

# SJDAWC News

NUMBER 30—SPRING 2014

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



PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE THROUGH RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION



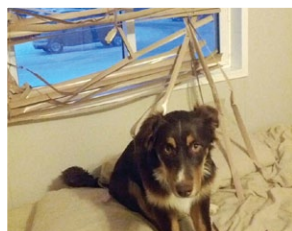
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

### ANIMAL WELFARE IN PRACTICE 2014—

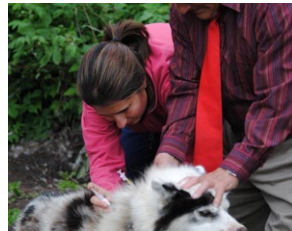
## PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE 2014 CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER



Please watch the SJDAWC website for updates!



Companion animal behavior .. p2



Chinook update ..... p6

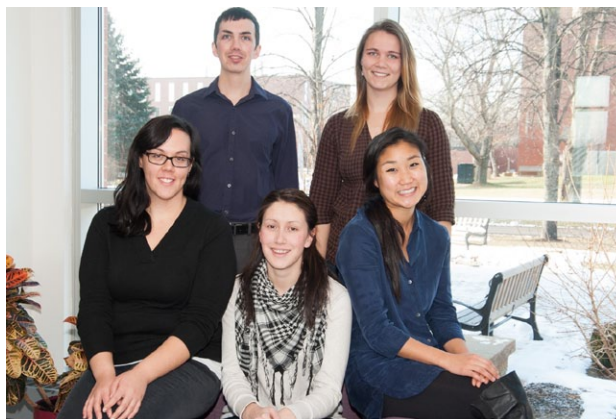


Awards ..... p8

### 2013 ANIMAL WELFARE JUDGING AND ASSESSMENT CONTEST

AVC students Erin Anderson, Tim Cashin, Rianne Dykstra, Hye-Yeon Jang, and Elizabeth Moses participated in the Veterinary Division of the 13th Annual Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging & Assessment Contest, held at the University of Guelph, Ontario, November 23-24, 2013. Each student was provided with contrasting video scenarios for

the management of donkeys, mink, and turkeys. They were required to assess and evaluate the welfare of the animals in each situation and present their reasoning to a judge. There was also a live animal team assessment of dry dairy cows used in research and teaching. Dr. Michael Cockram was the team coach with additional specialist coaching at AVC from graduate student Jackie Ellis, Erin Forbes (Class of 2014), and Drs. Wendy Duckett, John VanLeeuwen, and Arnost Cepica.



Seated: Erin Anderson, Elizabeth Moses, Hye-Yeon Jang  
Standing: Tim Cashin, Rianne Dykstra

Funding for the students' expenses was provided through the SJDAWC Student Project Fund, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, UK.





## FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

Welcome to the spring 2014 edition of the *SJDAWC News*, the newsletter of the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island. In this issue, you will find summaries from several projects that were completed this year, as well as key messages from our recent conference on addressing dog and cat behaviour issues. We are also pleased to tell you about several faculty and students who have received awards associated with animal welfare, recent graduate student activities, and more.

Please let us know at [animalwelfare@upei.ca](mailto:animalwelfare@upei.ca) if you would like to receive the newsletter by email (in full colour!) and be on our email list for upcoming events. To send feedback or learn how you can support the Centre, please go to [upei.ca/awc](http://upei.ca/awc) or write to:

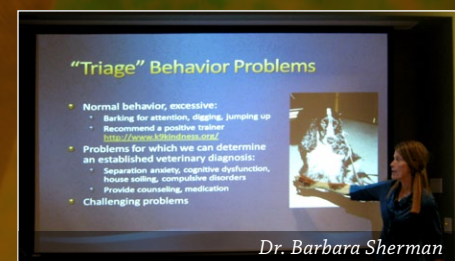
**The Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre**  
Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI  
550 University Avenue  
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4P3

*All donations are tax deductible.*

**THE NINTH ANNUAL "ANIMAL WELFARE IN PRACTICE" CONFERENCE** took place at the Atlantic Veterinary College in September with a focus on common behaviour issues in dogs and cats, their impact on the welfare of pets, and the importance of positive interactions in the prevention and management of such problems. The conference was a great success, with attendance almost doubled from previous years. Attendees included veterinary students, veterinarians, animal health technicians, dog trainers, animal shelter workers, and animal science students.

The keynote speaker was Barbara Sherman, MS, PhD, DVM, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and the American College of Animal Welfare, and Clinical Professor, Veterinary Behavior, at the College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University. Other speakers included Dr. Sandra McConkey, Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, AVC, and Adina and Amy MacRae of Sublime Canine Training, Halifax ([sublimecanine.ca](http://sublimecanine.ca)), who gave a two-hour workshop about positive training approaches for behaviour challenges.

