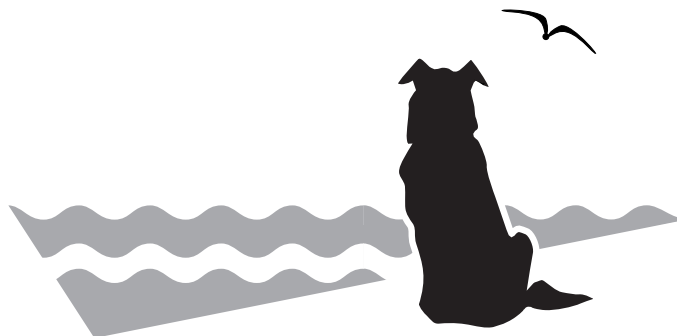




AVC NEWS

NUMBER 24 • WINTER 2010



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

From the Coordinator's Desk



Welcome to the winter 2010 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 this issue, we feature the three graduate students who joined the SJDAWC last year to begin PhD programmes with Dr. Michael Cockram, Chair in Animal Welfare. The students bring a rich variety of animal welfare interests and expertise with them, as described on pages 8-9. This issue of AWC News also contains reports on SJDAWC-funded projects that were completed in

2009, a profile of Jen Gordon, 2009 Christofor Award winner, and information on other initiatives such as the new poster on cosmetic surgery "Every dog should have a tail to tell...and the ears to hear one."



Michael Cockram

Please visit our website at upei.ca/awc for information on projects carried out by the Centre, associated publications, and upcoming activities.

AN Cook

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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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).

COMPLETED PROJECTS—2009

Research and service projects completed in 2009 are summarized briefly below. Full results and analysis from the research projects will be contained in scientific articles, for which publication information will be added to the SJDAWC website as it becomes available (upei.ca/awc/research).

Equine skeletal muscle as a source of stem cells for use in promotion of both bone and cartilage healing

L McDuffee

Musculoskeletal injuries (particularly injuries to bone and cartilage) frequently cause the end of a horse's athletic career and possibly even the end of its life. This may happen either because the horse is destroyed when it cannot continue as an athlete, or because a fracture is repaired and the repair breaks down or the horse develops laminitis or another serious complication. Both bone and cartilage heal very slowly, which means lengthy recovery time after injury and/or surgery, and more time for complications to occur.

Cell-based tissue engineering is showing much promise in improving bone and cartilage healing in people, through using bone and cartilage cells from a donor site that are grown (expanded) in cell culture and then transplanted to the site of injury. Researchers in Dr. McDuffee's Comparative Orthopedic Research Laboratory at AVC, and at other laboratories, are looking at bone and cartilage tissue engineering for treatment of musculoskeletal injuries in horses. One critical element is to identify an ideal donor source for the cells. Dr. McDuffee has already shown in a pilot study that there is a high yield of stem cells from small amounts of skeletal muscle tissue, and that these can differentiate into early bone and cartilage cells.¹

The objective of this research project was to determine the usefulness of equine skeletal muscle as a source of stem cells for use in promotion of both bone and cartilage healing. Dr. McDuffee proposed that equine skeletal muscle would have advantages over other donor tissues, in that it is abundant in horses of all ages and easily obtainable, similar to a muscle biopsy requiring only local anesthetic.

Results obtained by Dr. McDuffee's lab suggest that

skeletal muscle is an excellent source of equine mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) which can differentiate into both bone and cartilage cells, given the proper environment in vitro. These skeletal muscle-derived MSCs have the potential to be used in cell-based therapy in joint lesions that require regeneration of both subchondral bone and cartilage such as osteochondrosis or osteochondral chip fractures, as well as bone or cartilage specific lesions. Minimal skeletal muscle tissue is required to obtain a high yield of MSCs in a clinically relevant time frame (2-3 weeks); therefore, minimal morbidity is expected with donor tissue harvest in vivo. The skeletal muscle tissue is readily cryopreserved and maintains its usefulness as a donor tissue after cryopreservation. This will allow for simple storage of a source of MSCs and subsequent cell-based therapy without subsequent muscle harvest.

Colleen Hock, a second-year veterinary student, worked as a summer student on the project through a summer fellowship with the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN). She presented the research results to other CAN summer fellows, as well as mentors and stakeholders, through a teleconference. A poster of the research was presented at the annual CAN conference in October 2008.

