

SJDAWC News

NUMBER 33—WINTER 2017

SIR JAMES DUNN ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRE *at the Atlantic Veterinary College*



PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE THROUGH RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS— 2017 SIR JAMES DUNN ANIMAL WELFARE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

(details page 8)



2017 WINTER WELFARE WEBINAR SERIES NEW APPROACHES TO OLD DISEASES

February 21 & 28, March 7, 2017

CE for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre warmly invites veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary and AHT students to join us for three hours of affordable CE from the comfort of home or office. Dr. Caroline Hewson, past Chair of Animal Welfare at AVC, now residing in the UK, and Dr. Christine Savidge, Assistant Professor of Small Animal Medicine at AVC, will review some core communication tools for discussing terminal diagnoses with clients before focusing on practical strategies, including some used in human medicine, that offer busy veterinary teams a new framework for handling severe and chronic disease in patients of all ages.

This framework will make it easier

1. **for veterinarians** to discuss terminal diagnoses and prognoses with different clients.
2. **for clients** to comply with the care plan and have more peace of mind during clinical crises.

3. **for patients** with kidney disease and other chronically ill or elderly patients to have “a life worth living,” and not just a prescription list.
4. **for vets and clients** to prepare for and then identify when euthanasia is in the animal’s best interests.

See page 7 for more details.





FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

Welcome to the Winter 2017 edition of the *SJDAWC News*, the newsletter of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island. In this issue, you will find information about our upcoming Winter Welfare Webinar Series (February/March), a summary from our recent conference to promote sheep welfare, and an update on the Chinook project, which brings veterinary care to Northern communities. You will find brief reports on SJDAWC-funded projects completed since our last newsletter, including a feature on a project that translates research into practice in Kenya through training for youth dairy workers. We also celebrate award winners and recent graduate student activities. We welcome your feedback at animalwelfare@upei.ca

Please let us know at animalwelfare@upei.ca if you would like to receive a full-colour version of the newsletter by email and be added to our email list for upcoming events. To learn how you can support the Centre, please go to upei.ca/awc or write to:

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI
550 University Avenue
Charlottetown, PEI, Canada C1A 4P3

All donations are tax deductible.



SHEEP WELFARE

The twelfth annual Animal Welfare in Practice conference focused on improving sheep welfare through putting into action the 2013 NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep. Dr. Paula Menzies, Professor in the Department of Population Medicine at the University of Guelph and member of the Ruminant Health Management Group, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Menzies is also Vice-President of the International Sheep Veterinary Association. Dr. Michael Cockram, Chair in Animal Welfare at AVC, and Mr. Andrew Hebda, President, Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia, spoke as well. All three speakers were involved in the development of the 2013 Sheep Code of Practice.

Dr. Menzies talked about the Verified Sheep Program ("Putting the NFACC Code of Practice into Action") and about hot button topics in sheep welfare. She also gave a talk on goat diseases and management. Dr. Cockram spoke about transport and slaughter and about painful procedures in sheep. He presented the scientific evidence behind some of the key recommendations in the 2013 Sheep Code, including those related to painful husbandry procedures such as castration and tail docking, and the new requirements for anesthetics and analgesics. Mr. Hebda outlined challenges and opportunities for producers.

ANIMAL WELFARE IN PRACTICE—SEPTEMBER 30—OCTOBER 1, 2016

SHEEP WELFARE

SOME KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE:

In her talk, “Sheep Welfare: Hot Button Topics,” Dr. Menzies stressed that welfare is about more than health and productivity. We must also consider affective states—i.e., how does the animal experience its life?—and natural living—i.e., is the animal able to carry out natural behaviours? Dr. Menzies gave a very brief overview of the 2013 Sheep Code and then focussed on three issues that can be controversial: castration and tail docking, transportation, and euthanasia.

Dr. Menzies discussed pain associated with common husbandry procedures and how this is addressed in the Sheep Code through required practices (“must do’s”) and recommended practices (encouraged to adopt). She raised questions, pointing out that all methods of castration result in a response indicative of pain, and proposed that castration may be unnecessary in lambs slaughtered at or before puberty (six months of age). Similarly, Dr. Menzies proposed that the decision to dock tails should be based on evaluation of welfare risk/benefit rather than carried out routinely. The procedure is not necessary in short-tailed breeds of sheep, and when it is done on long-tailed sheep, the tail length must be in accordance with the Sheep Code to avoid the welfare risks associated with too-short docking.