The speakers' presentations can be found at [upei.ca/awc](http://upei.ca/awc). A resource for behavior issues in both dogs and cats is the Animal Behavior Resources Institute ([abrionline.org](http://abrionline.org)).



## ANIMAL WELFARE IN PRACTICE 2013 COMPANION ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

### KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE



Dr. Sherman and Tenya

In dogs, behaviour problems can be loosely divided into three categories. For normal but excessive behavior—barking for attention, digging, jumping up—the best approach is to work with a positive trainer. Ask your veterinarian or animal shelter for a recommendation regarding trainers in your area. For problems that have an established veterinary diagnosis—such as separation anxiety, cognitive dysfunction, house soiling, compulsive disorders—your veterinarian will provide behavioural advice and possibly medication. Challenging problems—e.g., aggression, aberrant behaviour, behaviour confounded with complex medical problems—will require additional time and possibly referral to a veterinary behaviour expert.

Dr. Sherman outlined a systematic approach for veterinarians to follow to resolve behavioural issues, which are the number one reason for relinquishment of dogs and cats to animal shelters. Such an approach includes:

1. A thorough physical evaluation to rule out medical causes.
2. A detailed behavioural history from the owner(s) (detailed questionnaire, photos, videos, etc.).

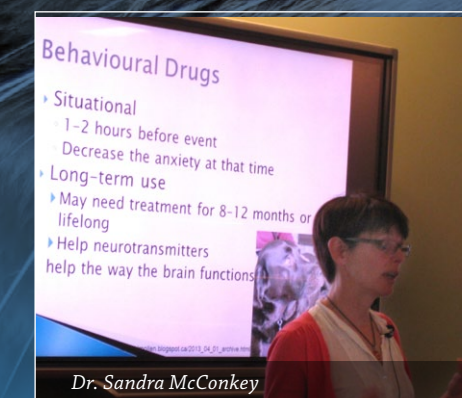
3. A behavioural consultation to answer crucial questions like who is doing the behaviour, and when, where, and why is it occurring.

4. Establishing a diagnosis and a treatment plan that includes identification of target behaviours that will indicate progress. It is essential to communicate realistic expectations to owners and to create a manageable treatment plan.

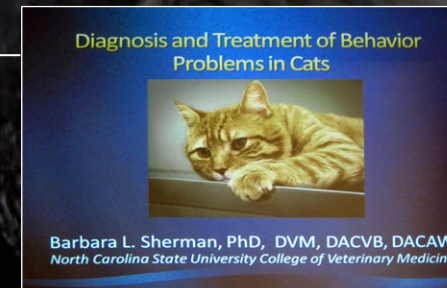
6. Follow-up with the owner to monitor for target behaviours and identify any difficulties with compliance.

The three cornerstones in the treatment of behavioural problems in companion animals are environmental management, behavioural modification and meeting the animal's needs, and, often, behavioural drugs. Dr. Sherman stressed that drugs should not be used "only as a last resort." Drugs are an important tool to lower anxiety levels in animals; we can all recognize that fear and anxiety can inhibit learning. It is crucial that owners see some results and positive changes relatively soon, in order to maintain the human-animal bond and prevent pet relinquishment.

Dr. Sherman recommended the book, "Decoding Your Dog," authored by diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, which explains common dog behaviours and reveals how to prevent or change unwanted ones. For more information, visit [dacvb.org](http://dacvb.org)



Dr. Sandra McConkey



### CATS

In addition to the above general treatment principles, Dr. Sherman outlined "5 pillars for all cats,"<sup>1</sup> the goals of which are to provide an enriched indoor environment to improve the welfare of cats, and to prevent problem behaviours.

1. Provide safe places (e.g., elevated or hiding places, safe retreats).
2. Provide multiple and separated environmental resources: food, water, toiletting areas, resting and sleeping areas.
3. Provide opportunities for play and predatory behavior.
4. Provide positive, consistent, and predictable human-cat social interactions—and no punishment!
5. Provide an environment that respects the importance of the cat's sense of smell.

These principles also provide a starting place to address behaviour problems. As with dogs, the approach is to obtain a detailed behavioural history, establish a diagnosis (including ruling out medical problems), and develop a manageable treatment plan that may involve environmental management, behavioural modification, and behavioural drugs.

Dr. Sherman's presentations can be found at [upei.ca/awc](http://upei.ca/awc)

The conference was co-hosted by the SJDAWC and the AVC Animal Welfare Club, with generous additional support from the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada. Watch the SJDAWC website for the theme of this year's conference (September 2014), which will be announced soon.