A manuscript of the study results is in preparation. In vivo investigation of the skeletal muscle derived MSCs in cell-based therapy for joint lesions is warranted.

Are Clostridium difficile and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus present in horses admitted to the AVC Teaching Hospital?

J McClure

Clostridium difficile and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are two bacteria that are major causes of hospital-acquired infections in people in North America and around the world. *C. difficile* is the major cause of antimicrobial-associated diarrhea in

¹McDuffee LA, Anderson GI, Wright GA, Ryan DA. 2006. In vitro heterogeneity of osteogenic cell populations at various equine skeletal sites. *Can J Vet Res* 70(4):277-284.

hospitalized patients, while MRSA is the most common cause of hospital-associated infections. In the last decade, both of these organisms have been seen with increasing frequency in horses and other companion animals, and may represent a significant threat to their health and that of the people who handle them. Knowing the occurrence of these bacteria in horses admitted to the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) is important in order to develop sound diagnostic and treatment plans for horses suspected of suffering from infections caused by these two organisms, and in establishing biosecurity protocols to reduce the spread of these pathogens to other horses, as well as to people who come in contact with them.

The objectives of this study were to determine the prevalence of *Clostridium difficile* carriers among horses admitted to the VTH upon admission and at discharge; to validate a real-time PCR test for *C. difficile* detection in the feces of horses and to determine parameters to optimize its detection; to determine the prevalence of *Staphylococcus aureus* and methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) carriers among horses admitted to the VTH upon admission and at discharge; and to identify possible risk factors that may increase the risk of a horse being a carrier of *C. difficile* or MRSA.

Results showed that *C. difficile* is a fairly common organism in the feces of horses; this needs to be considered when making a clinical diagnosis of *C. difficile* colitis. MRSA is uncommon, which means that special precautions, such as universal screening and/or special isolation procedures, are not indicated. A review of *C. difficile* positive horses is being carried out with a view to identifying risk factors. The extremely low prevalence of MRSA in this population means it is not possible to determine risk factors associated with MRSA carriage.

Through the diagnostic objectives of this project, *C. difficile* testing has become available at the AVC Diagnostic Laboratory for horses suffering from acute colitis. This is important as specific antimicrobial treatment can be initiated for *C. difficile* colitis.

The data collected from the *C. difficile* segment of

the project were presented at the Conference of Research Workers of Animal Diseases (CRWAD) in Chicago in 2008². The data on the prevalence of MRSA was presented as a poster at the ASM-ESCMID Conference on MRSA in Animals: Veterinary and Public Health Implications, in London, England, in 2009³. Manuscripts are in preparation for both segments of the study.

This study is expected to benefit animals in several ways. The knowledge gained regarding the prevalence of MRSA and carriage of *C. difficile* in horses admitted to the AVC VTH has provided some insight on the likely prevalence of these pathogens in Maritime horses, which will enable better clinical decisions. Diagnostic testing for both MRSA and *C. difficile* for animals, offered during the two years of the project, will continue and is available for all veterinary species. There have been several requests from small animal practitioners for *C. difficile* testing, and screening of MRSA for pets was provided in a household where a person had been diagnosed with MRSA. With the increasing prevalence of these pathogens, it is crucial to have the tools available to diagnose them in veterinary medicine.

Development of a new diagnostic test for joint disease in horses

C Riley, M Vijarnson, A Shaw, C Billingham, A Cruz

Joint injury and disease are the most common orthopedic conditions of horses, dogs, and people. In horses, this is most frequently due to trauma, and often results in osteoarthritis (progressive deterioration of the joint). Osteoarthritis is the end result of most severe injuries, repetitive strain activities, and inadequately treated injuries. Whatever the initial cause, osteoarthritis causes long-term pain and disability, and requires medication, sometimes for life. Early diagnosis and aggressive treatment of joint injury may prevent or minimize osteoarthritis.

Infrared (IR) spectroscopy has revolutionized the evaluation of biological fluids such as the fluid in joints. It is being used to assess human arthritis. The overall goal of this project was to develop a new spectroscopic technique (multivariate IR Fourier transform

²McClure JT, Saab ME. 2008. Prevalence of *Clostridium difficile* in horses presented to a referral hospital in Atlantic Canada. Conf Res Workers Animal Diseases, Chicago, Ill, USA, December 2008.

