

EDITORIAL

There have been a number of new developments at UFAW following last year's review of our activities and priorities. First, as part of our endeavours to encourage high quality science likely to lead to substantial advances in animal welfare, a scheme has been launched to award UFAW Animal Welfare Research Training Scholarships to enable promising veterinary or science graduates to undertake 3-year programmes of research leading to doctoral degrees. The first of these scholarships, which are open to students at appropriate academic departments in the UK, was advertised in February and is to be awarded in July this year. On this occasion, UFAW is particularly keen to receive applications for studies that: (i) may lead to significant developments in the assessment of the welfare of animals; or (ii) aim to provide new insights into those subjective mental experiences of animals relevant to their welfare. However, recognizing that important breakthroughs can come from unforeseen quarters, applications for projects investigating other aspects of animal welfare science will also be considered. Application is a two-stage process. Initially, supervisors are required to submit a brief concept note and then selected applicants will be invited to submit more detailed proposals prepared jointly by the supervisor and the PhD candidate. Subject to adequate funding, we hope to offer one of these prestigious scholarships each year.

UFAW will continue to fund research and developments in animal welfare in other ways. The Vacation Scholarship scheme, which has been running since 1983, has been a great success. Each year it enables 12 undergraduates to develop their interests in animal welfare by undertaking research projects during their summer vacations. Additional awards are also made to support specific projects and travel and new application forms for these are now available from UFAW.

Another UFAW priority is the teaching of animal welfare at the tertiary level. Our staff are already involved in teaching on a number of university and college courses. New introductory lectures, which will be suitable for inclusion in biological - and other - science courses where animal welfare and ethics are not covered at present, are currently being prepared.

We are very pleased with the continuing development of the Journal and intend to run occasional special issues focusing on particular aspects of animal welfare and animal welfare science. The topical subject for the first of these special issues is the welfare implications of genetic change in animals, arising from modern artificial techniques, through traditional selective breeding and from natural processes (eg inbreeding in relict populations). This subject is relevant to farm, laboratory, companion, wild and zoo animals. We are calling for papers for this special issue to be submitted by the end of October 1998. Publication is provisionally scheduled for August 1999 (Volume 8, Number 3). Papers will be refereed in the usual way, but, in addition, we are delighted that Professor Bert Van Zutphen, of the University of Utrecht, and Professor Peter Bedford, of the Royal Veterinary College, London, have agreed to act as Guest Editors for this issue. We would be grateful if you would draw attention to our call for papers to those who may wish to contribute (see our advertisement in this issue).

Finally, after over 20 years at 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, UFAW has relocated to new premises. The move was necessary to provide more accommodation for UFAW and its fellow organization, the Humane Slaughter Association, both of which have grown over the

years. Our new address is The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN. The building dates from the early 19th century and was used as a school until about 20 years ago when it was converted into offices. It is suitably distinctive in style, being adorned with a bell tower. UFAW plays a key role in promoting a scientific approach to animal welfare, and these new premises provide an ideal base for the Charity's endeavours into the next century.

May 1998

*James K Kirkwood
Editor-in-Chief*