



Protecting the Animals Seminar Series Abstracts

SS001

The Role of the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

Tony Peacock

Invasive Animals CRC, University of Canberra, Canberra, ACT, Australia

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IA CRC) is concerned with both exotic and overabundant native vertebrates, including freshwater pests. Of particular interest is the ability to provide long-term support for fertility control methods to see products through to routine use.

The IA CRC commenced on 1 July 2005 following the grant of AU\$29.64 million over seven years from the Australian Government. Industry and State Government investment have leveraged this investment to over AU\$100 million. Over 30 Australian participants are involved in the initiative along with several overseas agencies.

The IA CRC is a highly applied research group which bridges gaps between research and application, either through commercialisation or public dissemination. The IA CRC does sponsor some research in its own right, but in many instances we work with those members to improve the research application process. Examples of how the process might be improved include assisting companies to conduct registration field trials that would otherwise be beyond their means and bringing groups together in order to gain the necessary “critical mass” to advance an area beyond the capacity of a single organisation.

The IA CRC manages the Australian pest database, which includes both published and unpublished research relating to pest animals: www.feral.org.au. To subscribe to the IA CRC's fortnightly electronic newsletter go to www.invasiveanimals.com and select 'media centre – subscribe', or email: contact@invasiveanimals.com

SS002

Defending the Credibility of Anti-vivisectionists

Helen Marston

AAHR Inc., Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Opponents of animal research have often been criticized for using old material to argue their case – photos of cats with eyes sewn shut, monkeys restrained in stereotaxic devices with their brains exposed to electrodes, and the decades-old argument about Thalidomide being ‘successfully’ tested on animals and later causing widespread deformities in children.

Such arguments raise the question of whether our research methodologies have progressed or whether we continue to cling to archaic practices. This paper considers the current situation by looking at case studies of recent protocols and showcases how such practices have not improved. Similarly it looks at the efficacy of animal tests to illustrate how Thalidomide was not a remote case.

Today's anti-vivisectionists no longer espouse the ‘poor animals’ approach. They recognize that such emotive tactics have little effect when debating health experts. Instead their arguments are based on scientific evidence which even the staunchest of pro animal research advocates can no longer fail to acknowledge.

SS003

The MAWA Trust Initiatives and Non-Animal Methodologies within Biomedical Research

Sharyn Watson¹, Anne Keogh¹, Andrew Knight², Brett Lidbury³

¹*The MAWA Trust, Weston Creek, ACT, Australia*, ²*Animal Consultants International, London, United Kingdom*, ³*The University of Canberra, ACT, Australia*

The aim of The Medical Advances Without Animals Trust (MAWA) is to advance medical science and improve human health and therapeutic interventions without using animals or animal products. The Trust is taking a leading role in animal replacement in medical research and is unique in deliberately fostering dialogue with the scientific research community to discover common ground to achieve its goals.

MAWA operates as an independent medical research and educational trust fund which facilitates the development and utilisation of non-animal based experimental methodologies to replace the use of animals in medical research. It is expected that by funding non-animal research and training scientists in alternative methodologies the entrenched reliance on the use of animals will be decreased. The Trust also encourages, through promotion and education, the wider adoption of such techniques.

MAWA Trustee and board member Professor Anne Keogh and MAWA Executive Officer Ms Sharyn Watson will be presenting MAWA's initiatives, each designed to expand exposure to the scientific community of the Trust's goal of supporting medical advances without the use of animals. Professor Keogh and Ms Watson will be joined by Dr Andrew Knight, Director, Animal Consultants International and Virologist Dr Brett Lidbury from the University of Canberra. Dr Knight will speak about non-animal methodologies and discuss a broad range of investigative tools, techniques and procedures that have the potential to replace animal use within biomedical research. Dr Lidbury will talk about how MAWA's approach was received by university academics and researchers and ensuing attitudinal change. The presentations will be followed by question and discussion time.

SS004

Farming: Exploitation of Sentient Animals for Meat

Glenys Oogjes

Animals Australia, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Farming is no longer a mutual relationship between a laconic country man and his individually named free range beasts. Family-run farms began to be replaced in Australia during the 1960s and the trend to large commercial enterprises continues. Large companies now produce meat and fish from 'units' with a close eye on input, outputs, productivity (being return on capital investment) and profit margins.

Methods of industrialised animal handling and housing have developed in spite of growing scientific knowledge of animal sentience. The focus has fallen on nutrition, modern breeding techniques and the use of growth promotants (including antibiotics in some industries) to maximise the 'meat' produced and thus the profit rather than embracing ethical considerations.