Dr. Menzies then discussed fitness for transport requirements, and the critical importance of producers recognizing when an animal is unfit—i.e., the animal cannot be transported without undue suffering. This includes animals unable to walk, those that are emaciated or severely lame, or those in advanced disease states—these animals must be euthanized rather than shipped. Animals that are compromised (the very young or very old, or those with some types of injury) have a reduced capacity to withstand transportation and may only be transported locally and directly, under specific conditions, to where they can receive medical care or be euthanized. It is the producer’s responsibility to determine fitness for transport; transporters have the right and responsibility to refuse to transport an animal they deem unfit. The Sheep Code has detailed requirements and regulations for transporting sheep, including a comprehensive decision tree, “Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Sheep” (Appendix H).

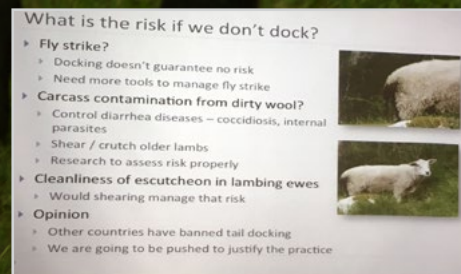
Finally, Dr. Menzies discussed euthanasia decisions and the necessity of on-farm protocols—the who, how, and when. This is covered thoroughly in Section 7 of the Sheep Code.

Dr. Menzies’ talk and some others from the conference are available at awc.upei.ca. The conference was co-hosted by the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at AVC and the AVC Animal Welfare and Small Ruminant Clubs, with assistance from the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada. The conference organizers very much appreciated the contributions of the many producers who attended and shared their knowledge and experience.

Planning is underway for the 2017 Animal Welfare in Practice this fall.



Challenges and Opportunities for Producers
Mr. Andrew Hebda



Sheep Welfare: Hot Button Issues

COMPLETED PROJECTS 2017

Below are brief summaries for two SJDAWC-funded research projects completed in 2016. Scientific publications since the last newsletter are listed on page 11. Publications are also listed on the SJDAWC website as they become available (awc.upei.ca/research_papers_and_presentations).

RESEARCH

EVALUATION OF A PALPATION PHANTOM TO REDUCE THE USE OF LIVE COWS FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF BOVINE RECTAL PALPATION

B Crane

The instruction of transrectal palpation of the bovine reproductive tract is one of the techniques that requires significant use of teaching animals at veterinary colleges. A commercially available "palpation phantom" (Breed N Betsy, Brad Pickford, Victoria, Australia) is expected to reduce the number of live animals required for student learning. The objective of this project was to quantify the reduction in the use of teaching cattle when a commercially available palpation phantom was used. It was expected that 20 minutes of practice time on the Breed N Betsy palpation phantom would reduce by 30% the number of live cows required to reach basic proficiency for students who had little or no previous palpation experience.

Twenty first- and second- year veterinary students received standard palpation instruction, including a 30-minute lecture and the opportunity to practice on reproductive tracts from cows from a slaughterhouse. Students in the palpation phantom group (n=10) received an additional 20 minutes of instruction with the phantom, while students in the standard instruction group (n=10) received no time with the phantom. Basic proficiency was defined as the ability to identify and describe the cervix, uterus, and at least one ovary in two out of three consecutive palpations. Blinded instructors evaluated students claiming to have identified all structures.

There was some reduction in the mean number of live cow palpations required to reach basic proficiency in the phantom group compared to the standard instruction group; however, the means were not significantly different from each other. This may have been a reflection of relatively small sample size—all students required fewer palpations than anticipated in initial sample size calculations.

This study improved our understanding of how students learn to palpate. Students in the phantom group were more successful during their first live cow palpation than the standard instruction students. This suggests the phantom improved student confidence and enhanced the teaching value of the first live cow palpation.

Although not statistically significant, there was a slight numerical reduction in the number of cows required by the students in the palpation phantom group. This difference may have been greater if the students had the opportunity to spend more time with the phantom in between live cow palpations, in addition to their initial 20 minutes.

An article is in preparation for the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*.

COMPARING CULTURE METHODS FOR METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS PSEUDINTERMEDIUS (MRSP) FROM UNHEALTHY DOGS

J McClure, M Saab, CA Muckle

Staphylococcus pseudintermedius is a bacterium that causes disease in dogs. Historically, it was treated easily with penicillin, but now some strains have acquired mechanisms for antibiotic resistance: they are called methicillin-resistant *S. pseudintermedius* (MRSP). MRSP is resistant to many different antimicrobials, so it can be challenging to treat. When animals with MRSP visit veterinary clinics, there is a risk of exposure to other animals, which could lead to hospital-acquired infections or outbreaks. It is important for laboratories to efficiently identify this organism with a short turn-around time.

