of the Atlantic Veterinary College. Donations or planned gifts in the name of a special animal companion, friend, or family member can be a fitting and lasting tribute that will benefit animals for generations to come. Donors may choose whether a gift will be used for the direct benefit of animals in the community, to support research projects, or for other priorities of the Centre. For more information on ways that you can support the work of the Centre and the Atlantic Veterinary College, please contact Nancy Johnston at (902) 894-2865 or njohnston@upei.ca

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



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.