Exploitation of the tame nature of many livestock species, selective breeding for rapid bodily growth and high reproduction attributes, have transformed animals. The environment in which these animals are raised has similarly been transformed. This animal 'production' system, appropriately labelled 'factory farming', includes battery egg production, pigs farming, meat chickens, cattle feedlots, aquaculture and more.

Factory farming persists as it provides a cheaper 'meat' product and a livelihood to those involved in this industrial system. Bipartisan political support for agricultural industries fiercely resists reform. Increasing consumer awareness of this cruel method of farming can alter this status quo.

SS005

Restoring the Balance: Brining Wolves Home to the Grand Canyon

Paula Lewis

Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project, Flagstaff, AZ, United States

The Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project advocates for the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf through education and public outreach. We participate in local and regional events and are often asked to give presentations on wolf related issues in classrooms throughout Northern Arizona. Educating the public and organizing local communities to participate in our work is crucial to our efforts in restoring the Mexican gray wolf to the Grand Canyon region. We effectively engage with public citizens and bring a strong message to the government agencies charged with protecting wolves and maintaining sustainable habitat conditions for wolves and other wildlife.

SS006

Using Veterinarians to achieve better outcomes in Animal Welfare

Kevin Doyle

Australian Veterinary Association, Kingston, ACT, Australia

Veterinarians have a major role in the achievement of good animal welfare outcomes at the hands on (field) and policy levels and in provision of ethical expertise in the public debate.

Development of animal welfare friendly culture, ethics and awareness in professional, industry and welfare organisations helps deliver good public policy and services.

The Australian Veterinary Association has included animal welfare ethics and actions into its mission, objectives and business and operational planning. These are delivered through an animal welfare committee, an animal ethics committee and a Special Interest Group on animal welfare and ethics. An Animal Welfare Trust provides grants for research and animal welfare is included in every Annual Conference.

Private and government veterinarians participate at every level and in every animal based enterprise in some form. The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy is delivered through 6 sectoral groups Companion animals, farm animals, animals in work sport and recreation, aquatic animals and animals in research and teaching. Veterinarians are involved in all such areas.

Foods are subject to quality assurance programs which increasingly include animal welfare as well as use of therapeutics and the like. Veterinary input and auditing is crucial. Codes of practice are being converted into Standards and Guidelines for better regulation. Veterinary practitioners provide pro bono services in the order of \$30m each year in treatment of strays and wildlife.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) now addresses animal welfare, creating international norms which under pin efforts by national veterinary services to improve animal welfare.

SS007

Agriculture and Climate Change: how are we to protect animals and the environment?

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¹*Compassion in World Farming, Melbourne, VIC, Australia,* ²*Compassion in World Farming, Godalming, Surrey, United Kingdom*

Climate change is of increasing relevance, perhaps nowhere more so than in the field of agriculture, charged with providing sufficient food to sustain the world's burgeoning population. With a global population now in excess of 6bn and the UN's FAO claiming that global production of resource-hungry meat will more than double between 2001 and 2050, the sustainability of the food supply is in doubt even before the impact of climate change.

More intensive agricultural production is perceived as a solution to the world's growing pains, to occur mainly in developing countries. But this would have critical impacts upon animal welfare, the environment, fundamental resources – most importantly water - and the lives of rural populations.

The livestock sector is responsible for 18% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from all human activities. Over-production of livestock will increase current effects, exacerbating global warming and damaging food production and the environment.

It will also impact upon animal welfare, the sentience of animals ignored as they are subjected to the cruelty of intensive rearing systems and/or are pushed to grow ever faster and to increase their personal yield.

Solutions to the many problems associated with sustainable food production into the future lie with meat reduction rather than increase. To achieve this we should work with the environment, not against it, with the aim of a secure and compassionate future for humankind and the many other sentient creatures with whom we co-habit.

SS008

A campaign perspective from the Humane Society International

Nicola Beynon

Humane Society International, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Humane Society International concentrates on the preservation of endangered animals and ecosystems and works to ensure quality of life for all animals, both domestic and wild. HSI is the largest animal protection not-for-profit organisation in the world, with over 10 million supporters globally and has been established in Australia since 1994. This presentation will outline the work of the Australian office in minding the animals that are harmed as a result of activities by Japanese whalers, Australian farmers and the fishing industry among others. Highlighted will be the efforts of HSI in taking animal campaigns to court, particularly with regard to the whaling industry.

SS009

The Art of Campaigning - Getting the Most out of your Campaigns

Louis Ng

ACRES (Animal Concerns Research and Education Society), Singapore, Singapore

Campaigning is a vital component of any effort to progress the animal welfare movement and is central to achieving change for animals, especially long-term and widespread change.

