

## Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre—2011 highlights

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at the Atlantic Veterinary College promotes animal welfare through research, service, and education. In September, the Centre held the seventh annual Animal Welfare in Practice conference, on Lameness in Dairy Cows, which included presentations on gait scoring, risk factors, management to address lameness, and pain management. (The presentations can be viewed at [www.upei.ca/awc](http://www.upei.ca/awc).) The conference was co-hosted by the SJDAWC and the AVC Animal Welfare Club with generous assistance from the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada.

PhD students Niamh Caffrey and Cyril Roy continue their programmes under the supervision of Dr. Michael Cockram (Professor and Chair in Animal Welfare), and Dr. Ian Dohoo (Professor of Epidemiology) using epidemiological methods to study the welfare implications of animal transportation. Niamh Caffrey's project, "Transportation of animals for slaughter in Canada—current practice, welfare issues and regulatory control" is in its third and final year. Funded by the SJDAWC and The Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada, the final stage of this project is an epidemiological study of risk factors for mortality in broilers transported to slaughter. Dr. Michael Cockram and Dr. Crawford Revie (Professor and Canada Research Chair—Epi-informatics) have obtained matching funding from the Canadian Poultry Research Council and the SJDAWC for a project titled "Identification of risk factors during broiler transportation that influence injury and mortality," which will fund a graduate student to continue and expand the existing project. Cyril Roy's project on the welfare of horses transported for slaughter has also made considerable progress in 2011. Cyril conducted field work at an equine slaughter plant in Iceland, which involved recording the characteristics of the journeys taken by the horses to the slaughter plant and assessing their welfare on arrival, using a range of behavioural, physiological, and health measurements. This approach has also been undertaken in Canada. Cyril will complete his field work in 2012. A third PhD student, Jackie Ellis, continues her programme under Dr. Cockram's supervision on environmental enrichment and stress in shelter cats.

A book chapter discussing the relationships between animal welfare and health and disease was published in 2011 in a leading textbook on animal welfare (Cockram MS, Hughes BO. 2011. Health and Disease. Chapter 8. p 120-137. In *Animal Welfare*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Eds Appleby M, Hughes B, Mench J, Olsson A. CABI, Wallingford, UK). Also in 2011, the SJDAWC and the Animal Welfare Committee of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association collaborated to produce a second edition of the poster "Examples of Anaesthetic and Pain Management Protocols for Healthy Dogs and Cats" (Lemke K and Crook A). The poster and accompanying handout "Fundamental Points in Perioperative Pain Management" are available in English and French at [upei.ca/awc/Outputs/Veterinary\\_education](http://upei.ca/awc/Outputs/Veterinary_education).

Three research projects and one new service project were funded through the SJDAWC in 2011, and funding was renewed for three existing service projects. Please see the fall 2011 issue of *SJDAWC News* at [www.upei.ca/awc](http://www.upei.ca/awc) for more information about these projects and other SJDAWC initiatives, including recent publications.