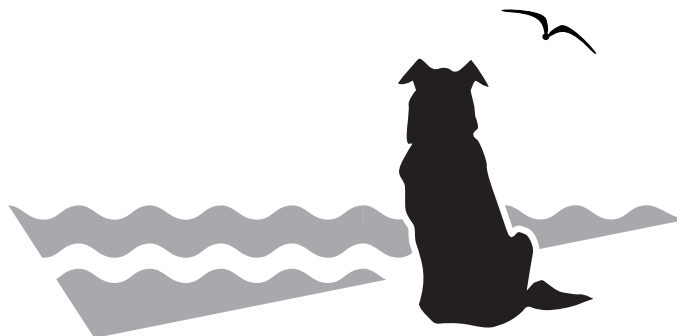




AVC NEWS

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

From the Coordinator's Desk



Welcome to the winter 2008–09 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. Highlights in this issue include an article about AVC's Chair in Animal Welfare (facing page); a feature on the Chinook Project which brings veterinary care to Northern communities (page 6); and the abstract of Dr. Lynne Sneddon's keynote address to the SJDAWC conference "Animal Welfare in Practice: Fish and Lobster Welfare" (page 9). This issue also contains brief reports on SJDAWC-funded projects completed in 2008, and profiles of award winners Ashley Harvey and Dr. Norma Guy.

I was very fortunate to take the Animal Welfare Course at the University of Cambridge, England, in September, 2008. This intensive two-week course, given annually, covers the curriculum for the RCVS Certificate in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, and is intended for veterinarians and others. The five modules—Welfare Concepts and Assessment, Law and Companion Animal Welfare, Horse Welfare, Principles of Ethics in Relation to Animal Use, and Farm Animal Welfare—were taught by a variety of faculty members from the University of Cambridge (led by Dr. Don Broom) and the University of Birmingham, as well as invited lecturers. There were approximately 25 other students, mostly veterinarians, from Australia, India, China, Hong Kong, South America (Uruguay, Brazil), Greece, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the UK, the US, and Sweden. It was wonderful to have dedicated time for reading vast numbers of animal welfare-related papers, listening to talks by experts in these fields, and discussing all manner of animal welfare issues with instructors and my fellow students, many of whom are working in animal welfare capacities for their particular governments. Of course, the experience was enhanced by being set in Cambridge (St. Catherine's College, to be exact, just down the street from King's College).



2008 Animal Welfare Course participants

Please visit our website (upei.ca/awc) to keep abreast of developments at the SJDAWC.

Ar Looch

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The appliance of science

[Condensed from the AVC 2008 Research Report upei.ca/avc]

Some people do not take Michael Cockram's type of research seriously. He says that at one time his research "was ridiculed in the farming and veterinary press. Who, after all, needs to know what it takes for a sheep to lose its balance and fall over in a livestock vehicle?" Quite a lot of people, it turns out: from farmer and truck driver and slaughterhouse to processor and consumer.



Dr. Michael Cockram

In Canada, there are relatively few people involved in animal welfare research which uses applied science—such as behaviour and physiology—to indirectly assess mental experiences in animals.

"The role of animal welfare research is to provide a critical and systematic analysis of issues and a framework that can be used to provide the best available answers to practical and ethical questions," says the new Chair in Animal Welfare at the AVC Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre.

People care about their animals, but also use them for a variety of purposes—from companionship to food—and there are often widely differing views on what constitutes acceptable practice. But, Cockram says, "I don't mind a bit of controversy sometimes if it means your academic work doesn't just remain in a journal." It is important, he says, to get people to pay attention and change what they do as a result.

Much of his previous work at the University of Edinburgh dealt with determining optimal methods for the transport and pre-slaughter management of farm animals: everything from how much space should be provided during transport to how often the animals should be rested and offered food and water. "Behavioural and physiological measurements of stress, injury, dehydration, fatigue, and the mobilization of body energy reserves were all used." The results of those studies led to the development of DVD training materials for livestock drivers.

Animal welfare research, he points out, is a developing subject, one that "can provide information on practical welfare issues which assist policy-makers, animal-users, regulatory authorities, and the general public to make decisions on practices affecting animals. My research is all about the appliance of science: finding ways of solving practical questions by trying to pull information from a variety of sources."

