



SJDAWC

2015 *Annual Report*



SIR JAMES DUNN ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRE *at the Atlantic Veterinary College*

PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE THROUGH RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION

ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE
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2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

MANDATE

The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre exists to promote animal welfare by generating and disseminating impartial and scientifically based knowledge and understanding of animal welfare issues.

The Centre facilitates, focuses, and coordinates academic and research resources at the Atlantic Veterinary College to carry out animal welfare research and education, and to provide information and advice to industry, government, organizations, and the public.

STRUCTURE

The SJDAWC is governed by a Management Board that reports to the Dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College. There is an executive committee, various working committees, a Centre coordinator, and a Chair in Animal Welfare.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

- » CHAIR—DR. LARRY HAMMELL, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
- » DR. MICHAEL COCKRAM, Chair in Animal Welfare (ex-officio)
- » DR. ALICE CROOK, Coordinator, SJDAWC (ex-officio)
- » MS. ANNA MACDONALD, AVC External Relations Officer (ex-officio)

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

- » DR. DAN HURNIK, Chair of Health Management
- » DR. LUIS BATE, Department of Biomedical Sciences
- » DR. ETIENNE CÔTÉ, Department of Companion Animals
- » DR. ANNE MUCKLE, Department of Pathology and Microbiology
- » DR. JIM GOLTZ, Manager, Veterinary Laboratory and Pathology Services, New Brunswick Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries; external representative to Management Board

SJDAWC ACTIVITIES IN 2015

Animal welfare activities undertaken or funded by the SJDAWC

MEETINGS

11th annual Animal Welfare in Practice conference: Applied Equine Behaviour

Co-hosted with the AVC Animal Welfare Club in September. The conference focused on the application of equine learning theory to facilitate humane handling of horses in the veterinary environment. Speakers were Dr. Gemma Pearson, Equine Behaviour Service, Dick Vet Equine Hospital, University of Edinburgh, UK; Dr. Laurie McDuffee, Large Animal Surgery, AVC.

Speakers' presentations can be found at awc.upei.ca.

GRANTS AWARDED

The SJDAWC, through an annual competition, provides funding for service and research projects.

SERVICE

Service grants 2015

CAREY AM, MACLEAN R. AVC humane dog training program (with PEI Humane Society) (funding renewed 2015–17)

SPEARS J, DAOUST P-Y, GELENS H. Clinical wildlife care at AVC (funding renewed 2015–16)

Ongoing service projects

- » CROOK A, LING K. Pegasus feral cat neuter program¹
- » DUCKETT W, CONBOY G. Health management services for Handibear Hills Equine Sanctuary, Inc.
- » DUCKETT W, CONBOY G. Health management services for PEI Equine Retirement Society, Inc.
- » FOLEY P. Feral cat neutering program (with PEI Cat Action Team)
- » HOPSON M, MILLER L. Chinook Project (funded independently since 2011)
- » MCDUFFEE L. Introduction of positive reinforcement theory and techniques to promote humane handling of equine patients at the AVC's Large Animal Hospital

¹ Funded by the Pegasus Family Foundation through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

» MOAK P, FOLEY P, MACDONALD R, MACLEAN M. Medical and surgical care of homeless animals

Please visit awc.upei.ca/Service_projects for more information about these and other service projects.

RESEARCH

Research grants 2015

KEEFE G, CAMERON M, COCKRAM M, MCKENNA S, SANCHEZ J. Achieving meaningful improvements in dairy cow welfare by reducing lameness: Evaluating the effectiveness of herd performance benchmarking & integrated, web-based risk management

On-going research projects

COCKRAM MS, REVIE CW. Identification of risk factors during broiler transportation that influence injury and mortality. Funded by SJDAWC and Canadian Poultry Research Council

COCKRAM M, DOHOO I, BLACK V. Transportation of animals for slaughter in Canada: Current practices, welfare issues, and regulatory control

MCCLURE J, MUCKLE A, SAAB M. Comparing culture methods for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* (MRSP) from unhealthy dogs

VANLEEUEWEN J, MCKENNA S, GITAU G, ALERI J. Research and training to improve stall design and management for better cow welfare and productivity on smallholder dairy farms in Kenya

