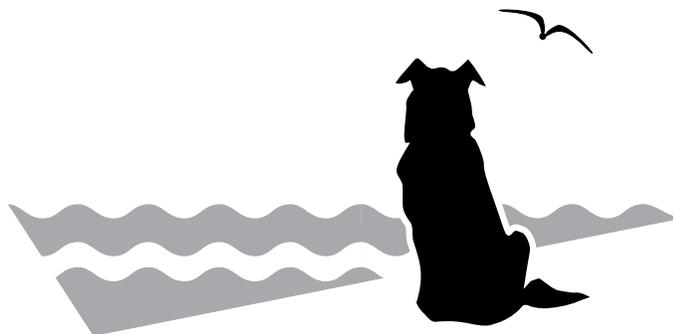


AVC NEWS

NUMBER 25 • SUMMER 2010



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

From the Coordinator's Desk



Welcome to the Summer 2010 AWC News, the newsletter of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island. In this issue, you will find descriptions of projects funded through the SJDAWC in 2010. One project that received renewed funding provides care for injured or ill wildlife. Early this summer, I was extremely privileged to release a beautiful snowy owl cared for through this project. Please see more photos on page 4.

You will find information on our upcoming sixth annual "Animal Welfare: In Practice" conference, September 17-18, 2010, on page 6. The focus this year is exotic pets—small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The welfare of these animals is frequently compromised in captivity, often through unintentional owner neglect because of lacking or wrong information. Pain management and behaviour issues in these animals will be addressed by the conference speakers, as well as issues of environmental enrichment and husbandry to assist veterinarians in advising owners. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Friday night talk.

Niamh Caffrey, Jackie Ellis, and Cyril Roy, three PhD students working with Dr. Michael Cockram, have begun their research on *Transportation of animals for slaughter in Canada: current practice, welfare issues and regulatory control*, *Environmental enrichment in shelter cats*, and *Welfare issues associated with the transport and slaughter of horses*, respectively. Excellent cooperation has been received from several organizations to facilitate this research. A visiting student from Greece, Vicky Protopapadaki, studying for an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare at the University of Edinburgh, is also working on the shelter cat project.

In July 2008, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) was asked by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to form a third party independent Expert Panel to review the CFIA's regulation of horse handling and slaughter in Canada. Dr. Cockram chaired this expert group on behalf of CVMA. The CVMA submitted its final report of findings and recommendations to the CFIA in April 2010.



Michael Cockram

In February, Dr. Cockram gave the keynote presentation "Animal welfare and wildlife" at the "Animal Welfare in Wildlife Management, Research, and Harvest, National Workshop for Wildlife Health Professionals," organized by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre and held at Carleton University, Ottawa. Dr. Cockram will present a poster "Welfare implications of methods used to kill wildlife" at the August 2010 annual meeting of the International Society of Applied Ethology in Uppsala, Sweden.

Please visit our website at upei.ca/awc for more information about the Centre.

Please note:

Our newsletter is available on-line. Please let us know at animalwelfare@upei.ca if you wish to discontinue receiving a paper copy, and instead receive electronic notification when new issues are published.



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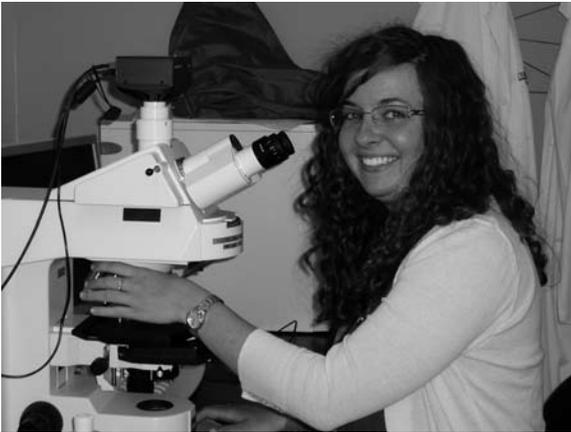
Production & Design: UPEI Integrated Communications