From trial and error and experience, campaign groups learn that there are some strategies that do work, and some things that do not, and we learn valuable and often unexpected lessons along the way.

This seminar will explore some of the campaign strategies that have been effective in achieving positive changes for animals in Asia, particularly in the areas of improving captive animal welfare, tackling the illegal wildlife trade and making animal protection laws more effective, drawing on the experience of Singaporean animal welfare group ACRES (Animal Concerns Research and Education Society).

SS010

Key Actions and Developments in Ending Pet Overpopulation in Australia

Joy Verrinder

Animal Welfare League Queensland Inc, Gold Coast, QLD, Australia

Thousands of healthy, sociable and treatable kittens, cats and dogs are being abandoned and killed in pounds and shelters each year in Australia.

The breeding capacity of cats and dogs, pressures on pet ownership, cats ostracised as scapegoats for human's impact on native wildlife populations, inappropriate suburban fencing which allow cats to become stray in one easy leap, legislation that allows killing of stray and surrendered pets instead of requiring prevention, and insufficient knowledge of, and commitment to, the problem and the solutions in the community and key professions have all contributed to this ethically inconsistent treatment of cats and dogs.

In the last few years, there has been considerable progress around Australia to raise awareness and develop actions to prevent this abandonment and killing of animals who are regarded as family members in the majority of Australian households.

This seminar aims to open your eyes, your discussion, and commitment to help achieve a fairer world for cats and dogs.

SS011

Lifting the Veil of Secrecy on Factory Farming

Ondine Sherman

Voiceless, Paddington, NSW, Australia

Many Australians still believe that animals are raised in 'old MacDonald's farm', able to go outdoors, move freely and socialise. These misinformed beliefs are reinforced with millions of advertising and marketing dollars invested by intensive farming industries that seek to promote an image of farming that is 'fresh' and 'natural'. When faced with the harsh reality of industrialised farm production that brings their food from 'farm to fork', many Australians are shocked, saddened and outraged.

Suffering behind closed doors in large industrial facilities known as 'factory farms', farm animals are, essentially 'voiceless' and treated like units of production. Hundreds of millions of pigs and chickens spend their lives confined in cages or crammed together in giant factory farms in Australia. They never see the sun or feel the grass or dirt under their feet. Many are routinely mutilated with no pain relief in sensitive areas such as their tail, teeth and beaks. They are denied the ability to express key natural behaviours like nesting, roosting, dust-bathing, nurturing their young and rooting in the earth.

Voiceless represents a growing number of people worldwide who believe factory farming is inherently unethical and unacceptable. In fact, animal protection has been growing so rapidly in Australia and around the world that it has been named by David Weisbrot AM, President of the Australian Law Reform Commission, as 'potentially the next great social justice movement'.

Voiceless has been focused on 'lifting the veil of secrecy' on factory farming industries for the past 5 years in order to encourage informed debate and discussion. This presentation will give an overview of the state of factory farming in Australia, what Voiceless has been doing to challenge the status quo, the strategies that have proved successful and the areas that are in need of further attention.

SS012

Integrating Values and Ethics into Wildlife Policy and Management ~

Lessons from North America

Camilla Fox^{1,2}, Marc Bekoff^{1,3}

¹*Project Coyote, Larkspur, CA, United States*, ²*Animal Welfare Institute, Washington, DC, United States*, ³*University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, United States*

Many human endeavours involve animal use, and concerns for animal welfare are addressed by integrating ethical principles and protocols into the practices of animal research, education, livestock production, behavioral science and applied ethology. However, in North America such considerations are often missing or dismissed in wildlife management and in carnivore control policies and practices. Consequently, wildlife agencies often find themselves in the middle of polarized ethical debates, particularly with regard to human-wildlife conflict resolution. This divide will likely increase in the face of human population growth and its ecological impacts. With a growing urban populace that is increasingly concerned with animal welfare, wildlife agencies must adapt and respond to shifts in societal norms, values, and worldviews. Policy processes that foster public involvement and transparency are needed to address these social and ecological changes. Wildlife agencies have an important role in managing wildlife in accordance with contextual community-based concerns. However, the increasing number of lawsuits, public ballot measures, and federal petitions targeting wildlife management practices and policies deemed inhumane and unethical demonstrate that human values and wildlife management policies and practices are in discord. This session seeks to achieve three aims. The first is to challenge the reticence that exists around the idea of making ethics and animal welfare a first order concern in wildlife management and control. The second aim is to deepen and broaden the dialogue about the ethics that ought to guide the research, policy, and implementation of wildlife conservation and stewardship. The third is to present models and approaches to human-wildlife conflicts that integrate ethical and animal welfare principles and that involve more inclusive participatory planning processes. We now live in the context of an urbanizing and globalizing world, wherein human domination of the environment threatens everything from individual animals to major ecosystems that sustain entire biotic communities. We hope to generate discussion about how ethics and consideration of shifting public values can strengthen wildlife conservation and human-wildlife conflict resolution efforts and help reach broader consensus among groups with divergent perspectives.

