The role of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) in the global development of animal welfare science

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History

- 1966: Established as Society for Veterinary Ethology (SVE), the first academic organization for the scientific study of applied ethology, with 37 founding members – all veterinarians. First Congress held in Edinburgh.
- 1991: Renamed the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) to reflect geographical spread and broader specialties of membership.
- 2016: Celebrated 50th Anniversary with Congress in Edinburgh, attended by 568 delegates. Recognized as the principal professional society in the world, for applied ethology and animal welfare science.

The Aims of the Society

1. To encourage and support basic and applied research into the behaviour of animals related to the use of animals by humans, including domestic, zoo, laboratory, companion, pest and captive animals or managed wild animals.
2. To provide an international forum in which scientists can communicate and discuss the results of the above research. This can be achieved by organising or encouraging scientific meetings and by encouraging scientific publications.
3. To encourage links between applied animal behaviour science and other disciplines, realised by encouraging presentations, discussions and publications and by maintaining contacts with appropriate scientific societies.
4. To encourage and support the teaching of animal behaviour in research and academic institutions, especially veterinary schools, departments of animal science and animal production, and departments concerned with laboratory or companion animals or captive wildlife.
5. To provide a pool of expertise to national governments, international bodies, industry and to those animal welfare organisations which deal with problems involving animal behaviour. To encourage the assimilation of scientific knowledge so as to facilitate its use in relation to practical problems concerning the way animals are kept and cared for.

ISAE Regions and Countries with Members

Membership

- 624 members (37 countries, 6 continents, 11 geographical regions)
- Scientific backgrounds in animal behavior and animal welfare science
- Active in research, teaching and outreach
  - Farm animals
  - Companion animals
  - Laboratory animals
  - Zoo animals
  - Human/wildlife interface

Activity

- Interdisciplinary representation: ethology, physiology, pathology, health, immunology, endocrinology, neuroscience, ethics
- International congress & regional meetings annually
- Experts assigned to:
  - Council of Europe
  - Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest
  - Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC)
  - ASAB Certification scheme for Animal Behaviourists
  - Review of EU Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes

ISAE and OIE share many common goals, and ISAE members are active within the OIE framework:

1. Participants in OIE Animal Welfare Working Group & ad hoc groups
2. Members of OIE Collaborating Centers including animal welfare components
3. Authors of chapters in Animal Welfare: Focusing on the Future
4. Serving as OIE National Focal Points for animal welfare
5. Authors and contributors in national responses to OIE draft documents
6. Establishing and delivering courses to meet OIE-mandated competencies in animal welfare for veterinarians

OIE activities surrounding animal welfare are stronger through the expert input of ISAE members, and the ISAE would welcome greater formal collaboration.

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