One of the first grant applications Cockram wrote when he arrived at AVC in August 2007 was for a study on food animal transport patterns across Canada. "AVC's expertise in epidemiology provides an excellent opportunity to apply methods developed to study animal health to the field of animal welfare." He is also interested in another area of strength at AVC—the welfare implications of management practices affecting the farmed fish and lobster industries.

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre is relatively rare, he says, "particularly being connected with a veterinary school to look at the veterinary aspects of animal welfare. There's the potential to apply techniques used previously in livestock to horses, dogs, cats, and wildlife."

Cockram has experience working collaboratively in a European environment where the EU regularly sets up trans-national research groups. He plans to continue these collaborations as well as work with researchers at AVC and at other schools, universities and institutes in the region and nationally, "Animal welfare is a very practical topic that relates very much to traditional animal science, animal husbandry, and veterinary medicine. It's a global issue and is going to be central to the food-producing industry in Canada."

COMPLETED PROJECTS—2008

Research and service projects completed in 2008 are summarized briefly below. Full results and analysis for research projects will be in the scientific articles, for which publication information will be posted on the SJDAWC website once it is available. Several of the service projects received renewed SJDAWC funding in 2008.

Evaluation of platelet function in ill dogs

S Burton, B Horney, A Nicastro, P Foley, E Côté

Dogs experience a variety of potentially fatal bleeding disorders, some of which are due to alterations in platelets—essential components of normal blood clotting. Existing tests of platelet function are crude in nature and somewhat uncomfortable for patients (mucosal bleeding time), or require expensive and time-consuming shipment to specialized laboratories. In 2005, the AVC Diagnostic Services Laboratory acquired a Platelet Function Analyzer (PFA-100), a machine used in human medicine to assess the function of platelets through a measurement called closure time. In a pilot project funded through the SJDAWC in 2005, Dr. Burton et al established normal AVC reference values for healthy dogs using the PFA-100.

The current project used the analyzer to identify increased or decreased platelet function in ill dogs, with the goal of improving the medical management and welfare of these dogs. The specific objectives were to determine if significant differences in closure time exist in ill dogs with various diseases when compared to the closure time in healthy dogs, and to use individual patient data to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of ill dogs. The first objective has been completed and results will be published in the journal *Veterinary Clinical Pathology* in early 2009. The second objective is ongoing, with AVC clinicians continuing to utilize the machine for patient assessment. While more familiarity among clinicians is needed before widespread use of the PFA-100 analyzer replaces the standard mucosal bleeding time, this test is more reliable and less painful and AVC Diagnostic Services will continue to promote it.

Fecal survey of parasites infecting humane society animals

G Conboy, E Cawthorn, H Barkema, S Greenwood

Dogs and cats are susceptible to infection with a wide range of intestinal parasites. These can have a serious effect on the health of infected animals, and some,

such as the roundworm *Toxocara canis* and some strains of *Giardia*, can also infect people (i.e., zoonotic parasites).

The service component of this project provided fecal examination of all dogs coming into the PEI Humane Society (PEIHS) and all cats available for adoption, to provide information about the parasites of greatest regional importance in PEI and to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the current parasite control programme. The research component of the project looked at *Giardia* infection in dogs from various sources (PEIHS, pet stores, privately owned) and also at the testing methods for this parasite, which infects both dogs and cats. It is the most commonly diagnosed pathogen causing diarrhea in dogs and the most commonly identified intestinal parasite in people in North America. Diagnosis of *Giardia* infection in animals is difficult—accurate identification of *Giardia* cysts requires a level of expertise that is often beyond the training and experience usually found in veterinary clinic technical staff and many veterinarians. Various commercial tests are available to aid in the diagnosis of this important parasite; however, studies examining the test accuracy of these kits in veterinary medicine are lacking.

The results of the service component indicated a higher level and a more varied selection of parasites than expected in both dogs and cats, suggesting the importance of a more rigorous adherence to diagnostic sample submission. Based on these results and discussions between Dr. Els Cawthorn (PEIHS Shelter Manager) and Dr. Conboy, some refinements have been made to the PEIHS parasite control protocols.

The results of the research component showed a significant level of *Giardia* in young dogs. There was fairly good agreement between the various tests used to diagnose the parasite. A manuscript reporting these results is in preparation.