In this study, the investigators compared four methods for the detection of MRSP in samples from sick dogs. They found differences in MRSP detection between methods: those with an enrichment broth detected more MRSP than the current laboratory method, but this difference was not statistically significant. The current method used by the diagnostic laboratory at AVC did not detect MRSP in 24 specimens. If the additional testing had not been performed for this study, the canine patients would not have received the appropriate treatment for their infections, which could lead to the infection lasting longer and/or developing into a more serious condition. As a result of the findings, the diagnostic laboratory at AVC is using the selective culture method when working with specimens at high risk for MRSP from cases received from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, to ensure that a MRSP diagnosis can be made quickly. The accurate detection of this pathogen in canine specimens enhances patient welfare by allowing appropriate and timely antimicrobial treatment and infection control practices.

NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED 2017

APPROPRIATE PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF HORSES WITH RESPIRATORY DISEASE—ASSESSING MICROSCOPIC AREA AND SAMPLE VOLUME OF BRONCHOALVEOLAR LAVAGE FLUID

C Gilroy, S Burton, K Foote, R Vanderstichel, E John

INITIAL EVALUATION OF AN INJECTABLE ANESTHETIC FOR THE CASTRATION OF MALE PIGLETS UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS

S Hamilton, D Hurnik

DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED, HIGH-SENSITIVITY CANINE LYME BORRELIOSIS DIAGNOSTIC PROTOCOL TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF DOGS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

S Hartwig

RISK FACTORS FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES IN A POPULATION OF STANDARD-BRED RACEHORSES ON PEI

K MacMillan, M Cockram, J Sanchez

SERVICE

Below is a report for a service project that grew out of research also partially funded by the SJDAWC. Funding has been renewed for 2017 for the second phase of this project, which will focus on calf and cow welfare through on-farm seminars and demonstrations.

YOUTH TRAINING IN ANIMAL WELFARE IN KENYA AND CANADA

J VanLeeuwen, S Richards

Dr. VanLeeuwen and Dr. Richards have been working to improve smallholder dairy farming practices in Kenya for the last ten and five years respectively. A smallholder farm typically has one or two milking cows, and supports a farm family through milk sales and provision of milk for the family to drink at home. In many instances, the income from dairy farming can provide a sustainable pathway out of poverty for farmers and their families in rural Kenya; however, many farmers lack the resources and knowledge to ensure a productive and sustainable farm. For example, cows on farms are kept in a cow shed to reduce the exposure to serious tick-borne illnesses. The housing created for cows on smallholder farms is not always ideal, and this can lead to poor cow welfare through injuries and illness, as well as reduced milk production.



Example of a well-managed smallholder dairy farm in Kenya

Under the supervision of Dr. VanLeeuwen, Dr. Richards has been pursuing her PhD to determine the best management and welfare practices for cows on smallholder farms. From this research, they devised a project to share the results to empower youth dairy farmers who are members of the Mukurwe-ini Wakulima Dairy Ltd., in Mukurwe-ini, Kenya. In addition, Dr. Richards wanted to share her knowledge on safe handling of animals with school-aged children in order to prevent injury and illness in children and the animals they live with on their farms. In order to achieve the project goals, veterinary students from across Canada were chosen through a student internship program run by Veterinarians Without Borders Canada (see also page 10).

A group of 40 youth dairy farmers was chosen for training to become leaders in dairy farming in their community. These farmers were trained about the importance of a good cow shed, and having a spacious, soft, and dry stall for their cow. Farmers were also assisted in re-constructing their cow stalls, and advised how to maintain stalls for optimal cow comfort and health. In addition to training about the importance of cow comfort and welfare, farmers were also trained about the best ways to feed and manage their cows to reduce disease and maximize milk production.

After two training sessions with the youth leaders (farmers), seminars were held on their farms with an additional 10 farmers per youth

leader. The youth leaders helped with the training sessions and engaged their new dairy farming groups to improve their farms and consider cow welfare an important factor in their farms' productivity. Youth leaders made comments such as "my cow's milk production has increased since making changes on my farm," and "my cow is much cleaner and

has fewer udder infections." Dr. Richards describes the response to the training sessions as "very positive... the farmers were eager to learn and were on-board with the theme of happy cows make more milk." All farmers at the sessions received dairy farming manuals through Farmers Helping Farmers (a PEI not-for-profit partner on the project), as well as *Calliandra* seedlings, a high-protein forage fed to cows to improve milk production.

