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Ontogeny of an Adolescent

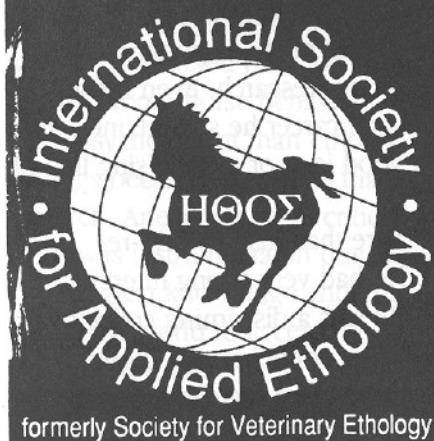
In 1991 we had our 25th anniversary and still we are a young, developing and growing society. As you will remember in that same year we decided to change the name of our society and we were discussing our new constitution. The step from a mainly European to a world society in fact means that we started a second youth. Yet this was not a completely new start: the step just marked a gradual change which had taken place during the first 25 years of the society. So what will happen during the next 25 years?

First, the science of applied ethology will continue to be important. People want to learn about the animals which they influence directly: at the farm, at home, in the laboratory. People want to know how the animals respond to that treatment. Our science is important from the point of view of economy, policy and also interest. Second, interdisciplinary work will be increasingly practised: in addition to behaviour, broad issues of physiology and health will be discussed more and more in the society. This means that we have to consider contacts with other scientific societies, including both those in the area of pure science (ethology, physiology, veterinary science) and those in more applied areas (animal production, pet animals, applied veterinary science). We have not yet finalised plans for organizing such contacts and cooperation.

For the near future, we are rather busy with activities aiming at further development of our society, including development of regions and regional secretaries, organization of scientific meetings and consideration of scientific journals. Information about the regions is enclosed. Concerning organization of our annual congress, I can inform you that Council has decided that local organizers will in future be supported by a committee consisting of two Council members and representatives of the former and next congresses. Guidelines have also been developed to encourage high scientific standards at the meetings. Information about our discussions on scientific journals appears below. Other topics receiving attention in the near future will be our financial affairs this newsletter and public relations in general.

The education involved in this second youth of the society also takes energy. I trust that all the extra work will result in a society which satisfies its members and plays its desired role in the development of our science. In any event, I appreciate the chance the society gave me to contribute as President to this 'ontogeny of an adolescent' over the last two years.

Herman Wierenga



ISAE Officials

President:	Herman Wierenga
Senior Vice-President:	Bo Algers
Junior Vice-President:	Harold Gonyou
Secretary:	Mike Appleby
Assistant Secretary:	Henrik Simonsen
Membership Secretary:	Carol Petherick
Treasurer:	Mike Mendl
Editor:	Ian Horrell
Legal Assessor:	Bill Jackson
Council members:	Elisabetta Canali

Joy Mench
Jan Ladewig
Ruth Newberry
Lindsay Matthews
Frank Ödberg

Regional Secretaries:	Bo Algers
	Lindsay Matthews
	Mike Appleby
	Willem Schouten
	Harry Blokhuis
	Henrik Simonsen
	Marie-France Bouissou
	Marina Verga
	L.C. Hsia
	Klaus Zeeb
	Andrew Luescher

At the 1993 AGM, Bo Algers is due to stand down as Senior Vice-President; Herman Wierenga will replace him and Harold Gonyou will become President. Ian Horrell will also be standing down as Editor and Elisabetta Canali and Jan Ladewig finish their terms on Council. Elisabetta Canali has only served two years so she is eligible for re-election. At its meeting in December 1992, Council decided to make the following nominations to the AGM. If any members wish to make alternative nominations, they should obtain the agreement of the nominee and then contact the Secretary.

Junior Vice-President:	Jan Ladewig (Germany)
Editor:	Jeff Rushen (Canada)
Council members:	Elisabetta Canali (Italy)
	Marek Špinko (Czech Republic)

Regional Secretaries

We are requesting some feedback from members on the division into regions and nomination of people for secretaries of those regions. Please see the enclosed information and let us know your views.

ISAE news

David Wood-Gush: an appreciation

We regret to announce the death of David Wood-Gush on 1st December 1992 at the age of 70. David was President of the Society for Veterinary Ethology in 1976.

This appreciation is written from the perspective of someone who came to know David Wood-Gush through being his student and ultimately his colleague and friend. I first met David in late November 1978, when I was searching for a position as a post-graduate student in agriculture. A blizzard was sweeping across Edinburgh as I trudged across King's Buildings campus to the School of Agriculture building. I felt rather uncertain about my coming interview with Dr Wood-Gush, as he was then; like many in my position I had already suffered set-backs to my hopes. I couldn't have been more wrong. David had such a certainty of purpose that from the moment I met him it seemed almost inevitable that I would become part of his post-graduate group. I later learned that this sense of purpose was a reflection of David's enormous, apparently insatiable appetite for animal behaviour science. A common conversation I would have with others about David in later years was the question of when he would stop working. In fact he never did. He was still very involved in teaching and writing, and when he died he was on his way to attend two scientific conferences in London. His continuing involvement was, however, much more than just marking time. When I went into his room on the morning after his death I found on his desk a recently published paper on an important new area in animal behaviour research. Even towards the end of his research career he still retained the capacity to spot a good idea or a promising line of research.

David was more than just a world-renowned scientist. He had very strong interests outside his work. He was a discerning collector of art and a keen follower of cricket and rugby. He kept himself fit by swimming regularly at the Infirmary Street baths in Edinburgh. Perhaps his

greatest 'hobby', though, was meeting people. I was always amazed at the enormous number of his acquaintances, and how well he kept in touch with them. One way he achieved this was by asking people round for dinner. For example, when I first joined his research group we were often all invited round to his Nelson Street flat, where over dinner we heard tales of his early life in South Africa and of the adventures of his ancestors during the Zulu uprisings.

