Welcome to the third Newsletter of the Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law sub-specialty of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behaviour Medicine. This newsletter is to update you on the progress being made at the College and we have brief reports for committees dealing with Residency and Education, Meetings, and College Activities. We would also like to solicit your continuing assistance to help us set up our specialty College. Existing *de facto* Diplomates are already aware of their responsibilities and we look forward to working more closely together to realise our vision especially if you can offer a module/residency in some aspect of AWS,E&L. In this issue we reproduce the Summary of the WG on Day One Competencies for undergraduates in animal welfare and ethics, and also the Lisbon Annual Conference programme, for our specialty. Please feel free to contact any of the Foundation Diplomates on any matter to do with the College sub-specialty. If you want to publish something in the Newsletter, I would be delighted to hear from you. (Ed: David Morton)

Siobhan is an RCVS **Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law** and a **European Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law**

Following graduation from the University of Glasgow Veterinary School in 1997 Siobhan worked in mixed and then small animal practice whilst concurrently studying for the RCVS Certificate and then Diploma in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law (AWSEL). She has gradually spent more time researching animal welfare and her research interests have ranged from pet rabbits to farmed pigs. Her research is focussed on applying the results of welfare assessment to initiate improvements in animal welfare, including through regulatory frameworks. Siobhan also teaches ethical decision-making to veterinary students and coordinates the Everyday Ethics column in the **In Practice** veterinary journal. She examines the RCVS AWSEL Diploma and is secretary of AWSELVA. She is a Foundation Diplomate of the College for Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law and represents the AWSEL sub-speciality for College Scientific Meetings and is our representative on the College’s Executive Committee. When she's not working Siobhan can be found spending time with her family, riding her bike or playing her bagpipes, but despite the obvious efficiency savings she has yet to master the art of piping whilst riding!
**AWSEL Sub-Speciality**

**Nominations and Credentials Committee** (composed of the four Foundation Diplomates) meets every 2 months. To date we have 27 de facto diplomates and 1 Associate Member. We are very pleased to welcome the following new de facto diplomates and associate members.

Elizabetta Canali (IT)
Cornelia Rouha-Mulleda (AT)
Margareta Steen (SE)

and

Associate Member (Claudia Vinke (NL).

**Associate Membership**

In the last issue we asked you to give us some suggestions about who should be considered for Associate Membership of AWSEL. You will recall that the specification for such persons are that they must have contributed significantly and are active in the fields of animal welfare science, ethics and law, and are internationally recognised. We are hoping that they will help in setting up the residency programmes, where, for example, there may not be a vet school. Those wishing to propose associate members should contact the Chair of the AWSEL Nominations and Credentials Committee David Morton david.morton@alsatis.net.

**Residency and Education Committee**

The Residency Committee is currently being established to develop and then operate the residency programme. At this stage draft residency requirements are currently being developed in order to meet the College and EBVS requirements. Residencies in other disciplines are normally funded by clinical income but given the nature of our discipline this will be less likely. However, it should be possible to develop a residency programme. It is important that our new college supports potential residents, so as part of the residency process we are including guidance to residents. This guidance will include information on available taught courses and on institutions able to offer periods of specialist experience. Once the process has been established we will seeking information to develop this guidance.

