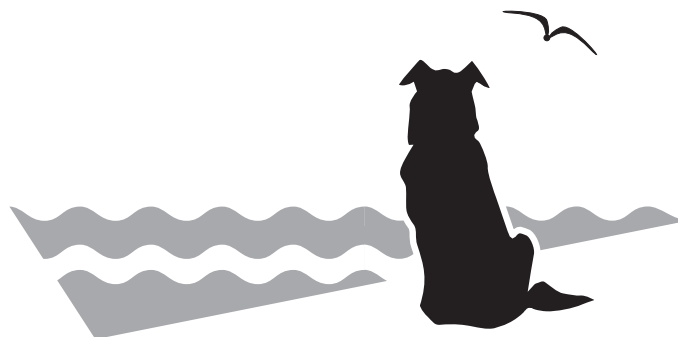


AVC NEWS

NUMBER 16 • FALL 2005



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

From the Coordinator's desk



Welcome to the fall 2005 edition of the *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 edition, you will find reports on SJDawC-funded projects completed this year, and on two successful conferences co-sponsored by the Centre this fall. In "Other News," there is a profile of Kim McCallum, winner of the 2005 Christofor Award in Animal Welfare. There is also an update on the Federal Animal Cruelty Bill. It is highly unfortunate that passage of this important legislation has been derailed by politics once again, with the calling of an early election.

We are pleased to include on page 7 third-year student Rachel Lee's report of her trip to Palau, Micronesia, where she participated in a Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) clinic, with assistance through the SJDawC Student Project Fund. 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.

Alice Crook



Dr. Alice Crook, Editor
AWC NEWS
Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
Atlantic Veterinary College
University of Prince Edward Island
550 University Avenue
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4P3

Tel: (902)628-4360
Fax: (902)566-0958
Email: acrook@upei.ca
chewson@upei.ca
www.upei.ca/awc

Production & Design: UPEI Graphics

Editorial from the Research Chair



This fall, two very applied and very successful animal welfare meetings took place in Charlottetown, each co-sponsored by the SJDawC. The first meeting concerned community-based responses to animal abuse and domestic violence (see page 5). The second meeting was the AVC Humane Ethics Club's inaugural annual symposium, called "Farm Animal Welfare: In Practice" (see page 6). The keynote speaker at the latter was Dr. Temple Grandin of Colorado State University, who spoke about humane handling and slaughter and stressed the danger of "bad becoming normal." That theme is applicable in almost any area of animal management and use. Examples of where bad has become normal range from mutilations such as canine tail-docking—a painful procedure carried out on puppies, usually without analgesia (Hewson, Dohoo and Lemke, in press), and demanded primarily on aesthetic grounds—to the consequences of current food policy. The policy's focus on minimizing the price of food in the supermarket is indirectly responsible

for some procedures that cause "necessary suffering" in farm animals. Examples of these procedures include mutilations (e.g., debeaking of chicks to prevent cannibalism) and routine elective surgeries that are performed without anaesthesia or pain relief (e.g., castration of piglets). The veterinary profession has apparently accepted such instances of bad becoming normal with little or no objection or constructive criticism.

The reasons for apparent professional indifference may relate, in part, to a failure to integrate ethics and animal welfare into the veterinary curriculum; and, in some cases, to the delegation of the teaching of ethics and welfare to faculty who have little or no formal training in those areas. However, this is changing around the world; for example, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College, Copenhagen, has a resident ethicist; the University of Bristol School of Veterinary Science, drawing on its strong animal welfare research group, integrates animal welfare and ethics throughout the curriculum; and the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education* has a themed issue on animal welfare in press, with a future theme on ethics being planned. The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre is another example of these changes: its service projects and its outreach—for example, through the conferences mentioned above—provide one element in the veterinary profession's growing engagement with questions of animal use. These difficult questions concern more than health, production, physical appearance, practice income, or customer service. Busy veterinarians—in practice or in academia—may have neither the time nor, in some cases, the inclination to closely consider the questions. It is well, therefore, that the SJDawC and other veterinary groups such as the animal welfare committees of the various veterinary medical associations can raise the issues. Sincere thanks go, as always, to all the Centre's sponsors for enabling the Centre's work to continue, and to the growing number of veterinarians who show interest in and support for SJDawC activities.