David Wood-Gush was an eminent scientist and a man of eclectic taste. He was also a great friend and a true gentleman. It wasn't possible to have a boring conversation with David, and he never passed onto others the enormous amount of discomfort he suffered as a result of the arm he injured in a war-time accident. He cared a great deal for the students who passed through his tutelage and many became close friends in later years. He had a terrific sense of humour, and had the ability to talk freely with a very broad range of people without being patronizing or overbearing. For all these reasons and more he will be terribly missed not only in Edinburgh but throughout the world where there are many people who have met him and have been captivated by his charm, humour and humanity.

Alistair Lawrence

Moyra Williams: a memoir

Moyra Williams' death was announced in the last Newsletter.

The Hon. Mrs Moyra Williams was one of those who prepared the path for the development of applied ethology in the fifties. She was a clinical psychologist mainly active in the field of neuropsychology. Being a knowledgeable horse-woman, she mixed both job and hobby in order to write about horse behaviour. Her approach was more psychological than ethological, but her writings became the sparks that ignited further research. Anecdotes were critically evaluated. Her work was instrumental in questioning empirical Hippological knowledge and enticed a very traditional world to accept new scientific views on horse behaviour.

For the anglophile continental which I am, Moyra represented a cherished example of a British personality: a Lady in her manners, a strong down to earth common sense but coloured by that ounce of madness which makes such people undertake things that others would not.

Moyra Williams had been senior psychologist at Littlemore Hospital, Oxford, and research assistant of Sir Hugh Cairns, the brain surgeon. In 1954 she received her Ph.D. (Oxon) presenting a thesis on memory defects and cerebral lesions. Moyra also spent a year working in Nigeria. She ended her professional career as principal clinical psychologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. She published several articles and books in the field of neuropsychology. Horse lovers will rather remember her "Horse Psychology", "Adventures Unbridled", "Riding is my Hobby", "A Breed of Horses" and "Understanding Nervousness in Horses and Rider". She was instrumental in the development of the Equine Behaviour Study Circle.

More recently, together with Dr Deborah Howell, Moyra Williams belonged to the 'grannies' who faithfully attended our summer meetings. Their presence contributed substantially to that kind of homely atmosphere of our society. I hope, by the way, the welcome development of ISAE membership will not happen at the expense of that "ambience".

Moyra rarely engaged in complicated scientific arguments, but I would describe her contribution to discussions as being often "devastatingly constructive". Playing the role of the ingenuous non-specialist, using simple words, she would ask the question which inhibits all further verbal display and makes you wonder what one is talking about. Unaware of the impact of her "substantial epistemological contribution", she would then look for the big basket she often carried with her and take French leave for a nap at the hotel or a more casual chat about horses elsewhere.

Thank you, Moyra. It is as if you went out riding and never came back to the stables. Don't worry, we'll muck them out as you did. We'll manage, as you always have.

Frank Ödberg

UK Winter Meeting, December 1992

The UK winter meeting returned to London this year after last year's 'excursion' to Cambridge. The capital was a lot quieter than usual, probably from the combined effects of the recession and fear of terrorism. At the start of the meeting we heard the sad news of David Wood-Gush's sudden death the day before and one minute's silence was observed in his memory.

The main theme of the meeting was 'Behaviour and welfare of animals during handling and transport'. This included papers covering a wide range of responses to handling and transport (behavioural, physiological and psychological) in a wide range of domestic animals (sheep, poultry, deer, horses and pigs). There was a general agreement that it was better to use a variety of measures in any one study as the results from one measure alone (e.g. heart rate) could be difficult to interpret.

The remaining papers were all associated with animal welfare in one way or other. Three considered the effects of environmental enrichment (in pigs: Beattie, Walker & Sneddon and Young & Lawrence; in hens: Bubier & Bradshaw). Two described the behaviour and motivation of restricted-fed broiler breeders (Kostal & Savory and Savory, Maros & Rutter). Cooper & Nicol discussed how bank voles can 'learn' stereotypies from neighbours. Marchant & Broom talked on the effects of housing on farrowing sows. Finally, Hermann & Manteca described recent developments in Swiss animal welfare housing.

There was also a discussion about the future of the winter 'London meeting' - now a UK local meeting. There was a consensus that it should continue to be held in London and coincide with the ASAB winter meeting. This issue will be dealt with by a new UK Regional Secretary. In the meantime, Mike Appleby would welcome any comments from UK members regarding the timing, location and frequency of future UK local meetings.

Mark Rutter

Do we want a Society journal?

I should first thank all who replied to the questionnaire on developing our own journal. There were 119 replies - one third of the society membership - which is a remarkable response for a questionnaire of this type, with no free draw for a Cadillac attached. The Council is very grateful for such a thorough sample of views and it should help us a great deal in coming to a decision. But does it? Unfortunately, most of the votes split fairly evenly, with every extreme of views expressed, often quite forcefully (in both directions), in the comments. But at least we are not guessing in the pitch dark now on what the effect would be if membership fees were greatly increased to include a journal, or on how many would take advantage of whichever arrangement we develop. The voting went as follows:

Of those who replied, 91% would stay members if the fee with journal were as little as £25/\$40, 65% if it were £40 but only 30% if it were £60.

If Applied Animal Behaviour Science were available at £50, 44% would take it, but less than half of these would continue to do so if membership were raised to £50 to include our own journal as well.

If membership were raised to £10 and a new journal of ours were available as an option at £40, all would remain members but only 49% would take the journal.

Overall, 61% think we should simply negotiate to develop relations with Applied Animal Behaviour Science, while 39% think that we should go for our own journal (of whom 3/4 would like to see an arrangement with Applied Animal Behaviour Science as well).

What are we going to do? We can conclude that, if we started a journal and CAB International could keep the subscription rate at around the £30 they are currently suggesting, and this became part of the membership package, there would be a small but not ruinous drop in membership. If it were only an optional extra, there would probably not be enough people taking it to make it viable. However, a clear majority (even among those who want us to start a new journal) think that we should develop relations with Applied Animal

Behaviour Science. But not enough would take the journal for its price to members to be very close to the level suggested in the questionnaire (Elsevier is currently talking about a rate almost double the £50 referred to in the questionnaire, for the numbers likely to take it).