Farmers Helping Farmers has a school-twinning program between Kenyan and Canadian schools, and Dr. Richards wanted to share the importance of safety around animals to prevent injury and illnesses in children and animals. At the school sessions in Kenya, elementary-aged children were taught how to safely approach and interact with cows and dogs, as many children live on farms. The training also included information on dog bite and rabies prevention, as rabies is not uncommon in Kenya. In Canada, Dr. Richards visited the Canadian counterpart to the twinned school in Kenya, and shared photographs of the students and school in Kenya, as well as the same lesson about safety around animals—albeit with a focus away from cows and more towards companion and wildlife species.

This project had multiple partners in Canada and Kenya—all of whom came together to empower youth to utilize better animal welfare practices on farms and at home. In total, over 500 farmers and 770 cows in Kenya were directly impacted through the dairy farming training, and over 600 students (Kenyan and Canadian) who live with up to 1,900 livestock and companion animals have also benefitted from this project—the result being a healthier and more sustainable community of people and animals.



School visit in Kenya

FUNDING RENEWED FOR SERVICE PROJECTS 2017

AVC HUMANE DOG TRAINING (2017–2019)

AM Carey, C Kenny, PEI Humane Society

HEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR HANDBEAR HILLS EQUINE SANCTUARY, INC (2017–2019)

T Muirhead, G Conboy, K MacMillan

YOUTH TRAINING IN ANIMAL WELFARE IN KENYA AND CANADA—PART 2

J VanLeeuwen, S Richards

OTHER CURRENT SERVICE PROJECTS

Each project is carried out in cooperation with an Island community group, and provides direct benefits for animals and educational benefits for veterinary students. See also awc.upei.ca/Service_projects.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CARE OF HOMELESS ANIMALS

P Moak, P Foley, R MacDonald, H Gunn McQuillan; with the PEI Humane Society

HEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR PEI EQUINE RETIREMENT SOCIETY, INC.

W Duckett, G Conboy

FINANCIAL AID FOR SPAY OR NEUTER OF COMPANION ANIMALS OF OWNERS ON FIXED INCOME

P Foley, with SpayAid PEI

CLINICAL WILDLIFE CARE AT AVC

J Spears, P-Y Daoust, H Gelens

TWO COMPLEMENTARY FERAL CAT NEUTERING PROGRAMMES

P Foley, K Ling; with the PEI Cat Action Team, one funded through the SJDWC and the other by the Pegasus Family Foundation through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation

PEGASUS HELPING HAND FUND

H Gunn McQuillan, A Crook; funded by the Pegasus Family Foundation through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation



*Team in Iqaluit:
(back) students Vanessa Gerber,
Mila Profit, Nicolle Davis,
Dionne Paine;
(front) Dr. Katie MacDonald,
Dr. Marti Hopson,
Dr. Alison Pollard*

CHINOOK PROJECT UPDATE

**MARTI HOPSON, VETERINARY COORDINATOR,
CHINOOKPROJECT.CA**

The Chinook Project continues to travel each summer at the invitation of remote communities in Canada's North to provide free veterinary services, including vaccinations, deworming, wellness checks, spay and castration surgeries, and medical treatments as needed.

2016 marked the eleventh year of clinics for the Chinook Project, and the biggest challenge to date. Two separate teams visited two locations in Labrador and one in Nunavut (total three locations). In May, the first team (three veterinarians and five students) visited Nain, Labrador (population 1,400), where they spent four clinic days seeing dogs and cats. Seventy-seven medical appointments and 29 surgeries were completed for a total of 106 animal visits to the clinic. It was the project's third visit to Nain.

Next, the team (with some slight changes) travelled to Sheshatshiu, Labrador (population 1,200). In four days of clinics in this Innu community (second visit), 47 surgeries were completed and 70 medical appointments were seen, bringing the total number of animal visits in Labrador to 223. The team worked fifteen hours or more each day. With travelling, unpacking, setting up, and repacking at two sites, the team returned exhausted but excited and happy with all that was learned and accomplished.

With just ten days until the next voyage, the team managed to unpack, restock, and ship everything through Ottawa to Iqaluit, Nunavut (population 7,000), for the final phase of

2016. Three veterinarians, including Dr. Alison Pollard (AVC 2007) and Dr. Katie MacDonald (Lee) (AVC 2011), travelled with four different veterinary students. Both Drs. Pollard and MacDonald had participated in the Chinook Project as students—this was the first time they returned as veterinary leaders. The Chinook team was hosted as a pilot project by the Iqaluit Humane Society, which arranged transportation, a location for the clinic, volunteer help, and food and accommodation.