Caroline J. Hewson

Effects of aging on the immune system of horses

J McClure, D MacFarlane, and DP Lunn

Vaccination is an important part of preventive health care. Studies on the effectiveness of vaccines are usually carried out on young or healthy adult animals. It is known that advancing age weakens the immune system, and this is thought to contribute to the increased susceptibility to infectious disease. In other species the ability to respond adequately to vaccination has been shown to decline with age. This study compared the response to vaccination against rabies and equine influenza virus in healthy adult horses (4 to 12 years), with the response in healthy aged horses (older than 25 years). Equine influenza is one of the most important contagious respiratory diseases in the horse, and almost all horses have come in contact with this disease by three to four years of age. Rabies, until recently not present in the region, has been confirmed in New Brunswick, and therefore it is timely to consider vaccination of Maritime horses.

The specific objectives of this study were to determine influenza-specific systemic IgGa, IgGb, and IgG(T) production in 25 aged and 25 non-aged adult horses after administration of an intramuscular inactivated vaccine; to determine rabies-specific IgG response in 25 aged and 25 non-aged adult horses after administration of an intramuscular inactivated vaccine; and to compare the difference in systemic rabies and influenza antibody responses post-vaccination for aged and non-aged adult horses. The primary hypothesis was that the immunological response elicited by influenza and rabies vaccine is decreased in healthy aged horses (greater than 25 years) compared to adult horses (4 to 12 years).

All horses were vaccinated and received complete physical examinations. Blood samples were taken for a complete blood count, biochemistry, and serum selenium. The owners were informed of any concerns raised.

Laboratory work was carried out on the serum samples to determine the specific antibody response to the influenza and rabies vaccines. The influenza titers were determined at the AVC immunology laboratory, and the rabies titers were determined in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) rabies lab in Ottawa. Preliminary results showed that both the young and old horses mounted a protective immune response to the vaccinations. A preliminary statistical analysis on the data for the rabies titers showed no significant difference in the response in the older horses as compared to the younger horses.

This study has been the graduate project for Dr. Tammy Muirhead's Residency/Master's programme. The remainder of the statistical analysis, manuscript preparation, and thesis defense will be completed by early 2006. As well, an abstract concerning the results of the project will be submitted to the 2006 American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine conference in New Orleans.

The results of the study will help veterinarians to plan the best vaccination strategies for older horses, as well as to better

understand the impact of aging on the immune system in horses. All manuscripts and abstract presentations will be listed on the SJDAWC website when they become available.

Improving care of cats with seizures: understanding the side effects of potassium bromide

C Gaskill

Seizure disorders affect about one per cent of cats. The three main drugs used to control seizures in cats are phenobarbital, diazepam, and potassium bromide. Unfortunately, all have potentially serious side effects. Potassium bromide is being used more and more commonly, although no controlled studies have been done to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of this drug in cats. Recently, development of difficult-to-treat coughing and breathing problems have been reported in some cats who received this drug. Because potassium bromide may be safer for some cats than either of the other two anticonvulsants currently used, it is important to learn more about the airway disease that appears to be associated with its use.

The objectives of this study are to gain knowledge about the mechanisms of adverse effects of potassium bromide (KBr) on lungs in cats, and to demonstrate that bromide ions interfere with chloride ion transport across excised feline respiratory epithelial membranes. Samples used in this study were obtained from cats euthanized independently by the PEI Humane Society (PEIHS). This project is part of a larger study that investigates the effects of KBr on cat lungs.

