



2005 YEAR IN REVIEW

Wildlife Welfare Private Donation Funds Inaugural Student Scholarship

Through the support of a generous donation in 2004, the University has established the Program's first scholarship to support student research related to the welfare of wildlife. The Marion Judith Madsen Memorial Scholarship in Animal Welfare was awarded to MSc student Anna Drake.

As the first scholarship recipient, Anna is carrying out research to help improve the survival of mallard ducklings and provide practical research recommendations to rehabilitators in BC.

Having worked at the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC, Anna was exposed to the challenges of caring for injured or abandoned wild animals. She discovered that mallards are among the most commonly orphaned species cared for by wildlife rehabilitators in the Lower Mainland, and ducklings often experience high mortality rates in shelters. Through discussions with program alumnus Sara Dubois, currently the manager of BC SPCA's "Wild ARC" program, Anna was inspired to join the UBC Animal Welfare program and conduct further research on duckling survival.

"I'm aware of the difficulty of rearing orphaned birds during spring, particularly in wildlife rehabilitation facilities with limited time and resources," says Anna. "I hope that my research results will help rehabilitators reduce mortality in orphaned ducklings by identifying aspects of care that can be improved."



M.Sc. student Anna Drake's duckling research



Jeff Rushen, Anne Marie de Passillé and Doug Viera at Agassiz.

New Faces World Renowned Researchers Join Program

This year the UBC Animal Welfare Program welcomed the addition of three new scientists employed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The three were recently transferred to Agassiz where they will be co-located with the Program and work closely with faculty and students.

Drs. Anne Marie de Passillé and Jeff Rushen are an internationally known research team, formerly from the federal research facility in Lennoxville Quebec. They have worked at research institutes in Canada, Australia, Germany and the Netherlands and have published ground-breaking research on the welfare of cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry.

Dr. Doug Viera has moved from the Kamloops Range Research Station. He was a highly respected senior scientist at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa and taught at the University of Manitoba before moving to BC. He has published widely on beef cattle and range systems.

The co-location of these three federal scientists with the Animal Welfare Program will create the largest nucleus of cattle welfare research in the world. As Professor Dan Weary notes: "Even before joining the Program these researchers worked actively with us from a distance. Having them on-site will be of tremendous value to our students and the research program."

These sentiments are echoed by students in the Program. Julie Huzzey, an MSc student studying the early detection of disease in dairy cows, is co-supervised by Doug Viera. "I really appreciate Doug's daily visits to the lab and his patient and consistent attention to detail," she said. "His diligent supervision has helped me increase the quality of my research."

The enthusiasm is mutual. "We especially value our interactions with the Program's large team of scholars working on such a diversity of issues relevant to animal welfare," says Jeff Rushen. "By putting our resources together to mentor the next generation of researchers, we believe we will find better solutions to key problems in animal welfare."

Endowment Funds Needed

The UBC Animal Welfare Endowment Fund is a key pillar in maintaining this award-winning Program and donations are urgently needed to sustain it into the future.

New Post-doc Researchers

In addition to a strong team of graduate and undergraduate students and visiting researchers, three new post-doctoral scholars have brought new skills, experience and mentorship to the Program.

Richard Kirkden has researched animal welfare at Edinburgh, Cambridge and Purdue Universities. He is currently researching humane euthanasia for laboratory rats by identifying euthanasia gases that cause loss of consciousness without distressing the animals.

Roger Müller comes from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. Roger brings to the Program his experience in assessing individual differences in animals. By measuring temperament in beef cattle he hopes to help improve animal handling methods.

Raymond Anthony is from Iowa State University. He works on ethical theory, agricultural and environmental ethics, and explores how technology and culture shape attitudes towards animals. Raymond recently led a graduate seminar in Ethics and Animals and co-taught the third year course in Animal Welfare with Dan Weary.

Other 2005 arrivals include Dr. Jalal Bakhtiari from Iran and Tomasz Grudnin and Dr. Andrzej Lozicki from Poland. New graduate students include Fernando Boderas, Nancy Clay, Martina Dorigo, Joana Formosinho, Ivan Jorna, Andreia Vieira and Gosia Zobel-Brown.



Post-docs Raymond Anthony, Roger Mueller and Richard Kirkden

We need your help!

Despite generous support from sponsoring organizations, the Animal Welfare Program depends heavily on individual donations to maintain its work for animals.

For more information on programs or ways of giving, please contact the Faculty Development Officer, Bobbie Duvall at P: 604.822.8910 or bobbie.duvall@ubc.ca or visit www.landfood.ubc.ca/animalwelfare

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

The Animal Welfare Program continues to share its expertise at local and global venues through presentations to user groups, members of the public and academic conferences. In 2005 this included invited presentations around BC as well as international locations in Italy, Finland, the U.K., and the U.S. Particularly notable was the participation of members at the international conference on animal sentience in London. Visiting international scholars also added their expertise to the Program from countries such as Italy, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the U.S. and Canada.



Graduate students Gosia Zobel-Brown and Mitja Sedlbauer

FOURTH ANNUAL STRATTON LECTURE

Through support of the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada, Dr. Andrew Rowan, Executive Vice-President of Operations for the Humane Society of the U.S. was invited as the 2005 Peter Stratton Memorial Lecturer. An award-winning scientist and author specializing in animal research ethics, he highlighted the history of the Animal Protection Movement and its impact on North American society, drawing attention to the benefits of research in helping humane societies improve animal care.

ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE FAO

This year Prof. David Fraser served for six months as Visiting Expert at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. The FAO is the leading agency worldwide in agricultural improvement in developing countries. David identified ways to incorporate animal welfare into FAO programs, prepared resource materials, and established an FAO committee to monitor emerging animal welfare research and standards.

David also continued his work with the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) whose 169 member nations agreed this year to the first global animal welfare standards.

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:

BC SPCA
BC Veterinary Medical Association + members
BC Dairy Foundation
BC Milk Producers Association
South Coastal Dairy Education Association
Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
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