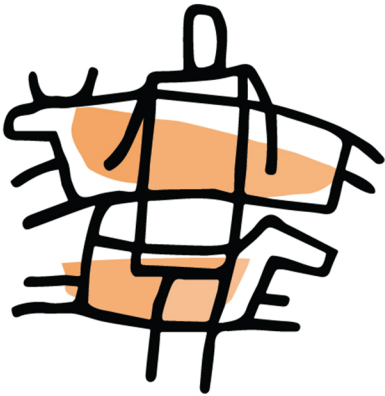


ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE CENTRE

STUDENT SHOWCASE 2019



On the 1st of October, AWSC students will showcase their research through digital and interactive displays from 10am-1pm and through snapshot presentations as scheduled below.

Collaborative Learning Centre (GO4), WEBS Building (125)
The University of Melbourne, Parkville

10:30 Visitor effects on little penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) differ between zoos - *Samantha Chiew*

Zoo visitors can be perceived as negative, neutral or positive by captive animals. Samantha's PhD research investigates zoo visitor-penguin interactions and how these interactions affect both the animal as well as the visitor. Her research has been conducted across multiple sites, with collaborations from Zoos Victoria, Taronga Conservation Society and Wellington Zoo.

10:40 Is early cow and calf separation in the dairy industry beneficial or detrimental to animal welfare? - *Natalie Roadknight*

Natalie's research topic is calf welfare in the dairy industry. The main focus of this PhD has been assessing non-replacement (bobby) calves at commercial abattoirs, after fasting, handling and transport. This year's research will be centred on evaluating the welfare impact of different systems for managing cows and calves together on dairy farms.

10:50 Piling into the ruck: an investigation into the behavioural motivation behind piling behaviour in laying hens - *Maxine Rice*

Laying hens have been reported to crowd in masses, often on top of each other resulting in death from smothering. Maxine's PhD research is investigating the behavioural patterns and motivations of Australian free-range laying hens that lead to piling behaviour and potentially smothering. Understanding these behavioural motivations is key to reducing the incidence of smothering in free-range laying hens.

11:00 Knowledge and attitudes are important factors in farmers' choice of lamb tail docking length - *Madeleine Woodruff*

Madeleine's Honours research investigated key drivers behind the often overlooked welfare issue of short tail docking in sheep. Madeleine plans to continue this research when she commences her PhD in November, which will focus on farmer attitudes around painful husbandry procedures and the adoption of best practice in the sheep industry.

11:10 Individual variation in behaviour, personality and enrichment use in parrots - *Belinda Hall*

Belinda's PhD research aims to assess the influence of personality on the use and effectiveness of cognitive enrichment in zoo animals. Belinda will be presenting on the variation between 6 parrots in relation to how they spend their time, how they are perceived by keepers and how they interact with novel cognitive enrichment. These results have implications for zoo husbandry.

11:20 Regular patting by stockpeople reduces pigs' fear towards routine husbandry procedures - *Megan Hayes*

The interactions between pigs and the stockpeople who manage them have the ability to greatly impact pig welfare. Megan's PhD work is investigating the effects of positive human interaction on pig behaviour and physiology. This talk will discuss how regular patting and scratching can reduce pigs' fear towards stressors routinely encountered in commercial systems.

11.30 – 11.40 - *Coffee break*

11:40 Animal cruelty and neglect: prevalence and community actions in Victoria - *Carmen Glanville*

Over 11,000 reports of animal cruelty and neglect are made in Victoria every year. But how many more cases are going unreported? Through her PhD work, Carmen aims to understand the extent of this problem and develop effective interventions to prevent animal mistreatment. Carmen will provide us with a better understanding of animal mistreatment in our community by sharing preliminary findings from an extensive survey conducted in collaboration with RSPCA Victoria.

11:50 Computer vision techniques as non-invasive tools to monitor performance and well-being in cattle and pigs - *Maria Jorquera-Chavez*

Maria's PhD research is focused on the development and implementation of imagery and computer algorithms to remotely monitor cattle and pigs on farm. Maria is implementing new computer vision techniques to assess changes in eye and ear temperature, heart rate and respiration rate for early identification of stress and respiratory disease in cattle and pigs.

12:00 We owe it to fish: the rationale for studying fish welfare - *Madeleine Holmes*

Madeleine completed a research project on the welfare of seahorses at Melbourne Zoo as part of her Masters in Agricultural Science. This presentation will give a brief overview of the rationale for studying fish welfare as well as the pressing need for more research into the welfare of captive fish.

12:10 Regular time spent in close proximity to humans improves coping in sheep, but this differs between sexes - *Leigh Atkinson*

Early life experiences can shape future behaviour, and Leigh's PhD research is investigating the importance of early life exposure to humans for extensively managed sheep. Leigh will present findings from her recent study which demonstrate the benefits of increased human exposure to young sheep and how males and females display different fear responses.

12:20 Relationships between zoo visitor behaviour and the behaviour of a captive long-nosed fur seal - *Jessalyn Taylor*

This Honours research project focused on assessing the interactions between human visitors and a long-nosed fur seal at Melbourne Zoo. Jess conducted an exploratory study examining the relationships between human and seal behaviour with the aim of identifying possible effects of visitor behaviour on the study seal.

12:30 Sentience in tortoises, and what this means for their welfare - *Mark Learmonth*

Mark's experimental PhD work aims to understand preferences for human interaction or other stimuli in two species of long-living tortoises. His ethical work discusses ideas of natural living and positive human-animal interactions in zoos. To underlay all of this, a robust discussion about the sentience and capacities of reptiles, especially tortoises, is necessary.