SS013

Mainstreaming Animal Rights: Campaigning for Animal Rights in an Animal Welfare World

Hans Kriek, Nichola Kriek, Tanja Schwalm

SAFE Inc, Christchurch, New Zealand

Tapping into mainstream consciousness is a challenge for any animal rights advocacy group. For years animal rights advocates have been viewed as either radical extremists or bunny-hugging do-gooders. Breaking down negative stereotypes is one step towards mainstreaming but by far the greatest task for animal rights groups is how to reach the hearts and minds of the public without compromising animal rights ideals. Some animal rights philosophers argue that our end goal should only focus on one right for animals, the right not to be treated as the property of humans. With this in mind, should the road to animal liberation be a windy route paved with animal welfare gains (a route that mainstream society can be gently eased along), or a more direct but potentially alienating race to an animal rights revolution? For years SAFE and many other animal rights organisations have grappled with this dilemma. In this seminar we will discuss the pitfalls of animal rights campaigning in an animal welfare world. We will look at the dangers of compromising too much or taking too hard a line. We will ask what is expected of animal rights advocates in the 21st century and how to engage mainstream society in our work for animals.

SS014

10 years of Conservation Action - the story of the Wildlife Trust of India

Vivek Menon

Wildlife Trust of India, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

The Wildlife Trust of India was set up in 1998 to conserve endangered species and threatened habitats of India in collaboration with communities and government. When forming the trust it was strategized to concentrate in the field rather than on policy issues, to focus on species and habitats that no one else was and to form a band of committed professionals who could use the best science available to find conservation solutions to pressing issues. WTI got into doing conservation action as was never done before in India, buying land for elephant and tiger corridors, rehabilitating rescued animals back into the wild using modern science and creating a band of wildlife veterinarians in the process, training, equipping and building the morale of over 25,000 frontline forest guards and watchers and conducting innovative rapid action projects across the country. WTI has devised and run projects that has protected the largest fish in the world the whale shark (the first fish to be protected in independent India), declared community protected areas in two states that between them have tripled effectively a World Heritage site and secured over 1000 ha in elephant corridor, solved a perennial train hit problem (no elephant deaths for seven consecutive years now) for elephants in a site that was extremely accident prone among others.

In the process in a short ten years, it has leapfrogged to be one of the most active conservation groups in the country. This paper looks at the conservation models created by WTI in these ten years of intense conservation action that can be used as exemplars by other groups working across the globe. Emphasis is placed on projects that have used innovative techniques successfully and on learnings that have universal currency. A section of the paper also deals with management issues that have to be tackled while building up such a group and talks of fundamental principles that have ensured the success of the organization

SS015

Kangaroo - 'Protected' Wildlife Betrayed

Teresa Buss-Carden, Richard Jones, Howard Ralph, Steve Garlick, Lindy Stacker

World League for Protection of Animals, Sydney, NSW, Australia

The session will concentrate on debunking the myths and stating the realities of the fate of this internationally recognised symbol - the betrayed Aussie icon – the kangaroo.

For many years kangaroos, although protected by law, were regarded as pests by landholders, who believed the now disproved myth that kangaroos compete heavily with cattle and sheep for food.

When scientific studies proved that competition was minimal, wildlife management agencies were obliged to change the rationale for issuing killing licences from one of damage mitigation, to that of 'sustainable use'.

An industry that has grown up based on the perceived need for killing kangaroos demands its commercial quotas, irrespective of the fact that kangaroo populations have been drastically reduced by prolonged drought. This puts significant pressure on remnant populations.

Another consequence is an increasing toll on females and their young. The pouch young are bashed to death and young at foot left to die of starvation or predation.

Some environmentalists regard the eating of kangaroo meat as 'green' in spite of the fact that the mass slaughter of kangaroos results in environmental disaster (genetic pool weakened, quasi extinction of some species, diminished ability of kangaroos to play their natural role in sustaining biodiversity in affected regions).

Many tourists state that their reason for coming to Australia is to see kangaroos and other wildlife in the wild. The tourism industry is worth \$85 billion, compared to the claimed \$270 million of the kangaroo industry. Aren't kangaroos worth much more alive than dead?