**Meeting in Lisbon Portugal September 27 2013.**

This year the scientific meeting will be held in Lisbon and the AW programme is shown below. The website address is <http://www.ivbmportugal.org>. The meeting has many interesting animal behaviour papers as well, and should make for a stimulating and interesting few days. The venue is Universidade LusÃ­fona de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Lisbon, Portugal.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>9h00-9h30</td>
<td>A model framework for the semi-quantitative assessment of ‘suffering’: its use in predicting and retrospectively assessing the impact of experiments on animals</td>
<td>David Morton</td>
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<td>9h30-9h45</td>
<td>He is not suffering...or is he?</td>
<td>Maya Bräm Dubé</td>
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<td>9h45-10h15</td>
<td>The ethics of equine housing</td>
<td>Valerie Jonckheer-Sheehy</td>
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<td>10h15-10h30</td>
<td>Welfare assessment in parrots: environmental and physiological needs. A review</td>
<td>Alnot-Perronin</td>
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<td>10h30-11h00</td>
<td>Survey on tail injuries sustained by working gundogs and terriers in Scotland</td>
<td>Rose Lederer</td>
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<td>11h00-11h30</td>
<td>Coffee-break</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>11h30-11h45</td>
<td>Understanding needs in the cichlid fish <em>Oreochromis mossambicus</em></td>
<td>Leonor Galhardo</td>
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<td>11h45-12h00</td>
<td>Sleep as a cattle welfare measure?</td>
<td>Laura Hänninen</td>
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<td>12h00-12h30</td>
<td>A Multivariate Analysis approach to describe the influence of stress on growth in Rainbow trouts subjected to invasive husbandry maintenance</td>
<td>Cyril Delfosse</td>
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<td>12h30-13h00</td>
<td>Qualitative Behavioural Assessment of Sheep during Commercial Road Transport</td>
<td>Teresa Collins</td>
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<td>13h00-14h30</td>
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<td>14h30-14h45</td>
<td>Development of a methodology for mechanical nociception testing in sows</td>
<td>Elena Nalon</td>
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<td>14h45-15h00</td>
<td>Assessment of lameness and claw lesions in sows</td>
<td>Elena Nalon</td>
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<td>15h00-15h15</td>
<td>Preliminary observations of pain indicators in sheep with footrot</td>
<td>Carlos Rebelo</td>
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<td>15h15-15h30</td>
<td>Risk assessment of animal welfare at Nordic small scale lamb slaughter plants</td>
<td>Jan Hultgren</td>
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<td>15h30-16h00</td>
<td>Coffee-break</td>
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<td>16h00-16h15</td>
<td>Development of a European Veterinary Animal Welfare curriculum</td>
<td>David Morton</td>
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<td>16h15-16h30</td>
<td>Teaching of Animal Welfare in veterinary faculties: outcomes survey done</td>
<td>Manuel Magalhães-Sant’Ana</td>
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<td>16h30-16h45</td>
<td>Why to teach ethics to veterinary students: a qualitative study</td>
<td>Manuel Magalhães-Sant’Ana</td>
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<td>16h45-17h00</td>
<td>What impacts animal welfare in companion animal veterinary clinics?</td>
<td>Lauren Dawson</td>
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17:00 to 19.00  **ECAWBM Annual General Meeting**

**EFSA Public Consultations** are taking place on:

‘Draft Guidance on the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing’, and

‘Draft Scientific Opinion on Monitoring Procedures at Slaughterhouses.’

The Animal Nutrition and Welfare Service of the Department of Animal and Food Science of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Autonomous University of Barcelona, UAB) has created the Farm Animal Welfare Education Centre (FAWEC). The FAWEC has been made possible through a partnership between the UAB and the private sector. It will be located at the UAB’s Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and its main mission will be to train veterinary surgeons in farm animal welfare. One of the FAWEC’s first activities will be to publish a series of review papers summarising current knowledge on various aspects of dairy cattle and pig welfare. Likewise, the FAWEC will host theoretical and practical training courses on animal welfare, focusing on both dairy cattle and pigs, with the primary aim of teaching the basic elements of animal welfare assessment protocols. These courses will include farm visits. Information about the scheduled courses, publications and other activities can be found at www.fawec.org.

Foundation Diplomate’s contact addresses
The four Foundation Diplomates of the sub-speciality Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law are: Siobhan Mullan Siobhan.Mullan@bristol.ac.uk (UK); Xavier Manteca xavier.manteca@uab.es (Es); David Main D.C.J.Main@bristol.ac.uk (UK); and David Morton david.morton@alsatis.net (UK, Fr). Xavier is the Junior Vice-President of the College (ECAWBM) and will become President in 2015. Siobhan is our (AWSEL) representative on the Executive Board of the parent College, David Main is Chair of the Residencies and Education Committee, David Morton is Chair of the Nominations and Credentials Committee and Nancy De Briyne nancy@fve.org is Deputy Executive Director of the FVE and is helping us with many things including the website. Jaume Fatjó jaumefatjo@gmail.com is President of the College.