Graduate students funded or partially funded by the SJDAWC

Degrees awarded

R CYRIL ROY. PHD. Thesis title: Welfare of horses transported to slaughter in Canada and Iceland: Assessment of welfare issues and associated risk factors

Graduate thesis successfully defended

NIAMH CAFFREY. PHD thesis title: Transportation of animals for slaughter in Canada: Welfare issues and regulatory control

Current students

KETAN DULAL. Identification of risk factors during broiler transportation that influence injury and mortality

SHAUNA RICHARDS. Research and training to improve stall design and management for better cow welfare and productivity on smallholder dairy farms in Kenya

MEGAN ROBERTSON. Achieving meaningful improvements in dairy cow welfare by reducing lameness: Evaluating the effectiveness of herd performance benchmarking & integrated, web-based risk management

MATTHEW SAAB. Can selective culture methods detect more methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* infections in companion animals compared to current culture methods?

Summer student (AVC Research and Leadership Program)

KATHERINE MITCHELL. A cow comfort tool to assess lameness and injury in dairy cattle

PUBLICATIONS

Journals

BENNETT KR, DESMARCHELIER MR, BAILEY TR. 2015. Surgical correction of bilateral patellar luxation in an American black bear cub (*Ursus americanus*). *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* 46(2):359-362.

GARDE E, PÉREZ G, VANDERSTICHEL R, DALLA VILLA PF, SERPELL JA. 2016. Effects of surgical and chemical sterilization on the behavior of free-roaming male dogs in Puerto Natales, Chile. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 123:106-120.

RICHARDS S, VANLEEUEWEN J, SHEPELO G, GITAU GK, KAMUNDE C, UEHLINGER F, WICHEL J. 2015. Associations of farm management practices with annual milk sales on smallholder dairy farms in Kenya. *Veterinary World* 8(1): 88-96.

ROY RC, COCKRAM MS, DOHOO IR. 2015. Welfare of horses transported to slaughter in Canada: Assessment of welfare and journey risk factors affecting welfare. *Canadian Journal of Animal Science* 95: 509-522.

ROY RC, COCKRAM MS, DOHOO IR, RILEY CB. 2015. Injuries in horses transported to slaughter in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Animal Science* 95: 523-531.

ROY RC, COCKRAM MS, DOHOO IR, RAGNARSSON S. 2015. Transport of horses for slaughter in Iceland. *Animal Welfare* 24: 485-495.

ROY RC, COCKRAM MS. 2015. Patterns and durations of journeys by horses transported from the USA to Canada for slaughter. *Canadian Veterinary Journal* 56: 581-586.

WICHTEL M, GOMEZ D, BURTON S, WICHTEL J, HOFFMAN A. 2015. Relationships between equine airway reactivity measured by flowmetric plethysmography and specific indicators of airway inflammation in horses with suspected inflammatory airway disease. *Equine Veterinary Journal* 07/2015; doi:10.1111/evj.12482.

PRESENTATIONS

BIERMANN N, SAAB M, DOYLE AJ, MCCLURE JT. 2015. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from equine patients at a veterinary teaching hospital in Atlantic Canada. 4th ASM-ESCMID Conference on methicillin-resistant Staphylococci in animals, Chicago, USA. November.

CAMERON M, ROBERTSON M. Benchmarking cow comfort and lameness. 2015. Valacta workshops for dairy producers. Charlottetown and Summerside, PEI. October.

COCKRAM MS, ROY RC, DOHOO IR. 2015. Welfare of horses transported to slaughter in Canada: Assessment of welfare and journey risk factors affecting welfare. In 2015 Canadian Society of Animal Science Meeting Abstracts, Ottawa, ON. May. Abstract P10.

GARDE E, VANDERSTICHEL R, PÉREZ G, FORZÁN M, SERPELL J. 2015. The effect of surgical and chemical sterilization of male free-roaming dogs in southern Chile on behaviour and serum testosterone levels. 14th International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, Merida, Mexico. November. Abstract in Proceedings.