³McClure JT, Saab M. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in horses admitted to a referral hospital in Atlantic Canada (poster) Am Soc Microbiol—ESCMID conference on “MRSA in Animals: Veterinary and Public Health Implications,” London, England, September 2009.

spectroscopy) for the classification, staging, and, ultimately, the early diagnosis of degenerative joint disease in the horse, with the aim of providing rapid and inexpensive diagnosis of joint disease so that effective treatment can occur before the development of the irreversible and painful changes associated with osteoarthritis. The specific objectives were to identify and characterize the mid-infrared spectra of synovial fluid and serum from horses with normal and diseased equine joints, to identify the set of discrete spectral sub-regions within synovial fluid and serum spectra, and to develop algorithms for the differentiation and classification of equine arthritic conditions.

This multi-year project has resulted in numerous publications^{4,5,6,7,8} and presentations and has led to several further areas of investigation, including the related project “Establishment of Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy capacity for comparative biomedical research at the Atlantic Veterinary College,” with funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. The original project also supported the PhD research of Dr. Vijarnsorn into the diagnosis of arthritis (Comparative Biomedical IR Spectroscopy). Dr. Vijarnsorn has since become Assistant Director and Chief of Surgery at the Small Animal Hospital in Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Besides extensive application of this technology in lame horses, Dr. Riley and his colleagues are looking into applications for lameness in dogs and immune function in newborn humans.

Development of an objective scoring system for changes to the equine pituitary gland in aged horses (pilot project)

L Miller, W Duckett, D McFarlane, M Breshears, M Miller

Equine Cushing's disease, or PPID, occurs in about 30% of horses over 20 years of age. The disease results from overproduction of hormones by the pituitary

gland with resulting impairment of immune and metabolic function, causing an array of clinical syndromes, including laminitis (frequently resulting in euthanasia), pneumonia, muscle wasting, and diabetes. There is effective treatment available for PPID, but there are difficulties with diagnosis, due in part to inconsistencies among veterinary pathologists in interpreting histopathological changes in the pituitary gland.

This pilot project involved three pathologists from different North American universities who evaluated, individually, histopathological changes in the pituitary glands of aged horses which were euthanized for unrelated reasons. The specific aims were to develop a scoring system to more objectively evaluate pituitary pars intermedia histology, to compare concordance of pathologists in evaluating pituitary histology using the scoring system, and to use the scoring system developed to evaluate the effect of season, age, hormonal activity, and chronic disease on pars intermedia histology.

Information about the horse's age, clinical history, and hormone levels was collected before death. The hypothesis was that the pituitary pars intermedia would be significantly larger and show more histological evidence of activation in (1) the fall compared to non-fall months, (2) aged horses, and (3) horses with chronic inflammatory airway disease.

The objectives have been achieved. Two abstracts have been published and presented, and a manuscript is in preparation. The results were also presented at the equine endocrine special interest group talk at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine–Canadian Veterinary Medical Association meeting in Montreal, Quebec, in June 2009.

The finding of increased size and variation in appearance of the pituitary gland in the fall months indicates that the season of sampling should be considered when using histology for validation of ante mortem

⁴Riley CB. 2008. Infrared spectroscopy – A new tool for the study of synovial fluid. Equine Musculoskeletal Biomarkers - Havemeyer Foundation Monograph Series 22:32-33.

⁵Riley CB, McClure JT, Low-Ying S, Shaw RA. 2007. Use of Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy for the diagnosis of failure of passive transfer of immunoglobulin in horses. *J Vet Intern Med* 21(4): 828-834.

⁶Riley CB, McClure JT, Low-Ying S, Shaw RA. 2007. Use of Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy for the diagnosis of failure of transfer of passive immunity and measurement of immunoglobulin concentrations in horses. *J Vet Intern Med* 21:828–834.

⁷Vijarnsorn M, Riley CB, Ryan DAJ, Rose PL, Shaw A. 2007. Identification of infrared absorption spectral characteristics of synovial fluid of horses with osteochondrosis of the tarsocrural joint. *Am J Vet Res* 68:517-523.

⁸Vijarnsorn M, Riley CB, Shaw RA, McIlwraith CW, Ryan DAJ, Rose PL, Spangler E. 2006. Use of infrared spectroscopy for diagnosis of traumatic arthritis in horses. *Am J Vet Res* 67(8):1286-92.

diagnostic tests or the diagnosis of PPID. This information should allow veterinarians to more accurately diagnose, and subsequently treat, PPID, which will benefit aging horses with this common condition.