PROJECTS FUNDED—2010

Trichomoniasis, an emerging disease in Canadian Maritime wild finch populations and a welfare issue

S McBurney, M Forzan, S Greenwood, R Vanderstichel

Trichomoniasis has recently emerged as a disease causing widespread mortality in Canadian Maritime purple finch and American goldfinch populations. It is caused by *Trichomonas gallinae*, a parasite that infects the upper digestive tract of birds. Trichomoniasis, which occurs during the summer and fall, causes slow death from emaciation and dehydration because of large lesions in the mouth and crop that prevent affected birds from swallowing.



Master's student Whitney Kelly-Clark is working on this project with Dr. McBurney and colleagues.

The goal of this study is to collaborate with the Maritime bird-feeding public to determine factors associated with transmission and maintenance of *Trichomonas* in the environment, including the potential involvement of birdfeeders and water baths. At sites experiencing bird deaths from trichomoniasis, birds frequenting birdfeeders will be humanely captured, tested for *Trichomonas* and released. Birdfeeders and water baths will also be tested. One aim is that information obtained will contribute to specific recommendations on trichomoniasis prevention for the bird-feeding public, thus protecting the health and welfare of birds frequenting their birdfeeders. Examples of such instructions could include feeding so as not to attract birds identified as carriers of *Trichomonas*; removal of water baths if they are reservoirs for the parasite; and suggestions of proper birdfeeder hygiene practices to eliminate bird exposure. *Trichomonas* isolates will be compared molecularly to those in

other geographical locations where the disease has emerged (eg., northern Europe).

Trap-neuter-return coordinator

AM Carey, E Schoales

There are two projects carried out through the SJDAWC under which feral, stray, and barn cats are neutered in cooperation with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT). Through these Trap–Neuter–Return (TNR) programmes—*Neutering feral cats on PEI* (Dr. Peter Foley, supervisor) and the *Pegasus feral cat neutering programme* (Dr. Marti Hopson, supervisor)—678 cats were neutered at the AVC in 2009. CAT volunteers currently carry out the coordination and scheduling required in bringing cats to the AVC to be neutered.

This pilot project will provide for a TNR coordinator at the AVC to work with CAT and the public to screen the eligibility of cats coming through these programmes, to schedule cats to be neutered at AVC clinics, and to arrange for the cats' after-care. This will benefit the cats by, in effect, following them through the entire TNR process to ensure that they receive the best pre- and post-operative care possible, thus reducing their stress and reducing the chance of oversights that may put them at risk. During this pilot period, the coordinator will also develop protocols in consultation with the supervisors of both ongoing neuter projects, which can then be used as guidelines for CAT volunteers. With a more streamlined and efficient system in place, it is likely that an increased number of cats will go through the neuter programmes.

Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) using AVC teaching beagles

J Spears, J McClure

The AVC maintains a colony of beagles for teaching activities. The dogs receive daily exercise through walking by veterinary students and animal care staff, and playtime in the College's outdoor enclosed dog park, outdoor kennels, or indoor play/exercise areas. Additional enrichment is provided in the form of appropriate and varied toys, social housing, and human interaction, which includes activities outside of the college such as an animal-assisted therapy programme

(AAT). After four years in the teaching programme, the dogs are made available for adoption, so as to have a second life in a home.

AAT using dogs enhances the quality of life for elderly people requiring long-term nursing care by providing motivation and opportunities for education and recreation. The reciprocal benefits for dogs are increased social human interactions and positive experiences in new environments with different people. These experiences improve the animals' welfare while in the veterinary teaching environment, and also increase the dogs' adaptability, making them better candidates for adoption after their service to the College is over. Beagles belonging to the AVC have, over the past few years, participated in a rudimentary AAT programme; however, organization and protocols to ensure the safety of the dogs and the residents were limited. The goal of this project is to develop, implement, and document Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Policies for an animal-assisted therapy programme at the AVC. The project will create and refine protocols that the programme coordinators can use for evaluation and preparation of dogs, recruitment and training of student volunteers, and interaction with long-term care facilities and the residents.

