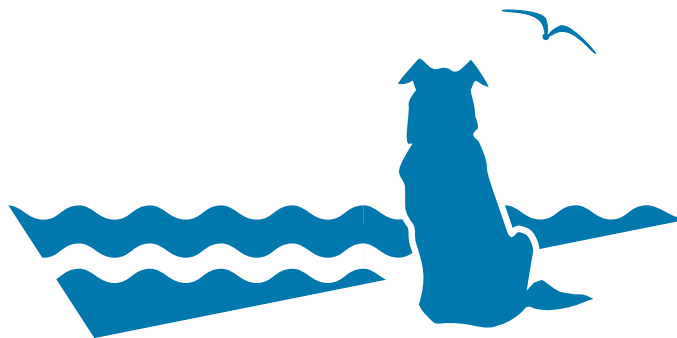


# *AVC NEWS*

NUMBER 23 • SUMMER 2009



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

## From the Coordinator's Desk



Welcome to the Summer 2009 AWC News, the newsletter of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDAWC) at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island. Highlights of this issue include a summary of a paper on animal welfare regulation in Canada and the UK by Dr. Michael Cockram, Chair in Animal Welfare; descriptions of projects at the SJDAWC that have received funding in 2009; and information on the upcoming fifth annual "Animal Welfare: In Practice" conference on welfare issues and dilemmas in veterinary practice—October 2-3, 2009.

Dr. Cockram continues to establish his research programme at AVC. Three graduate students will be arriving to work with him by the end of 2009 on specific projects, including one funded in the 2009 SJDAWC competition (page 4). Since the last SJDAWC newsletter (winter 2009), Dr. Cockram has given talks at the American Meat Institute in Kansas City, Missouri ("Sheep Transport"), the College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum/Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention (ACVIM/CVMA) in Montréal, Québec ("Animal Welfare Regulation in Canada and the UK," and illustrative case studies), and the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) for the session on Welfare Assessment and Enhancement at the 43rd Congress of the ISAE, Cairns, Queensland, Australia ("Welfare implications of different culling methods for shooting red deer"). Dr. Cockram also took part, along with Ms. Shelagh MacDonald of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, in the CBC Maritime Noon Phone-in on June 8, 2009, "Should Canada do more to improve the welfare of animals?"

Please visit our website at [upei.ca/awc](http://upei.ca/awc) for information on the upcoming fall conference, and on projects funded by the Centre, associated publications and presentations, and animal welfare resources at UPEI's Robertson Library.

### Please note:

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

*Alice Crook*



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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. 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 SJDAWC to improve the welfare of animals, or may choose to support specific service or research projects. Donations may be made through UPEI's secure online system ([upei.ca/awc](http://upei.ca/awc) "To make a donation") or by cheque to the SJDAWC (address above).

For more information on the work of the SJDAWC, please contact Dr. Alice Crook at [animalwelfare@upei.ca](mailto: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](mailto:tcomeau@upei.ca) or (902) 566-0354 or (866) 453-4119 (toll-free in Canada and the United States).

## Animal Welfare Regulation in Canada and the UK

Michael Cockram



Compared to the UK, Canada appears to rely mainly on self-regulation to protect the welfare of animals. Although there is some provincial legislation, as well as federal legislation for transport and slaughter, there is not the same type of national infrastructure in Canada as there is in the UK to provide for comprehensive and effective government regulation to ensure the welfare of animals. The wording of provincial regulations and their enforcement is variable. Many provinces provide funding for enforcement, but in some cases this is left to self-funded or special interest groups. Inspections are performed by some provinces, but others only respond to complaints. In many circumstances, the only legal protection available to protect the welfare of animals is the

Criminal Code of Canada and there are major problems with using this legislation. In the UK, there is comprehensive legislation to protect the welfare of animals that consists of anti-cruelty legislation and legislation that is proactive in requiring a certain level of care for the animals to provide a minimal standard of animal welfare and to prevent unnecessary suffering. A recent Animal Welfare Act placed a duty on the person responsible for a domesticated vertebrate animal to take reasonable steps to ensure that the needs of the animal are met to the extent required by good practice. Inspections are performed by central and local government to enforce animal welfare regulations for livestock (on-farms, in-transit, at markets, and at slaughter), companion animals, horses, zoos, and research laboratories. The level of compliance with these regulations is reported to the public. Information on the degree of compliance in Canada with existing legal regulation and the various types of self-regulation is not readily available.

