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WSPA: a strategic partner with the global veterinary profession in promoting good animal welfare

12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East  
23-26 September 2013  
Amman – Jordan
Outline

• Overview: WSPA, animal welfare and the OIE
• Four main programme areas of WSPA
• Concepts in Animal Welfare; an education resource
• Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare
• Animal Protection Index
• Global Veterinary Engagement Strategy
• Middle East Activities
• Summary
Vision

A world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty has ended.

We move the world to protect animals.
Welfare definition (OIE)

An *animal* is in a good state of *welfare* if it is:
- Healthy
- Comfortable
- Well nourished
- Safe
- Able to express innate behaviour
- Not suffering pain, fear or distress

……. coping with the conditions in which it lives
World Society for the Protection of Animals

WSPA Regional Offices

- Africa
  - Kenya
- Asia, Pacific and Oceania
  - China, India, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand
- Europe
  - Denmark, Sweden, Holland, UK
- North America
  - USA Canada
- South America
  - Brazil, Colombia
- Middle East
WSPA and OIE agreement to collaborate (2007)

• Role and responsibilities of the veterinary profession in animal welfare
• Develop and revise international animal welfare standards and guidelines
• Control and eradicate serious animal diseases, including zoonoses
• Develop dialogue and shared positions for issues that interest both Animal Welfare NGOs and the OIE
Previous Middle East meetings

11th Conference, Beirut 2011
Dr. David Wilkins
(ex-Chief Veterinary Adviser)

Focal Point for Animal Welfare
Beirut 2012, Dr. Ian Dacre

Dr David Bayvel CVA
Four main programme areas:

• Ending Inhumane Culling
• Humane and Sustainable Agriculture
• Disaster Management
• Oceans, wildlife trade and ending the captivity of bears
Veterinary Education: Animal Welfare Education

3rd edition
Concepts in Animal Welfare

http://animalmosaic.org/education/
Ruth De Vere, Head of Education
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Role of OIE in Animal Welfare
Module 35

In this lecture you will learn

- What the OIE is
- Objectives
- Structure
- OIE Specialist Commissions
- OIE Standard Setting
- OIE Animal Welfare Working Group Mandate
Analysis of national legislation related to the keeping and sale of exotic pets in Europe

The lack of proper regulations on the keeping of exotic pet animals and insufficient knowledge of private keepers undermine the welfare and health of both humans and animals and poses a threat to biodiversity.

Animal Mosaic
This website provides information, resources and forums to enable people from diverse backgrounds to learn, interact and work together towards a better future for both animals and humans. Animal Mosaic is an open platform powered by the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

http://www.animalmosaic.org/sentience/
Looking back to map the future: The road ahead for animal sentience research

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Introduction
Animals can feel and suffer, which is why they are used extensively as human models in research, why laws exist to protect them and why there are thousands of animal protection groups seeking to end animal cruelty around the world. We sought to systematically review the scientific literature to determine what emotions and behaviours have been explored and in which species, and the level of acceptance among scientists on the existence of subjective states in animals.

Method
We compiled a list of 174 keywords comprised of emotions, behaviours and terms associated with animal sentience. We used this list to search two journal databases: Science Direct and Ingenta Connect.

We then asked the following questions for each identified article:
- Why was the study performed?
- Which species was studied?
- Was the study assuming or exploring the existence of the keyword in the animal?
- Was the keyword referring to a positive, negative or neutral state?

Other questions not presented here included: the experimental setting of the study, where the study took place and the publication date.

Results
We collected a total of 2,804 papers from the searches and found the following results for each question:

Why?
The recorded purposes for the studies fell into three overarching categories: human benefit (e.g. pharmaceutical development), animal welfare, and animal behaviour. There were significantly more studies performed for human benefit than for either animal welfare or animal behaviour ($X^2 = 1462.344, df = 2; P < 0.001$).

Which species?
We found the top taxonomical groups to be vertebrates (99%), Mammalia (92%), Rodentia (69%) and rats (92%), changing to Artiodactyla and pigs once the ‘human benefit’ studies were removed. Figures 1 and 2 show the breakdown of the top five orders and species found in the reviewed articles.

Assumed or explored?
We found the majority of studies to have assumed the emotions, traits or behaviours in the animals studied as opposed to exploring the existence of the traits in the animals ($X^2 = 2487.4, df = 1; P < 0.001$).

Keywords?
The top five keywords of ‘fear’, ‘stress’, ‘pain’, ‘anxiety’ and ‘depression’ returned 74% of the articles. Furthermore, some of the keywords were assumed in a range of species and orders. For example, the keyword ‘stress’ was assumed for 31 different orders and ‘fear’ was assumed for 17 orders.

Positive, negative or neutral?
We found that 92% of the articles looked at negative keywords, compared with only 7% looking at positive keywords. The remaining 2% were looking at neutral keywords such as ‘personality’.

Discussion
The number of studies assuming these keywords in animals clearly shows that there is greater consensus around animal emotions than is often assumed. However, the lack of ‘explored’ articles suggests that research into animal sentience is not increasing as is often thought to be the case (Boissy et al 2007; Cottee 2012). This may be detrimental to animal welfare, as understanding the subjective minds of animals is essential for improving their welfare (Proctor 2012). Furthermore, there was a strong bias towards the study of negative keywords, which was still the case once the human benefit studies were removed. This is of concern as animal welfare science should be considering the promotion of positive states in animals as well as the reduction of negative ones (Boissy et al 2007; Broom 2010; Duncan 2005; Mellor 2012).

Conclusion
This review demonstrates that evidence of animal sentience is widespread. Animal sentience is often thought to be complex and impossible to measure, whereas we have shown that subjective states in animals are measured every day in studies performed for human medicine. This suggests that animal emotions are not only essential to such research, but can be measured in a manner that is credible enough for human medical research. This is a powerful argument for animal welfare advocates to use against the critics of animal sentience. Future research needs to focus on the positive aspects of animal sentience, as lives that are free from pain and suffering are improved, but a good life is one that includes joy and pleasure too.
A Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare

- Animals are living, sentient beings and therefore deserve consideration and respect;
- Veterinarians have an essential role in maintaining both the health and welfare of animals
- OIE role in setting global standards
- Declarations are non-binding, but carry considerable persuasive force and contribute to the formation of new principles of international law
The Animal Protection Index

- Ranking of the animal welfare policy and legislation of countries and governments around the world
- Based on a set of core indicators
- Published as an annual report; first publication expected by 2014
Global Veterinary Engagement Strategy

• Greater collaboration with the veterinary profession
• Wide range of initiatives to improve animal welfare where vets have a central role
• Pragmatic and scientific approach
• Opportunistic and incremental progress
• Animal welfare seen as a cross – cutting priority along with other concerns
Memorandum of Understanding

- Agreements formalised
  - International (OIE, WVA)
  - Regional (CVA, FAVA)
  - National (CVMA)
- Action plans
Examples of work in the Middle East 2013

- Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare
  - promoted in UAE/Qatar/Israel/KSA
- Memorandum of Understanding
  - Dubai municipality and Qatar Ministry of Environment
- Working Equines
  - Palestine & Israel
- Humane Slaughter Association
  - Dubai delegate visited UK, plans to implement welfare improvement in poultry unit
- Disaster Management
  - Strategy planning workshop, UAE
- Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare
  - UAE
Middle East Programmes Manager
Alistair Findlay
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Summary

- Main programme areas
- Concepts in Animal Welfare; an education resource
- Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare
- Animal Protection Index
- Global Veterinary Engagement Strategy
Shokran شكرا
Any questions?