***Wildlife and marine mammal rehabilitation
(including displaced and orphaned wildlife care)
(2010–11)***

H Gelens, P-Y Daoust, M Desmarchelier

This project provides care for injured or displaced wild birds and mammals that are brought in to the AVC Teaching Hospital by Good Samaritans or officials with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Required care may include medical management, special procedures (diagnostics, surgery), or, especially with displaced or orphaned animals, temporary housing and supportive care. Severely injured animals are humanely euthanized, as are those for whom appropriate rehabilitation cannot be arranged. The ultimate goal for all animals is release back into the wild. Veterinary students from all four years participate in the care of these animals, as do many faculty and staff. Care for these animals is expensive, with typical costs involving specialty foods, equipment, and supplies (perches, heat lamps, bedding) as well as anesthesia, radiographs and other diagnostics, surgery, and transportation to rehabilitation facilities for longer-term care if required.

A snowy owl, debilitated and unable to fly, was brought into AVC in the winter by Fish and Wildlife officials. After receiving care through this programme, she was released in early June 2010.



Shown in the AVC flight cage (top photo), the owl was weighed and banded (middle photo, Dr. Marion Desmarchelier with student Kelly de Haan) for future identification, prior to release (bottom photo, after release).

Donations to support the programme are most welcome. (Please see box on page 8 for donation information.)

Health management services for Handibear Hills Equine Sanctuary Inc. (2010–2012)

Health management services for PEI Equine Retirement Society, Inc. (2010–2012)

W Duckett, G Conboy

Funding has been renewed for these two service projects which have provided consistent basic and preventive health care to incoming and resident horses at Handibear Hills Horse Sanctuary in Breadalbane, PEI, since 2004 and at the PEI Equine Retirement Society, Inc. (PEIERS), in O’Leary, PEI, since 1997. Care is now also provided to horses at Sadie’s Place, a recently-opened second facility of the PEIERS, in Brookfield, PEI. The aim of these three facilities is to provide unwanted or retired horses and ponies with care, rehabilitation, and a home. The goal of Sadie’s Place, which has an active fostering programme, is to adopt the horses out to a permanent home in a second career as a pleasure or companion animal.



Student Scott Joudrey and Dr. Wendy Duckett performing dentistry on Gem’s Dale at the PEIERS.

Health care provided through the SJDAWC includes physical examination, screening for parasites and appropriate treatment, vaccination (tetanus, Eastern and Western encephalitis, influenza, and rhinopneumoni-

tis), dentistry, and gelding of the occasional intact male. Humane euthanasia is carried out if a horse’s quality of life is deemed unsatisfactory due to advancing age and/or health problems such as arthritis, a chronic respiratory condition, or other debilitating illness.

Medical and surgical care of homeless animals (2010–2012)

C Runyon, P Foley, D Dunn, M MacLean

Through this project, medical or surgical treatment is provided to sick or injured homeless companion animals, which, once healthy, will go to caring adoptive homes. Since first receiving SJDAWC funding in 1994, this project has enabled care for approximately 3,300 companion animals, primarily dogs and cats.

Funding has been renewed for the next two years to continue the programme. Injured or ill animals, brought to the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital by the PEI Humane Society, Good Samaritans, or, occasionally, other shelters in the region, will receive treatment, which may include 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, while most, once healthy, are placed in adoptive homes through standard shelter adoption. Some animals are placed in “special needs” adoptive homes because they require specialized care during or after recovery. Animals with severe illness or extensive injuries are humanely euthanized. AVC senior veterinary students, interns, and residents are extensively involved in the care of these animals. In spite of illness or pain, these animals are generally trusting and affectionate—it is gratifying to be able to give them a “second chance.”