After setting up in a community centre, the team spent four-and-a-half days running clinics, carrying out 62 spays and castrations and 85 medical appointments for a total of 147 patient visits. This was the first clinic in Iqaluit and the first trip to Nunavut since 2009. In summary, the Chinook Project—involving nine veterinary students and seven veterinarians—saw 370 patients in the North pass through its clinics this year.

Travel and shipping of supplies to the North is very costly—we gratefully acknowledge our generous funding partners and donors (please see p 12). In particular, we value the generous local logistical support that is crucial to the success of the project—Dr. Becky Jackson and the Valley Veterinary Clinic, the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation Band Council, and the Iqaluit Humane Society.

Please visit the [Chinook Project](http://ChinookProject) to read students' personal reflections about their experiences in Natuashish. Planning is under way for Chinook clinics in 2017.

2017 WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

NEW APPROACHES TO OLD DISEASES

(continued from p 1)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017, 1:00 PM (AST)

THE TOOLBOX

Dr. Hewson will briefly review three core communication tools for delivering terminal diagnoses and creating workable clinical care plans with clients. She will then introduce three other tools with which to support owners and benefit their seriously ill animals.

The combination will provide a framework to help attendees and their clients to anticipate and respond with greater peace of mind as the animal's condition deteriorates, and to identify the right time to start talking about euthanasia and the animal's end-of-life.

CE credits: 1 hour

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017, 1:00 PM (AST)

APPLYING DISEASE TRAJECTORY IN RENAL DISEASE

Dr. Savidge will use feline and canine cases of renal disease to illustrate different disease trajectories and how these influence discussions with clients, including the potential role of pain from renal disease.

She will show examples of how disease trajectory graphs can help veterinarians and clients anticipate and respond to an animal's changing condition as renal insufficiency progresses, and decide when/if intensive rescue treatment is desirable in uremic crises.

CE credits: 1 hour

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017, 1:00 PM (AST)

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER WITH MORE CASE DISCUSSIONS

Drs. Savidge and Hewson will tie together the concepts illustrated in the previous two webinars, using diverse cases of renal insufficiency from their practices and those submitted by webinar participants.

CE credits: 1 hour

Every case is different...and the tools introduced in this series are very new in veterinary medicine. Unlike conference talks, this webinar series gives you a unique opportunity to try out the concepts, and come back to the classroom to share your experiences with a community of like-minded learners. Don't miss this practical learning opportunity and have all your questions answered!

To register: www.upei.ca/awc

Cost: \$30 each or \$75 for 3

No charge for veterinary or AHT students

NB: Registrants unable to attend each webinar at the scheduled time will receive the link to view it after it has taken place, and then receive their CE certificate.

AWARDS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS—

2017 SIR JAMES DUNN ANIMAL WELFARE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for the 2017 Scholarship with a **deadline of February 17** for decision in April, 2017. Visit upe.ca/awc for application and selection guidelines. Students may take up their award at any time of year, but they must do so within 12 months of the date of the letter of offer.

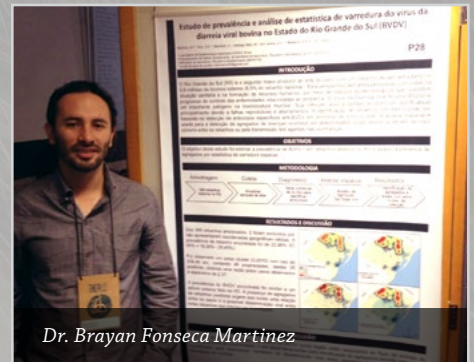
2016 SIR JAMES DUNN ANIMAL WELFARE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS



Jamye Rouette

Jamye Rouette received two years of funding to undertake a Masters graduate program with Dr. Kathleen MacMillan. Her project is “Risk factors for musculoskeletal injuries in Standardbred horses used for harness racing on Prince Edward Island.”

Dr. Brayán Fonseca Martínez received one year of a PhD stipend to undertake graduate studies with Dr. Javier Sanchez. (Other funding is in place.) Dr. Martínez’s project title is “Risk analysis of introduction of pseudorabies virus (PRV) to Canadian outdoor domestic pigs via contact with wild and feral pigs and its implications on animal welfare.” He will begin his program at UPEI this spring.