The objectives of this study are very close to completion. Complementary sections of the overall project are complete or nearly complete. Dr. Gaskill has identified the presence of the major chloride channel of interest—the specific CFTR chloride channel—in cat airways. This has not been previously reported in cats. Dr. Gaskill is currently localizing the CFTR channel protein using immunohistochemistry. She has preserved *in situ* and imaged with transmission electron microscopy the thin (10 µm) airway surface liquid layer lining normal feline airways using special non-aqueous preservation techniques. This is also the first time this has been described in feline airways. Specially prepared sections of feline airways have been sent to a team of researchers in Australia who are analyzing the tissues via time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry. This will help determine the chemical architecture of the airways and lining fluids, and will be useful to compare with the bioelectric work. All of these complementary portions of the overall study help to lay the foundation for the bioelectrics portion of the study.

Progress on the section of the study funded by the SJDAWC is also nearly complete. Dr. Gaskill has performed the initial set of experiments with airways using bioelectrics techniques to measure ion flows across excised airway epithelium. She has determined that the membranes respond to specific ion channel blockers and activators in a manner consistent with the presence of CFTR chloride channels, and that bromide exposure causes a significant increase in short circuit current, consistent with increased anion secretion or increased cation absorption. These initial experiments were performed at Kansas State University in the summer of 2004. Experiments

are being carried out on similar equipment, ordered for AVC, to further determine how the bromide ions interfere with ion transport. These experiments are nearly complete. This work will be followed with another section of the overall study that investigates the effects of bromide on ion flow in cultured epithelial cells.

There are no direct or indirect benefits to animals during the course of this project, as the study involves tissues removed from cats who had been euthanized at the local humane society. The benefits will come from the results of the study, which will enable a better understanding of how the anticonvulsant drug KBr causes adverse effects on the lung tissues of cats. This should lead to better prevention and/or improved treatment of this respiratory condition when it occurs in cats who are receiving KBr for seizures.

Information from the study will be disseminated via abstracts at scientific meetings and in publications in scientific journals. These will be listed on the SJDAWC website as they are published.

AVC humane dog training programme (2004–2005)

N Guy

Dr. Guy began this programme in 2001, in cooperation with the PEI Humane Society (PEIHS). The objectives are to improve the quality of life for dogs being held for adoption at the PEIHS; to increase veterinary student awareness of shelter issues; to increase the adoption and retention of humane society dogs; to increase the basic level of dog behaviour knowledge and the training skills of AVC students and the humane society staff; to proactively improve the knowledge and training skills of new owners; and to provide leadership in positive methods of behaviour modification within the PEI community. Over the last few years, students involved in the programme have also carried out fund-raising activities, in conjunction with the AVC student chapter of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviour and the PEIHS, for projects such as the construction of a fence to enclose a safe outdoor dog park area, dedicated solely to the use of shelter dogs.

From May 2004 to April 2005, over 150 dogs were trained by Alison Pollard (AVC 2007), Kristine Duerr (AVC 2007), and Cathy Schmall (AVC 2005). During the same time period, there were 630 dogs either relinquished to the shelter, arriving as strays, or impounded by the animal protection officers for a variety of reasons. Of that total, 340 dogs were adopted out to new homes, 105 were redeemed by the owner, and 185 were euthanized.

Markedly fewer dogs were euthanized in this past year at the PEIHS than in any previous year since records have been maintained. By comparison, from May 2003 to April 2004 there were 361 canine euthanasias, almost 100 per cent more than in this immediate past year. While euthanasia of dogs has decreased dramatically at the shelter, adoptions are on the increase, up 15 per cent over the previous year. On average, more dogs are being held for a longer period on the adoption floor, and more are eventually finding good homes. This dramatic change is largely the result of the efforts of the new shelter manager, Dr. Els Cawthorn, supported by her willingness and ability to make good use of the student trainers. The longer

holding period on the adoption floor also increases the importance of the trainers in preventing problems with shelter stress. Even if dogs are not clicker-trained, they benefit greatly from social interaction with trainers, including the ability to have some off-leash fun in the new outdoor exercise and training area.