Medical and surgical care of homeless animals (2006–08)

C Runyon, E Cawthorn, P Foley, M Coffey

First funded in 1994, this extremely successful service project has relieved pain and suffering for thousands of injured and sick companion animals, and has given many of them the opportunity to find a new, permanent home with caring and loving owners. Injured or ill animals brought to the AVC Hospital by the PEIHS, Good Samaritans, or, occasionally, other regional animal shelters receive physical examinations, x-rays and/or other diagnostic procedures, emergency medical care, and continuing medical or surgical care in consultation with the PEIHS. Some lost animals are claimed by their owners, while most, once healthy, are placed in homes through standard shelter adoption. Some animals are placed in “special needs” adoptive homes because they require specific care during recovery.

In the most recent two year period of this grant, 318 companion animals received care, including 112 dogs, 174 cats, 19 rabbits, and 13 “other” (e.g., several guinea pigs and an iguana). About 65 per cent of the animals examined under this programme were treated and subsequently adopted into new, permanent homes. Owners for six of these animals were located, and they subsequently assumed financial responsibility for the care of their pet. Slightly less than 35 per cent of the animals died or were humanely euthanized due to the severity of their injuries/illness.

Students within all fourth-year companion animal clinical rotations, as well as interns and residents, are involved in the diagnosis and care of these animals. Besides valuable practical experience, this raises awareness of the problems connected with pet overpopulation and the associated problems for stray and abandoned animals. If veterinary students continue positive relationships with humane societies in their future professional lives, this will benefit many more animals. It is gratifying to be able to save an animal’s life, and to see it adopted into a loving home, rather than have to euthanize it for lack of money. This is true for veterinary students, clinicians, and the personnel at animal shelters, who invest much energy in caring for the animals for whom they are responsible. It is apparent that having options other than euthanasia for sick or injured animals contributes significantly to creating a positive and supportive environment at an animal shelter.

Funding for this project has been renewed for 2008–10. Costs are shared by the SJDAWC and the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital, which provides in-kind contributions through a discount on some hospital services, achieving an average 42 per cent discount per animal.

Health management services for the Handibear Hills Horse Sanctuary, Inc. (2006–08)

Health management services for the PEI Equine Retirement Society, Inc. (2006–08)

W Duckett, G Conboy

These two service projects provide consistent basic and preventive health care to incoming and resident horses at Handibear Hills in Breadalbane, PEI (since 2004), and at the PEI Equine Retirement Society, Inc., in O’Leary, PEI (since 1997). The specific objectives are to minimize the spread of respiratory disease and the chance of contacting neurological disease, to decrease parasite burdens for the horses at the facilities, to increase the adoptability of the horses, and to provide an educational opportunity for senior veterinary students. In addition, the annual spring health clinic at Handibear Hills provides a means of disseminating information in the community about appropriate equine health care.



Jen Cawley and Laurel Casey (AVC 2008) performing dentistry on Cricket.

There are currently 26 horses at Handibear Hills (handibearhills.com) and seven horses at the PEIERS. Spring and fall visits are made by Dr. Duckett and veterinary students in their senior year. The horses are vaccinated against tetanus, Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis, influenza, and rhinopneumonitis.

West Nile Virus vaccination was dropped from the regimen since the risk of WNV on PEI (very low) does not justify the cost of vaccination (high). The horses receive routine dental care yearly, or twice yearly for those who need it. In order to control parasites, individual horse and herd status is monitored periodically via fecal sampling, and appropriate deworming for strongyles, roundworms, bots, and tapeworms is carried out.

These projects have allowed the horses at the two farms to remain healthy and comfortable. The projects also provide excellent experiences for senior veterinary students by giving them the opportunity to perform routine equine health management work not commonly seen in academic practice, and to learn about on-farm issues. Both projects received renewed funding through to 2010.

Pegasus feral cat neutering programme (2007–08)

A Crook, M Coffey, M Hopson

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. Marti Hopson 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.

This project is a major component of the activities of CAT. Since 2001, over 4,000 feral cats have been spayed and neutered using funds provided by the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre and the Pegasus Family Foundation, as well as other funds raised by CAT.

Pegasus helping hand fund

(Pegasus fund emergency medical/surgical care programme)

A Crook, M Coffey

First funded in 2004 through a grant from the Pegasus Family Foundation through the Peninsula Community Foundation, this project provided resources to ease the financial burden of medical/surgical care for canine or feline companion animals of owners on restricted incomes (e.g., on social assistance or other financial support programmes) who faced significant expenses associated with the animal's care. Twenty-three dogs and cats received care through the grant before the initial funds were exhausted in August 2007. Renewed funding was received in November 2007 from the Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, to continue this programme.