After considerable discussion, Council has decided that the best strategy at present is to pursue negotiations with Elsevier to try to develop a somewhat better arrangement with them than the one available at the moment. When we have done that, we shall come to a firm decision and bring it to the AGM in Berlin. Perhaps by the time this is in print this decision will have been made.

Ian Horrell

Nordic Winter Meeting, December 1992

The fifth Nordic ISAE meeting was held in Lund at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences' Department of Farm Buildings, on the 8th to 9th December 1992. It was well attended, with 41 participants from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Sixteen very good papers were presented representing a broad spectrum of applied and fundamental ethological research activities going on within the Nordic countries. The meeting also included an excursion to the University's research facilities for pigs and dairy cattle.

The general theme of the meeting was 'Theoretical and practical assessment of behavioural needs'. Important papers in relation to this theme were Bjørn Forkman's 'Working for food: a behavioural need or a need to know' and Per Jensen's 'Behavioural needs: a holistic approach'. These two papers were followed up by a round table discussion, which was stimulated by participants' comments on T.B. Poole's paper in the journal *Animal Welfare* (1992, vol. 1 pp 203-220), 'The nature and evolution of behavioural needs in mammals'. It is perhaps not surprising that a main conclusion of the discussion was that there is still much to be done within the fields of science and philosophy in relation to the subject of behavioural needs.

On behalf of ISAE I want to express our gratitude to Jørgen Svendsen and the staff at Lund for excellent organization, as well as to all the participants of the meeting.

Henrik Simonsen

European convention on experimental animals

At the November meeting of the Council of Europe working party, the discussion most relevant to ISAE was on definitions of 'procedures'. A draft text used the strange definition that behavioural study would not be considered a procedure if the pain, suffering or distress was less than that caused by introduction of a needle. I pointed out that some experiments can induce a lot of suffering which can not be compared to physical pain, and the final text was adapted: 'Some studies on the behaviour of animals may result in sufficient suffering or distress for the study to be considered as a procedure, even if it does not imply physical interference'.

There was insufficient time to discuss animal housing, but a document which I had prepared on behalf of ISAE was distributed, on 'Ethological aspects of caging of animals used for scientific purposes'. This suggested that the following points (here summarised briefly) will have to be dealt with for each species and sometimes for specific strains.

1. Enrichment of the cage: a) Elements for structuring the environment will have to be evaluated before we can talk about cage sizes as such; b) We should be careful not to think *a priori* that any element of enrichment has a positive effect; c) The contents of cages should determine their sizes.

2. Composition of social groups: a) The concept of 'density' alone is grossly insufficient; b) A particular aspect is reproduction, and specific advice should be given to optimize mating.

3. Human-animal relationships: a) The possibility should be avoided of enrichment elements making it more difficult to catch or manipulate the animals; b) For some species regular handling (especially when young) could be beneficial.

I would still like comments from ISAE members about these or other aspects of laboratory animal housing, preferably in time for the CEC workshop in Berlin in May.

Frank Ödberg

ISAE Membership

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome the following to the Society:

Ms Debbie Bennett, 6 Bradley Street, Crookes, Sheffield S10 1PB, UK

Reneé Bergeron, 368 Animal Science Lab., 1207 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, USA

Eva Maria Biosca Marce, 125 Tippetknowes Road, Winchburgh EH52 6UN, UK

Dr Marc Bracke, Gravenstraat 22, 4567 AK Clinge, The Netherlands

Mrs Caroline Brown, Institute of Grocery Distribution, Grange Lane, Letchmore Heath, Watford, Herts. WD2 8DQ, UK

Dr Fiona Burnett, Dept. Animal Science, School of Agric. Science, UNZA, P.O. Box 32379, Lusaka, Zambia

Diana Bushong, Texas A&M University, 243 Kleberg Center MS2471, College Station, TX 77843-2471, USA

Miss Caroline Channing, 12 Pentland View, Edinburgh EH10 6PS, UK

Miss Hui-Wen (Kris) Chen, Cowan House, Pollock Halls, Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BD, UK

Dr Francien H. de Jonge, LU-Wageningen, Dept. Animal Husbandry, Section Ethology, Postbus 338, 6700 AH Wageningen, The Netherlands

Miss Orla Doherty, Top Flat Right 19 Gayfield Square, Edinburgh EH1 3NX

Inma Estevez, Dpto. Biología Animal (Etología), Fac. Ciencias, Univ. Córdoba, 14004 Córdoba, Spain

Ms Kay Farmer, 9 Shropshire Road, Aylestone, Leicester LE2 8HX, UK

Leonor Galhardo, Calcada de Arroios, 69, 2^o Direito, 1000 Lisboa, Portugal

Miss Maureen Gannon, Silsoe Research Institute, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Beds. MK45 4HS, UK

Mr Michael Geddis, 39 Parkwood Manor, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland BT71 6LR, UK

Dr Tom Hartsock, Dept. Anim. Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-2311, USA

Prof. Jorg Hartung, Silsoe Research Institute, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4HS, UK

Dr Marie Haskell, GABS, SAC-Edinburgh, Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0QE, UK

Mr John Hight, 46 Liverpool Road, Aughton, Nr Ormskirk, Lancs. L39 3LW, UK

Ms Nicola Hodgkiss, Daracombe, Mile End Road, Highweek, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1RW, UK

Prof. Katherine Houpt, Animal Behavior Clinic, College of Vet. Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-6401, USA

Miss Rachel Jackson, 12 Pentland View, Edinburgh EH10 6PS, UK

Mr Roy Jones, Dept. Animal Husbandry, University of Bristol Veterinary School, Langford, Bristol BS18 7DU, UK

Mark J. Kennedy, University of Cambridge, Dept. Clinical Vet. Medicine, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ES, UK

Prof. Ben Mather, Poultry Sci. Dept., Univ. of Florida, P.O. Box 110930, Gainesville, FL 32611-0930, USA

Mr Paul McGreevy, Dept. Animal Husbandry, School of Vet. Science, University of Bristol, Langford House, Langford, Avon BS18 7DU, UK