The AVC trainers continue to be an important source of information and behavioural advice for potential adopters and any visitors to the shelter. There are, unfortunately, no professional trainers working on PEI who practise solely positive training methods, with the exception of one person at the east end of the Island who offers classes on an occasional basis. As a result, the role of the AVC trainers and the PEIHS in promoting humane training methods is highly significant.

The AVC student body is becoming increasingly aware of positive methods of dog training and shelter issues in general. Many are now helping the shelter by temporarily fostering animals with special needs. Most students have a good basic understanding of clicker training, having benefitted from sessions with trainer Heather Logan (supported by the SJDAWC grant), both at AVC and at the women's prison in Nova Scotia. This year, there was a very large pool of excellent applicants for the four student positions at the shelter, demonstrating the high level of interest in this programme among AVC students.

In summary, the *AVC humane dog training programme* continues to be a significant resource for the PEI Humane Society in its efforts to find permanent loving homes for companion animals. The influence of this association with the shelter on AVC students appears to be growing, as more students are showing an interest in shelter medicine and a greater understanding of the role of veterinarians in the promotion of the humane treatment of all animals, not just those presented to veterinary hospitals.

Funding for this project has been renewed to 2007. More information can be found at www.upei.ca/~traindog/.

Wildlife rehabilitation (including orphaned wildlife care) (2004–05)

H Gelens, C Runyon, and PY Daoust

This year has been busy for wildlife rehabilitation at the AVC. The overall number of injured or displaced wild animals brought to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) was down compared to last year, but the complexity of treatment and care for the individual patients has increased. This may include nursing care, specialized food and housing, medical management, and special procedures such as diagnostic tests, X-rays, and bandage/casting material. Humane euthanasia is sometimes the best option for some of these animals.

In addition to the usual species of songbirds (gold finches, robins, starlings, blue jays, etc.), there has been an increase in the number of displaced and injured raptors. Two snowy owls, one bald eagle, two northern harriers, and one grosbeak hawk all received care this year through this project. The number of wild mammals has also increased compared to last year. After short stays at AVC, three immature raccoons, two immature skunks, and two injured fox pups were successfully placed with wildlife rehabilitation facilities on PEI.

Veterinary student participation in the care for injured and displaced wildlife has intensified over the last year. Throughout the school year, AVC senior students on the small animal medicine rotation provide care for wildlife patients; other students and specialists at AVC from other areas assist with treatments as necessary on an ad hoc basis. For many students, this represents the first time that they have played such an essential role in the veterinary care of non-traditional species.

Contacts have been strengthened with wildlife rehabilitators and other professionals involved in the care of wildlife in the Maritimes (e.g., the Atlantic Wildlife Institute in Sackville, NB). Students in the Wildlife Conservation Technology Programme at Holland College were contacted to help correctly identify and provide species-specific insights into the patient bird population. All those involved in the project, and especially the wildlife patients, will benefit from this increased level of cooperation.



Care of an injured Snowy Owl, 2005

THANK YOU

The SJDAWC and Dr. Hans Gelens thank all those who responded to the funding appeal in the *Summer 2005 AWC News*. With your generous donations, we are installing a special ceiling for the aviary, which will be safer for the large wild birds during their recovery and rehabilitation in the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Pegasus feral cat neutering programme (2004–05)

A Crook, P Foley, M Hopson, and W Grasse

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 Peninsula Community Foundation. The original project goal was to neuter an average of five cats per week, but that number has been surpassed, with an average of almost eight cats neutered weekly over the most recent granting period. Procedures used are as established by Dr. Peter Foley in consultation with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT) for the separate SJDAWC-funded project, *Neutering feral cats on PEI*. The procedures were carried out by Dr. Foley or Dr. Hopson, or by senior veterinary students under their supervision. As well, 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.