Dr. Brayán Fonseca Martínez

2016 CHRISTOFOR AWARD IN ANIMAL WELFARE

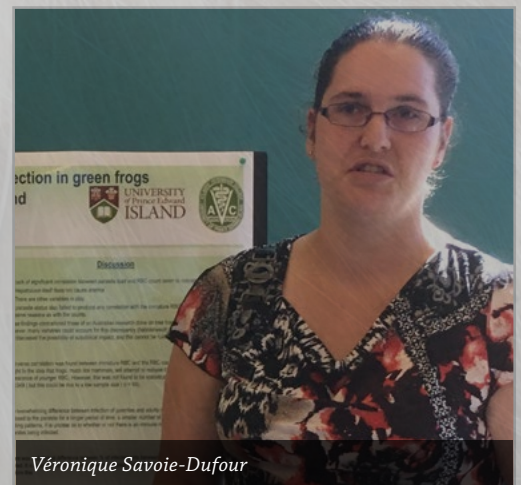
Fourth-year student Genevieve Clark received the 2016 Christofor Award in Animal Welfare at the AVC Fall Awards Night in October for her longstanding participation in multiple volunteer activities to improve the welfare of animals. These activities include multi-year volunteering at the Colchester SPCA and the Earth Arc in Pictou, NS, a non-profit animal rescue that primarily takes horses, and co-leading the Second Truro Girl Guides, where she devoted time to teaching girls about proper animal handling and welfare in both companion and farm animals. Since coming to the AVC, she has helped to enrich the lives of the teaching beagles and horses in multiple ways, and has volunteered regularly with the AVC program to neuter feral cats. As further evidence of her commitment to, and interest in, animal welfare, Genevieve enrolled this year in the online “Animal Behaviour and Welfare” course with the University of Edinburgh, in addition to her fulltime studies at AVC.



Presenters Tom and Esma Taylor with Christofor Award recipient Genevieve Clark

DR. TOM A. W. TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP

This inaugural scholarship was awarded to third-year student Véronique Savoie-Dufour. The scholarship is awarded in memory of Dr. Tom A. W. Taylor to a student who is well-rounded and academically proficient and who has demonstrated initiative and interest in research activities.



Véronique Savoie-Dufour

OTHER NEWS

CVMA HUMANE AWARD



Dr. Shawn Llewellyn and Kyla

The SJDAWC congratulates Dr. Shawn Llewellyn on receiving the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's 2016 Humane Award, sponsored by Merck Animal Health, for his support of pets of people who are displaced or have low incomes. Dr. Llewellyn, a graduate of AVC's Class of 2008, is a founding board member and current president of the Paws for Hope Animal Foundation, a not-for-profit organization in British Columbia. Through Paws for Hope, Dr. Llewellyn works directly with vulnerable community members and their pets, providing veterinary care and support through free animal health clinics. Dr. Llewellyn, who is a practicing partner at the Scottsdale Veterinary Hospital in Surrey, is also a member of the Animal Welfare Committee of the College of Veterinarians of BC.

While at AVC, Dr. Llewellyn was president of the AVC Animal Welfare Club. He received the 2007 Christofor Award in Animal Welfare and co-founded the annual Animal Welfare in Practice Conference.

2016 ANIMAL WELFARE JUDGING AND ASSESSMENT CONTEST

Second-year students Jolene Vermeulen, Emily Siedl, and Natalie Wright participated in the veterinary division of the 2016 Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest held at Ohio State University the weekend of November 12-13. At the contest, each student was provided with contrasting scenarios for the management of guinea pigs, purebred dogs, and meat sheep. They were required to assess and evaluate the welfare of the animals in each situation and present their reasoning to a judge. There was also a live animal team assessment of laying hens.

Dr. Michael Cockram, AVC Chair in Animal Welfare, was the team coach with additional specialty coaching at AVC from Drs. Jonathan Spears and Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte.

The students worked together over several months preparing for the competition. "This competition allowed us to delve into some welfare issues that we may not be exposed to in our veterinary education,



Natalie Wright, Emily Siedl, and Jolene Vermeulen

and it gave us the opportunity to achieve personal growth in our public speaking and communication," said Jolene, who achieved the fifth highest individual score in the veterinary division. "It was great to get the opportunity to use the knowledge we had gained and meet other students who were enthusiastic about welfare issues."

Funding for the students' expenses was provided through the SJDAWC Student Project Fund, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK.