Nancy Munkenbeck, 63 Niemi Road, Freeville, NY 13068, USA

Prof. Rolando Oberosler, Dept. Animal Production, University of Udine, via S. Maura 2, 33010 Pagnacco, Italy

Miss Aileen Parlane, "Longfellow", River Thames, Richmond Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7BU, UK

Miss Cathy Pereira, 17 (2F2) Upper Gilmore Place, Edinburgh EH3 9NL, UK

Miss Siân Prytherch, Erwau'r Gwynt, Waen Wen, Nr Bangor, Gwynedd, N.Wales LL57 4UH, UK

Miss Louise Reade, 2 Morlich Court, Dalgety Bay, Fife KY11 5XU, UK

Ms Clare Rudkin, Dept. Animal Production, University of Queensland, Gatton College, Lawes, QLD 4343, Australia

Lynn Sebek, 368 Animal Science Lab., 1207 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, USA

Cynthia Smith, National Agricultural Library, Animal Welfare Information Center, Room 205, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, MD 20705, USA

Ms Janet Spensley, Silsoe Research Institute, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4HS, UK

Allison Taylor, Dept. Animal & Poultry Science, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1, Canada

Prof. Kazys Trainys, Chairman Lithuanian Soc. Protection Animals, Kaunas 3022, Tilzes 19, Vet. Academus, Lithuania

Marc Vandenheede, Université de Liege, Service d'Hygiene et de Bioclimatologie, Faculté de Médecine Veterinaire, Bât. B43, 4000 Liege, Belgium

Miss Beverley Gail Williams, Flat 1F2, 2 Merchiston Place, Bruntsfield, Edinburgh EH10 4NR, UK

Changes of Address

There are changes of address for the following:

Dr Marcus Stauffacher, Institut Labortierkunde, Universität Zürich-Irchel, Winterthurerstr. 190, CH-8057 Zürich, Switzerland

Jen Campbell, 1 Herdmanston Mains Cottages, Nr Pencaitland, East Lothian EH34 5DU, UK

Dr W. Derek Booth, Secretary The British Wild Boar Association, 30 Fen Road, Milton, Cambridge CB4 6AD, UK

Membership Directory

As you will see, at last the Membership Directory has been completed and sent out to members. Thanks again to Mark Rutter for his efforts in programming which make this possible. I don't doubt that, despite my careful attempts in transcribing information from paper to disk, there will be some (I hope not many!) errors. Additionally, things may have changed since you completed the original forms some time back. It is relatively straightforward to change the information, so please contact me if you want changes made. Of course any current mistakes will remain until the next issue of the Directory is printed. We are considering producing a new issue each year, so it is very important that you keep me informed of any changes so that your Directory entry can be kept up to date.

Membership Subscriptions

Once again, there are many members who are in arrears with their subscriptions. Look at your address label - this tells you when your subscriptions were/are due. If the year is 1992, this means that you last paid for the year 1991/92 and that you are in arrears for 1992/93 and will soon be in arrears for 1993/94 too. If I fail to receive payment from you by the end of June then your name will

be put to Council and if they agree (and there is no reason to think they will not!) you will cease to become a member. A list of all members who are facing deletion are being sent out to the Regional Secretaries who will also contact them, so there are no excuses! If you no longer wish to be a member then please have the decency to contact me or your Regional Secretary rather than just letting your membership lapse and causing more work for us.

Carol Petherick

other news

Nordic research group on alternative housing systems for laying hens

In 1988 the Swedish Government passed legislation saying that "hens for egg production shall not be housed in cages". This law is due to come into effect in 1999. However, Sweden is not the only Nordic country concerned about the way laying hens are kept and in 1990 a Nordic Group for Research on Alternative Housing Systems for Layers (NFAH) was formed on the initiative of Bo Algers (Sweden), Klaus Vestergaard (Denmark) and Bjarne Braastad (Norway). The group received money from the Nordic Ministry Council to finance meetings of veterinarians, engineers, animal scientists and ethologists actively working with alternative housing systems for laying hens in the Nordic Countries.

A meeting of this group was held on 10th December 1992 (the day after the ISAE Nordic Meeting) in Lund, Sweden. It was organized by Linda Keeling, from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, together with staff from Skara and Lund, and focused on the problem of feather pecking. Those working with poultry will understand why this topic was chosen, but for others it may be sufficient to say that feather pecking and cannibalism are probably the most serious welfare problems in alternative housing systems at the present time. Twenty-five scientists gathered to discuss and exchange ideas on this topic.

Harry Blokhuis, from Spelderholt, was invited to give an overview of his research and opinions on the development of feather pecking. His presentation was followed by Klaus Vestergaard who is also actively working in this area. We then had two hours of lively discussion during which time the hypotheses proposed by the speakers were debated, along with more general discussions relating the audience's own research experiences with feather pecking. In the afternoon the topic moved to the on-farm testing of systems and Harry Blokhuis informed us of the ongoing evaluation of the Tiered Wire Floor system in the Netherlands.

It is intended to continue with these meetings, at least until the current grant towards expenses ends. The next meeting will be held in Norway in June, organized by Bjarne Braastad, and the topic will be rearing of birds for these systems.

Linda Keeling & Bo Algers

Journals new and old

Two new journals have just been launched which may interest ISAE members. 'Society and Animals' has the subtitle 'Social scientific studies of the human experience of other animals'. It is edited from the USA by Kenneth Shapiro, but the publisher is strangely reminiscent of ISAE's logo: White Horse Press, in the UK. 'Anthrozoös' is described as 'A multidisciplinary journal on the interactions of people, animals and nature'. It is edited for the Delta Society by Andrew Rown, also from the USA.

The New Zealand Veterinary Journal, by contrast, is in its 40th year. It is introducing a personal subscription rate at about half the institutional rate, and overseas subscribers may now also subscribe to 'Vetscript', the magazine of the New Zealand Veterinary Association.