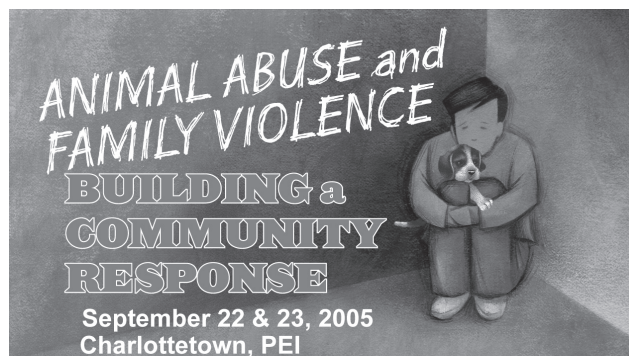
The Pegasus Family Foundation has renewed funding for this project for a further six months.

Publications

Papers published in 2005 from the Centre's work are listed below. All publications to date are listed on the SJDAWC website.

- JI Wojciechowska, CJ Hewson, H Stryhn, NC Guy, GJ Patronek, and V Timmons *Evaluation of a questionnaire regarding nonphysical aspects of quality of life in sick and healthy dogs* Am J Vet Res 2005;66(8):1461-1467
- C Hewson *Do animals get a fair deal in today's world?* Irish Vet J 2005;58(6):339-343
- JL Christie, CJ Hewson, CB Riley, MA McNiven, IR Dohoo, and LA Bate *A preliminary equine abuse policy with potential application to veterinary practice* Can Vet J 2005; 46:250-252
- CL Cullen, SI Ihle, AA Webb, and C McCarville *Keratoconjunctival effects of diabetes mellitus in dogs* Vet Ophthal 2005; 8 (4):215-224
- JI Wojciechowska, and CJ Hewson *Quality-of-life assessment in pet dogs* J Am Vet Med Assoc 2005; 226(5):722-728

CONFERENCE NEWS



The SJDAWC's 2005 Invited Lecture in Animal Welfare was given in September by Marie Suthers-McCabe, DVM, Director of the Center for Animal Human Relationships at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, as part of the conference, "Animal Abuse and Family Violence: Building a Community Response." The other speakers were Mary Zilney, MSW, RSW, of Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County; Judee Onyskiw, RN, PhD, Canada Research Chair in Family Violence and Children's Health, University of New Brunswick; and Alice Crook, DVM, of the SJDAWC. Topics included the link between animal abuse and family violence, setting up a Safe Pets Programme for pets of women leaving abusive homes, the effects on children of witnessing violence in the home, and building community partnerships to promote early and effective intervention. In addition, parallel sessions covered "Recognizing and addressing suspected animal abuse" (M Suthers-McCabe and A Crook), "Assessing and identifying risk, and developing appropriate intervention strategies (child welfare)" (M Zilney), and "Childhood exposure to abuse and abusive behaviour in adulthood" (J Onyskiw).

OTHER NEWS

The conference was a great success, judging from the number and mix of participants, and the enthusiastic comments on the evaluations. There were over 80 registrants in all, from across Canada and from the US, as well as from all four Atlantic provinces, including veterinarians, vet students, social workers, child protection workers, probation officers, family violence workers, and humane society personnel. The conference was co-sponsored by the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre and the PEI Transition House Association, with support from the Community Mobilization Programme (federal) and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention (provincial).

Farm Animal Welfare: In Practice

On October 14 and 15, the AVC Humane Ethics Club hosted its inaugural annual symposium, "Farm Animal Welfare: In Practice." The primary theme was on-farm welfare assessment, and Dr. Suzanne Millman from the Ontario Veterinary College spoke on this topic and led 20 people on a visit to a dairy farm. Dr. Kip Lemke of AVC spoke on anaesthesia and analgesia in farm animals, and Dr. Temple Grandin of Colorado State University provided the keynote address on humane handling and slaughter. Dr. Grandin spoke by videolink which proved a very effective and cost-effective format. The symposium was well-organized and was attended by vet students, students from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, veterinarians, and some producers. While on the Island, Dr. Millman also gave an interview on CBC radio's Maritime Noon programme about on-farm welfare assessment.