Animal welfare as an issue has less public profile in Canada than in the UK. In the UK, public opinion insists that the government has the protection of animal welfare as an important policy objective. Animal welfare organizations are well-funded by public donations, and are active in producing campaign materials, influencing the media, and lobbying politicians. Public concern is also increasingly expressed by consumer action. Although animal welfare is recognized as a consumer issue by the federal government in Canada, there is no policy framework to address animal welfare and little provision for government funding for animal welfare. The responsibility for animal welfare is left to industry and special interest groups. In the UK, government intervention is justified for a number of reasons. It is recognized that government has a role in preventing animal suffering, encouraging positive policies to improve animal welfare, providing information, and achieving a caring society.

In the UK, research is used as a significant instrument to develop animal welfare policy. Research provides evidence for decision-making, policy solutions, identifying and tackling future issues, and animal welfare monitoring and surveillance. There is a clear role for government to fund or stimulate research in areas of importance that the private sector is failing to address.

As animal welfare has no explicit financial value, it cannot be left solely to market forces. Legal minimum standards are required to ensure that animals are not treated cruelly or in ways that the majority of society finds unacceptable. These legal minimum standards have to be enforced consistently and rigorously to provide an acceptable level of compliance, and this requires dedicated enforcement activity with appropriate institutional arrangements.

Based on:

Cockram M.S. 2009. Animal Welfare Regulation in Canada and the UK. Proceedings of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum/Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention in Montréal, Québec, June 5, 2009; 563-565.

Cockram M.S. 2009. Case studies illustrating Animal Welfare Regulation in Canada and the UK. Proceedings of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum/Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention in Montréal, Québec, June 5, 2009; 566-568.

## PROJECTS FUNDED—2009

### ***Environmental enrichment to reduce stress in shelter cats***

M Cockram, N Guy, J Spears, and H Stryhn

There have been only a limited number of studies that have investigated the potential benefits of environmental enrichment to improve housing arrangements for shelter cats by reducing stress. The objective of this PhD project is to investigate whether environmental enrichment can reduce stress in shelter cats. The first step is to establish behavioural and physiological methods to effectively assess stress in shelter cats. The investigators will then examine the effects of temperament on the responses to stress, and, finally, work to develop methods for reducing any stress by evaluating the benefits of different types of environmental enrichment for different temperamental characteristics. The proposed methodology involves quantitative and qualitative behavioural assessments, faecal cortisol analysis, and temperament testing in order to provide specific types of environmental enrichment appropriate for the temperamental characteristics of the cat. A push-door test will be used to evaluate the strength of motivation of a cat to obtain specific types of environmental enrichment. This project will have implications for cats kept in shelters and other confined situations by providing recommendations on how to reduce stress in cats by environmental enrichment of housing.

### ***Neutering feral cats on PEI (2009–2011)***

P Foley

Feral cats have high birth rates because they are sexually intact and have uncontrolled reproduction. They also have high death rates because of the harshness of their lives: fighting for mates, competing for food, and susceptibility to disease. This proposal—trap, test, vaccinate, neuter, and release—is designed to decrease the birth rate within the feral cat population and decrease the stressors in their lives.

A community group on PEI, the Cat Action Team (CAT), has demonstrated a strong commitment to this programme over the past eight years, coordinating the trapping, neutering, and releasing of over 4,400 feral cats. A large proportion of these cats have been neutered at AVC, through this SJDAWC-funded project and the *Pegasus feral cat neutering programme*

(page 5). Dr. Foley's project has been approved to continue the feral cat neutering programme over the coming two years by conducting neuter days with student and faculty volunteers every two months.