# COMPLETED PROJECTS 2013

Below are brief summaries for four SJDAWC-funded research projects completed in 2013. Associated publications are listed on page 12. Further publications will be listed on the SJDAWC website as they become available ([awc.upei.ca/research\\_papers\\_and\\_presentations](http://awc.upei.ca/research_papers_and_presentations)).

## RESEARCH

**ENHANCING ANIMAL WELFARE BY POTENTIALLY IMPROVING EASE OF PREDICTING TRANSFUSION REACTIONS IN DOGS, CATS, AND HORSES**  
S Burton, R Vanderstichel, C Gilroy, D Villarnovo

Dogs, cats, and horses can become anemic for many reasons and may require life-saving blood transfusions. To predict if a transfusion will be safe, a test called major cross-matching is done. This entails mixing red blood cells from the potential donor with serum from the potential recipient. If no cell clumping (agglutination) is seen, the pairing is compatible and the transfusion has a high chance of success. If cell clumping is seen, the pairing is incompatible, and a transfusion from that donor is avoided. Traditional cross-matching is tedious and time-consuming, so transfusions may be given without performing it, leaving animals at risk for transfusion reactions.

A major cross-matching kit (RapidVet-H ®) is available for dogs and cats; it promises to be quick and simple. This project was designed to compare results using this kit with results of traditional cross-matching to see how reliable it is for dogs and cats. Although the kit is not marketed for horses, exploration of whether it might work for them was also planned.

The project was successfully completed for dogs. Of the 107 samples, the results agreed 95% of the time. Almost all reactions were negative, so the kit reliably predicted lack of agglutination (compatible pairing). The low number of incompatible sample pairings with positive reactions was a challenge, as a good number of these are desirable to properly evaluate test performance. In a successful effort to artificially increase positive reactions, further work was done by mixing blood samples to which antibodies against dog red blood cells were added.

The feline and equine aspects of the project were not successful. There was not enough blood available for the feline study for proper test evaluation. Of the 19 equine blood sample pairings, agreement was only seen between the two methods in eight samples (42%), and the cells did not migrate well through the gel column. It appears that the test may not work for horses, but further testing could be explored.

The work has been submitted at two AVC Graduate Studies and Research Days, a departmental seminar, a graduate defense seminar, and the 2012 and 2013 meetings of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP). A paper is being prepared for publication. The information from this study will assist veterinarians in deciding if they wish to use the kit for easier and reliable major cross-matching in dogs requiring transfusions.

**VAGAL MANOEUVRES IN DOGS AND CATS: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY**  
E Côté

The purpose of this study was to assess the effects of simple physical manipulations called vagal manoeuvres on the heart rates of dogs and cats. Vagal manoeuvres consist of applying pressure to areas of an animal’s body (the closed eyelids, the side of the neck) that are known to trigger a slowing of the heart rate. The reasons for doing this were:

- 1) to determine the effect of this type of medical procedure performed by veterinarians on animals, so as to identify the force and pressure required to achieve a particular result (how much does the heart rate slow, for how long, etc.).
- 2) to improve the welfare of dogs and cats undergoing such procedures by providing guidance so that the manoeuvre is neither performed too firmly (which

has been reported to cause signs of pain and may be excessive in its effect) nor too lightly (which can produce a false negative result and subject the animal to additional unnecessary tests).

This study has produced the following new and useful information in dogs:

- Sham manoeuvres (mimicking the motions of the real procedure without actually performing it) were associated with changes in heart rate that could easily have been attributed to vagal manoeuvres in the past; therefore, having sham control groups in this study identified natural fluctuations that were previously unknown.
- Carotid sinus massage (side of the neck) produced more of an effect than ocular pressure (closed eyelids).
- The maximal effect of carotid sinus massage occurred 5-10 seconds after ending the manoeuvre, and the effect had dissipated by 15 seconds after ending the manoeuvre.
- The effects of these manoeuvres can be interpreted with some accuracy (carotid sinus massage: 66%, ocular pressure: 63%) simply by looking at a graph of an animal’s heart rate, which may make compilation of detailed electrocardiographic information (as performed in this study) unnecessary in some clinical cases.
- None of the vagal manoeuvres were associated with adverse effects.

These findings suggest that veterinarians may expect effective and safe outcomes from performing vagal manoeuvres under the conditions of this study. Final statistical modeling is pending, to allow enhanced interpretation of the data already generated. Submission of results for publication will follow.

