

ECAWBM NEWSLETTER

Welcome

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behaviour Medicine that covers both the Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, and the Behavioural Medicine sub-specialties. This newsletter is to update you on the progress being made at the College through standing committee reports, on upcoming conferences, members' news, and interesting developments in the two fields. We also hope to have a President's and Vice-President's column to update you on their thinking and future plans. In this issue I have given space for our Annual College Conference as it should become a focal meeting for all our members, and all the necessary information is contained here. Please feel free to contact us on any matter to do with the College (david.morton@alsatis.net and I will pass it on to the appropriate person).



During my last year at the veterinary school in Helsinki I was asked to join a research project on calf welfare and behavior, but only for a short period. That short time increased to be 20 years so far. After graduating, I carried out research and went into mixed practice at the same time, but during the past 15 years I have been full time research into farm animal behavior and welfare.

My PhD was on calf resting behavior, welfare and sleep, and farm animal sleep and resting behaviours are still some of my research interests, in addition to sickness and pain. The research group I am working with is called the Research Centre for Animal welfare (also in English on FaceBook and Twitter with the name LauraTHanninen). It is a multi-disciplinary group of around thirty people, of

which half are senior researchers and the rest PhD students with backgrounds in veterinary science, agricultural sciences or biology. I am currently supervising PhD students working on cow sleep and heart rate variation, canine cognition, pig and calf pain, and stakeholders' attitudes towards cattle pain.

We have a graduate school for clinical veterinary science (ANIWEL) that offers courses for people studying in many other veterinary fields. In addition, we organise special journal clubs and other activities focused on the needs of PhD students for the animal welfare science. We plan to be able to utilise these courses for the possible future ECAW residents as well.

However, my main job is as a clinical instructor on animal welfare and behavior at the veterinary faculty of the Helsinki University. I organise and teach basic and advanced courses in animal welfare, management and protection, and I am also one of the responsible teachers for teaching veterinary ethics. Ethics is now integrated into studies starting from the 1st year, and finishing in the 5th year before veterinary students get their temporary licenses to work out in the field.

When Xavier Manteca became President of the College I was asked by the Foundation Diplomates to come on board to help them set up the AWSEL sub-specialty.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Dear Diplomates,

As some of you may well remember, our College was provisionally approved by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation in 2002. Nine years after, in 2011, the sub-specialty of animal welfare was granted provisional recognition and the sub-speciality of Behavioural Medicine was fully recognised in 2013. Since its foundation, our College now made up of the two sub-specialties has grown steadily and today we have a total number of 77 members comprising both diplomates and associate members.

Despite this significant progress, we still have several important challenges ahead of us, and one of the most important is the need to develop residency programmes. The animal welfare sub-speciality of our College has to be fully recognised by the EBVS in the near future. To achieve this, we must have high-quality residency programmes in animal welfare science, ethics and law, and we need them very soon: after 2016, veterinarians can only become diplomates of the animal welfare sub-speciality of our College if they have undertaken a residency programme. Given the multidisciplinary nature of animal welfare, I think it is necessary that we do our best to build partnerships across several institutions in different countries to set up good residency programmes and this is starting to happen.

The need to set up new residency programmes also applies to the Behavioural Medicine sub-speciality. As stated in the College Constitution, one of the primary objectives of our College shall be to advance animal welfare science, ethics and law and behavioural medicine in Europe, and for these disciplines to thrive, we need more active residency programmes.

Being part of our College should be seen as an opportunity for each of us to contribute to the progress of our field of expertise in an active, friendly and constructive manner. I would like to thank all diplomates that now or in the past have devoted their time and effort to our College and very much hope that we will be able to continue to count on all of you to pursue our objectives in the future.

As President of your College, I wish to extend an invitation to you all to comment on what we are doing and how we can improve our strategy for our membership. If you have any ideas please email me (Xavier.Manteca@uab.cat). Also please come to our annual Congress which this year is being held in Bristol from the 30th of September to the 3rd of October.