Individual feral cats will benefit through vaccination, deworming, and surgical sterilization, resulting in a less stressful life with less competition for food, less fighting, and less spread of disease. The feral cat population on PEI will benefit through sterilization of whole colonies, or at least a decrease in the rate of growth of those colonies, and decreased prevalence of feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). Domestic cats on PEI will benefit from less chance of contracting infectious diseases like upper respiratory tract viruses, FeLV, and FIV from feral cats, and through less fighting. Veterinary students will benefit through increased surgical experience and through an enhanced sense of responsibility to the welfare of feral cat populations. The incidence of nuisance behaviours of feral cats such as urine spraying and fighting will be decreased. Research spin-offs for this programme include reporting of disease prevalence data on PEI as a whole and also within local pockets on the Island. This neuter programme has already served as a template for the creation of similar programmes in Eastern Canada.

### ***AVC humane dog training programme (2009–2011)***

N Guy, E Cawthorn

This programme, which places veterinary students in training and counseling positions at the PEI Humane Society (PEIHS), has been in operation since 2001. The mandate of the PEIHS is to find “permanent loving homes” for the animals in its care. In the case of dogs, educating owners so that they have reasonable expectations about dog ownership, matching the right dog to the right home, and ongoing support of owners through behavioural and training issues with the dogs after adoption are extremely important. This project has received funding for the next two years for the continuation and enhancement of the programme. One AVC student trainer has been hired as the coordinator and is working full-time at the PEIHS during the summer. The coordinator will continue working on a part-time basis through the fall and winter semesters, and will be joined at that point by three other part-time student trainers. The shelter

dogs benefit directly from this programme through contact with the trainers, which includes pre-adoption assessments, training, and socialization. The advice and support given to adopters will also benefit the dogs directly by helping them to find a permanent home. The students benefit by gaining practical experience with training and behavioural issues, as well as significant knowledge of shelter issues which they carry back to their classmates and then take with them into their careers as veterinarians. This will indirectly benefit both dogs and cats in the long term.

### ***Chinook Project—providing veterinary care to Arctic communities (2010–11)***

L Miller, J Magrath, M Hopson

This is a renewal of a previously funded SJDAWC grant (since 2006) to provide basic veterinary care to isolated communities in Nunavut. Veterinary care is unavailable to many communities in the North. This year's trip to Kugluktuk (Copper Mine) and Cambridge Bay took place in late May. The Chinook Project 2009 team of two veterinarians, one animal health technician, and four senior veterinary students returned to PEI with terrific stories of Northern hospitality and the animals they were able to help.

Through this project, veterinary care is provided to sled dogs, homebound dogs, and the occasional cat. Such care includes vaccination, examination and treatment for parasites, and neutering, as well as occasional surgical and medical treatments such as tumour removal or laceration repair. Community members are taught about vaccination and parasite prevention and given some basic training in emergency care for dogs. Vaccines and supplies are left with the educated community members to improve the welfare of the animals. AVC members also participate in cultural exchange activities, allowing them to broaden their understanding of Canadian diversity and to encounter forms of animal life they would not normally see. Participants are keeping journals during their stay, from which they will ultimately produce a series of creative non-fiction pieces to form a book with the working title, *AVC Goes North*.

For more detailed information about this year's trip, visit the blog kept by two of this year's students for the CBC website: [cbc.ca/pei/features/chinookproject/](http://cbc.ca/pei/features/chinookproject/).

Travel and shipping of supplies to Nunavut are ex-

tremely costly. Both Cambridge Bay (including the organization Diamonds in the Ruff) and Kugluktuk raised considerable funds to contribute to the costs of this summer's trip. Besides SJDAWC support, the Chinook Project has received a generous grant from the Rathlyn Foundation, very welcome permanent support from First Air, and generous support from Pfizer Canada and Iams and Eukanuba (P&G Pet Care), since the beginning of the project. Assistance has also been received from the Cogsdale Corporation, Home Hardware (St. Peter's Road, Charlottetown), Bernard's Lock and Key Ltd. (Moncton, NB), the Victoria Kennel Club (Victoria, BC), and Sue Hamilton (*The Fan Hitch*). The Chinook Project also very much appreciates ongoing in-kind support from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Department of Companion Animals at AVC.