(Poster presentation) MITCHELL K, KEEFE G, CAMERON M, ROBERTSON M. 2015. A cow comfort tool to assess lameness and injury in dairy cattle. AVC Summer Research and Leadership Program, Charlottetown, PE. Aug. 31–Sept. 1.

RICHARDS S, VANLEEUWEN J. 2015. AVC makes a difference: Improving dairy farming in Kenya through welfare and nutrition. International Development Week, UPEI, Charlottetown, PE.

RICHARDS S, VANLEEUWEN J, SHEPELO G, GITAU GK, KAMUNDE C, UEHLINGER F, WICHTEL J. 2015. Associations of farm management practices with annual milk sales on smallholder dairy farms in Kenya. 14th International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, Planning our Future, Merida, Mexico. November.

ROBERTSON M. 2015. Achieving meaningful improvements in dairy cow welfare through reduction of lameness. Atlantic Bovine Practitioners Association Annual Meeting, Moncton, NB. November.

SCHICHT R. 2015. Photographic and radiographic assessment of the state of health of Sable Island horses' hooves. AVC Clinical Conference, Charlottetown, PE. January.

Newsletters and non-peer reviewed publications

SJDAWC News #31—Spring 2015

“Animal Talk”—monthly newspaper column on issues related to companion animal welfare—CAWI members, A Crook editor gov.pe.ca/agriculture/CAWI

VETERINARY STUDENT EDUCATION

VHM125 Year 1 course in Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare.

VHM412 Year 4 course on Animal Welfare Regulation and Assessment.

CROOK A. Animal welfare in the shelter environment. January (hosted by the AVC Shelter Medicine Club)

COCKRAM MS. Animal welfare research: Opportunities and challenges. AVC Summer Research and Leadership Program. May

AVC student team placed sixth in the Veterinary Division of the 15th annual Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest, Ohio State University. November

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

M COCKRAM

- » Board of Directors, Atlantic Poultry Research Institute
- » Editorial Board, Section Editor “Behaviour, Health, and Welfare” for *Animal: International Journal of Animal Bioscience*
- » Editorial board, *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*
- » NFACC Veal Cattle Code
 - » Co-chair of Scientist Committee
 - » Member of NFACC Veal Cattle Code Development Committee

A CROOK

- » Member, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Small Animal Sub-committee of Animal Welfare Committee
- » Board, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
- » Chair, PEI Companion Animal Welfare Initiative

AWARDS

- » 2015 SIR JAMES DUNN ANIMAL WELFARE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP—DR. FRÉDÉRIC CHATIGNY, 2 years MSc funding to work with Dr. Don Stevens, AVC Biomedical Sciences, to study the efficacy and side-effects of local anesthetics in fish
- » 2015 CHRISTOFOR AWARD IN ANIMAL WELFARE—MARY-CLAIRE SANDERSON, AVC class of 2016
- » AVC GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH DAYS, May 2015
 - » DR. IAN DOHOO AWARD—DR. SHAUNA RICHARDS, PhD student: Research and training to improve stall design and management for better cow welfare and productivity on smallholder dairy farms in Kenya
 - » DR. E. ERROL HANCOCK SCHOLARSHIP—DR. SHAUNA RICHARDS, PhD student

FUNDING

- » Sir James Dunn and Christofor Foundations—founding and sustaining funding
- » Multi-year donors: Halifax Veterinary Hospital, Fairview Animal Hospital, Central Nova Animal Hospital, Vetcetera Animal Hospital, Glenn Loranger, Lara Jamieson, the late David Madren, the late Kay Alexandor, anonymous
- » Project funding:
 - » Research support—Canadian Poultry Research Council, Vets Without Borders
 - » Feral cat neutering programme—Pegasus Family Foundation through Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Zoetis Animal Health, Iams/Eukanuba
 - » Chinook Project—Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Ann McCain Evans; Rathlyn Foundation; Valley Veterinary Clinic, Goose Bay; Mushuau Innu Band Council of Natuashish; Zoetis Animal Health; Iams/Eukanuba; Boehringer-Ingelheim; Vétquinol; Air Labrador; Ms. Dorris Heffron; the Victoria City Kennel Club
 - » AVC classes of 2011 and 2001 (Pegasus Helping Hand Fund)
- » Many other generous individual supporters
in memoriam

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