Pegasus feral cat neutering programme (2010)

A Crook, M Hopson, M MacLean

Through this programme, feral cats are neutered on Fridays at the AVC by senior veterinary students under the supervision of Dr. Marti Hopson in conjunction with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT), according to procedures established by Dr. Peter Foley for the SJDAWC-funded project *Neutering feral cats on PEI*. This project has been generously supported by the Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, since 2004. The Foundation has renewed funding to continue this project for 2010.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Animal Welfare in Practice 2010—Exotic Pets Atlantic Veterinary College, September 17-18, 2010

Join the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre and the AVC Animal Welfare Club on September 17 and 18 for the sixth annual “Animal Welfare In Practice” conference.

This year’s speakers include:

- Dr. Doug Whiteside (senior staff veterinarian at the Calgary Zoo and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary)—“Considerations when getting an exotic pet” (Friday evening) and “Behavioural issues in small mammals, birds, and reptiles” (Saturday morning).
- Dr. Stéphane Lair, (Médecine Zoologique, Faculté de médecine vétérinaire, Université de Montréal) “Ethical considerations for veterinarians working with exotic pets” (Saturday morning).
- Dr. Marion Desmarchelier (Zoo, Exotic Animal and Wildlife Medicine, AVC) “Pain management in small mammals, birds, and reptiles” (Saturday morning).

The Friday night talk is open to the public while the Saturday sessions are intended for veterinarians, veterinary students, and animal health technicians. There will be practical sessions on Saturday afternoon on “Environmental enrichment, handling, and husbandry” in reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, and psittacine birds.

Please go to upej.ca/awc to view the full programme and to register. The conference is co-hosted by the SJDAWC and the AVC Animal Welfare Club, with generous support from the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada.

OTHER NEWS

Animal Welfare Research Presentations— February 5 and March 8, 2010

Dr. Cockram’s PhD students gave presentations on their previous animal welfare work to staff and students at AVC, co-hosted by the SJDAWC and the Animal Welfare Club. Cyril Roy spoke on welfare assessments of working equines in India and pain assessment in donkeys; Niamh Caffrey talked about her survey (with Dr. Cockram) of methods used for euthanasia in animal shelters in Canada; and Jackie Ellis discussed her work on behavioural anxiety and stress in wild male olive baboons in Nigeria and a painting enrichment programme for captive orang-utans in Houston, Texas. Dr. Cockram also reported on recent work: “Welfare implications of different culling methods for shooting red deer.”

These events were attended by veterinary and graduate students, as well as faculty. The intention is to continue such presentations in the fall.



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17 Lecture Theatre A
7:00–8:30 PM
Considerations when getting an exotic pet
Dr. Doug Whiteside, Calgary Zoo and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Calgary

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18 Lecture Theatre A
9:45 AM
Pain management in small mammals, birds, and reptiles
Dr. Marion Desmarchelier, Zoo, Exotic Animal, and Wildlife Medicine, AVC, UPEI

9:45 AM
Ethical considerations for veterinarians working with exotic pets
Dr. Stéphane Lair, Zoological Medicine, Faculté de médecine vétérinaire,
Université de Montréal

BREAK 10:45–11:00 AM

11:00 AM
Behavioural issues in small mammals, birds, and reptiles
Dr. Doug Whiteside, Calgary Zoo and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Calgary

LUNCH 12:00–1:00 PM

SATURDAY AFTERNOON LABORATORY SESSIONS
AVC 256 & 257 N
Each session will be offered at 1:00–2:30 and 3:00–4:30,
with a maximum of 20 participants per lab.