### ***Study of injuries associated with the handling and transport of horses for slaughter***

M Cockram

The number of horses transported for slaughter in Canada for human consumption has increased from about 60,000 in 2003 to over 79,000 in 2007 (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2007). Concern over the treatment of these horses has been expressed by various bodies. One area that requires further study is injury in slaughter horses. If the risk factors that cause injuries are identified it should be possible to adopt management procedures to reduce their occurrence.

This project will supplement another project that has been funded by the SJDAWC, which is an ongoing three-year graduate project at the AVC to study welfare issues associated with the transport and slaughter of horses. This current project will provide additional funding to make further observations at the slaughter plant, with the potential to study horses before and after transport.

*This project is funded by the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada.*

### ***Pegasus feral cat neutering programme (2009)***

A Crook, M Coffey, S Hughes

Funding has been continued for this project, which has been generously supported since 2004 by the Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Under the programme, feral

cats are neutered by veterinary students on Fridays at the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital, in conjunction with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT) and according to procedures established by Dr. Peter Foley for the *Neutering feral cats on PEI* project (page 4).

## CONFERENCE NEWS

### **Animal Welfare in Practice—Issues and Dilemmas** Atlantic Veterinary College, October 2–3, 2009

Join the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre and the AVC Animal Welfare Club on October 2 and 3, 2009, for the fifth annual Animal Welfare in Practice conference. This year, the conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Frank McMillan of Best Friends Animal Society, Utah, who will discuss 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 at the University of British Columbia, who will talk about the welfare of hospitalized patients. AVC speakers Drs. Hans Gelens, Pierre-Yves Daoust, Alice Crook, and Leigh Lamont, will address issues associated with caring for wildlife patients, mandatory reporting of animal abuse, and animal pain. The day will finish with “Welfare rounds,” comprised of case-based discussions.

Please go to [upei.ca/awc](http://upei.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.

### **Dr. Temple Grandin at AVC**

On February 20, animal welfare scientist Dr. Temple Grandin spoke at AVC on “Welfare Issues in Livestock Handling, Transport, and Slaughter.” Dr. Grandin, a Professor at Colorado State University, is an internationally known expert in humane livestock handling. In North America, almost half the cattle are handled in a centre track restrainer system of her design. She has also developed an objective scoring system for assessing handling of cattle and pigs at meat plants which is being used by many large corporations to improve animal welfare.

At AVC, key points in Dr. Grandin’s talk included the importance of training animal handlers in low stress animal handling, regular supervision of handlers,

properly designed facilities with attention to detail, and identifying and fixing animal facility problems. She talked about causes of hard-to-handle cattle and pigs, and about welfare issues at slaughter plants. She stressed that holding producers accountable for handling problems will reduce such problems, and that measurement of handling faults is a crucial part of maintaining accountability. Her final message was, “Attitude of management is the single biggest factor that determines how animals are treated.” Following her talk, Dr. Grandin signed copies of her books *Animals Make us Human*, *Humane Livestock Handling*, and *Animals in Translation*.



**Dr. Temple Grandin at AVC, February 2009**

An estimated 250 AVC students, faculty, and staff heard her presentation – there was standing room only in the lecture theatre where she spoke – and her talk was simultaneously broadcast in an adjacent lecture theatre which was also full. EastLink cable TV recorded her presentation for later broadcast in PEI and Nova Scotia. Dr. Grandin’s Powerpoint presentation at AVC may be viewed at [upei.ca/awc](http://upei.ca/awc).

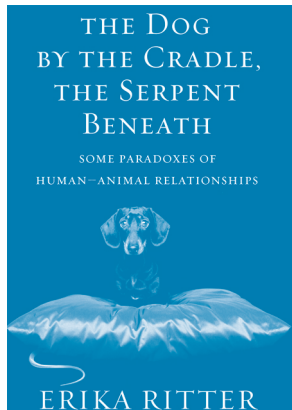
While at AVC, Dr. Grandin also met with faculty, staff, and students for an informal question and answer session, and provided advice on the bovine handling system in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Dr. Grandin is also a leader in autism advocacy and gave a talk to the PEI Autism Society in the evening.