**COMPARISON OF RADIOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES IN THE DETERMINATION OF REPRODUCTIVE STATUS OF FERAL AND SHELTER QUEENS IN AN EFFORT TO DECREASE UNNECESSARY POST-OPERATIVE PAIN AND STRESS**  
L Pack, M Woodland, P Rist, B Crane

Many cats that are presented to feral cat spay/neuter programmes or shelters have an unknown medical history. It is not easy to identify female cats who have been previously spayed, based on physical examination alone. It would be advantageous to have an easy, cost-effective method for screening female cats to avoid performing unnecessary exploratory surgery to determine if they have been already spayed.

A prospective randomized study on 67 female cats, recently euthanized for unrelated reasons and of unknown medical history and reproductive status (i.e., spayed or not), was carried out. Four techniques—digital abdominal radiography, digital abdominal radiography with compression, abdominal ultrasonography, and positive contrast vaginourethrography—were performed in sequence by a board-certified radiologist and a second-year radiology resident. A post-mortem was performed immediately thereafter to determine definitively whether the cat had been spayed. Statistical measures (sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, and McNemar’s test statistic) were used to compare the different techniques for determining the reproductive status of cats with unknown medical history.

In this study, ultrasound had the highest sensitivity for determining reproductive status of all the imaging modalities tested. Based on McNemar’s test statistic, there was a significant difference in the sensitivities of ultrasound compared to digital radiographs, compression radiographs, and vaginourethrogram.

In conclusion, ultrasound was the imaging modality with the highest sensitivity for correctly identifying intact (unspayed) queens. Radiography and vagino-

urethrograms are more readily available imaging modalities in private practice and shelter situations; however, due to poor sensitivity, they are not reliable predictors of reproductive status.

Further evaluation of these diagnostic imaging modalities could be performed in the clinical situation in order to evaluate the significance of these findings to private practices/animal shelters. It is believed that this information will help to decrease the number of unnecessary exploratory surgeries in cats of unknown reproductive status, thereby preventing unnecessary post-operative pain and stress, and reducing costs for shelters and spay/neuter programmes.

The findings of this study were presented at the 2012 ACVR Annual Scientific Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, and have recently been published (*see page 11*).

**THE EFFECT OF SURGICAL AND CHEMICAL STERILIZATION ON CANINE TESTOSTERONE LEVELS AND THE IMPLICATIONS ON CULTURAL ACCEPTABILITY AND WELFARE FOR FREE-ROAMING DOG POPULATIONS**  
R Vanderstichel, J Serpell, E Garde, M Forzán

The objectives of this study were to investigate the changes in testosterone levels of free-roaming male dogs in a natural “field” setting, and the association between testosterone levels and the dogs’ behaviour before and after chemical or surgical castration. The study, conducted in a Latin American cultural context, was part of a larger two-year project led by Veterinarians without Borders, Canada (VWB), in the remote town of Puerto Natales, Chile. While this study focused on the testosterone levels in these free-roaming dogs, the results complement the overall objectives of VWB’s free-roaming dog health programme.

One hundred and eighteen owned, free-roaming dogs were randomly divided into three groups: controls, surgically castrated, and chemically castrated (EsterilSol™ injection). Testosterone levels were measured at six months pre-

sterilization, at sterilization, and at four and six months post-sterilization (times -6, 0, 4+, and 6+, respectively). Social and reproductive behaviours were recorded via focal animal observation and video recording, and roaming behaviours via GPS data-logging collars. Intrinsic factors (age, weight, time of day, season, body condition, and testicle size) were recorded at times -6 and 0, and home ranges were calculated at -6 and 4+. Surgical castration significantly reduced testosterone at times 4+ and 6+. Chemical castration, for the most part, did not affect testosterone levels, which in most dogs remained similar to their baseline (-6 months). However, a few dogs (23%) had greatly reduced levels of testosterone after EsterilSol™ injections, adding to the variability in the effect of EsterilSol™ on testosterone levels. Sterilization per se, whether surgical or chemical, had no effect on home range size.

Two chemically sterilized dogs developed severe adverse reactions that required surgical intervention<sup>2</sup>. Based on these experiences, VWB will not be using EsterilSol™ for sterilization campaigns in remote communities unless post-injection surgical care can be provided.

Dr. Angelica Romero, VWB veterinarian working on the programme, visited the AVC in September 2012, to coincide with the running of the testosterone assays at the AVC Diagnostic Services. Dr. Romero talked about the project and about VWB in a seminar for the AVC Wildlife and Exotic and Animal Welfare clubs.