Situation situation

The Faculty of Veterinary Science of Massey University, New Zealand, is planning to establish a Chair in Animal Welfare Science in 1994. Details will no doubt be advertised in due course, but those wishing to register an interest might perhaps write to Professor P.H.G Stockdale, Dean of Veterinary Science, Massey University, Private Bag, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

International Academy of Animal Welfare Sciences

One of the frustrations of working in an applied field such as that of ethology and its implications for animal welfare is the extent to which scientific results of universal relevance are used on a national rather than an international basis: for example, most legislation on welfare is national and varies considerably between countries. In one attempt to move beyond this situation, the International Academy of Animal Welfare Sciences has recently been established by the UK-based Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. Its objectives are:

To coordinate and develop activities relating to the welfare of animals, in particular scientific and technical aspects,

To form an international network for collection, dissemination and exchange of information and views relating to animal welfare and humane treatment and use of animals,

To liaise with and offer advice to the regulatory and legislative authorities and other interested groups, and

To publish a directory of participants and an Academy Newsletter.

These are ambitious objectives, and are being approached cautiously rather than precipitately, but anybody who is interested can obtain more information from The Registrar, IAAWS, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3QD, UK.

articles

Five minute philosophy: Myths about animal welfare

This is a series of articles from prominent members of the society. Constructive correspondence in response will be welcome.

When Mike Appleby approached me to write this piece, he indicated that he was not expecting a polished piece of work, but rather something controversial that I might dream up on the spot, for example while taking a bath. I have followed his advice. To be fair, I must point out that the views expressed here are not necessarily those of

the author. To preserve anonymity, I have asked my colleague, Dr Jeff Rushen, to submit this piece for me.

Myth 1: The welfare of an animal is part of the state of the animal and can be measured objectively. This is a widespread view but mistaken. Certainly information about the state of an animal can contribute to making decisions about its welfare. For example, the term suffering refers to the emotional state of an animal and in most circumstances suffering by an animal may contribute to our judgement that the welfare of the animal is under threat. Similarly measurements of stress also refer to the state of an animal and also provide some information in judging its welfare. But are measures of stress more or less important than measures of suffering? The term 'animal welfare', as it is currently used, refers to public standards as to what the state of animals should be. The relative importance of measures of stress or suffering, therefore depends on which of the two the public is most concerned about. Part of research into animal welfare should consist of taking opinion polls.

Myth 2: The definition of animal welfare is a matter of science. This is similar to but different from myth 1. It is often said that we must turn to scientists to define what good welfare is. Some have bravely tried to provide a definition, probably by thinking alone or in discussions with one or two colleagues. Some have suggested that welfare is *only* 'x' or *only* 'y'. All such restrictive definitions should be viewed with suspicion. For example, poor welfare has been defined as occurring only when there are signs of disruption in biological functioning of animals. Presumably, behavioural deprivation would not in itself be evidence of reduced welfare. These attempts strike me as being somewhat undemocratic and irrelevant. Research into animal welfare is dealing with public concerns and so our definition of welfare must address these concerns, rather than trying to redefine the problem away. If the public is concerned about behavioural deprivation, then our definition of poor welfare must include behavioural deprivation.

Myth 3: Research into animal welfare is only a small part of applied ethology. This is a view that I have often held myself. Many of us consider ourselves, or would like to think of ourselves, as doing fundamental research into the behaviour of

domestic animals rather than doing applied research related to improving animal welfare. This is partly based on sound reasons because fundamental research tends to have a bigger payoff in the long term. But I suspect that it is sometimes motivated by the higher status afforded to 'basic' research in the current scientific climate. However, the times are such that to continue to receive governmental and public support and finance, science is going to have to be increasingly seen as dealing with practical problems of one sort or another, not just generating knowledge that is not passed on to non-scientists. Per Jensen once described potentially useful research as 'applicable research' and perhaps this is a useful term. I suggest that the great majority of the financial and other support given to applied ethology is because administrators feel that it will answer the problems posed by the animal welfare debate. It may be dangerous for us to try to distance ourselves too much from animal welfare. In some places, research into stress physiology is now seen as more useful than ethology in dealing with animal welfare. Applied ethologists need to reassert their usefulness.

Myth 4: The role of animal welfare research is to compare housing systems. A lot of research has been wasted in attempting to compare welfare of animals in radically different housing systems. Perhaps this was an inevitable phase but I don't think we need do any more. Although I do not have space to give full reasons (one advantage of instant philosophy), briefly: (1) Research has generally failed to achieve any consensus about which types of housing systems are preferable, or, at least, has failed to show that it is better than public opinion in deciding; (2) There is little agreement about what are the best indicators of animal welfare; (3) Different indicators of animal welfare often point to different conclusions; (4) Anyone with strong feelings on the subject is unlikely to be persuaded to change their mind as a result of research done so far. This comparative research is based on the mistaken notion that there is an 'intrinsic' level of animal welfare associated with a particular housing system which can be compared with that of another system, all other factors being constant. I suggest instead that we should explore the capacity of particular housing systems to achieve high levels of welfare when optimal management techniques are used.

The research *has* shown that current, intensive systems do not attain the maximum level of animal welfare that can be achieved. Alternative housing systems should be developed and welfare indices should be used to detect design faults and improve welfare and productivity. An enormous amount of research has been directed into making conventional, intensive systems as efficient as they are, so comparisons with new systems are inevitably unfair. If the same amount of research were directed into making cost-effective alternative systems, I am confident that it would succeed.

Myth 5: Legislation and government regulation is the best way of dealing with animal welfare issues. The passage of welfare legislation in certain European countries is sometimes cited as a success story for applied ethology. I doubt that applied ethology had much to do with it and I doubt that it is a success story. There is much talk of 'globalization' or 'internationalization' of agricultural markets. I am not sure how important this will be for fresh produce, such as fresh meat or milk, but for processed foods it seems likely that, in all countries, international competition for local markets will increase. This means that national governments will lose much of their power for deciding how agriculture will be practised. Since governments are also, inevitably, interested in maintaining the competitiveness of local farmers, they will probably also lose much of their will to police current regulations which reduce competitiveness. I suggest that current animal welfare regulations in Europe will not last very long. Changes to alternative housing systems and improvements in animal welfare will therefore only occur if farmers are convinced that it is to their benefit to make them. Some may be convinced on moral grounds alone, but this will not be common. Improvements in welfare will be tied to the ability to show that they lead to other benefits, primarily economic ones. These need not only be increases in efficiency of production but could also be related to the ability to tap into specialized markets (e.g. 'biological' meat) or possible reduced costs from environmental problems. Ethologists working in the area of animal welfare should redirect their attention to these goals and away from ethical concerns.