Dr. Grandin’s visit to Nova Scotia and PEI was co-sponsored by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada and the Atlantic Poultry Conference, the SJDAWC, and the PEI Autism Society.

## Erika Ritter at AVC

On March 10, author and CBC radio host Erika Ritter gave a public talk and reading at AVC based on her new book, *The Dog by the Cradle, the Serpent Beneath: Some Paradoxes of Human-Animal Relationships*. The book includes thoughtful interviews with many people working for the welfare of animals, e.g., Temple Grandin, Bernard Rollin, and Donald Broom. Other experts interviewed include Cambridge cognitive researcher Nicola Clayton, McGill wildlife biologist David Bird, and the Ontario Veterinary College's Ian Duncan, all of whom talk about balancing their very real affection for animals with the requirements of their professions. Ms. Ritter also presents ideas and information from historians, philosophers, and animal rights activists in her book.

Erika Ritter's talk was attended by about 70 students, faculty, staff, and members of the public, and was followed by some interesting discussion. The reading was co-sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts, PEI Writers' Guild, and SJDAWC.



*The Dog by the Cradle, the Serpent Beneath: Some Paradoxes of Human-Animal Relationships*. The book includes thoughtful interviews with many people working for the welfare of animals, e.g., Temple Grandin, Bernard Rollin, and Donald Broom. Other experts interviewed

management in small and large animals, and lobbying for improvements to federal animal cruelty legislation.



**CVMA President Dr. Diane Frank and Dr. Alice Crook at 2009 Awards Ceremony**

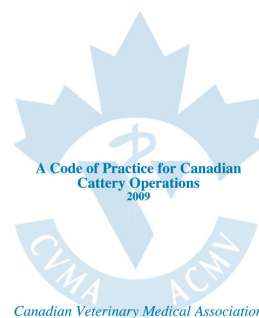
Dr. Crook's exemplary work has previously earned her the 2002 CVMA Humane Award, a 2003 Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, and the 2004 McGrand Award from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. The Atlantic Veterinary College congratulates Dr. Crook on this prestigious honour which reflects her considerable contributions to veterinary medicine and animal welfare.

## CVMA Code of Practice for Canadian Cattery Operations

The first edition of *A Code of Practice for Canadian Cattery Operations* is now available on the CVMA website ([canadianveterinarians.net](http://canadianveterinarians.net)).

It was developed by the CVMA Animal Welfare Committee with the help of many experts in the field of feline behaviour and medicine. Like other Canadian Codes of Practice, this Code for the care, management, and breeding of cats is a voluntary one. It can be used as an educational tool by cat breeders, members of

the general public acquiring cats, and animal welfare groups, and also as a standard by all those interested in the promotion of sound care, management, and welfare practices.



First Edition: 2009

## OTHER NEWS

### Dr. Alice Crook receives CVMA President's Award

Charlotte McCardle, AVC External Relations

SJDAWC Coordinator Dr. Alice Crook was honoured recently with the CVMA President's Award at the 2009 CVMA Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony in Montréal, Québec. This award is given from time to time to recognize an individual member for his/her exceptional contributions to the Association. Dr. Crook was cited as a valued member of the CVMA Animal Welfare Committee since 1994, including a three-year term as Chair. Her expertise has contributed greatly to many projects over the years, such as the development of the animal abuse section of the CVMA website, revision of the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations and creation of a new Code of Practice for Canadian Catteries, the Canine Inherited Disorders Database, posters on pain

## SPONSORS

We are grateful to the Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and to Iams and Eukanuba (P & G Pet Care) for support of the feral cat neutering programme. The SJDAWC is also pleased to acknowledge generous support from Mr. David Madren, as well as those who have provided assistance to the Chinook Project (page 5). We also thank Nutrience Pet Foods for support of projects to benefit dog and cat welfare, and the many generous pet owners who have made donations to the Centre *in memoriam*.

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 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.**