Sponsorship for the conference was provided by the SJDAWC Student Project Fund, the Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust (CANFACT), the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada, and Vetoquinol. Congratulations to students Shawn Llewellyn, Tasha Kean, and Carrie Arnett for the success of the meeting. Plans are under way for the next "Welfare: In Practice" conference, with a tentative date of September 22–23, 2006. Watch for further information in our summer 2006 newsletter, and on our website.

Quality of Life: the Heart of the Matter September 2006

The UFAW/BVA Ethics Committee has issued a First Announcement and Preliminary Call for Papers for this symposium, to be held in London, UK, September 13–15, 2006. The aim is to bring together leading scientists, practising veterinarians, and animal scientists and keepers to discuss relevant issues and, in so doing, to emphasize and promote concern for quality of life at the centre of care for companion animals. For more information, please see www.ufaw.org.uk

2005 Christofor Award in Animal Welfare

Fourth-year student Kim McCallum is the recipient of this year's award, presented November 3 at the Atlantic Veterinary College Awards Night. Kim believes strongly that every dog has enormous potential and a unique personality. She has been very active in the AVC *humane dog training programme* ever since coming to the College. In her first year, she volunteered six hours weekly at the PEIHS, working with her assigned dogs to shape their behaviours in positive ways. After each dog was adopted, she remained in contact with the new owners to help them and their pets adjust, by educating and advising them on the fundamentals of dog behaviour. Kim has continued to work with the *Humane dog training programme*, including, on occasion, fostering dogs with special medical needs.

Along with her dog, Jessie, Kim has visited numerous elementary and high schools throughout PEI for the past three years, through the SJDAWC-funded AVC *humane education programme*, to teach children about bite prevention, caring for pets, positive training, and the importance of neutering. Kim and Jessie have also worked in the St. John Ambulance Therapy Programme.

As well, Kim has been active in walking and training the AVC teaching beagles during her three years at the College, and has been an articulate advocate for increased exercise and socialization for them. Kim has also regularly volunteered for the bimonthly Saturday feral cat neutering days. Along with these many activities, she has maintained consistent academic standing on the Dean's list.

Before coming to AVC, Kim worked as a dog handler in the Yukon Territory, training a team of sled dogs consisting mostly of misfits and young hopefuls. In February 2007, she will again work with sled dogs as a volunteer veterinarian monitoring the health of sled dogs who run the Yukon Quest, the 1,000-mile race from Whitehorse, Yukon, to Fairbanks, Alaska.

There is no doubt that Kim's passionate commitment to improving the lives of animals will continue, no matter where her career takes her. The SJDAWC wishes her well in all her endeavours, and congratulates her most heartily on her well-deserved receipt of the 2005 Christofor Award.



2005 Christofor Award recipient Kim McCallum and presenter Dr. Alice Crook

Graduate students

Former SJDAWC graduate student Nina Wojciechowska, DVM, MSc, is currently working as a research assistant at the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics, University of Queensland. She is managing a survey of Australian attitudes to farm animal welfare.

Teaching Video

In 2003, Dr. Hewson developed a teaching module (video/DVD and moderator's notes), "Veterinary Communication and Animal Welfare," and subsequently presented it at the first international conference on communication in veterinary medicine (see *Summer 2004 AWC News*). In 2004, four veterinary schools in North America bought the module, providing welcome income to the Centre. In fall 2005, the module was highlighted on an e-mail listserv for university librarians; a further two schools bought the module and the USDA Agricultural Library has requested a copy. In addition, the video will be used by one of the six schools in a presentation to other schools that are developing communication training in their curricula.