PEI COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE INITIATIVE (CAWI)

CAWI exists to improve the welfare of companion animals on PEI through various strategies, including raising public awareness about good animal care practices. There are monthly articles ("Animal Talk") in *The Guardian* newspaper and occasional features on CBC radio ("Pets and People"). Recent topics include reducing stress for pets during holiday periods (December 19), and very small pets—hamsters and gerbils (January 16). Articles are available at www.princeedwardisland.ca/CAWI. Members of CAWI are the PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, PEI Humane Society, SpayAid PEI, PEI Cat Action Team, PEI Veterinary Medical Association, and PEI 4-H.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Bill C-246, "Modernizing Animal Protections Act," was defeated at second reading in Parliament in October. Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould committed to reviewing the animal cruelty sections of the Criminal Code, which remain largely unchanged since they were introduced in 1892.



HAPPY COWS IN KENYA

Ali Frye and Kelsey Goodick

This past summer, third-year students Ali Frye and Kelsey Goodick were funded in part by the SJDAWC Student Project Fund for an internship that partnered Farmers Helping Farmers, Queen Elizabeth Scholars¹, the Atlantic Veterinary College, and three Kenyan veterinary graduate students on a research project with smallholder dairy farmers in Kenya. The project's aim was to work with local farmers in the village of Naari to investigate the impact of nutrition and reproductive interventions on milk production and, subsequently, on family income.

Ali and Kelsey describe their experience as follows: "While many of our days were spent visiting household farms where we performed routine check-ups, rectal exams, and assisted with data collection, we were also involved in a side project, working with a group of young farmers to establish easily implemented protocols for cow health and welfare. Working alongside the farmers, we introduced the 'happy cows make more milk' motto, and educated the young producers on feeding protocols, calf care, mastitis prevention, and cow comfort to improve individual cow welfare. Working with each farm's specific needs, we made changes such as reconstructing stalls, planting nutritious and high-protein forages, and addressing cow hygiene to enhance the wellbeing of the cows and, in turn, their ability to produce milk. The end goal of this project was to create advocates to teach other youth farmers the benefits of happy cows by showing them how simple changes that improve welfare can have a positive impact on milk production." (See also p5.)

¹ The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) are managed through a unique partnership of Universities Canada, the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF), Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), and Canadian universities. This program is made possible with financial support from the Government of Canada, provincial governments, and the private sector.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



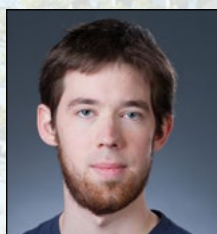
NIAMH CAFFREY

→ Congratulations to Niamh Caffrey who received her PhD degree from UPEI in 2016. Thesis title: Transportation of animals for slaughter in Canada: Welfare issues and regulatory control.



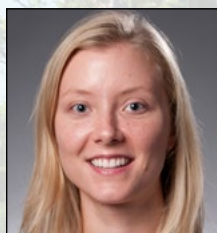
MATTHEW SAAB

→ Congratulations to Matt Saab who received his MSc degree from UPEI in 2016. Thesis title: Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* in Atlantic Canada: Epidemiology and culture methods.



FRÉDÉRIC CHATIGNY

→ Oral presentation: Chatigny F, Stevens ED, Kamunde C, Groman DB. 2016. Assessing the efficacy of lidocaine used as an analgesic on rainbow trout. UPEI Graduate Studies and Research Days.



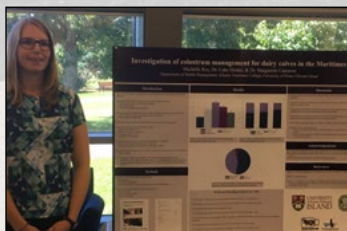
SHAUNA RICHARDS

→ Multiple oral presentations on research and results thereof to improve cow comfort—to dairy farmers, extension workers, veterinary students, epidemiologists, primarily in Kenya and Canada but also Mexico, Edinburgh.

• Multiple reports, including a manual for dairy farmers available at farmershelpingfarmers.ca/projects/dairy/

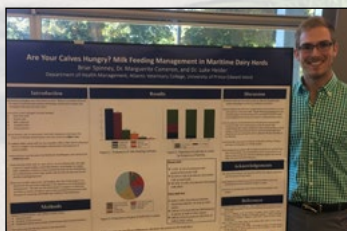
SUMMER STUDENTS

POSTER PRESENTATIONS, AVC SUMMER RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (SJDAWC-FUNDED PROJECTS)



→ MICHELLE ROY, CLASS OF 2019

Roy M, Heider L, Cameron M. 2016. Investigation of colostrum management for dairy calves in the Maritimes.