Parent COLLEGE Activities
Jaume Fatjó (President) led the re-submission for the College to EBVS with strong support from representatives from the two sub-specialties Sarah Heath and Siobhan Mullan. The outcome was successful and the College has now been formally recognised. Congratulations to all those involved. The AW specialty has still to be recognised and we are aiming at a submission in 2016/2017 which is why we need your help!! Meanwhile, have a look at the College website for further information. www.ecawbm.org

Five Year Plan ECAWBM (WSEL)
Just to remind you that we aim to have our sub-specialty fully recognised by the EVBS and we have until July 2016. During that time we have also to integrate fully with the parent College:

January 2013: Residencies identified and education plan drawn up.
January 2014: Roll out Residency programme
January 2015: Examination Committee appointed and a review of the residency programmes and first examinations
July 2016: EBVS audit

FVE adopts Day-1 Competences for Animal Welfare
In the June 2013, the General Assembly of FVE delegates adopted a report on how to address animal welfare in the veterinary curriculum

In 2012, FVE established an ad hoc Working Group (WG) to map animal welfare teaching in undergraduate veterinary education and to develop a core curriculum. The WG comprised representatives of FVE, the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the EU FP7 research project AWARE (Animal Welfare Research in an Enlarged Europe). In June 2013, the WG finished their task and the report was adopted by both FVE and the EAEVE.

The Executive Summary is reproduced below.
“Welfare science is a dynamic and multidisciplinary subject; including the study of the mental and physical health of animals, as well as its ethical implications in relation to humans, the environment and regulation. The FVE strategy for 2011-2015 states that veterinarians have a professional and ethical responsibility to use their scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of animal welfare. All veterinarians should be able to educate, inform and influence animal owners, caretakers, handlers and policy makers to protect and improve animal welfare. Welfare (and its associated research) is, therefore, seen as an important aim in veterinary education along with other key subjects such as animal health and public health. The veterinary profession will also be needed to monitor and help implement good welfare for national governments which will create future employment needs for the profession.

In view of the on-going scientific developments and societal expectations in this field, FVE decided to establish an ad hoc Working Group (WG) to map animal welfare teaching in undergraduate veterinary education and to develop a core curriculum. The WG comprised representatives of FVE, the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the EU FP7 research project AWARE (Animal Welfare Research in an Enlarged Europe).

The Working Group developed an animal welfare curriculum (see Table), composed of a model syllabus, the corresponding learning objectives and a list of the essential Day One Competences (or learning outcomes). These will enable veterinary graduates to fulfil their role as primary advisers on animal welfare across all contexts of animal use. The model animal welfare curriculum was designed in order to be easily adapted and implemented at every veterinary school.

Many of these requirements tie in with the more traditional core Day One Competencies at graduation, particularly clinical competence, and so should not be seen as unique and requiring special coursework, although it might involve some novel inputs. Moreover, some of the Day One Competences suggested in the Table will complement other competencies e.g. holding a scientific evidence based position, recognition of strong and weak arguments, provision of advice in relation to any wider public debate, and the close links between animal and human health, and animal health and welfare.

The mapping of the status of animal welfare education was done in two stages. In the first stage the WG, in collaboration with AWARE, an EU funded project, analysed the results of a survey in which 45 European veterinary faculties responded. It was found that courses, including farm animal welfare, were provided mainly at the Bachelor and Masters levels and were usually compulsory. The main focus of the education was ethology, followed by welfare assessment and legislation. In the second stage, a survey was carried out to obtain feedback on the FVE’s proposed model draft curriculum: this showed that the main obstacles to strengthening animal welfare teaching include, by decreasing order of scoring importance: lack of space in the curriculum; difficulties in organising practical sessions; financial difficulties; lack of qualified teachers; and a low priority for animal welfare within that faculty. To overcome these obstacles, Section 3 of the report provides guidance on how animal welfare teaching can be organised in an already crowded veterinary curriculum.
Recognising and respecting the diversity of educational strategies and curricular approaches found in European veterinary programmes, the WG took an overall learning-outcome based approach to the teaching of animal welfare, further supported by an appropriate syllabus. This approach seemed to be generally acceptable and the proposed learning outcomes attainable. Almost all faculties agreed with the proposed list of learning outcomes, although less than half stated that they currently delivered these outcomes, and almost three quarters stated that they could reach these learning outcomes within the next five years. It will ultimately be up to each veterinary college to decide how to incorporate the learning outcomes into their curriculum and how the subjects are taught, bearing in mind that all veterinary education must meet certain EU standards. It must also retain public confidence.