Wildlife rehabilitation (including displaced or orphaned wildlife) (2008–09)

H Gelens, P-Y Daoust

Members of the public often bring orphaned or injured wild animals (birds and small mammals) to the VTH. Since 1999, this project has provided financial support to care for these animals, some of which require medical attention and others temporary housing and supportive care. Severely injured animals are euthanized, as are those for whom appropriate rehabilitation cannot be arranged.



Injured Snowy owl treated at AVC

Typical costs include specialty foods, equipment and supplies (perches, heat lamps, bedding), anesthesia, diagnostics, radiographs, surgery, and transportation to rehabilitation facilities for longer-term care if required. The project has been integrated into, and is supported by, the AVC Companion Animal Medicine Service and the Wildlife Club. AVC students are extensively involved in the care of these animals, which provides a unique opportunity to interact with wildlife and apply principles of veterinary medicine to non-domestic species. This will serve them and their future patients well in practice.

Eighty-six animals received care through the programme during the last year, including 12 raptors, 6 seabirds, 44 other birds, and 24 mammals. There was an increase in the numbers of bald eagles, red-

tailed hawks, and owls submitted to the VTH. These larger birds require more resources to sustain them in captivity, including substantial costs for fracture repair, follow-up radiographs, and improvements to their habitats. Many of the smaller birds, admissions of which are also increasing, require whole body radiographs to assess the extent of their injuries and some require prolonged, intense hospitalization.

The wildlife facilities were improved this year by Melanie Eagan, a student volunteer who built new perches for the raptors and a large work table for housing bird cages, renewed the partition in the flight cage, and carried out general flight cage repair work.

AVC humane dog training programme (2007–09)

N Guy, E Cawthorn

This service project, funded since 2001, allows veterinary students to provide positive training and socialization to dogs at the PEI Humane Society (PEIHS). An important overarching goal is to facilitate the experience of AVC students within the shelter environment to increase their understanding of shelter issues and promote a more positive attitude toward shelter activities by future veterinarians.

The specific objectives of the project require the student trainers to provide behavioural enrichment and basic training for dogs at the PEIHS; to interact with shelter visitors and potential adopters, providing education about pet behaviour and acting as adoption counselors; to assist the shelter manager in assessing the behaviour of shelter dogs, and work under her direction and that of Dr. Guy in the provision of behaviour modification for those dogs requiring special attention; and to provide display and educational material within the shelter and on the website.

In the two years of this project, the PEIHS adopted out 736 dogs, of which 382 received clicker training. As in the past, the decision to train individual dogs is based on their behaviour and need. Typically, very little training is done with young litters of puppies because they are housed with their littermates, they tend to adapt well to the shelter environment, and they are usually adopted quickly. Adolescent and older dogs require more attention to ensure that they do not suffer excessively from kennel stress and that they present themselves well to potential adopters.

In the fall of 2007, a formal behavioural assessment programme was established which evaluates each dog's reaction to very specific situations. These evaluations, which are carried out by student train-



Jen Gordon working at the PEIHS with Georgia, a 7-year-old mixed breed dog

ers working in pairs, occasionally detect a previously unreported problem, but are perhaps most beneficial in that they provide a standardized baseline for all the trainers when they prepare to work with the dogs. In order to increase the likelihood of a successful, lasting match between a dog and the adopter, as much information as possible is provided to potential adopters, both the knowledge of the dog gained through the trainers as well as the very important information that may have been obtained from the individual who originally relinquished the dog.

Over the past several years, the student trainers have made videos of the dogs to assist the shelter in using the internet to “market” its adoptable animals to a wider audience. This has resulted in a surprising number of adopters coming from other regions in the Maritimes. Trainers also attend most public events hosted by the shelter in order to demonstrate humane dog training practices and showcase certain dogs. AVC trainers have also been important participants in the annual Dr. Tim Ogilvie AVC Vet Camp, both when the campers visit the shelter and during a

demonstration of clicker training at AVC.

Over the past two years, all trainers, along with Drs. Guy and Cawthorn, have held regular weekly noon-hour meetings to exchange ideas and training suggestions on each of the dogs, and to keep everyone updated on any disease issues within the shelter.