SS016

Free Living Cat Colonies – Part of the Cityscape. Tolerant Co-existence

Teresa Buss-Carden, Halina Thompson, Joan Papayanni

World League for Protection of Animals, Sydney, NSW, Australia

The World League for Protection of Animals Inc., whose logo is "Remember animals ... They feel hunger, thirst, heat, cold, pain, fear and loneliness", approaches the concept of free living cat colonies from a "no kill" perspective and the belief that all healthy animals have the right to live out their lives.

The phenomenon of free living colony cats in cities occurs only because of failure to desex companion cats and dumping possibly because a cat may have been purchased un-desexed from a pet shop on impulse or via a "free to good home" advertisement.

Many people like to relate to these colony cats who often become trusting and friendly. It is also a widely held view that the principles of Trap, Neuter and Return is the most effective method of controlling numbers of free living colony cats. Of course, colonies need to be responsibly managed with regular and back-up feeders who will also monitor the physical condition and numbers of these cats and arrange veterinary attention when necessary. If the colony is suitably located away from sensitive bush land areas it can also perform a useful function in effectively controlling mice and rats.

We believe society has a definite ethical responsibility towards all living sentient creatures and, in particular, to those whose very existence results from lack of care and human irresponsibility.

SS017

Advocacy for all animals and the environmentalist policy to exterminate wild feral animals

Mark Pearson, Lynda Stoner

Animal Liberation (NSW), Sydney, NSW, Australia

Millions of 'unwanted' animals in Australia are killed every year in extremely cruel and brutal ways. If these methods were used to kill other 'wanted' animals, perpetrators would face severe penalties, including possible imprisonment.

This presentation will explore this controversial and challenging issue and will seriously put into question the whole manner in which we kill these animals and how governments accept and promote a fundamentally flawed and deceptive program to apparently "control the threat of invasive species".

We will examine how the inherently violent and brutal methods used to kill these 'unwanted' animals, being so openly supported by most of the environment movement, strikes at the very core of the principles underpinning the ethics upon which true environmentalism is meant to have.

It will also be revealed how the methods used to kill these animals are driven by profits for big business which have no interest in considering more effective and far more humane methods of reducing and controlling animal numbers.

This presentation will also expose how the hunting 'fraternity', which enjoys maiming and killing sentient beings, hides behind a façade of protecting the environment yet at the same time, not only advocates for children to participate in blood 'sports', but also has a clear interest in ensuring the apparent 'unwanted' animals *remain* in the environment for the future thrill of the 'chase', maim and kill.

SS018

Minding bears, dogs and cats in Asia

Jill Robinson

Animals Asia Foundation, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

The Animals Asia Foundation (AAF) is a non-governmental organisation whose primary mission is to end the practice of farming bears for bile extraction in China and Vietnam (www.animalsasia.org). This practice is legal in China and involves an estimated 7,000 bears, primarily Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*). In Vietnam bear farming was outlawed in 1992, although the illegal practice was allowed to continue until consequently the number of bears illicitly used for bile extraction rose from a few hundred, to an estimated 4,000 bears today.

Since 1993, team members of Animals Asia have conducted both overt and covert investigations of over 50 bear farms across Asia and continue to research the industry through interviews with Government officials, Traditional Medicine practitioners, stakeholders in the trade and the bear farmers themselves. Since opening Rescue Centres in China and Vietnam, Animals Asia personnel have spent thousands of hours performing surgeries and collating evidence from over 280 rescued bears which have been released from bear farms.

Ultimately there remains a compelling argument for ending bear farming.

Research and evidence establishes the inhumanity of bear bile farming on the grounds that it severely and unavoidably compromises the physical and psychological health of the bears and that it violates every code of ethical conduct regarding the treatment of animals. All considerations of ethics, wildlife conservation, veterinary medicine and, ultimately, economics, lead to the conclusion that bear bile farming is an unacceptable practice and must end.

Pet ownership is booming in Asia and today there are over 150 million pet dogs throughout China. Yet millions of dogs and cats are still brutally slaughtered for food. Under the umbrella of "Friends or Food"

Animals Asia is spearheading programmes which provide local animal lovers with a platform to speak out. In addition, by strengthening our relationship to the animal world through community programmes like Dr Dog and Professor Paws, which promote compassion for dogs through first hand experience, while generating publicity for companion animals, we are working towards a new era of compassion and towards the day when dogs and cats are our friends....not food.

500 Confucius Institutes Worldwide by 2010 China.org.cn 15 February 2007 Chinanews (accessed 19 April 2009 <http://www.china.org.cn/english/education/200268.htm>)