Chinook Project 2006–08

L Miller, J Magrath



Veterinary care is unavailable in many communities in Canada's North. The Chinook project received SJDAWC funding for the last two years to provide such care, first in Kimmirut and then in Cambridge Bay. These are

small isolated communities in Nunavut where many residents maintain a traditional lifestyle involving hunting, fishing, and sled dog teams. Following a great deal of advance preparation, AVC volunteer veterinarians and senior vet students traveled North for one week each summer and set up a clinic in a local school to provide medical and surgical care to sled and homebound dogs, including physical examinations, vaccinations, treatment for parasites, castration and spaying, and other treatments as necessary.

The Chinook Project teams were warmly received in both communities. Interested residents were invited to watch physical examinations and surgical procedures and to discuss basic care with veterinarians and students. Vaccines and dewormer, along with first aid supplies, were left with community members; e-mails were sent to remind them when booster vaccines were due. E-mail contact has been maintained to respond to questions and provide follow-up advice.

In recognition of the valuable and unique clinical experiences to participating veterinary students, AVC has approved the Chinook Project as a one-credit Special Topics Internal Rotation. Through activities within the communities, the Project is also providing a valuable cultural exchange experience that broadens students' horizons in ways that benefit them both professionally and personally.

The response to the Chinook Project has been positive and overwhelming. The communities of Kimmirut and Cambridge Bay have provided feedback that suggests that the Project has made a significant difference, not only to the health and well-being of the dog population, but also to the people who care for them. The project offers help, and it offers hope for the future in these communities that struggle to try to cope—humanely—with large dog populations and without regular veterinary care.



Clinic—Cambridge Bay

Future plans

In addition to responding to new requests, it has become apparent that to make an effective difference in Northern communities requires an ongoing relationship and follow-up visits. To this end, in the first year of the 2008–10 project, the Chinook Project team made a return visit to Kimmirut in June. The team has been asked to visit Kugluktuk (Copper Mine) in 2009, which is close to Cambridge Bay—thus, a visit to Kugluktuk can be combined with follow-up to Cambridge Bay.

Chinook Sponsors

Travel and shipping of supplies to the North are very costly. The Chinook Project received renewed partial sponsorship from the SJDAWC for 2008–10, and the project leaders are pursuing external funding sources.



Clinic on the land—Cambridge Bay

Pfizer Canada has generously donated products in each year, both for the Northern clinics and for follow-up care. Vets without Borders has assisted the student participants with Air Miles. The Chinook Project has received very generous reductions on air fares and shipping from First Air, as well as generous assistance from Pfizer Canada, Iams Pet Food, the Cogsdale Corporation, Home Hardware (St. Peter's Road, Charlottetown), Bernard's Lock and Key Ltd. (Moncton, NB), and the Victoria City Kennel Club (Victoria, BC). Donations to support the Chinook Project may be made through the SJDAWC (page 12).

Balto's Tale

Project participants are keeping journals about their experience, with the intention of producing publishable pieces of writing under the guidance of UPEI English professor Dr. Jane Magrath. Below, Dr. Rachel Lee (a senior veterinary student at the first clinic in Kimmirut) describes what happened when it was time to discharge Balto, a loveable dog with a lopsided grin, following his castration.

“Balto immediately began to lick his incision. Ordinarily this action would have won him a fancy, plastic Elizabethan collar to wear for the duration of his recovery, but those were in short supply in our Kimmirut clinic, so we dressed him in the next best thing: an oversized beige T-shirt with Inuktitut lettering in blue that (very) roughly translated to ‘our language is important.’ His Inuit owner returned as promised, later that afternoon, and I sat down to review the important post-op instructions with him.

“My spiel went something like this: ‘Your dog Balto had surgery today to remove his testicles. He won’t

be able to make any more babies. He may fight less. He has a small incision on his belly, and there are stitches that will dissolve in several weeks. It will take some time for the incision to heal, so it is very important that he is quiet for the next week and a half. You should not allow him to run around or play, because otherwise the incision might open. It is important that the incision is clean, so he should not sleep in the dirt or mud. The incision should not get wet, so Balto cannot swim for the next week and a half. And he needs to be watched so that he doesn't lick his incision or tear out his stitches. We have put a T-shirt on him to help prevent him from licking. This is very important for his incision to heal. No running, no swimming, no licking!