Best wishes for the summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Conference in Bristol

Sincerely

Xavier

Introducing our Vice-President Gonçalo da Graça Pereira



In a sunny morning of September the 18th (the year does not matter!), I was born in a fishery village close to Lisbon, called Cascais, close to the sea, where friends and family pass their time on the beach! And talking about family, my Father was a Dog Trainer from the Portuguese National Guard (interestingly one of the first that went to Germany to learn about training methods according to the “old school”). That experience changed his view of dog training much closer to that currently promoted. My mother was a Board Secretary with an International Company but during the Portuguese Peaceful Revolution (in April 1974) she lost her job and moved into a totally different field to become a chef. I have a brother, 18 years older than me and as I was rather unexpected, I ended up being spoiled with one mother and two fathers!

I received two characteristics from my parents: the love and respect for all living beings; and perseverance. Very early on in life, I decided that I must somehow work with animals. My second passion made me decide that if I did not get in the Veterinary Faculty, than I would go for Acting School (interpretation and

representation). Fortunately I got into the Veterinary Faculty and postponed my second passion. During my first year at the veterinary school, I realised that at that time, respect for the animals was not a reality, and students were desensitised and came to see animals as ‘machines’. Shocked about this, I took my first steps in animal welfare and volunteered to work at the biggest animal welfare and protection Portuguese association. This association was a member of the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare (EFAW) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). We developed the first animal welfare course in Portugal and took part in revising the national legislation. After finishing my veterinary degree, the RSPCA invited me to become consultant and this was my first job in the field! During this time, I also broadened my knowledge on welfare indicators, and took a Masters in Clinical Ethology and Welfare in Madrid. This also involved training in Behavioural Medicine. At a Conference in Barcelona, my dear friend, Sarah Heath, invited me to be part of the board of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology (ESVCE). Another special friend that is still close to most of us, Rudy De Meester, who became my mentor and suggested that I sit the examinations for the College, which I did.

Currently I teach “Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Protection”, “Clinical examination in internal medicine” and “Ethics and Deontology” at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Lisbon, I am also an invited teacher/lecturer in several Post-graduation courses, Masters, Seminars, Conferences and Congresses, nationally and internationally.

I finished my PhD in 2014, with a thesis that linked welfare, behaviour and internal medicine in the cat. At the same time, I, as a workaholic, supervise about 17 Master thesis, 3 PhD students and several other researchers.

Apart from all this work my other passion, acting, was not ignored. I did, and still do courses of Acting and Interpretation on stage and for film. Until 2 years ago, I took part in a stage play every year. Last year I was invited to contribute to a programme about behaviour on public television and I am currently recording a programme about animals. Despite all this I miss the scent of the stage!!

And now to conclude with the most important aspect of my life: my family. I am married to another vet (as is so common in our field) who is the most precious gem that a man can have. We have 2 girls, 15 and 5 years old. These three persons are my *raison d'être* and they help one forget the daily human behaviour conflicts. We are also guardians to 4 cats, and as we live in the countryside, 15 minutes from the beach!) they can have an outdoor/indoor life, as they choose. Very recently we adopted a dog, in addition to having sheep and 4 tortoises. So, a big multi-species family where there is still space for nephews, brothers-in-law, mother-in-law, mother and, finally, the family that we choose: friends!

AWSEL Credentials Committee Chair: David Morton

Since our last Newsletter we are very pleased to welcome Marlene Kirchner (Assistant Prof. Animal Welfare, Copenhagen University, Denmark), Marta Brscic (Research Fellow at the Department of Animal Medicine, Production and Health, University of Padova, Italy), Déborah Temple (Research Fellow at the Veterinary School, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain), Valentina Ferrante (Professor in wildlife avian management, University of Milan, Italy), Pat Turner (Professor and Program Leader, Laboratory Animal Science, University of Guelph, Canada), Alex Whittaker (Animal Welfare Officer, University South Australia and Lecturer in the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Adelaide, Australia), Christina Leeb (Senior Researcher, Vienna, Austria), and Vlatko Ilieski (Professor Faculty for veterinary medicine Skopje, Macedonia).

BM Credentials Committee Chair: Theresa DePorter

Alchemists turned into chemists when they stopped keeping secrets. (Eric Raymond (*1957, American computer programmer, and author)

The committee has only one application for 2015. Please encourage those who have an interest and enthusiasm regarding animal welfare and behavioral medicine to pursue board certification, and take a moment every day to share your knowledge, wisdom and passion for veterinary behavior. The future of veterinary behavior depends on each of us sharing our expertise so the mysteries of animal behavior become elucidated, rather than shrouded in darkness and misunderstanding.