A manuscript with the findings (behavioural and testosterone) is in preparation for publication. This is the largest study ever conducted on the effect of surgical and chemical sterilization on testosterone levels and their impact on dog behaviour. Work from this study has been presented at the Humane Society International Animal Care Exposition, Nashville, US; the Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs Symposium, Portland, Oregon; and the 1st International Conference on Dog Population Management, York, England.

<sup>2</sup> See Forzán et al, page 11



# SERVICE PROJECTS

Please visit [awc.upei.ca/Service\\_projects](http://awc.upei.ca/Service_projects) for more information about these and other service projects.

The SJDAWC supports several ongoing service projects. Each project is carried out in cooperation with an Island community group, and provides direct care for animals and educational benefits for veterinary students. Currently funded service projects include:

- Medical and surgical care of homeless animals (T Bailey, with PEI Humane Society)
- Health management services for Handibear Hills Equine Sanctuary, Inc. (W Duckett)
- Wildlife rehabilitation, conservation and clinical research (M Desmarchelier)
- Health management services for PEI Equine Retirement Society, Inc. (W Duckett)
- Two complementary feral cat neutering programmes (P Foley, with PEI Cat Action Team), one funded through the SJDAWC and the other by the Pegasus Family Foundation through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.
- AVC humane dog training programme (AM Carey, with PEI Humane Society)

# OTHER NEWS

## 47TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF APPLIED ETHOLOGY

In June 2013, AVC Chair in Animal Welfare Dr. Michael Cockram and PhD candidate Jackie Ellis attended the leading international conference on the behaviour and welfare of confined or domesticated animals, including companion, farm, zoo, and managed wild animal species. This conference—held this year in Florianopolis, Brazil—attracts researchers, educators, students, and policy-makers with diverse yet common interests from around the globe. The theme of this year’s conference was “Applied ethology: understanding behavior to improve livelihood.”

J. Ellis, who aims to reduce stress in shelter cats through her doctoral work, presented a portion of her research in a talk entitled, “Development and validation of a behavioural test to discriminate between bold and shy cats.” Her presentation was well received, generating many interesting questions and producing several potential collaborative opportunities.

The conference location was idyllic, and delegates had the opportunity to enjoy many of Brazil’s scenic and cultural wonders. The 2014 ISAE conference will take place in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

The entire programme and abstracts may be viewed at [applied-ethology.org/isae\\_meetings.html](http://applied-ethology.org/isae_meetings.html)



Dr. Marti Hopson near Tulita, NWT

## CHINOOK PROJECT UPDATE

In the winter of 2013, Dr. Marti Hopson, co-coordinator of the Chinook Project at AVC, travelled to the Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories to perform volunteer veterinary work with the University of Calgary’s Northern Rotation programme for its senior veterinary students. Dr. Hopson was originally contacted by Dr. Susan Kutz of the University of Calgary to arrange an exchange between the Northern Rotation and the Chinook Project. Dr. Hopson worked with the Northern Rotation, providing veterinary services and assisting students. In future, someone from the Northern Rotation will volunteer with the Chinook Project. (For more information, see [awc.upei.ca/ucalgary](http://awc.upei.ca/ucalgary))

This summer (July 2014), the Chinook team will travel to Nain and Rigolet in Northern Labrador.

Dr. Nicole Breda and Doug Jacque vaccinating one of his sled dogs

## THE CHINOOK PROJECT’S JULY 2013 VISIT TO NORTHERN LABRADOR, CANADA

by Marti Hopson, DVM, Veterinary Coordinator, Chinook Project, with a contribution from Andrea Jack, RVT

The Chinook Project continues to travel annually to remote communities in Canada’s North to provide free veterinary services. In 2013, the team of five veterinary students, three veterinarians, and one animal health technician travelled to Makkovik and Postville, two coastal villages in Northern Labrador. As well as seeing approximately 100 animals for vaccines, deworming, and spay/neuter surgeries, they also collected (with permission) swabbed samples of the skin surface of the dogs attending the clinic. These samples were tested for MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staph aureus*, which is very difficult to treat) to help determine if the canine population is a significant reservoir of this bacteria. We hope to be able to continue to gather data for a research project that could help both the animal and human populations of these communities.

Andrea Jack, a registered veterinary technician at the Atlantic Veterinary College, who helped organize and run the trip this year, reflected:

“After returning from an amazing trip to Northern Labrador, I am so grateful for having had this opportunity. We left as nine individuals—some acquaintances, some complete strangers. We returned as a team of nine who made a difference in lives of people and animals in two Northern communities in Labrador.

Our first stop was in Makkovik, a beautiful coastal community with a population of just over 350 people. The project had visited this community before, and we were greeted with open arms by some of the most helpful people you could imagine. Although our stop here was brief (just two and a half clinic days), we saw a number of medical cases and performed 15 surgeries.