Update on Federal Cruelty to Animals Bill

The most recent version of legislation to amend the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code was reintroduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Justice on May 16, 2005. The 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. It was expected that C-50 would be debated in the House of Commons this fall; however, uncertainty about an election call has apparently prevented that.

The Bill is the first major amendment to the Cruelty to Animals sections of the Criminal Code since these laws were originally enacted in 1892. The Bill would move animals out of the property section of the Criminal Code, and provide tougher punishments for killing or harming an animal, or for failing to provide adequate care. This legislation has been before Parliament for almost six years, and is broadly endorsed across Canada, including by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. It is widely believed that this legislation, once passed, will significantly improve protection for criminally abused animals in this country.

Report: The Plight of Canada's Polar Bears

The Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society (CMEPS) has recently produced a very informative and well-illustrated report that will engage students, educators, and all those interested in the current situation of polar bears in Canada's Arctic. The report can be accessed at www.cmeps.org

STUDENT REPORT

RAVS Clinic, Palau

Rachel Lee—AVC 2007

With help from a generous grant from the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre Student Project Fund, I departed New York on May 26, 2005, and traveled to the Republic of Palau for two-and-a-half weeks of volunteer clinical practice with the Rural Area Veterinary Service (RAVS). The RAVS programme, run by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), delivers veterinary medical services and humane education

to impoverished rural communities in the United States and throughout the world. A student from Colorado State University and a student from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a veterinarian from Boston, Massachusetts, and a veterinarian from Australia, joined me at the clinic hosted by the Palau Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

The Republic of Palau is a small country in the Pacific Islands comprising hundreds of small islands and a rich culture and ecosystem. However, amidst the natural beauty, there has also been a massive increase in the number of uncontrolled "community" dogs that breed freely, perpetuating the population. Further, the constant possibility of a rabies outbreak and the costs associated with rabies treatments following dog bites are serious public health issues. As in many similar countries, due to financial constraints the only possible means of controlling these populations is with massive extermination programmes.

The HSUS and RAVS work with these countries to develop and implement feasible protocols to control these "community" populations through promotion of the human-animal bond and humane education, as well as assistance in vaccination and sterilization of animals as an alternative to extermination (spay/neuter-release programmes).

The clinic was open until July 5, 2005 (though I was there only until June 19), and provided any and all possible veterinary care, either free or at cost. Here is a summary of treatment statistics for the Palau 2005 clinic: dog spay—54; dog neuter (castration)—56; cat spay—13; cat neuter (castration)—13; orthopedic surgery—5; other surgery—2; checkup (including deworming, and treatment for mange, ear infections, etc)—90 dogs and cats; heartworm treatment—5 dogs.

Participation in this project was very rewarding. It offered me the unique opportunity to travel to a part of the world where I have never been and experience a culture and way of life much different from our own. It afforded me the opportunity to help in making a "difference" in how animals are perceived and consequently cared for in this developing country, and it offered me the opportunity to enhance my clinical and surgical skills.



Palau, Oceania; Inset: Rachel Lee performing dog spay, RAVS Clinic

SPONSORS

The Centre has recently received renewed and increased funding for the fourth six-month phase of the *Pegasus feral cat neutering programme* (page 5). We are very grateful to the Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Peninsula Community Foundation, for this continued support.

We are also grateful for a generous private donation that was recently received to support the Centre's projects, and we also thank those whose donations are enabling us to build a new aviary ceiling (*Wildlife rehabilitation project*, page 5).

And, as always, we most gratefully acknowledge the ongoing financial support of the Friends of the Christofor Foundation, without which the SJDAWC would not exist.

MANDATE

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

Objectives:

- 1) The SJDAWC promotes research projects and service activities where there is a clear potential for tangible benefits to animals.
- 2) The SJDAWC serves as a resource centre to compile, generate, and disseminate information relevant to the well-being of animals.
- 3) The SJDAWC 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.

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 established 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.