In today's environment, hoarding knowledge ultimately erodes your power. If you know something very important, the way to get power is by actually sharing it. (Joseph L. Badaracco1948, professor of Business ethics at Harvard Business School)

Lotta Berg writes:

The Behaviour Medicine (BM) sub-speciality is up and running and fully recognised since 2013, including residency programmes, examination routines and a system for re-evaluation of Diplomates at regular intervals. The Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law (AWSEL) sub-speciality is much more recent; it was provisionally recognised in 2011. All current members of the AWSEL sub-speciality are *de-facto* members. However, the time period during which it is possible to become accepted as a *de-facto* specialist is now rapidly approaching its end. After April 2016, no new *de-facto* Diplomates can be accepted. Instead all candidates will have to go through the residency training.

The AWSEL residency committee is now waiting for the first applications for residency programmes within this sub-speciality. Most likely, the first residency programmes will be so-called "Alternative" Residency Programmes, i.e. tailor-made individual programmes including practical work, courses and research projects. We would now like to urge all Diplomates to remind any of your highly qualified colleagues to apply for *de-facto* recognition before time runs out, and also to encourage your institutions to design Standard Residency programmes and certainly also encourage younger colleagues to start writing their applications for an Alternative Residency Programme within the AWSEL sub-speciality.

Lotta Berg (Secretary of ECAWBM)

David Main (Chair of the AWSEL Residency

Committee) reports

I am pleased to report that we have 4 potential residents working their way through the application process which is great news. The applicants are proposing some very interesting projects.

We are developing a web based recording system for recording case exposures and reports during the residency programme. This should be a simple mechanism for demonstrating and monitoring experience.

A key strength of our College derives from our network of contacts both between Diplomates and with others involved in animal welfare across Europe. So we also want to encourage residents to gain experience in different centres. If you are contacted by residents please do encourage and support their need to get appropriate experience.

At present we have a relatively small group looking at residency applications, including myself, Antonio Velarde and Marlene Kirscher. It would be great if others could also get involved, especially if you can increase the geographical spread of the group ! In due course we will also need to form an Examination Committee so lots of volunteers would be really good. Our plan is to hold telephone conferences every three months. The other good news is that I have persuaded our University to provide some administrative support hopefully making the process side hassle free.



Call for Papers for AWSELVA-ECAWBM-ESVCE Conference 2015

30th September to 3rd October 2015

SS Great Britain, Bristol, UK

‘From Research to Practice’

Deadline for submitting abstracts: Monday 11th May 2015

Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law

30th September

Session Theme: From AWSEL to Practice- maximising the impact

We welcome submissions from a wide interpretation of the theme.

1st October:

Session Theme: The AWSEL of Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine

Session Theme: Influencing clients- how far can and should we go?

Deadline for submitting abstracts: Monday 11th May 2015

Behavioural Medicine

2nd October 2015

Session theme: Clinical trials to clinical practice

For this session we welcome abstracts following a wide interpretation of this theme, including: those related to clinical trials of psychoactive agents, adjunctive therapies or behaviour modification techniques; evidence based clinical practice; the relative value of research and experiential evidence; ethics / practicalities of taking an evidence based approach in behavioural medicine; evaluation of methods for achieving behavioural change in clients, or qualitative approaches in assessment of effective clinical practice.

3rd October 2015

Session theme: Principles and practice of science based behavioural medicine

For this session we welcome abstracts following a wide interpretation of this theme, including: aspects of fundamental science (e.g. cognition, learning, stress physiology, personality differences, welfare science) which form a basis for effective clinical practice; assessment of the human-animal bond; public perceptions of animal welfare; human attitudes to animals, or evaluation of management or training methods on animal welfare.

Session theme: Open session

Applications are welcomed for abstracts which do not relate to the specific themed sessions but address an area relevant to veterinary behavioural medicine.

4th October 2015

Veterinary Behavioural Medicine: Study Day

4th October morning: “So what is good evidence?” Workshop to explore how to evaluate evidence upon which to base clinical decision making

4th October afternoon: “Oh no, it’s not a dog or cat!” Case based work-shop providing delegates the opportunity to work through cases involving less commonly seen species

Guidelines for writing an abstract

Please follow the guidelines when submitting an abstract. The Scientific Committee have the right to rejected submitted abstracts if they do not follow these guidelines.

