

Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics, School of Veterinary Science



Primary objective of Centre

- Improve understanding of animal welfare and the ethical issues involved in provision for animal welfare

Secondary objectives

- Demonstrate leadership on animal welfare and animal ethics issues
- Ensure that staff and students are aware of new developments in the field

Secondary objectives

- To improve the level of understanding of animal welfare by the general public and in the university community

Secondary objective

- Help animal research to focus on or include animal welfare issues

CAWE principles

- The principle research activities of the Centre will have animal welfare and/or ethics as the primary focus of the research
- A non-judgmental, independent approach to welfare issues
- Open access to the research is advocated, particularly if the research is funded by public money
- No CAWE research causes animals to suffer unnecessarily
- Publicity for the research is under the control of the Director

Centre Research Activities

Farm animals

live export cattle and sheep welfare measures

cattle nutrition

responses to the environment

invasive practices

Centre staff observe sheep loading for transport to Middle East



Live Export research

- Identifying new welfare measures and concerns
- Examining stocking densities and curfews

Other farm animal research

- ***General:*** Assessing public perception of animal welfare (MLA)
- ***Cattle nutrition***
 - Undernutrition (Cambridge, Onderspoort)
 - Modelling toxic metal accumulation in sheep (EU, MLA)
- ***Responses to the environment***
 - Defecation training in cattle (Harper Adams)
 - Use of CAAS facility
- ***Invasive practices***
 - Mulesing (PETA), dehorning

Companion animals

- *equine euthanasia*
- *horse transport and abattoir survey*
- *cat temperament and physiological correlates*
- *dog behaviour assessment and barking problems*
- *pet ownership survey*



Captive wild animals

Environmental enrichment
wombats, primates, gliders,
echidnas and dunnarts

Welfare indices
great apes and elephants

Tigers
keeper interactions
AI
welfare in sanctuaries

Rehabilitation
of orangutans and other animals



Wild animals

Gaur cattle behaviour

*Kangaroo population
control*



Ethical studies

- International survey of attitudes to animals
 - use, integrity, longevity, welfare, experimentation, genetics, animals and environment, animals in society
- Exotic disease recognition
- Ethics of live export

Current coverage of the project



Signed up with overseas collaborators



1. India
2. Korea
3. Spain
4. Norway
5. Sweden
6. Portugal
7. UK
8. Ireland
9. Somalia
10. USA
11. Czech Republic
12. Macedonia
13. Serbia
14. Australia
15. China



Direct investigation

Source of map: www.ablongman.com

Centre personnel - staff

Clive Phillips, Chair in Animal Welfare

Nicki Cross, Postdoctoral Fellow in Animal Welfare (2004-2007)

Research Assistants

- Dr Mat Pines (2004-2006)
- Dr Jim Hogan (2005-2007)
- Dr Nina Wojciechowska (2005)

Associated staff

University of Queensland

- Thomas Suddendorf, Psychology
- Jim Rothwell, Pathology, Vet Sciences
- Melanie Latter, Vet. Pathology
- John Gaughan, Cattle production
- Steve Johnston, Wildlife reproduction
- Andrew Tribe, Wildlife behaviour

QDPI

- Carol Petherick, QDPI

Overseas

PhD students (2006-7)

- Jia Meng (attitudes to welfare)
- Nadine Gourkow (cat welfare in shelters)
- Lindsay Hogan (wombats)
- Tom McGowan (horses)
- Amanda Fernie (Great Ape Welfare Index)
- Lindsay Whistance (cattle)
- Vivek Gurusamy (elephant welfare)
- Kris Deskovich (orang utan rehabilitation)

Masters and Honours students

Master's students (2004)

- Lisa Carling (primates, 2004)
- Angelika Poulsen (dogs, 2005)
- Sue Portelli (dogs, 2005)
- Liz Bellward (tigers, 2007)
- Amanda Doughty (horses, 2007)

Honour's students

2004 (4)

2005/6

- Tracey Greer
- Kris Descovich

2006/7

- Ian McDonald
- Nicole
- Tina Niblock
- Sybelle Foxcroft (Diploma)

Teaching

- Animal welfare and behaviour teaching for vets: new 15 lecture course
- Animal welfare and behaviour stream, BSc Animal Studies
- Lectures to new researchers
- Talks on courses overseas and to visitors to University of Queensland

National committees

- Working Groups
 - Australian Animal Welfare Standards
- NHMRC
 - Animal Welfare Committee
 - Code Liaison Committee

Outreach

- 'Friends' programme
- PetCity

Research output

- Journal and book publications
- Newsletters
- On-line reports

Future developments

- Emergence of the Gatton base
 - Centre for Advanced Animal Studies
 - Relocation of the School of Veterinary Science

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- **Increased international collaboration**
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- Emergence of animal welfare studies as an independent university stream
- Increased emphasis on animal ethics
 - as a research topic
 - in teaching
 - in research

Conclusions

- CAWE has major research activities in livestock, companion animal and captive wild animal welfare
- Interdisciplinary approach facilitated by UQ's breadth and strength in applied sciences
- Unified approach in Australia and New Zealand will benefit animal welfare studies
- Increased international collaboration anticipated