

Improving the welfare of animals through veterinary science, education and debate

# BVA Animal Welfare Foundation

Annual review 2009



**BVA ANIMAL  
WELFARE  
FOUNDATION**



Registered charity 287118



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# ABOUT US

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**Our mission —**  
To improve the welfare  
of animals through  
veterinary science,  
education and debate

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## **Our work**

The BVA Animal Welfare Foundation was established 26 years ago by members of the veterinary profession with the proceeds of a generous legacy. Today's trustees continue to be drawn from the profession and are all qualified veterinary surgeons, making them ideally placed to identify animal welfare problems and propose practical solutions.

1. We fund **research** projects that have a practical and positive impact on raising standards of animal welfare and which are based on sound scientific veterinary principles.
2. We **stimulate debate** on animal welfare issues.
3. We promote and develop **welfare education** and enhance welfare-related teaching in the UK veterinary schools. We work with students entering the profession to improve their knowledge of animal welfare issues.
4. We produce and promote informative, evidence-based information to the general public to encourage **responsible pet ownership** and high standards of animal welfare.
5. We **influence** and contribute to the development of the British Veterinary Association's welfare policy.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In many ways the Foundation which emerged from 2009 was much stronger than the one that entered it.

Our flagship event, the Discussion Forum, continued its growth in popularity and influence, and in September veterinary students from across the UK enthused about our Welfare Forum. As 2009 drew to a close we reviewed the findings of the market research we had commissioned and began to plot a positive path for the Foundation's development in 2010 and beyond.

We were delighted to form successful working relationships with external organisations and individuals. We brought together the leading animal welfare bodies to seek practical solutions to dog breeding issues that attracted widespread concern and media attention. The British Veterinary Association's specialist divisions provided their species expertise as we updated and extended our range of educational resources, and volunteers gave their time as tutors at our student welfare forum.

We bade farewell to two trustees; Simon Adams and Nick Blayney, both having served the charity with distinction, and welcomed Joanne Fielder on board. We also said farewell to Gavin Strang, former MP for Edinburgh East, who has graciously hosted our annual House of Commons Reception for many years. I would also like to thank our BVA AWF

Divisional Representatives, who spread the word about our work throughout the veterinary profession.

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## We brought together the leading animal welfare bodies to seek practical solutions to dog breeding issues

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In 2009 more than two-thirds of our income came from generous people who remembered BVA AWF in their Will. The work that the BVA AWF does to improve animal welfare just would not happen without these generous gifts and we are thankful to all of our donors for their support and contribution to the Foundation's success.

This review allows us to look back and celebrate the year's achievements and to learn from those things that did not go quite as planned. It also offers an insight into our plans and direction for 2010 and beyond. On behalf of the trustees I invite you to join us on that journey.



Carl Padgett BVMS CertCHP MRCVS  
**BVA AWF Chairman of Trustees**



© Steve Vanhorn

# OUR HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS

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## Finding practical solutions to a growing welfare issue

Dogs were high on the agenda throughout 2009. Issues surrounding the breeding of pedigree dogs, dangerous dogs and the responsibilities of dog owners all hit the headlines in the mainstream national press. Organisations at the forefront of animal welfare awaited the findings of the Bateson and APGAW reviews into pedigree dog breeding. But our trustees were not content to sit and wait, and felt that practical action could be taken specifically to educate potential dog owners before they made their purchase.

## Our trustees were not content to sit and wait, and felt practical action could be taken

In March we brought together representatives from the Blue Cross, Companion Animal Welfare Council, Defra, Dogs Trust, The Kennel Club, PDSA, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (as observers), RSPCA and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW).

In a positive example of looking at the bigger picture, political differences were put to one side as the group worked together to establish how their

collaboration could lead to a series of approaches designed to result in an immediate improvement in the welfare of dogs.

### Advice for prospective dog owners

We ended the year on a high with the release of the first output from the Dog Breeding Stakeholder Group—*Guidance on choosing your new dog*. Aimed at potential pet owners, the guidance contains 10 practical guidelines to help potential owners to choose the right puppy for them. The guidance sends a strong and united message to potential dog owners to do their homework before buying a new dog or puppy.

### More evidence of the harmful effects of obesity in horses and ponies

Laminitis is a painful and debilitating condition that affects the feet of horses and ponies. With Merial Animal Health Ltd we co-funded a major study which examined the factors that affect the likelihood of recovery from laminitis.

Conducted by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), the study documented laminitis cases over a four-year period and produced some important findings.

Overweight animals that developed laminitis tended to have more severe signs than those of optimal weight and were more likely to die of the disease than their thinner counterparts. In addition, animals with the best outcome tended to be

those that had received acepromazine, a drug that improves the blood supply to the feet and relaxes the animal.