Anonymous

Legal Scene

Veterinary items crop up now and then: "He denied that the weapons and other items found in the car were a robbery kit. He said it was a chance selection. The guns he had for the purposes of restoration and resale. The handcuffs were intended to liven up sexual intercourse with his wife. The masking tape he had used to dress a wound on his dog".

European Community Law

This is becoming more important. Laws directly enacted by the Community are binding on all member states with no need for national legislation.

In September/October 1992 came Regulations and Decisions dealing with:-

- Identity and clinical checks on animals from third countries
- Border veterinary inspection points
- Computerisation of veterinary import procedures
- Lists of approved embryo collection teams in third countries

Duty to protect against vicious dog

A veterinary surgeon's receptionist was given permission to enter a private garden belonging to her employer to clean windows. She was bitten by the veterinary surgeon's dog, one of two animals neither of which had attacked before but both known to guard their territory jealously. She was awarded £55,000 against her employer. Sadly, her injuries were so serious that she had to have her leg amputated.

UK Dangerous Dogs Act

Under this much criticised piece of legislation pit bull type dogs and similar breeds must be muzzled at all times when in a public place. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court in February 1993 held that a garden path was not a public place under the Act. (To show that the ISAE Newsletter is right up to date, in a case reported today the 8th March 1993 the Queen's Bench Divisional Court held that an unmuzzled dog in a car at the Blackwall Tunnel Northern Approach Northbound was in a public place).

The Dog Law Handbook

Sandys-Winsch, Godfrey - £35.00. ISBN 0-6219-1340-7 Shaw and Sons.

Bill Jackson

Book Review

Harmony with Horses Maurice Wright, 1991. (Dyamberin, Armidale, N.S.W. : Australia, N.S.W. & J.A. Allen Horsebooks, 1 Lower Grosvenor Pl., Buckingham Palace Rd., London SW1W OEL, UK) A\$.14.50. Illus. Gloss. Bib. Index pp. 127.

Poor training and handling of large animals risks death and injury to man and beast (Holmes 1984 *Sheep & Cattle Handling Skills* p. 3). This is particularly so in man's relationship to horses where a confrontational role is frequently practiced by handlers (Cregier 1987 *Horse-breakers, tamers, and trainers: An historical, psychological, and social review* p. 89-101; Jones 1983 *Just crazy about horses* p. 88-111) and endorsed or encouraged by literature on training (Anderson 1979 *Horses & Riding* p. 32, 37-40). There is a gap of nearly 2000 years between the urging of Xenophon's instructions to cavalry masters to treat horses gently, and without whips, to Grisone's book which advocated dominating the horse with rowelled spurs and beatings.

In *Harmony with Horses*, Wright examines these practices. He details his experiences with both schools - confrontational vs. non-confrontational - and the results. Wright's own horse career began on his family's horse and cattle breeding station. He was a member of the World War II Australian Light Horse cavalry. He has been a Royal Show judge and exhibitor throughout Australia, a rodeo participant, polo-player, race-horse trainer, and campdraft competitor at national championship level. He continues to raise and train Australian Stock Horses at his New South Wales station, as do some applied ethologists (Holmes 1984 *Sheep & Cattle Handling Skills* p.3), Wright questions whether good horse handling skills can be learned without a prior inherent respect for the animal. It must be frankly acknowledged that some people are temperamentally unsuited to horse handling in particular. Wright sketches the types of personality which can, and cannot, handle horses. He discusses the poor acceptance of better handling practices even when made known.

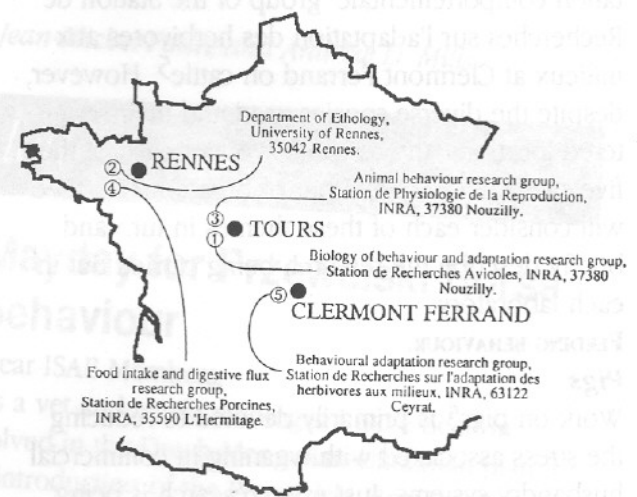
This book provides thoughtful observation from a man who has earned, the hard way, invitations to address veterinary audiences in Australia and the States on horse behaviour.

Sharon Cregier

Focus on France

Applied Ethology à la Française

Principle sites of research in applied ethology and their nearest major cities



The numbers attributed to each site are used in the text to identify the laboratories associated with particular research projects

Studies in applied ethology in France cover a wide variety of species and research topics. If this article was to be complete, it would be necessary to list and describe research projects covering a range of animals from soil micro-fauna through to brown bears in the Pyrénées and semi-wild horses in the Camargue. Such an approach is impossible in what can only be a short summary and we will limit our descriptions to research on domestic birds and mammals. Within this limitation, research in applied animal ethology is almost exclusively restricted to that carried out in five laboratories. Four of these laboratories belong to the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), which is a government funded organisation responsible, as its name suggests, for research into virtually all aspects of agricultural research. The fifth laboratory is situated in the Department of Ethology at the University of Rennes. Together, these five laboratories have a personnel of about thirty scientists and post-graduate students.