We left Makkovik by fishing boat and were treated to some amazing up-close views of icebergs and the beautiful Labrador coastline. Postville was our second stop, a remote, beautiful coastal community located across the bay from spectacular Post Hill (which is a truly breathtaking mountain). Postville is a tiny community of just over

250 people. Again, the people were helpful, and in our four clinic days we performed 25 surgeries and saw 39 medical cases. One of our most interesting medical cases was a house call for a team of sled dogs owned by a delightful 82-year-old man who still races his team.

It was an amazing experience and I am so grateful for having this opportunity. Not only do I feel, by giving back to communities that lack regular access to veterinary services, that I’ve done something good for them, but it also changes me and makes me a little more grateful for everything I have.”

We look forward to planning next year’s trip. We are very excited to have secured ongoing financial support from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for a portion of the Project, which we hope to continue for many years to come. See [chinookproject.ca](http://chinookproject.ca)

Above is an article by Dr. Hopson about the Chinook Project in 2013, originally published in *The Fan Hitch*, September 2013 [thefanhitch.org/V15N4/V15N4ChinookProject.html](http://thefanhitch.org/V15N4/V15N4ChinookProject.html)





## AWARDS

### 2013 CHRISTOFOR AWARD IN ANIMAL WELFARE

Fourth-year student Samantha Sanford received the 2013 Christofo Award in Animal Welfare at the AVC Fall Awards and Recognition Night on October 2. Samantha has been actively involved in animal rescue and shelter work since well before coming to AVC, including volunteering and working as an attendant in several shelters in Nova Scotia. Upon moving to PEI to attend AVC, she immediately volunteered with the PEI HS, where she assisted with animal care before becoming, as a third-year student, a trainer with the Humane Dog Training Programme. As such, her roles included behavioural assessments, training, and enrichment for the dogs to make them more adoptable and improve their overall well-being while at the shelter. She also worked with the PEIHS to develop a Humane Education Programme for delivery to school-age children.

At AVC, Samantha volunteered for two years as the Cat Action Student Coordinator, with responsibility for helping to organize and run multiple feral cat spay/neuter days. She has also served on the



Dr. Alice Crook and 2013 Christofo Award recipient Samantha Sanford

executive of the Feline, Shelter Medicine, and Animal Welfare Clubs at AVC. With each club, she helped organize extracurricular lectures to increase awareness of animal welfare and provide students with additional knowledge and skills that may directly affect the welfare of the animals they will treat in practice (e.g., a positive reinforcement training seminar to help vet students understand humane training techniques and how to incorporate them into veterinary practice). Samantha also served as the student representative on the UPEI Animal Care Committee and volunteered with the AVC Wildlife Rescue Team.

Samantha richly deserves the 2013 Christofo Award for her long-standing commitment to improving animal welfare in many different settings. There is no doubt that she will continue to emphasize and promote animal welfare in her veterinary practice in future. Congratulations, Samantha!

### STUDENTS RECEIVE EFFECTIVE WRITING AWARDS

Congratulations to AVC students Hye-Yeon Jang (Class of 2015) and Mary-Claire Sanderson (Class of 2016), for winning 2013 MacLauchlan Prizes for Effective Writing. Hye-Yeon received her award for her report, “An analysis of implications of disease and aging for the welfare of geriatric dogs and cats,” produced as part of her American Humane Association Scholar Animal Welfare Research Grant (summer 2013). Mary-Claire received her award for “Think positive: Positive reinforcement training makes for well-trained, happy dogs,” a piece in *The Guardian* (September 21, 2013, p. D1) which is part of a public awareness series about good companion animal care practices. (Please see CAWI, page 9 for more information about the series.)

### DR. PETER FOLEY LAUDED FOR WORK WITH FERAL CATS

In October, Dr. Peter Foley, assistant professor of small animal medicine at AVC, was awarded the 2013 Summit Award for Wellness at the Summit for Urban Animal Strategies held in Lake



Dr. Peter Foley and Shortbread

Louise, Alberta. The award, which is voted on by people across Canada, recognizes the efforts of an organization to improve the overall levels of wellness for urban animals in a particular client base, a specific community, or industry sector. Dr. Foley and AVC won this award for demonstrating that clinicians and volunteer organizations can collaborate to increase the overall wellness of urban and rural feline populations.