"Balto's owner looked at me, nodded, and then asked if Balto could run along after the four-wheeler to the campsite on the way home from the clinic. A bit startled (after all, my instructions had been so clear!), I met Balto's owner eye to eye and emphatically stated: 'No! No running, no swimming, no licking!'



Balto

mutt with the lopsided grin, still wearing his T-shirt promoting literacy. We decided that we should try to get a hold of him and make sure his incision looked ok, especially considering the obvious lack of compliance with post-op instructions. We stopped, and Balto came trotting over. He was only too happy to stand up on his hind feet, with his front ones in Jen's hands, as I bent down to look at his underside. Sure enough, his incision was intact. Not only that,

"The next morning, as we walked to the clinic to begin the day, I caught a glimpse of beige T-shirt flash by. I exclaimed, 'That's Balto!' Sure enough, there, running at breakneck pace through town, was the tall, lean, dirty white, wire-haired

but it looked great—no swelling, no oozing, no damage whatsoever. In fact, it looked better than most incisions done in fancy hospitals for hundreds of dollars. Balto lingered for a moment when we were through for a quick pat, and then he shot off again."

CONFERENCE NEWS

Animal Welfare in Practice: Fish and Lobster Welfare October 3–4, 2008

The fourth annual "Animal Welfare: In Practice" conference was held at the Atlantic Veterinary College in early October. Experts from the United Kingdom and the AVC spoke on a variety of topics relevant to this year's theme of fish and lobster welfare, and there was a choice of two practical laboratory sessions on Saturday afternoon. The 2008 Invited Lecture in Animal Welfare was given as the keynote address by Dr. Lynne Sneddon, University of Liverpool, entitled "How important is pain to a fish?" (abstract opposite).

**Animal Welfare in Practice
— Fish and Lobster Welfare**
Atlantic Veterinary College, October 3–4, 2008

Friday, October 3, 2008
7:00–8:30 p.m. How Important is Pain to a Fish?
Dr. Lynne Sneddon, University of Liverpool, UK

Saturday, October 4, 2008
8:30 a.m. Fish Welfare:
Practical Applications in Salmon Aquaculture
Dr. Larry Hammell,
Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences, AVC

9:15 a.m. Welfare Trends in Global Aquaculture Practice
Pete Southgate, Fish Vet Group, UK

Break

10:30 a.m. Welfare Issues in Ornamental Fish
Dr. David Speare, AVC

11:15 a.m. Welfare Implications of Angling
Dr. Fred Whoriskey,
Atlantic Salmon Federation, NB

Lunch break

1:15 p.m. Emerging Issues in Lobster Welfare
Dr. Spencer Greenwood,
Lobster Science Centre, AVC

2:00 p.m. Panel discussion

3:00–4:30 p.m. Practical sessions:
1. Finfish: Good Care and Handling
—Kathy Jones and Nicole Guselle,
Pathology and Microbiology, AVC
Or
2. Lobster: Introduction to Lobster Biology
—Drs. Andrea Battison and Jean Lavallée,
Lobster Science Centre, AVC

Registration costs:
Friday evening—no charge
Saturday —\$25; no charge for students
Lunch will be provided
CE certificates will be provided for veterinarians

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

Cohosted by the
Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
and the AVC Humane Ethics Club
With generous support from the
Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada

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AWFC
THE ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION OF CANADA
FONDATION DU BIEN-ÊTRE ANIMAL DU CANADA

More information from the conference can be found at upei.ca/awc.

Again this year, the conference was co-hosted by the SJDAWC and the AVC Humane Ethics Club, with generous support from the Animal Welfare

Foundation of Canada. There was also support from the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) to host the two UK speakers in Saint Andrews, New Brunswick, immediately prior to the conference to visit fish farms, hatcheries, and the ASF; and to meet with members of the Eastern Aquaculture Veterinary Association (EAVA).

With centres of expertise in both animal welfare and aquaculture, the AVC is an ideal venue to hold such a conference, which attracted veterinarians and producers working in aquaculture, veterinary and animal science students, and researchers working with fish and lobster. The approximately 70 registrants included people from several Maritime universities, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The Friday night Invited Lecture was open to the general public as well.