1. All abstracts must be submitted in English
2. All abstracts must be typed, single-line spaced and must fit onto one page.
3. Fonts should be Arial or Times New Roman and at least font size 12 throughout.
4. In the first line indicate in capital letters:
 - a. SPOKEN PRESENTATION or POSTER, **and**
 - b. SESSION FOR WHICH THE ABSTRACT IS SUBMITTED, **and**
 - c. THE TYPE OF ABSTRACT SUBMITTED (Research, Review, Case Series or Case Study)
5. The abstract title should be in the **second line**. Please make the title descriptive but as concise as possible.
6. Third line: names of **all authors**. All authors should agree to the content of the abstract prior to submission. Please underline the **presenting author**.
7. Fourth line: addresses of authors (institution, city, country) and e-mail address of presenting author.
8. All abstracts should include a **statement of conflicts of interest** after the author details. This should include information about any affiliations, research funders, memberships *for all authors* that should be taken into account by readers when evaluating the research.
9. The text of the abstract should be no longer than **350 words**.
10. Please avoid indenting for paragraphs but leave a one-line gap between paragraphs.
11. When using uncommon abbreviations, spell out in full when first mentioned, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Do not abbreviate in the title of the abstract
12. Do not include tables or diagrams in the abstract.
13. For critical reviews, key references (if appropriate) should be listed in abbreviated form, e.g., Dutton, D. and Williams, C. 2004. *Anthrozoös* 17(1): 210–224.

Abstracts must be submitted electronically (MS Word attachment). Two copies of the abstract must be submitted, one in full and the other **with the authors' names, affiliations and conflicts of interest** removed to enable blinded review.

Authors are responsible for the quality of any translation to English. It is suggested that abstracts are proof read, if possible, by a native English speaker prior to submission.

All submissions will be **reviewed anonymously by independent referees**, according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality, advancement and novelty
- Relevance to clinical behavioural medicine or animal welfare science, ethics and law
- Clarity and presentation of argument

There are 2 types of presentation to select from:

- Spoken presentations (20 minutes plus 5 minutes discussion).
- Poster presentations – Poster presenters must attend the conference and are encouraged to be available to answer questions about their work during timetables poster sessions. There are 3 categories to select from for your presentation

There are 3 categories of abstract to select from:

1. Research abstracts must include the following components:

- an introduction (a few sentences introducing the study and its objectives)
- methodology – including a description of the participants (both human and animal), such as number (n), type, age, gender, and species, and a description of the study design, data collection, data analysis and apparatus used
- main results, including, when appropriate, statistical test, significance level and actual test value (e.g., $F(df) = ?$, $p < 0.05$)
- principal conclusions and implications for the field

Providing a list of topics to be covered, or using statements such as “results will be discussed” or “a new theory will be developed” is not appropriate.

2. Critical Review abstracts must include the following components:

- an introduction (a clear statement of the purpose of the review)
- key literature references to theory, concepts, evidence or methodology that have been reviewed or re-evaluated
- main findings
- principal conclusions and implications for the field

3. Case Series, Case Reports or descriptions of aspects of Clinical Practice abstracts must include the following components:

- an introduction (e.g. aetiology, background information regarding the case)
 - key literature references to theory, concepts, evidence or methodology that have been used
 - diagnosis and therapy
 - principal conclusions and implications for the field, if appropriate
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OTHER MEETINGS



SEEVAD, the European Society of Veterinary Ethology of Domestic Animals, is glad to announce the THIRD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF VETERINARY ETHOLOGY. The symposium will be held at the Monsouris Mutualist Institute in Paris 75014, 27th-29th NOVEMBER 2015.

The topic will be "Selection and behaviour: what influences?, What consequences?". Dealing with dogs, cats and horses mainly the symposium will consist in several sessions of oral communications and posters, introduced by plenary lectures.

All the conferences and questions will be simultaneously translated (French into English and English into French).

CALL FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS IS NOW OPEN (DEADLINE MAI 30TH).

Furthermore SEEVAD will offer two awards, both for students (Master students, PhD students, and veterinary students), one for the best poster and one for the best short communication.

ON THE WEBSITE you will find

:

- 1 a general presentation of the Symposium, including the list of the plenary conferences,
- 2 the specifications for the call for papers

Website of the Symposium : <http://www.seevad.fr/symposium-ethologie-2015.php/>