Learning outcomes for Day One for veterinary graduates in respect of animal welfare related competencies (further details can be found in the full report)

1. Appraise different concepts as well as analytical frameworks of animal welfare and how they relate to practice and to the context in which they are set.

2. Apply sound principles to objectively evaluate the welfare status of animals and to recognise good and poor welfare.

3. Participate in animal welfare assessment, monitoring and auditing with the aims of improving the physical and mental health of animals.

4. Formulate an informed, science-based, view on animal welfare matters and communicate effectively with those involved in keeping animals.

5. Appraise the social context and participate in societal debates about animal welfare and ethics.

6. Retrieve up-to-date and reliable information regarding local, national and international animal welfare regulations/standards in order to describe humane methods for animal keeping, transport and killing (including slaughter).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The FVE and EAEVE should actively encourage all European schools to implement these Day One Competences and the corresponding learning objectives, and to have them incorporated and evaluated through the EAEVE/FVE accreditation system of veterinary schools.

2. European veterinary schools should ensure adequate time, staff and practical sessions for teaching animal welfare science, ethics and law.

3. Animal welfare science, ethics and law teaching should be delivered in such a way that the study subject is clearly identifiable in its own right, while being integrated throughout the veterinary course.

4. Animal Welfare science, ethics and law should be a core subject, and examinable with the same pass/fail criteria as other core subjects.

5. European veterinary schools should encourage cutting edge animal welfare research as this will attract both students and top quality staff.

6. CPD providers should incorporate advances in welfare, ethics and law into their programmes through the principles of life-long learning.

7. All staff, as role models, should be continually updated in Animal Welfare.”
Upcoming events and Meetings

The welfare of dogs and cats in the EU - Building a Europe that cares for companion animals”
Date: 28 October
Place: Charlemagne building, Brussels, Belgium
Organisers: European Commission and the Lithuanian Presidency, with the support of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE).

The first European Conference on the Welfare of Dogs and Cats will involve stakeholders from government, veterinary and inspection authorities, breeders, trade show organisers and NGOs. It will be an important opportunity to reflect on and discuss the practical considerations and approaches in tackling the key issues of commercial breeding and companion animal trade as a source of danger for pet welfare, public health and consumer protection. This conference will also see the launch of a study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices. Based on the outcomes of the study and the conference’s proceedings, the Commission will consider if further action is necessary in order to increase transparency and adequacy of information to consumers on animal welfare for their purchase choice (i.e. a traceability system). Program and details will be published on FVE website and at http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/information_sources/ahw_events_en.htm

Welfare Assessment at Farm Level

WAFL is an international scientific conference on the assessment of animal welfare at farm and group level. The WAFL2014 is organised by UMR1213 Herbivores joint research unit between INRA and VetAgro Sup. It will be held in Clermont-Ferrand, France, from September 3 to 5, 2014.

Communications on any topic related to the assessment of animal welfare at group level (on farms, at slaughter,….) are welcome to WAFL2014:

- Welfare criteria,
- Welfare indicators and methods to analyse them,
- Automation of welfare measurements,
- Statistical methods to deal with large amounts of data from various welfare measures,
- Rationales underlying epidemiological studies and risk models for animal welfare,
- Ethical issues in relation to animal welfare assessment,
- Consultation processes,
- Implementation of animal welfare assessment, to certify farms or for other purposes,
- Training assessors,
- Cost-benefit analyses of implementation of welfare assessment systems,
- Communication of animal welfare assessment results,
- Communications can be in the fields of natural sciences (ethology, veterinary science, animal production, epidemiology,...), social sciences (sociology, economy,...), mathematics, engineering, ...

We especially welcome interdisciplinary communications. Please visit the website https://colloque.inra.fr/wafl2014