Each year, the relationship between AVC students and the PEIHS becomes stronger. A large number of students foster animals for the shelter on a regular basis. In March 2009, vet students led by Jen Gordon put on “Pet Ed 101,” an afternoon of pet-related education at AVC for the public, with the revenue generated going to the PEIHS.

This highly successful project received renewed SJDAWC funding for 2009-11.

Pegasus feral cat neutering programme (2009)

A Crook, M Coffey, J Mol

Feral cats are neutered on Fridays at the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital through this project, which is funded by the Pegasus Family Foundation through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Procedures are carried out as established by Dr. Peter Foley in consultation with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT) for the SJDAWC-funded project *Neutering feral cats on PEI*. Over the last year, procedures were carried out by Dr. Jacenta Mol or by senior veterinary students under her supervision. 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 associated with mating and by 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.

In 2009, 455 feral cats were neutered through the Pegasus neuter programme, which represents a major component of the activities of CAT. Since 2001, over 5,000 feral cats have been spayed and neutered using funds provided by the SJDAWC and the Pegasus Family Foundation, as well as other funds raised by CAT.

GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE SJDAWC

Cyril Roy

Project: *Welfare issues associated with the transport and slaughter of horses*

M Cockram, I Dohoo

[jointly funded by the SJDAWC and the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada]

Cyril graduated from Madras Veterinary College, India, in 1995. During his veterinary studies, he developed an interest in equine species and took part in riding activities provided by the Indian army to veterinary students who participated in the National Cadet Corps.



After graduation, he worked as a resident veterinarian for five years on a stud farm in the state of Haryana, India, where he was involved in Thoroughbred breeding and yearling management, including training,

foaling, and foal management. He became the transport veterinarian and was appointed chief veterinarian during his last two years there.

By this time Cyril was married and blessed with a daughter. Cyril and his family left rural farm life to live in Delhi, the capital of India, where he joined Friendicoes SECA, a non-governmental organization working for the health and welfare of animals in Delhi. With the support of the local Municipal Corporation and international aid agencies, this organization undertakes programmes in stray dog neutering, and stray cattle and wildlife rehabilitation. Over the next 10 years, and in collaboration with The Brooke Hospital for Animals (which provides equine health and welfare expertise and support to many countries worldwide), Cyril worked first as senior veterinary officer to develop and run a mobile veterinary unit providing care to working equines, and then as a risk assessment officer to identify and rectify welfare problems in working equines in India, specializing in community-based and scientific approaches.

The 10 years at The Brooke further developed Cyril's interest in animal welfare and behaviour. He received several awards, including a TATA scholarship, to assist with funding for a Master of Science in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare at the University of Edinburgh,

where his research concerned pain evaluation in equines. Upon completion of his MSc, he rejoined The Brooke until he began his PhD programme at AVC, which allows him to continue working with horses and to learn more about animal welfare issues and behavior.

Jackie Ellis

Project: *Environmental enrichment to reduce stress in shelter cats*

M Cockram, J Spears, H Stryhn

Jackie received her BA (Hons) at McMaster University, where she concentrated on biological anthropology. During this time, she completed a placement at the Houston Zoo, interning in the Pongos Helping Pongos programme.



Her role was to paint with the orangutans, providing not only environmental enrichment opportunities for these intelligent apes, but creating resources that could then be used to generate financial support for research and conservation programmes

in the field. Back at McMaster, she completed her dissertation on the quality of local zoological institutions by evaluating captive conditions and the enforcement of regulations. Following graduation, she was awarded two scholarships to obtain a MRes Primatology (Masters in research) at Roehampton University, the UK's leading institution in research in biological anthropology. There, her research took her to Nigeria to study behavioural anxiety and physiological stress in wild male olive baboons in Gashaka-Gumti National Park. This project, for which she received a distinction, was funded in part by The Leakey Trust and the North of England Zoological Society's Veterinary/Zoological Studentship.

For the next year, Jackie was contracted as a research assistant in the Centre for Research in Evolutionary Anthropology at Roehampton University, where she continued to study stress and anxiety in baboon populations, conducting both behavioural and hormonal analyses. Jackie's interest and experience in environmental enrichment, evaluating captive conditions, and analyzing both behavioural anxiety and non-invasive measurements of physiological stress attracted her to the PhD position funded by the SJDAWC at AVC, to study the potential for environmental enrichment to

reduce behavioural anxiety and physiological stress in shelter cats.