In June we issued a press release encouraging horse owners and vets to ensure that horses and ponies were not allowed to become excessively fat, as this could have devastating effects on their health and welfare. The report's findings were also published on our website and horse-related websites.

### Pet travel campaign collaboration

To coincide with EU Veterinary Week (28 September–4 October 2009) we launched a pet travel poster campaign in association with the BVA and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Distributed free to veterinary surgeons in the September 19 issue of *The Veterinary Record*, BVA's journal, the poster reminded pet owners to ask their vets about preventive treatments and advertised our free *Taking your pets abroad* leaflet, which provides information on the more common diseases encountered abroad and how to prevent or avoid them.

### Christmas is a time for...pet safety!

As our thoughts turned to the Christmas festivities, we used a press campaign to re-launch our *Pets and poisons* leaflet to warn owners of the additional dangers for pets in substances found in and around the home during the festive season.

# OUR GRANT MAKING

The BVA AWF supports research which can provide practical solutions to the health and welfare problems of animals that can be implemented in day-to-day veterinary practice.

We welcome applications from both veterinary practitioners and researchers and aim to make our application process as straightforward and transparent as possible. Trustees meet three times a year to consider applications.

Our close links to the BVA, which has over 12,000 members, provides the Foundation with excellent opportunities to disseminate important research findings and to influence the policy and practice of the veterinary profession.

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**We welcome applications from both veterinary practitioners and researchers**

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In 2009 we had two major funds available to support research, the Norman Hayward Fund and the GP West Fund.

#### **Norman Hayward Fund**

The Norman Hayward Fund considers applications for research into the diseases and welfare of sheep, cattle and horses. Applications are welcomed from both academic and practice-based researchers who can demonstrate that their proposal will have a practical impact on the welfare of these animals.

To ensure that our grant making targets topical issues, we consult with our BVA AWF Divisional Representatives, who help us to identify welfare issues at the grassroots level.

#### **GP West Fund**

The GP West Fund was established from a legacy gift to BVA AWF from Geoffrey Philip West, the author of *Black's Veterinary Dictionary*. This is a small fund to support feline research.

The case studies featured in this review are good examples of the types of project that we are keen to support. They meet our objective to support research that has a practical and positive impact on raising standards in animal welfare and which is based on sound scientific veterinary principles.

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We did not award any grants from the GP West Fund in 2009 and welcome applications in 2010. We will undertake more publicity and promotion of the Fund.

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# SUPPORTING VETERINARY RESEARCH

These are two examples of very different projects that the trustees chose to support. What the projects have in common is that they meet our criteria to support evidence-based research that has a practical and positive impact on raising standards in animal welfare.

## **Facial expression of pain in horses**

Pain is a complex, dynamic, physiological and emotional phenomenon that leads to suffering and distress in animals. Anecdotally, many owners report that they can tell if their horse is in pain by looking at its face. This project, conducted by researchers at Bristol University is a scientific way of studying this.

The assessment and identification of pain in horses presents owners and veterinary surgeons with a significant challenge since there are currently no reliable, repeatable pain assessment tools validated for use in this species.

With an estimated 1 million horses in the UK alone, this pilot one-year study has the potential to be of benefit to a large number of animals. Researchers will use an innovative and novel approach — ‘kinematic’ analysis of facial movements — to develop a method of pain assessment in horses.

Researchers will analyse and compare facial expressions of horses that have undergone routine procedures at the University’s Veterinary School with facial expression in ‘normal’ situations.

## **The assessment and identification of pain in horses presents owners and veterinary surgeons with a significant challenge**

The research could ultimately lead to the development of a pain assessment tool which could be used by owners and veterinary surgeons to identify pain in horses. Improved recognition and treatment of pain will have far-reaching welfare benefits for horses.

The team at Bristol University will provide a report on the progress of the study in November 2010.

## **Maximising value of extramural study (EMS) placements on cattle, sheep and horse units**

This ambitious three-year collaborative project between Bristol and Glasgow Universities aims to maximise the value of pre-clinical EMS to students, farmers/horse owners and animals.

The project involves the development and validation of tools for welfare assessment, health planning and ethical reflection for use by pre-clinical veterinary students on their EMS

placements on cattle, sheep and horse units. These will enhance the ability of the students to apply formal, scientifically valid, practical welfare assessment in the field and enable them to ethically appraise what they see and do.

The ethical reflection tool, named the Animal Welfare Associated Reflective Exercise (AWARE), has been piloted with first-year vet students at Glasgow University and received a positive response, with more than 95 per cent of students agreeing that they felt it improved their ability to reflect on their experiences and to recognise ethical issues. The project got underway in October 2009.

# THE WAY FORWARD: OUR PLANS FOR 2010

## Strategic direction

In 2009 we received a report on the results of market research conducted by external consultants. The research included a survey of the BVA's members.