Of the five laboratories, two are situated at Rennes, two at Tours and one at Clermont Ferrand (see map). The 'Biologie du comportement et adaptation' group of Station de Recherches Avicoles at Tours¹ and the Département

d'Éthologie' at Rennes² work on domestic birds, the 'Prise d'aliment et flux digestifs' group of the Station de Recherches Porcines at Rennes⁴ on pigs, the 'Comportement animal' group of the Station de la Physiologie de la Reproduction at Tours³ on sheep, goats and cattle, and the 'Adaptation comportementale' group of the Station de Recherches sur l'adaptation des herbivores aux milieux at Clermont Ferrand on cattle⁵. However, despite the diverse species used and their scattered locations, the research work at each of the five sites fall into a number of broad themes. We will consider each of these themes in turn and briefly describe the research being carried out in each laboratory.

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR.

Pigs

Work on pigs⁴ is primarily devoted to reducing the stress associated with weaning in commercial husbandry systems. Just now, research is being concentrated on the influences of learning ability, development of the gastro-intestinal tract and environmental factors (such as ambient temperature and feeder design) on behaviour during the transition from suckling to feeding on solids.

Domestic fowl

Studies of feeding behaviour in domestic fowl¹ cover developmental aspects of feeding behaviour in chicks and food choice in both adults and chicks. In chicks, the development of feeding behaviour is monitored from hatching until the chicks are several days old. Recent studies have concentrated on the roles of fearfulness and olfaction on the chicks' willingness to accept novel diets and to discriminate between diets with which they are already familiar. In adult birds, the hen's ability to assess the nutritional qualities (presence of anti-nutritional factors, amino-acid deficiencies, etc.) of different feeds is being used to develop short term behavioural screening tests for the evaluation of the quality and acceptability of new diets.

PARENTAL BEHAVIOUR

Domestic birds

Research into different aspects of parental behaviour is being carried in several species. In quail² and pheasants¹, nest site selection and nest-building behaviour are being studied in both experimental and semi-natural conditions. In pheasants, this

work is being carried out in conjunction with genetic studies of the control of broodiness since certain commercially reared strains of pheasants do not readily express this behaviour and are becoming increasingly unsuitable for release into the wild. In domestic hens², research is concentrated on the behavioural, physiological and environmental factors influencing the transitions between laying, incubating and brooding.

Pigs

Chinese pigs appear to exhibit superior maternal behaviour to many European breeds. One consequence of this is that piglet mortality is lower in the Chinese breed than in European breeds. The behavioural genetics of differences in the maternal behaviour of Chinese and European pigs is being studied⁴ as part of a programme of research into the causation of piglet mortality.

Sheep and goats

The absence or inadequate expression of maternal behaviour or the failure of a female to recognise her own offspring after separation can lead to mortality in both lambs and kids. Problems of these types are more common in nulliparous females than in multiparous females. Work is being carried out at Tours³ to elucidate the neurophysiological and hormonal mechanisms underlying the expression of maternal behaviour and the roles of acoustic and olfactory signals in mother-offspring recognition in both nulliparous females and multiparous females.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Sheep

Three aspects of the sexual behaviour of sheep are currently being studied at Tours³. These are: the endocrinological bases of sexual differentiation, the feed back mechanisms involved in social or sexual relationships and hormonal secretions, and the localisation and mode of action of steroids within the central nervous system.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Domestic birds

Research into the welfare of domestic poultry is conducted mainly at Tours¹, where three independent research projects are being carried out. Operant conditioning techniques are being used to determine if domestic hens are prepared to work to have access to larger cage sizes or to

have access to litter. The results of this study have been surprising, groups of hens do not appear to be particularly motivated to increase the size of their cage or to key peck to have access to litter. However, considerable variability exists between groups of birds and further research is being carried out to determine if cage size preferences are arrived at "democratically" or are determined by particular group members. A second research topic is the use of space by free range layers and broiler. A diversity of free range systems exist in France, with the outside area available to the birds varying between a simple enclosed run to extensive areas of pine woodland. Recent results, obtained from these studies, indicate that the number of birds that actually use the outside area and the distances they are prepared to move from the poultry shed are strongly dependent on the amount of cover the run affords. In the third research project, the Japanese quail is being used as a model of the domestic chicken in a study of the genetic bases of fear and sociality. A total of sixteen generations of divergent selection for fear and sociality have been carried out and the resulting lines of quail are now being used to investigate how high or low levels of fear and high or low levels of sociality influence behaviour, stress responses and productivity in different environments. Two further developments of this work will be to investigate the neurophysiological and genetic bases of the behavioural differences between the various lines.

Sheep

Welfare related studies of sheep fall into three broad categories. Firstly, the role of social factors on learning⁵. Second, the influences of steroids on emotionality and social behaviour³. Third, the influence of breed and rearing conditions on the responses of the animals to human interventions⁵.

Pigs

Along with the studies mentioned above under other headings, comparisons are being made of the welfare of pigs⁴ in various types of intensive husbandry systems.

Cattle

The genetic and environmental bases of breed differences in the responses of cattle to human interventions are part of a major research programme at Clermont Ferrand⁵ where particular

attention is being paid to the possibility of selecting animals for desirable behavioural traits. Some research is also being carried out on learning and the welfare consequences of different husbandry systems for veal calves.

Jean-Michel Faure and Andrew D. Mills

letters

Mayday for Przewalski Horse behaviour

Dear ISAE Members,

As a vet and neuro-ethologist I have been involved in the Dutch-Mongolian-Ukrainian plan for reintroduction of the Przewalski Horse to the Mongolian steppe (1992-2002). The first stage of my work, jointly French-Dutch funded for five months in 1992, was to study a bachelor group of Przewalskis in a semi-reserve in the Netherlands managed by the Dutch Foundation Reserves for Przewalski Horses, Rotterdam. I tried to establish behavioural criteria to help the choice of stallions for reintroduction, both as harem stallions and bachelors. Those criteria were mostly related to age, but observations of behaviour related to sexual maturity could definitely be helpful in the choice.