Niamh Caffrey

Project: Transportation of animals for slaughter in Canada: current practice, welfare issues, and regulatory control

M Cockram, I Dohoo, V Black

[jointly funded by the SJDAWC and the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada]

Niamh is an international student from the Republic of Ireland. She grew up in a rural area surrounded by animals. Her family had dogs, cats, and birds of various species, from African Grey parrots to pheasants and geese, as well as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and



gerbils and the occasional cow and lamb. She observed differences in standards of treatment among animals and developed an interest in learning how to care for them in a better way. Niamh moved to the UK in 2002 and completed a BSc programme in Animal Science at

Nottingham Trent University. She completed her Master of Science degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare at the University of Edinburgh in 2008. This one-year programme included courses in farm, laboratory, and wild animal welfare, companion animal behavior and welfare, animal cognition and consciousness, and the biology of suffering. Niamh undertook her master's research project at the SJDAWC on a survey of the methods of euthanasia used in Canadian animal shelters, a project that had the support of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. The survey provided valuable information on drugs used for euthanasia, routes of administration, and the use of pre-medication. One prominent issue affecting the choice of euthanasia method is the availability of controlled drugs to non-veterinarians. A research article from this work has been accepted for publication in the *Canadian Veterinary Journal*. Niamh has returned to AVC to undertake a PhD project to examine issues in transportation of livestock for slaughter within Canada, in which she will be looking at relationships among epidemiology, animal welfare, and the law.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Animal Welfare in Practice—Issues and Dilemmas

The fifth annual “Animal Welfare in Practice” conference took place at AVC on October 2–3, 2009. This year's conference looked at challenges to the quality of life in veterinary patients. The conference featured keynote speaker Dr. Frank McMillan of Best Friends Animal Society, Utah, who discussed quality-of-life issues in ill animals and special challenges of end-of-life care, and Dr. Carol Morgan from the W. Maurice Young Centre and the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia, who talked about the welfare of hospitalized patients. AVC speakers Drs. Hans Gelens, Pierre-Yves Daoust, Alice Crook, and Leigh Lamont addressed issues associated with caring for wildlife patients, reporting of animal abuse, and animal pain. The day finished with “Welfare rounds,” comprised of case-based discussions in which the audience participated.

ANIMAL WELFARE IN PRACTICE Issues and Dilemmas



Atlantic Veterinary College
University of Prince Edward Island, PE Canada
October 2–3, 2009 Lecture theatre A

Friday October 2
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Monitoring quality of life in ill animals
Dr. Frank McMillan
Best Friends Animal Society, Utah

Saturday October 3
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Reported, sick, or starving wildlife presented for euthanasia
Atlantic Veterinary College
Dr. Hans Gelens, Companion Animals, Pathology and Microbiology, AVC
9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Animal abuse: where to report?
Dr. Alice Crook, The James Hogg Animal Welfare Centre, AVC

BREAK
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Chronic pain: its impact on quality of life and strategies for management
Dr. Leigh Lamont, Companion Animals, AVC

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Special challenges of end-of-life care
Dr. Frank McMillan
Best Friends Animal Society, Utah
LUNCH
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Welfare of hospitalized patients
Dr. Carol Morgan, The W. Maurice Young Centre, the Applied Ethics at the University of British Columbia

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Welfare rounds: challenges, dilemmas in practice

Registration ends
Friday evening
Saturday

Lunch will be provided.
All conference will be provided for veterinarians.
To register: www.speca.com/animalwelfare/apep.ca
or contact: apep@speca.com
902.426.4399

Co-hosted by the
Dr. James Hogg Animal Welfare Centre
and the AVC Animal Welfare Club
With generous support from the
Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada



The Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada

Join us to
consider
ways to
improve
quality of
life in ill or
hospitalized
patients.

PowerPoint presentations from some of the speakers may be viewed at upei.ca/awc (under Recent Notices). The conference was co-hosted by the SJDAWC and the AVC Animal Welfare Club, with generous support from the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada.

Planning is underway for the **2010 Animal Welfare in Practice conference**, which will take place **October 1–2, 2010**. This year's theme will be the welfare of exotic and pocket pets. Please watch upei.ca/awc for updates.

