



### Student Workshop Targets Cattle Lameness

Graduate students in UBC's Animal Welfare Program have developed an educational workshop to help promote early detection and treatment of lameness in dairy cattle.

With an estimated 600,000 dairy cows affected in Canada each year and millions more worldwide, lameness has become an international animal welfare concern. Compounding the problem, signs of lameness generally go unnoticed until injuries are advanced.

The three-hour workshop trains participants to identify hoof injuries using video clips showing how different injuries affect an animal's movement. Participants also learn to use a lameness scoring system and to recognize the environmental risk factors that contribute to foot injuries.

Presented at Portland, Abbotsford and the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar in Red Deer, the workshop has received an enthusiastic reception from dairy producers. The province of Alberta has now requested a CD-ROM version, a Quebec producer organization is exploring a French language version, and the Dairy Farmers of Canada have expressed interest in providing national exposure.

"The workshop helps dairy producers deal with lameness and creates a valuable link between our graduate students and the animal care personnel who implement their research," says Assistant Professor Marina von Keyserlingk.

The Lameness Workshop was one of many Animal Welfare outreach activities this year. For more information: [www.agsci.ubc.ca/animalwelfare/](http://www.agsci.ubc.ca/animalwelfare/)



Sara Dubois with injured gosling

### UBC Graduate Lands "Dream Job"

A unique thesis project on wildlife rehabilitation, the first of its kind in Canada, has paid off for M.Sc. graduate Sara Dubois, who was recently appointed as Manager of the BC SPCA's "Wild ARC," the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre near Victoria.

With more than 30 wildlife rehabilitation centres in BC and hundreds more in North America, Sara's research identified needs and opportunities for closer communication and standardized reporting among government agencies, veterinarians and rehabilitators. Her research was enthusiastically supported by wildlife professionals across the province, who gave her access to their rehabilitation practices, policies and years of records.

Sara made her findings available to rehabilitators in BC and beyond through provincial and international presentations and articles published in the two major wildlife rehabilitation journals, plus several local publications.

"Sara's study will have fundamental benefits for wildlife rehabilitation," said supervisor and Professor, David Fraser. "It creates an opportunity for rehabilitators to develop a shared system of goals, success measures, reporting systems and data analysis. This can only translate into better, more consistent care for wildlife."

Sara credited the UBC Animal Welfare Program for preparation for her new position: "The Program allowed me to work independently and helped open doors to work with rehabilitators and other professionals. My research helped to identify the best procedures for operating a rehabilitation facility and treating animals – skills fundamental to my new position."

It was Sara's experiences as a volunteer at Wild ARC that motivated her to study animal welfare at UBC. "It's extremely satisfying to come full circle, continuing my career with the very organization that opened my eyes to this field," she said.

Wild ARC was created by the Victoria Branch of the BC SPCA and is now operated by the BC SPCA. Since 1997, the facility has treated and rehabilitated more than 10,000 wild animals.

### Endowment Funds Needed

Donations are urgently needed for the UBC Animal Welfare Endowment Fund to maintain this award-winning program into the future. Please see over [.....➤](#)

## Global Connections

The Animal Welfare Program welcomes new graduate students and visitors from Canada and around the world:

**Jane Orihel**, a biology graduate from the University of Winnipeg has joined as a MSc. student comparing methods of rehabilitating aggressive dogs in animal shelters.

**Sophie Neveux**, an Animal Science graduate from McGill, is testing an electronic system for early detection of lameness in dairy cattle.

**Mitja Sedlbauer**, a veterinary graduate from Ljubljana, worked in his native Slovenia for five years before becoming a graduate student at UBC. His research focuses on treatment of fearfulness, a major cause of aggression and relinquishment in shelter dogs.

**Dr. Omar Hernandez Mendo**, associate Professor at Colegio de Postgraduados in Montecillos, Mexico, has joined the program on sabbatical leave to study how access to pasture helps dairy cows recover from lameness.

**Dr. Reza Valizadeh**, an Associate Professor at the University of Mashad in Iran, joined the program for a six-month sabbatical to investigate methods to reduce distress in dairy cattle at the end of lactation.

**Dr. Monica Budzynska**, a visiting scientist from the Polish Agricultural University in Lublin, is working with dairy calves to minimize distress during weaning.

Other visiting students working on cattle welfare include **Paul-Antoine Valias** from France, **Marcela Vankova**, a veterinary student from the Czech Republic, and M.Sc. students **Keelin O'Driscoll**, **Sarah Madaa** and **Elizabeth Carter** from Edinburgh University.

## SETTING INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

UBC's own **David Fraser** was an organizer and speaker at the recent OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) conference, which brought together more than 400 delegates from 68 countries to embark on an ambitious program of global animal welfare standards.

The 166 member nations of the OIE, which traditionally sets protocols to prevent the international spread of animal diseases, voted in 2002 to develop international animal welfare standards.

Recognizing the need to communicate with the humane movement and animal industries, the OIE organized the "Global



OIE conference. David Fraser at right.

Conference on Animal Welfare" in Paris. The conference included leaders in veterinary medicine, animal protection, animal industries and government. Professor Fraser also serves as the Americas' delegate on the six-member OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare.



Dr. Arnold Arluke, Stratton Guest Lecturer

### Lecture: UNDERSTANDING THE NO-KILL CONTROVERSY

Controversy over the euthanasia of unwanted pets was addressed at the 2004 Peter Stratton Memorial Lecture, presented by Dr. Arnold Arluke, of Boston's Northeastern University. He proposed that the two sides of the debate could find common ground by focusing on the welfare of animals. The annual lecture is organized by the Animal Welfare Program and funded by the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada.

## MILESTONES

**Dr. Cassandra Tucker**, who completed her Ph.D. on the welfare of dairy cattle has been appointed Senior Research Scientist with the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Research Centre in Hamilton, New Zealand. She will continue to work on cattle welfare issues.

**Dr. Catherine Schuppli**, who completed her Ph.D. on the use of laboratory animals, has received a prestigious Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). She will work at UBC's W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics (closely associated with the Animal Welfare Program) on the ethics of research involving animal and human subjects.

**Anna MacNeil Allcock** has been appointed Director of Animal Welfare at the Humane Society of the Willamette Valley in Salem, Oregon, an organization which sees more than 12,000 animals each year. Anna will complete her M.Sc. thesis from Salem on rehoming of pit bulls.

## 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 these 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  
Alberta Farm Animal Care Association  
Westgen  
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers Association  
BC Egg Producers  
Unifeed, Chilliwack

## We need your help!

The 10-year funding commitment that created the Animal Welfare Program will end in 2007. We urgently need \$200,000 per year to sustain the Program into the future. For more information on ways of giving, please contact Dr. Dan Weary at: 604-822-3954 or danweary@interchange.ubc.ca

For more information on research, publications, education, sponsoring organizations and more: [www.agsci.ubc.ca/animalwelfare](http://www.agsci.ubc.ca/animalwelfare)