Plans are under way for the next “Animal Welfare: In Practice” conference, fall 2009. Watch for further information in our summer 2009 newsletter, and on our website: upei.ca/awc.

**Keynote address (abstract):
How important is pain to a fish?**

Lynne U. Sneddon
University of Liverpool, UK

Pain perception in fish is a controversial and hotly debated topic. Opposing opinions tend to be that either they are incapable of experiencing pain or, in contrast, that the scientific evidence suggests that fish are likely to be capable of perceiving pain. Pain arises as a result of tissue damage, and many procedures we subject fish to in angling, aquaculture, and experimentation result in such damage. Recent research has demonstrated that fish have nociceptors, receptors on the skin that preferentially detect noxious, potentially painful, stimuli. These nociceptors are physiologically similar to those found in mammals. Areas of the brain, such as the forebrain and midbrain which are important in mammalian pain processing, are active during the application of painful stimuli in fish and have been imaged using fMRI and recorded to exhibit electrical activity and molecular changes. Suspension of normal behaviour and adverse changes in physiology are also exhibited by fish subject to a painful stimulus *in vivo*; this is dramatically reduced by the use of painkillers or analgesia. Altogether,

these results suggest that fish may be capable of pain perception. However, are fish conscious of being in pain, and do they suffer?

Given that we use fish for food and as an experimental model for scientific studies, should we amend the way we treat fish? The crucial question to be answered with a view to improving fish welfare is to understand how significant pain is to the fish. This question was addressed using distraction techniques to determine if the responses to pain are modulated in the presence of competing stimuli. A number of strong, ecologically relevant stimuli were presented to fish during a potentially painful event. Fish did not show an appropriate fear response to a novel object or anti-predator responses when a predator cue was presented. This suggests that pain is the imperative in these contexts. Fish were placed in barren or enriched environments during painful stimulation. In the barren, more stressful environment, fish showed less behavioural and physiological responses to pain. This was correlated with high cortisol, a stress hormone, and expression of endorphins and an opioid receptor in the brain. This suggests that stress-induced analgesia occurred in the barren environment. This phenomenon is seen in mammals and humans where high stress results in the release of endogenous opioids that act as natural painkillers in the nervous system reducing the perception of pain. Fish were placed into novel social groups where the fish form dominance hierarchies. The highest ranked fish, the dominant, was given a painful stimulus and then transferred to a novel social group where no suspension in normal behaviour or physiology was seen, possibly as a result of stress-induced analgesia. Here, maintaining dominance status took priority over exhibiting signs of pain.

Personality or individual differences in behaviour also had a significant effect on the response to pain. Bold fish are much more willing to show changes in behaviour in response to pain compared with shy fish, but bold fish recover at a faster rate. These results suggest that painful, noxious stimulation is important to fish and minimizing pain in experimental procedures is vital. Arguments that fish do not feel pain are that fish have a different brain structure than humans, are incapable of complex behaviours, and are merely automatons. Discussion of current thinking in animal pain to address these issues is combined with philosophy, evolutionary theory, and scientific evidence.

OTHER NEWS

2008 Christofo Award in Animal Welfare— Ashley Harvey

Fourth-year student Ashley Harvey was the recipient of the 2008 award, presented October 1 at the Atlantic Veterinary College's Awards Night. Ashley's efforts to improve the welfare of animals go back long before coming to the AVC. She volunteered at the SPCA in St. John's, Newfoundland, helping at the shelter and providing education on animal care at public events. She worked at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, providing education to school children and fishermen about the respective roles they can play to assist in protecting marine mammals. She also participated in field research to track movement of marine species at risk, to determine how shipping lanes and ferry routes affect these animals.



2008 Christofo Award recipient Ashley Harvey and presenter Dr. Alice Crook

Ever since coming to the AVC, Ashley has been very active with the PEI Humane Society. She has assisted with care of the animals at the shelter, has provided foster care for numerous dogs and cats that had particular behavioural or medical needs, and has helped many animals find permanent homes. She has also worked as a dog trainer and adoption counsellor at the PEIHS through the *AVC humane dog training programme*, including, for the last year, coordinating the programme. This has involved training dogs, developing specific training protocols for particular behaviour issues, talking to the public about humane training methods, and answering questions from new

owners. She has represented the PEIHS at many public events, speaking about the humane treatment of pets.