→ BRIAR SPINNEY, CLASS OF 2019

Spinney B, Cameron M, Heider L. 2016. Are your calves hungry? Milk feeding management in Maritime dairy herds.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Bartolomé E, Cockram MS. 2016. Potential effects of stress on the performance of sport horses. *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science* 40: 84-93.
- Saab M. 2016. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* in Atlantic Canada: Epidemiology and culture methods. <http://islandscholar.ca/islandora/object/ir:20241/datastream/PDF/download/citation.pdf>
- Villarnovo D, Burton SA, Horney B, MacKenzie AL, Vanderstichel R. 2016. Preliminary evaluation of a gel tube agglutination major cross-match method in dogs. *Veterinary Clinical Pathology* 45(3):411-416

PRESENTATIONS

- Cockram MS. 2016. Poultry Welfare: Handling and transport of broilers/Housing of laying hens. CVMA Annual Convention, Niagara Falls. *Proceedings* 330-332, 342-343.
- Cockram MS. 2016. Pain control for castration and tail docking in lambs. CVMA 2016 Annual Convention, Niagara Falls. *Proceedings* 333-336.
- Cockram MS. 2016. Welfare aspects of health and disease. CVMA 2016 Annual Convention, Niagara Falls. *Proceedings* 337-341.
- Cockram MS. 2016. Transport and slaughter in sheep. Animal Welfare in Practice: Sheep welfare. Charlottetown.
- Cockram MS. 2016. Painful procedures in sheep. Animal Welfare in Practice: Sheep welfare. Charlottetown.
- Crook A, Lane J, Tuff-Hopkie C, Richards S, Somersall M, Marie D. 2016. Dangerous dogs: Education and legislation. AVC Community Workshop Series, Charlottetown.
- Crook A, Fairles J. 2016. C-246 Modernizing Animal Protections Act. CVMA presentation to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (teleconference).

AVC ANIMAL WELFARE CLUB

Kelsey Goodick, AVC Class of 2018, President, AVC Animal Welfare Club

The AVC Animal Welfare Club strives to promote animal welfare at the AVC and beyond by providing veterinary students, veterinarians, producers, and community members with opportunities to expand their knowledge of animal welfare. We had a very successful year in 2016. In collaboration with the SJDAWC, we co-hosted the 13th annual Animal Welfare in Practice conference on small ruminant welfare with keynote speaker, Dr. Paula Menzies (see pp 2-3). We also awarded seven grants to support AVC students who were pursuing external rotations related to animal welfare. Finally, throughout the year, the AVC Animal Welfare Club hosted several lunch lectures on topics such as animal protection laws and assessing welfare scenarios for prosecution in a court of law. There are currently 68 members, with events and lectures open to all students. The club is very grateful to the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada for its ongoing support. If you would like to follow us, you can find the club's page on Facebook.



PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE
THROUGH RESEARCH, SERVICE,
AND EDUCATION [UPEI.CA/AWC](http://UPEI.ca/awc)

Many thanks TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

We gratefully acknowledge the sustained financial support of The Christofer and The Sir James Dunn Foundations, without which the SJDAWC would not exist.

We also thank the following organizations and individuals who have supported the SJDAWC within the last three years (and some for much longer than that):

- The Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (Pegasus projects)
- AVC Classes of 2011 and 2001 (Pegasus Helping Hand Fund)
- The Atlantic Veterinary College
- Mr. Glenn Loranger
- Chinook Project: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Ann McCain Evans; Rathlyn Foundation; Valley Veterinary Clinic, Goose Bay; the Mushuau Innu Band Council of Natuashish; Zoetis Animal Health; Iams/Eukanuba; Boehringer-Ingelheim; Vétoquinol; Air Labrador; Ms. Dorris Heffron; and the Victoria Kennel Club
- Feral cat neutering projects: Zoetis Canada; Iams/Eukanuba
- Halifax Veterinary Hospital, Spryfield Animal Hospital, Fairview Animal Hospital, Vetcetera Animal Hospital—in memory of clients' pets
- Dr. Lara Jamieson
- Universities Federation of Animal Welfare, UK
- Nutrience Pet Foods
- Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association
- The late Mr. David Madren
- The late Ms. Kay Alexandor
- Emerald Island Hunt
- Anonymous

We are also grateful to the many generous individuals, veterinary hospitals, and other businesses, too numerous to mention, who have made a donation in memory of a beloved pet.

All donations are fully tax deductible.

To learn how you can support the SJDAWC, go to upeic.ca/awc or write to:

Dr. Alice Crook
The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI
550 University Avenue, Charlottetown,
Prince Edward Island, Canada C1A 4P3

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