Trustees were heartened by the report's finding that survey respondents were supportive when the stated aims and objectives of the Foundation were described to them. However, the report also revealed that awareness of our work was low, even amongst the veterinary profession. Respondents also expressed confusion about the nature of the Foundation's relationship to the BVA.

Our original intention stated in the 2008 annual review was to use the market research to re-examine our advertising strategy. However, the report's findings, and a report about the options for the Foundation's future development produced by trustee Sean Wensley, led us to conclude that a much broader review of our strategy was required.

As a first step in addressing the huge task of defining a strategy for the Foundation for the next few years, our Way Forward Group (a sub-committee of trustees) reviewed the research findings in detail. The Group developed a number of recommendations in relation to the vision, mission statement, strategic objectives and the name of the charity.

The trustees will review the recommendations from the Way Forward Group and set detailed operational objectives in 2010.

## Encouraging responsible pet ownership

The idea of a puppy contract and health information pack to safeguard the rights of potential purchasers and breeders was considered during 2009 by the BVA AWF Dog Breeding Stakeholder Group (DBSG).

The DBSG agreed that an effective way to take this project forward would be for the RSPCA and BVA AWF to form a working group to develop the contract and write a 'way forward plan', including options for marketing and PR. The 'way forward plan' will be presented to the rest of the stakeholders for their consideration.

We will continue to work with the RSPCA on this important and high-profile project in 2010.

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### **Supporting veterinary research**

To improve our grant making process and reduce the number of inappropriate funding requests that we receive, applicants seeking more than £10,000 from the Norman Hayward Fund will be asked to complete a project overview proposal. Trustees will review the project overview and decide whether to invite applicants to submit a full funding proposal.

### **Improving animal welfare through education**

We will increase the number of places available for final-year veterinary students who attend the Welfare Forum and ensure representation from all of the UK veterinary schools. To achieve this objective 60 places will be made available in 2010.

We will produce a guidance leaflet aimed at vets, which will detail the current legislation on tail docking and offer advice on what to do when presented with a docked puppy.

We will revise and reprint one of our most popular leaflets—*What makes my pet happy?*.

### **Risk management**

A full review of the Foundation's risk assessment document will be conducted in 2010.

Improving  
the welfare of  
animals through  
**veterinary**  
**science, education**  
and *debate*

# IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE

## Welfare teaching: Animal Welfare Forum

In September 2009 we returned to Lancaster University for what has become an important event in our calendar, the Animal Welfare Forum for final-year veterinary students.

The Forum provides a safe, fun environment in which students can consider a selection of ethical dilemmas that they are likely to face when they enter the veterinary profession.

"The Forum gave me the confidence that I will be able to deal with these sorts of situations."

"The tutors were fantastic. The fact that they all had different backgrounds and careers meant they had different ideas to offer."

## The use of role-play to illustrate the scenarios adds a light-hearted feel to the event

The students are encouraged to consider the differing viewpoints of people involved in a variety of real-life scenarios, relevant legal frameworks, their own

ethical position and animal welfare considerations. The use of role-play to illustrate the scenarios adds a light-hearted feel to the event.

Forum tutors come from a range of veterinary backgrounds. What they all share is expertise, a wealth of experience in veterinary practice and the generosity to give their time free of charge to help with the professional development of the next generation of veterinary surgeons.



We would like to thank the **Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust** for its kind sponsorship of the 2009 Forum.

# IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE

We produce a range of educational resources aimed at the pet-owning public. Our attractive and easy to read leaflets and posters are designed to educate pet owners about the welfare needs of their pets.

Each year we distribute thousands of leaflets and posters to veterinary practices which are displayed in their waiting room and included in information packs for clients. We do not charge for the leaflets but we do ask for donations to help with the cost of production and postage.



\*Available to download from [www.bva-awf.org.uk/resources/leaflets](http://www.bva-awf.org.uk/resources/leaflets)

## New for 2009

### Guidance on choosing a puppy\*

Produced by the Dog Breeding Stakeholder Group, this informative guide offers practical advice to prospective owners on what they should consider before purchasing a puppy or older dog.

### An introduction to goat keeping

Curious, engaging animals that can make friendly and rewarding pets, goats also need daily care and a high level of commitment. This new leaflet, produced in association with the British Goat Society, provides basic guidance on goat welfare needs.

### Ornamental fish keeping

Produced in collaboration with the Fish Veterinary Society, this leaflet offers advice on choosing which type of fish to buy from the myriad of varieties available, and how to ensure that they remain healthy and happy.

### Revised booklet for pig farmers

The BVA AWF funded a revision to *The Casualty Pig* booklet produced by the Pig Veterinary Society. Intended for use by farm stock keepers, abattoir staff, veterinary surgeons and transporters, the booklet contains guidance on the care, treatment and euthanasia of the casualty pig. Copies of *The Casualty Pig* can be obtained by contacting BVA AWF trustee David Chennells at [acornhousevets@btconnect.com](mailto:acornhousevets@btconnect.com)

"All of us feel very strongly that educating potential puppy and dog owners to make the right choices is an essential part of promoting responsible breeding and responsible pet ownership."