The horses were moved to Mongolia in June 1992 and it is now important to determine whether those criteria were appropriate for the reintroduction and survival. Therefore I am hoping to observe the stallions in Mongolia, and I would also like to carry out a similar study on young mares before, during and after reintroduction. To reach this aim, getting financial help for further applied ethology will be necessary and I would be grateful for any suggestions of where I could find such support. In addition, moral support and accurate advice in the form of criticism and correction of my 1992 report would be a first and precious help. I am waiting in hope for any kind of proposal, address or advice.

Anne Leboucher, DVM 4 rue Pelisson, 34500 Beziers, France

Behavioural therapy: some concerns

Dear ISAE members,

I have some concerns about the behavioural therapy of pet animals, possibly including horses, which I should like to share with you. A number of societies for therapy already exist: some seem to be serious but others elicit at first sight some suspicion concerning their scientific background. It cannot be denied that diagnosis and treatment require specific training and experience, and in that sense it could be argued that our society should not interfere with that 'speciality'. On the other hand, I have the disagreeable impression that some people active in the field have not had a decent training in ethology as such, notwithstanding the fact that they are sometimes well-known and have published papers (although perhaps not many in international journals).

We should remember that this phenomenon has plagued applied ethology in the past and has to some extent been responsible for bad research and slowed down progress in animal welfare. One symptom is the development of a specialist terminology; sometimes there is the impression of dealing with a kind of animal psycho-analysis, where the words are blurring the picture more than clarifying it. That is the point where we should check whether the verbal shield is hiding a lack of scientific rigour or a financial interest: the more complicated the explanation, the more 'capable' the person seems to be and the greater can be the charge. Such a terminology should only be necessary if the existing concepts and terminology of modern behavioural science, after integration of ethology with experimental psychology, are insufficient to describe the phenomena.

It is a great pity if an increasing number of people are starting to call themselves specialists in behavioural therapy (or 'animal psychiatrists', or 'zootherapists': there is a proliferation of terms nowadays) without having mastered elementary scientific thinking. Of course, any veterinarian should be trained to be able to identify a behavioural problem and to deal with straightforward cases. More complicated ones should be referred to specialist colleagues. Not being a veterinarian myself, I cannot be accused of sectarianism if I say

that the ideal combination is a basic training in veterinary sciences, a solid knowledge of ethology and a specialization in behavioural therapy.

However, it is conceivable that ethologists trained in zoology or psychology could be good therapists, on the condition that they work together with a vet who can screen animals for physical illness. In any case, the topic is 'in' and I am afraid that we will increasingly be confronted with questions of competence. Should our society take responsibility in the matter? If so, how? Should we seek contact with other societies in the area? Any other ideas?

Frank Ödberg

meetings

ISAE Meetings

ISAE International Congress 1993, 26th to 30th July, Berlin, Germany. Details of this joint congress with EAAP and the Humboldt University have been sent to those who registered interest earlier and are now enclosed. The meeting promises to have a strong programme, and we can now list the keynote speakers:

Tembrock: History of ethology in Berlin;

Lawrence: Motivation-environment

interactions in the development of stereotypic behaviour;

Nichelmann: Influence of perinatal experiences on ontogeny of behaviour;

Dantzer: Behaviour, stress and health: where do we stand?

Le Neindre: Genetic and epigenetic variation in the relationships between humans and animals;

Broom: Effects of the social and physical environment on social behaviour in farm animals.

We hope that many members, including those who didn't manage to get to Pittsburgh, are planning to come to the exciting city of Berlin.

UK Winter Meeting 1993, 1st December, London. The main subject will be 'Farm animal behaviour and welfare: practical solutions to practical problems', and there will also be a

general session. Offers of papers, please, to Dr Martin Potter, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG (Tel 0403 264181, Fax 0403 241048) by 6th September.

Local meetings for winter 1993 are also being planned for North America, the Nordic countries and possibly Italy. Contact Regional Secretaries for details.

ISAE International Congress 1994, Foulum, Denmark.

ISAE International Congress 1995, Exeter, UK.

Other Meetings

Fourth International Livestock Environment Symposium, 6-9 July 1993, Coventry, UK. Contact Chris Boon, Welfare Science Division, AFRC Silsoe Research Institute, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4HS, UK (Tel 0525 60000, Fax 0525 60156).

Behavioural Ecology and Physiology, 14-16 July 1993, Bristol, UK. Association for Study of Animal Behaviour. Contact Innes Cuthill, Department of Zoology, University of Bristol, Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1UG, UK.

Environmental Enrichment for Zoo Animals, 16-20 July 1993, Portland, USA. The first ever conference on this subject will include theoretical papers, case studies and workshops, leading to practical recommendations. Contact: David Shepherdson, Metro Washington Park Zoo, 4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221, USA (Tel 503 226 1561, Fax 503 226 0074).

International Conference on Hormones, Brain and Behaviour, 24-28 August 1993, Tours, France. Contact Marie-F. Pinault, Secretariat ICHBB, INRA Station de Physiologie de la Reproduction des Mammifères Domestiques, 37380 Nouzilly, France (Tel 33 47 42 79 54, Fax 33 47 42 77 43, Email MARIE-F.PINAULT@TOURS.TOURS.INRA.FR

XXIII International Ethological Conference, 1-9 September 1993, Torremolinos, Spain. Contact Dr Anna Omedes, XXIII IEC, Ap. 98033 Barcelona, 08080 Spain.

Fourth European Symposium on Poultry Welfare, 18-21 September 1993, Edinburgh, UK. Contact Dr John Savory, AFRC Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9PS UK.

Animal Farming and the Elements, 20 November 1993, Rothamstead, UK. Organised by the Institute of Biology.

Welfare of Extensively Farmed Animals, September 1994, Edinburgh, UK. A satellite to the EAAP meeting, organised by the Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Sciences. Contact Dr Michael Cockram, Veterinary Field Station, Easter Bush,

ISAE *newsletter*

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