Dr. Foley coordinates the highly effective PEI feral cat neutering programme, working with the PEI Cat Action Team (CAT [cats-pei.ca](http://cats-pei.ca)). Since 2002, Dr. Foley has organized and supervised bi-monthly neuter Saturdays at AVC with veterinary services provided voluntarily by students and faculty. Several other veterinary hospitals on PEI participate, and Dr. Foley provides guidance and maintains records for the entire programme. Funding comes from the SJDAWC, the Pegasus Family Foundation, PetSmart Charities, and fundraising activities of CAT. To date, over 8,500 feral cats have been neutered on PEI, including 1,900 during Dr. Foley’s Saturday clinics.



Dr. Marion Desmarchelier accepting her award from Karen Jans, Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada, PEI

### DR. MARION DESMARCHELIER RECEIVES PARKS CANADA AWARD

In 2013 Dr. Marion Desmarchelier of AVC’s Zoo, Exotic Animal and Wildlife Medicine Service was presented with a Parks Canada CEO Award of Excellence for her work with the Atlantic Canada Piping Plover Team for Captive Rearing in 2010 and 2011. This award, the most prestigious honour awarded by the agency, was established to recognize employees and partners who have demonstrated a high level of excellence or achieved outstanding results. The Atlantic Piping Plover Team for Captive Rearing is recognized in the category of fostering a culture of conservation. In PEI, park ecologist Phil McCabe and resource conservation technician Linda Thomas, both with Parks Canada, also received the award. See [avc.upei.ca/avc-veterinarian-honoured-parks-canada](http://avc.upei.ca/avc-veterinarian-honoured-parks-canada) for more information on the project, which was funded in part by the SJDAWC.

### DR. ALICE CROOK HONOURED BY PEI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Alice Crook received the Prince Edward Island Veterinary Leadership Award at the Association’s annual meeting in November. The award, the highest given by the PEIVMA, recognizes a veterinarian’s strong career of achievement and dedication to the profession, his or her Prince Edward Island community, and the health and welfare of animals.



Dr. Crook accepting the Prince Edward Island Veterinary Leadership Award from Dr. Wade Sweet, president of the Association

## UPDATE— PEI COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE INITIATIVE (CAWI)

Recent columns from CAWI include “Dog park etiquette: It is important to play nice!” and “Inside the box: How to avoid litter box woes,” *The Guardian*, December 21 and November 16, respectively. All features to date can be found at [gov.pe.ca/agriculture/CAWI](http://gov.pe.ca/agriculture/CAWI)

CAWI partners will be involved in 2014 in an exciting initiative spearheaded by the PEI Humane Society. Through approval of a proposal from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies to the Summerlee Foundation, the PEIHS is one of two Canadian sites where the Capacity to Care (C2C) model for cats, coupled with increased spay/neuter/return surgeries,

will be tested in 2014. The basic goal of the C2C model is to increase the flow-through capacity of shelters—i.e., how many cats the shelter can care for over time—through a number of specific measurable goals leading to decreased length of stay, thereby reducing illness and leading to quicker adoptions and reduced costs. The PEIHS will work directly with Dr. Kate Hurley, Program Director, Koret Shelter Medicine Program, University of California at Davis. Dr. Hurley is a recognized leader in the field of shelter medicine who has worked extensively with shelters of every size and management type. She is the key visionary behind the Capacity to Care model.

([sheltermedicine.com/education/lecture-library/making-it-all-work-capacity-and-animal-flow-in-shelter-populations](http://sheltermedicine.com/education/lecture-library/making-it-all-work-capacity-and-animal-flow-in-shelter-populations))

CAWI was formed in January 2012 at the initiative of the PEI Department of Agriculture to raise awareness about good companion animal care practices, and encourage members of the public to think critically about animal welfare in their communities. Other CAWI members are the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre, PEI Humane Society, SpayAid PEI, PEI Cat Action Team, and the PEI Veterinary Medical Association.

President Emeritus Wade MacLauchlan, award winners Hye-Yeon Jang and Mary-Claire Sanderson, and guest speaker and poet, Miranda Hill



# GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



### JACKLYN ELLIS

- Oral presentation: Ellis JJ, Protopapadaki V, Stryhn H, Spears J, Cockram MS. Development and validation of a behavioural test to discriminate between bold and shy cats. 47th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology. Florianopolis, Brazil, June 2013. Proceedings (ed. MJ Hötzel, LCPM Filho) p 80. Wageningen Academic Publishers, The Netherlands.



### WHITNEY KELLY-CLARK

- Congratulations to Whitney Kelly-Clark who received her Master of Science degree from UPEI in May 2013. The basis of her research was the study, “Trichomonosis: An emerging disease in Canadian Maritime wild finch populations.” (See page 2 of SJDAWC News #29 for more information. [awc.upei.ca/sjdawc-news-29-springsummer-2013](http://awc.upei.ca/sjdawc-news-29-springsummer-2013) Also see publication below.)



