



animal welfare program

Improving the welfare of animals through research, teaching and public education

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Calf Welfare Strengthened by New Westgen Facility

Young dairy calves are vulnerable to disease and often fail to thrive. To improve the welfare of these animals, UBC has an active program of research on the feeding, housing and management of calves. Through the generous support of Westgen Inc., the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre has completed a new state-of-the-art calf barn which will strengthen the Animal Welfare Program's activities in this under-researched area.

Graduate student Fernando Borderas, a veterinary graduate from Mexico, is using the new Westgen facility for his Ph.D. research on calf health. "In North America about 10% of calves die during the first few weeks of life, and many more get sick. This facility will assist me to do research on early diagnosis to allow better disease treatment and prevention," he explains.

Profs. Dan Weary and Marina von Keyserlingk will also use the new facility for their research into calf weaning and milk feeding.



Ph.D. student Fernando Borderas



Dr. Carla F. M. Molento, Stratton Guest Lecturer

Global Links: The Brazilian Connection


Dr. Carla Forte Maiolino Molento, a Brazilian veterinarian and animal welfare researcher, delivered the Peter Stratton Memorial Lecture on the humane control of stray dogs in Brazil at UBC in June 2006. Funded by the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada, the Peter Stratton Memorial Lecture is an annual lecture to promote public awareness of animal welfare.

Dr. Molento's research demonstrated that the current culling of stray dogs in Brazil is both inhumane and ineffective. She is currently working with local governments to promote an alternative program of neutering and vaccination that should achieve better human health protection and improved animal welfare. "The presentation illustrated the sometimes overwhelming hurdles facing animal welfare organizations in Brazil. It also reminded SPCAs that more must be done on pet over-population in Canada, particularly in rural communities," said Craig Daniell, Chief Executive Officer at the BC SPCA.

Dr. Molento's visit was part of an on-going exchange between the UBC Animal Welfare Program and its counter-parts in Brazil who regularly journey to British Columbia to gain experience in animal welfare research.

Given the increased interest in animal welfare in Brazil, Prof. Dan Weary recently spent several months at the country's largest farm animal welfare research centre in Florianópolis. "I was able to strengthen links with Brazilian workers by teaching and working with many more students and professionals than would be able to visit us in Canada," Prof Weary said.

Endowment Funds Needed

In 2007 the 10-year funding commitment that created the Animal Welfare Program will end. Help us build the Endowment Fund for the Program and enable its outstanding work to continue. Please see over 

A Passion for Animals

As a child Mary Southerst would take milk to a nearby colony of feral cats. This early experience ignited her deep concern for animals and prompted Mary to establish a planned gift to benefit UBC's Animal Welfare Program. Through a bequest in her will, the program will receive funds to help continue their mission of improving the welfare of animals through research, education and public outreach.

Prof. David Fraser appreciates the personal interest Mary shows in animals and in the UBC Program. "Like us, Mary is keenly aware of the challenges," Dr. Fraser says. "Her gift will help ensure that UBC continues to respond to these challenges long into the future."

As she discusses animal welfare issues Mary feels it is easy to become overwhelmed by the amount of work needed to effect change. But she believes the key is in education. "If you can educate people, as David has been doing in his work setting international animal welfare standards, you can make the change happen," she says.



David Fraser, Mary Southerst and her animals

We need your help!

Despite generous support from sponsoring organizations, the Animal Welfare Program depends heavily on individual donations to maintain its award-winning work. Your gift makes a difference to the lives of animals. For more information on programs or ways of giving, please contact the Faculty Director of Development, Leanne McConnachie at 604-822-8910 or leanne.mcconnachie@ubc.ca or visit www.landfood.ubc.ca/animalwelfare

ORDER OF CANADA

Prof. David Fraser of the UBC Animal Welfare Program was recently named a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his 35 years of research to improve the handling, housing and management of animals. His appointment represents the first time an animal welfare scientist has received Canada's highest honour.

ANIMAL WELFARE IN KOREA

The first book on animal welfare written in the Korean language has been published by Prof. Jin Suk Kim of Kon Kuk University in Seoul. Prof. Kim spent a year at the UBC Animal Welfare Program in preparation for writing the book.



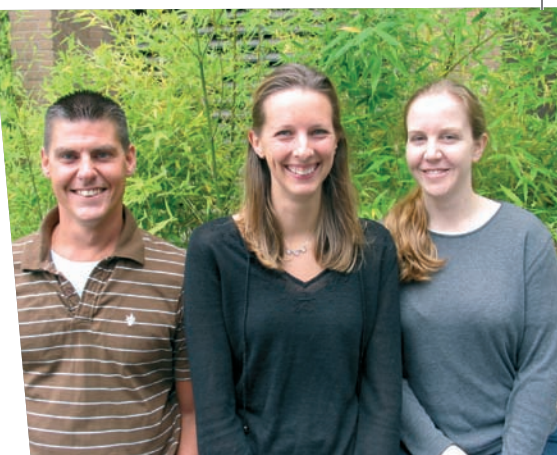
LABORATORY ANIMAL WELFARE

A scholarship generously donated by the Charles River Laboratories Foundation helped graduate student Lee Niel complete research on post-operative pain and humane euthanasia in laboratory animals. Niel and fellow Program researchers Richard Kirkden and Prof. Dan Weary were invited to report on their findings at the international Consensus Meeting on Carbon Dioxide Euthanasia of Laboratory Animals in Newcastle, England. Industry, research and policy development representatives from Canada, Europe, the UK and the US attended the meeting and worked to generate a consensus on the humane use of carbon dioxide for euthanasia. Research by the UBC Program showing distress associated with euthanasia procedures played a pivotal role in the discussions.

THANK-YOU!

The Animal Welfare Program was created through a 10-year funding commitment from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) which matches contributions from the following organizations. Our sincere thanks to our sponsors. Your gifts have helped our program succeed.

BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
 BC Veterinary Medical Association and members
 BC Dairy Education and Research Foundation
 BC Dairy Foundation
 BC Milk Producers Association
 Alberta Farm Animal Care Association
 Westgen



Ph.D. graduates Trevor DeVries, Frances Flower and Lee Niel

MILESTONES

- Ph.D. Graduates** Three students completed doctoral degrees in the Animal Welfare Program in 2006. Trevor DeVries, whose thesis research used the feeding behaviour of dairy cattle to identify better methods of dairy cattle management, is now employed in research at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Frances Flower defended her innovative Ph.D. research into dairy cattle lameness and is now completing work at UBC. Lee Niel finished her thesis on humane euthanasia of laboratory rats and recently accepted a post-doctoral position in biopsychology at the University of Toronto. Congratulations to these outstanding students!
- New Appointment** Prof. Marina von Keyserlingk was appointed to the Canadian Council on Animal Care, the body that oversees the use of animals in university-based research, education and testing. Prof. von Keyserlingk will represent Canadian faculties of agriculture and veterinary medicine as a Council Member for a 3-year term.

Thanks to all our Sponsors!

Check out our updated website for information on research, publications, education and more www.landfood.ubc.ca/animalwelfare