OTHER NEWS

2009 Christofor Award in Animal Welfare—Jen Gordon

Fourth-year student Jen Gordon is the recipient of the 2009 award, presented October 8 at the Atlantic Veterinary College's Awards Night. Jen's interests and efforts in improving the welfare of animals go back long before she came to the AVC. As a teenager in Arizona, she worked as a dog trainer using positive reinforcement techniques to improve the quality of life of both dogs and their owners. She also volunteered at the Tucson Wildlife Center helping to feed, clean, and care for sick and injured large mammals and raptors.

Since her second year at AVC, Jen has volunteered at the PEIHS as a clicker trainer with the *AVC humane dog training programme*. As well, besides taking a very active role in organizing and promoting the shelter's foster programme for young and sick animals, or those experiencing kennel stress, Jen fosters animals herself, including dogs with behaviour problems and a multitude of underweight kittens. She has participated widely in public education events, including the Dr. Tim Ogilvie AVC Vet Camp and AVC Open House, the PEIHS Open House, and local school visits, as a proponent of humane training and other topics affecting the welfare of shelter animals. As President of the AVC Behaviour Club, she organized her own public education fundraising event "Pets 101"—an afternoon of nine mini-talks by students on various



Presenter Alice Crook and 2009 Christofor Award recipient Jen Gordon

topics dealing with animal care, training, and first aid. The event was very well-received and raised \$500 for the PEIHS. As President of the Wildlife and Exotics Club, Jen organized an enrichment programme for the reptiles at the AVC.

Jen is happy to be able to make a positive difference in the lives of animals through these activities. She is considering various veterinary career paths, but no matter what route she takes, she will maintain an active role in

improving the welfare of animals. The SJDAWC wishes her well in all future endeavours and congratulates her most heartily on receiving the 2009 Christofor Award.

2009 Animal Welfare Judging Contest—Michigan State University

One first-year and two second-year veterinary students, accompanied by coach Dr. Michael Cockram, took part in the veterinary division of the 2009 Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging Contest at Michigan State University (MSU), November 21–22, 2009. The contest consists of a series of talks on animal welfare, followed by a team assessment and three individual assessments. Along with other teams from across North America, the students analyzed the welfare of animals on a farm (team assessment), and through computer-based presentations that contained data, videos, and images of animals in two comparable situations (individual assessments). The students evaluated the different scenarios, prepared their analyses,



Stephanie Dodds, Melissa Moggy, and Melissa Hardy

and made an oral presentation to the judges on their rankings. A sheep farm was the topic of this year's team assessment, while the individual assessments concerned rats, white-tailed deer, and meat goats.

Drs. P-Y Daoust, J Spears, and J Wichtel and the three animal welfare graduate students assisted the team with advance preparation at AVC. The students received financial assistance from the SJDAWC Student Project Fund and the American Veterinary Medical Association to attend the contest.

PUBLICATIONS

Cosmetic surgery in dogs

The poster “Every dog should have a tail to tell... and the ears to hear one” has been distributed by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to all small and mixed animal practices in Canada. This colourful poster, a joint initiative of the SJDAWC and the CVMA, provides information about the medically unnecessary practices of ear cropping and tail docking, and illustrates what natural ears and tails look like in many of the breeds which, in North America, are traditionally altered. Many people are surprised to

learn that cocker spaniels, poodles, Yorkshire terriers, etc., would have longer tails if these were not partially amputated within a few days of birth.

The poster (which can be viewed at upe.ca/awc under Outreach) is also available in French “Taille des oreilles et amputation de la queue... Sans queue ni tête!”

This educational initiative is very timely given the bylaw changes occurring within provincial veterinary medical associations (VMAs) regarding cosmetic surgery. Within the last year, both the New Brunswick and PEI VMAs have approved changes to their bylaws to deem cosmetic surgeries as unprofessional conduct. Other provincial VMAs are considering similar changes.

EVERY DOG

SHOULD HAVE A TAIL TO TELL ...

AND THE EARS TO HEAR ONE!

The dogs on this poster have not had their ears and/or tails altered

All puppies are born with tails, but in some breeds the tails are cut off — or docked — when the pups are a few days old. In some breeds parts of the ears are cut off — or cropped — generally between 9 and 12 weeks. These procedures are painful and of no medical benefit to the dog (i.e., cosmetic surgery), and are illegal in many countries (e.g., Scandinavia, many European countries, Australia, and New Zealand). Tail amputation may be performed if needed for medical treatment, such as injury.

CANADIAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
“The CVMA opposes surgical alteration of any animal for purely cosmetic purposes... The CVMA recommends that breed associations change their standards so that cosmetic procedures are not required.”

WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION
“Surgical operations for the purpose of modifying the appearance of a companion animal for non-therapeutic purposes should be actively discouraged. Where possible, legislation should be enacted to prohibit the performance of non-therapeutic surgical procedures for purely cosmetic purposes.”

NEW BRUNSWICK VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
“It is unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian in New Brunswick to perform cosmetic surgery on any animal” (March 2009). (Please check with your provincial VMA for its position.)

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES
“CFHS is opposed to the mutilation of pet animals for cosmetic purposes, e.g., tail docking and ear cropping.”

HELP ALL DOGS TO KEEP THEIR EARS AND TAILS
If you are looking for a puppy of a breed that traditionally has ears and/or tails altered, let the breeder know you do not want this done. You will have to do this before the pup is born as tails are docked within days of birth. Do not buy from breeders who insist that their dogs have cropped ears or docked tails.

Thank you to the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation for permission to adapt their original poster, “Every dog should have a tail to tell...”

North America

Breeds traditionally seen with cropped ears

- Boston terrier
- Boxer
- Doberman, Miniature, and German pinscher
- Great Dane
- Schnauzer (all sizes)
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Manchester terrier
- American Staffordshire terrier
- Brussels griffon

Some of the breeds traditionally seen with docked tails*

- Boxer
- Doberman, Miniature, and German pinscher
- Poodle (all sizes)
- Rottweiler
- Schnauzer (all sizes)
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Pembroke Welsh corgi
- Schipperke
- Some herding breeds (e.g., Old English sheepdog, Australian shepherd)
- Some sporting breeds (e.g., most spaniels, some pointers)
- Some terriers (e.g., Yorkshire, Jack Russell/Parson Russell, Norwich, Norfolk)

***Check with your national kennel club to find a specific breed.**

Standard poodle “Sally”
Credit: Sally Lorelei
Credit: Sally Lorelei

Doberman pinscher

Old English sheepdog

Jack Russell/Parson Russell terrier
“Shelley”
Credit: Ollian Skippin

Boxer “Sergeant”
Credit: Shelley Elbert

Cocker spaniel

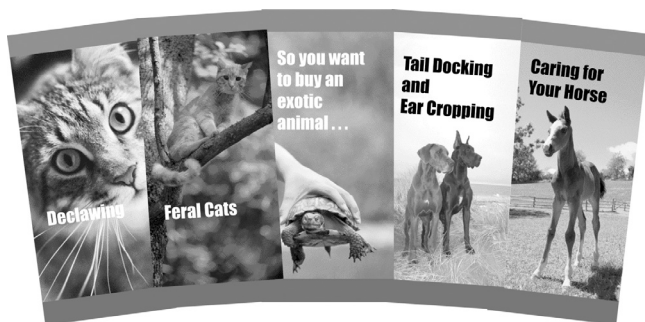
Yorkshire terrier

Great Dane “Overdine”
Credit: Rebecca Conway

Animal Welfare Series Brochures

Brochures in the SJDAWC's Animal Welfare Series are available to assist veterinarians with public education. These colourful, non-technical brochures—*Declawing*, *Tail Docking and Ear Cropping*, *So You Want to Buy an Exotic Pet....*, *Feral Cats*, and *Caring for Your Horse*—may be viewed at upei.ca/awc under Outreach. The brochures may be ordered from animalwelfare@upei.ca for a nominal fee of ten cents each, plus postage.

La brochure sur le **dégriffage** des chats est aussi disponible en français. On peut en commander par email à animalwelfare@upei.ca, pour le prix de 10 sous chacune plus l'affranchissement.



SPONSORS

The SJDAWC is grateful to the Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, for continued support for the *Pegasus feral cat neutering programme* and *Pegasus helping hand fund*. As well, the Centre is pleased to acknowledge generous support from Mr. David Madren, Mr. Glenn Loranger, and Iams and Eukanuba (P & G Pet Care). We also thank the many generous supporters of the Chinook Project, as well as pet owners who have made donations to the Centre *in memoriam*.

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.

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