### MATTHEW SAAB

- Poster presentation: Saab M, Lofstedt J, McClure JT. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* in a Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Atlantic Canada. 3rd ASM-ESCMID Conference on Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococci in Animals. Copenhagen, Denmark, November 2013.
- Poster presentation: Saab M, Weese JS, Muckle CA, McClure JT. Direct repeat unit (dru) typing of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* from dogs at a diagnostic laboratory in Atlantic Canada. 3rd ASM-ESCMID Conference on Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococci in Animals. Copenhagen, Denmark, November 2013.



### DANIA VILLARNOVO

- Poster presentation: Villarnovo D, Burton SA, Horney BS, MacKenzie AL, Vanderstichel RV. Avoiding transfusion reactions in dogs: Evaluation of a commercially available cross-matching kit. Annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists & American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathologists. Montreal, Quebec, November 2013.



### MEGHAN WOODLAND

- Congratulations to Dr. Meghan Woodland who received her Master of Veterinary Science degree from UPEI in May 2013. See page 5 for information on her project, and see also the publication below.

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Crook A. 2013. Pain: An Issue of Animal Welfare. In: Egger C, Love L, Doherty T, eds. Pain Management in Veterinary Practice. Wiley-Blackwell, 3-8.
- Forzán MJ, Garde E, Pérez GE, Vanderstichel R. 2013. Necrosuppurative orchitis and scrotal ulcerative dermatitis following intratesticular administration of zinc gluconate neutralized with arginine (EsterilSolTM) in two mixed-breed dogs. *Veterinary Pathology Online* 0300 9858 1350 5875.
- Kelly-Clark W K, McBurney S, Forzán MJ, Desmarchelier M, Greenwood SJ. 2013. Detection and characterization of a Trichomonas isolate from a rehabilitated Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine*, 44(4):1123-1126.
- Uehlinger FD, Greenwood SJ, McClure JT, Conboy G, O’Handley R, Barkema HW. 2013. Zoonotic potential of *Giardia duodenalis* and *Cryptosporidium* spp. and prevalence of intestinal parasites in young dogs from different populations on Prince Edward Island, Canada. *Veterinary Parasitology* 196:509-514.
- Woodland M, Pack L, Rist P, Crane B. 2013. Comparison of digital radiography, ultrasonography and positive contrast vaginourethrography for determining reproductive status of female cats. *Veterinary Radiology and Ultrasound*, 2013. Early view, 10.1111/vru.12134.

# REPORTS

- de Wit J, Cooke S, Hockley E, Houghton L, Shaw J, Flewelling G, Lévesque R, Giles B, Bobsien B, Locke J, Burwash L, Cormier, N, Cockram M, Lohmann K, Woods J, Heleski C. 2013. NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines. [nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine](http://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine)
- Cockram MS, Menzies P, Barrett D, Hemsted J. 2013. Sheep Code of Practice Scientists’ Committee. Code of Practice for the Care & Handling of Sheep: Review of Scientific Research on Priority Issues. NFACC. [nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep](http://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep)
- Cockram MS, Menzies P, Barrett D, Hemsted J. 2013. Executive Summary: The Science of the Sheep Code. [nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep](http://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep)
- Hemsted J, Hebda A, Gerber V, Greaves B, Gordanier A, Eddy C, Baker F, Scott R, Wichtel J, Morgan C, Draper M, Smith R, Cormier N, Cockram M, Buczinski S, O’Brien A. 2013. NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep. [nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep](http://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep)

# RECENT ANIMAL WELFARE TALKS AT AVC

- Animal welfare in the veterinary clinic—Dr. Alice Crook, October 2013
- The Canadian harp seal hunt: Issues and observations—Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust, October 2013
- Animal abuse and effective veterinary response—Dr. Alice Crook, February 2013

The above talks were hosted by the AVC Animal Welfare, Teaching Animal Enrichment, and Shelter Medicine Clubs.





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## Many thanks TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

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We also thank the following organizations and individuals who have supported the SJDAWC within the last three years (and some for much longer than that):

- The Pegasus Family Foundation, through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (Pegasus projects)
- AVC Classes of 2011 and 2001 (Pegasus Helping Hand Fund)
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- Dr. Lara Jamieson
- The late Mr. David Madren
- The late Ms. Kay Alexander
- Universities Federation of Animal Welfare, UK
- Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association
- Emerald Island Hunt
- Anonymous

We are also grateful to the many generous individuals, veterinary hospitals, and other businesses, too numerous to mention, who have made a donation in memory of a beloved pet.

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