Ashley has also been very active with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT) for five years, including serving as president for two years. Over this time, she has been a vocal and articulate advocate for humane care of feral cats, and how Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) programmes provide a humane means of population control. She participates regularly in AVC feral cat neuter days and is the student coordinator for the programme. Ashley has provided information to people in other provinces looking to create programmes similar to the successful PEI TNR programme.

Ashley reports that her interest in animal welfare has grown considerably with her involvement in these programmes, and that she will continue to pursue issues affecting the welfare of animals after graduation. The SJDAWC wishes her well in all future endeavours and congratulates her most heartily on receiving the 2008 Christofo Award.

2008–09 Animal Welfare Judging Contest— Michigan State University

Six first-year veterinary students and coach Dr. Michael Cockram took part in the veterinary division of the 2008–09 Animal Welfare Judging Contest at Michigan State University (MSU), November 1–2, 2009. Along with other teams from across North America, the students analyzed the welfare of various types of animals through computer-based presentations that contained data, videos, and images of animals in



Dr. Michael Cockram, Lauren Collins, Natasha Woodward, Marissa Steinberg, Lisa Wolff, Mélanie Mallett, Rebecca Conway

two comparable situations. The students evaluated the different scenarios, prepared their analyses, and made an oral presentation to expert judges on their rankings. Topics for this year's contest were dairy cattle, cats, Prezwalski horses, and poultry. Also while at MSU, the students attended a student poster session and seminars given by the conference judges.

Drs. Norma Guy, Wendy Duckett, and Jennifer McCarron provided additional advance coaching at AVC. The students received financial assistance from the SJDAWC Student Project Fund and the American Veterinary Medical Association to attend the contest.

Dr. Norma Guy wins 2008 CVMA Humane Award

Dr. Norma Guy (DVM, MSc), head of AVC's Clinical Behaviour Service, received the 2008 CVMA Humane Award at the annual meeting in July in Vancouver, British Columbia. This national award is presented annually to an individual, veterinarian or non-veterinarian, whose work is judged to have contributed significantly to the welfare and well-being of animals.

Dr. Guy was recognized for developing the innovative *AVC humane dog training programme*. The SJDAWC-funded project has been highly successful, with hundreds of dogs passing through the programme since it was initiated in 2001 in partnership with the PEIHS. The objectives are to improve the quality of life for dogs being held for adoption; to increase veterinary student awareness of shelter issues; to increase the adoption and retention by owners of PEIHS 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. Funding has been renewed biannually since 2001 because of the success of the programme.

Dr. Guy received her MSc through the SJDAWC-funded project *Addressing the problem of dominance aggression in dogs* (1995–1998) and is in her third term as President of the Board of Directors of the PEI Humane Society (PEIHS). She is a regular contributor to CBC Radio through her popular call-in show, "How and Why with Dr. Guy," through which she provides pet owners with information to deal with behaviour

issues humanely and effectively. The ultimate goal is to foster good relationships between pets and their owners for the benefit of both.

The SJDAWC congratulates Dr. Guy on this very well-deserved recognition.



Dr. Norma Guy with beagles

NBVMA by-law re cosmetic surgery

At its 2008 Annual General Meeting, the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association passed a motion stating that it will be considered unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian in New Brunswick to perform cosmetic surgery on any animal, effective March 28, 2009. This includes ear cropping in dogs, and tail docking in dogs, horses, and cows.

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. We also thank pet owners who have made donations to the Centre *in memoriam* and we are very grateful to the many supporters of the Chinook Project (page 6).

As always, we gratefully acknowledge the long-standing support of the Friends of the Christofor Foundation without which the SJDAWC would not exist.

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 Centre 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 "To make a donation") or by cheque to the SJDAWC (address page 2).

For more information on the work of the SJDAWC, please contact Dr. Alice Crook at animalwelfare@upei.ca or (902) 628-4360. To inquire about giving options, including bequests, gifts of securities, RRSPs, and RRIFs, please contact Rosemary O'Malley-Keyes, AVC Development Office, at omalleykeyes@upei.ca or (902) 894-2865/(866) 453-4119 (toll-free in Canada and the United States).

MANDATE

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

1. The SJDAWC seeks funding for, undertakes, promotes, and supports animal welfare research projects and service activities at the Atlantic Veterinary College.
2. The SJDAWC serves as a resource centre to compile and generate information relevant to the welfare of animals.
3. 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 Christofo Foundation.