Environmental enrichment, handling, and husbandry in reptiles
and amphibians
Safe Haven Society for Reptiles and Amphibians; Dr. Shannon
Marinsson, Diagnostic Services, AVC; Gillian Goodie, AVC, UPEI

Environmental enrichment, handling, and husbandry in small
mammals and psittacine birds
Dr. Marion Desmarchelier, Zoo, Exotic Animal, and Wildlife Medicine, AVC, UPEI

REGISTRATION COSTS

FRIDAY EVENING ONLY – NO CHARGE
SATURDAY – VETERINARIANS \$75; TECHNICIANS \$30; LABS \$25 EACH
STUDENTS – NO CHARGE
Lunch is included
CE certificates will be provided for veterinarians and technicians

To register: upej.ca/awc
or contact: animalwelfare@upej.ca



Atlantic Veterinary College
UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, PEI, CANADA
September 17–18, 2010

Co-hosted by the
Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
and the AVC Animal Welfare Club
with generous support from the
Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada

Visiting Scholar—Vicky Protopapadaki

Vicky Protopapadaki, a student from Greece, is spending five months this summer at the SJDAWC working



Vicky Protopapadaki

with Dr. Michael Cockram and PhD student Jackie Ellis on the project *Environmental enrichment in shelter cats*. Vicky, a student in the MSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare programme at the University of Edinburgh, is studying feeding behaviour in shelter cats in relation to human presence. Social facilitation effects regarding eating have been examined in many species, including

humans; however, the effect of human presence on cats' food intake has not been examined. Vicky's work, which so far is showing a positive effect of human presence, will be her required research project for her MSc programme.

Vicky's background includes a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of the Aegean, Chios, Greece. Her interest in animal welfare began with frustration over animal welfare standards and their inadequacy in protecting animals. A vegan, Vicky's desire to improve the welfare of animals, and people's attitudes towards them, led her to undertake graduate work in animal welfare. Vicky, who has four cats of her own in Greece, has always been fascinated by how smart and independent, yet loving and affectionate, these animals can be.

SPONSORS

We gratefully acknowledge the sustained financial support of The Christofor Foundation and The Sir James Dunn Foundation, without which the SJDAWC would not exist.

We also thank the following organizations and individuals for their ongoing support:

- The Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (Pegasus projects)
- Pfizer Canada (feral cat neutering and Chinook projects)
- Iams and Eukanuba (P & G Pet Care) (feral cat neutering and Chinook projects)
- First Air (Chinook)
- Rathlyn Foundation (Chinook)
- Mr. David Madren
- Mr. Glenn Loranger
- Ms. Dorris Heffron (Chinook)
- Halifax Veterinary Hospital, Spryfield Animal Hospital, and Fairview Animal Hospital—in memory of clients' pets.
- Nutrience Pet Foods
- Communities of Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and the Mushuau Innu Natuashish Trust (Chinook)
- Estate of WLG Hopson (Chinook)

We are also grateful to the many generous individuals, veterinary hospitals, and other businesses, too numerous to mention, who have made a donation to a specific project or in memory of a beloved pet.

Help animals by supporting the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre

We welcome and appreciate the generosity of animal welfare supporters and friends of the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC). 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 direct their contributions to support all activities of the Centre to improve the welfare of animals, or may choose to restrict their donations to support service or research projects. Donations may be made through UPEI's secure online system (upei.ca/awc "To make a donation") or by cheque to the SJDAWC (address above).

For more information on the work of the Centre, please contact animalwelfare@upei.ca or (902) 628-4360. To inquire about giving options, including bequests, gifts of securities, RRSPs, and RRIFs, please contact Tracey Comeau, AVC Development Office, at tcomeau@upei.ca or (902) 566-0354 or (866) 453-4119 (toll-free in Canada and the United States).

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) exists to promote animal welfare by generating and disseminating impartial and scientifically-based knowledge and understanding of animal welfare issues.

The Centre facilitates, focuses, and coordinates academic and research resources at the Atlantic Veterinary College to carry out animal welfare research and education, and to provide information and advice to industry, government, organizations, and the public.

Goals

- The SJDAWC seeks funding for, undertakes, promotes, and supports animal welfare research projects and service activities at the Atlantic Veterinary College.
- The SJDAWC serves as a resource centre to compile and generate information relevant to the welfare of animals.
- The SJDAWC strives to raise the awareness of the public and of the veterinary profession on broad questions of animal welfare and animal use, and to provide accurate, scientifically-based information on these questions.