**Nicky Paul**  
BVA AWF trustee and  
BVA Past-President



Visit [www.bva-awf.org.uk](http://www.bva-awf.org.uk) to download our range of leaflets, posters and films

# ENCOURAGING DEBATE... INFLUENCING OPINION

The aim of the Forum is to use the expertise of our audience to generate practical suggestions that will improve an aspect of animal welfare

Our annual Discussion Forum encourages lively debate about topical issues in animal welfare. The Forum brings together authoritative expert speakers and an invited audience of over 130 delegates from across the veterinary and animal welfare spectrums.

Always topical, Forum sessions in 2009 addressed ethical dilemmas faced by veterinary surgeons in relation to both companion and farm animal species; global warming and animal welfare; animal obesity; and welfare teaching.

The aim of the Forum is to use the expertise of our audience to generate practical suggestions that will improve an aspect of animal welfare.

Joep Driessen, an expert in cattle communication who advises farmers and vets on understanding cow 'body language', delivered a presentation entitled 'Welfare problems in high genetic

merit cows', which led to a spirited debate about dairy cow welfare. This issue was subsequently considered by the BVA's Ethics and Welfare Group, which produced a policy statement and press release calling for vets to do more to educate farmers to improve dairy cow welfare ([www.bva.co.uk/activity\\_and\\_advice/1673.aspx](http://www.bva.co.uk/activity_and_advice/1673.aspx))

An evening reception at the House of Commons, held jointly with the BVA, followed the Forum.

Kindly hosted by Gavin Strang MP, the reception provided an ideal opportunity for Forum attendees to discuss the day's events with parliamentarians.

"Another tremendous programme, delivered in a lively and interactive way"

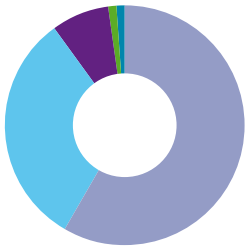
"A really useful forum to keep abreast of topical welfare issues"

#### Feedback from delegates



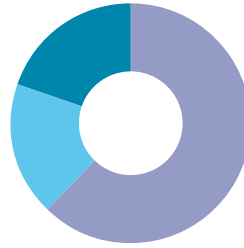
# OUR FINANCES

## Incoming resources 2009



■ Legacies	£94,023
■ Investment	£51,012
■ Donations	£12,553
■ Fundraising	£1,614
■ Other income	£1,828

## Resources expended 2009



■ Charitable activities	£101,791
■ Cost of generating funds	£31,952
■ Governance costs	£29,847

### Summary financial information

This summary has been extracted from the audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2009, approved by the trustees for submission to the Charity Commission.

The full set of accounts is available on the BVA AWF and Charity Commission websites.

# OUR PEOPLE

The BVA AWF is managed by a board of 13 trustees including the BVA President and Past-President. Trustees may serve a maximum of two three-year terms.

## Chairman of Trustees

Carl Padgett BVMS CertCHP MRCVS

## Trustees

David Chennells VetMB MA CertPM MRCVS  
 Tiffany Cottrell BVMS MSc PhD DACVPM (epidemiology) CertWEL MRCVS RAVC  
 Joanne Fielder BVM&S MRCVS  
 Pete Goddard BVetMed PhD MRCVS  
 Emma Goodman-Milne BVSc MRCVS  
 David Harwood BVetMed MRCVS  
 Andrea Nolan MVB PhD MRCVS  
 Pete Southgate BVetMed MSc MRCVS  
 Andrew Trawford BVSc MSc MRCVS  
 Sean Wensley BVSc MSc Grad.DMS MRCVS  
 Bill Reilly BVMS BSc DVSM FFPHM DipECVPH HonFRCVS, BVA President  
 Nicky Paull BVSc MRCVS, BVA Past-President

## Trustees retired 2009

Simon Adams BVM&S BSc MRCVS  
 Nick Blayney BVSc MRCVS

## Staff

Florence Bowman BVA AWF Administration Manager  
 Elizabeth Price BVA AWF Administration Manager (until December 2009)

## Advisers

### Auditors

Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP  
 St Bride's House, 10 Salisbury Square  
 London EC4Y 8EH

### Bankers

Coutts & Co  
 440 Strand  
 London WC2R 0QS

### Investment Advisors

HSBC Investments  
 78 St James's Street  
 London SW1A 1HL

### Solicitors

Reynolds Porter Chamberlain  
 Chichester House, 278–282 High Holborn  
 London WC1V 7HA

### Land Agent

John Drake & Co  
 Chartered Valuation Surveyors, Land Agents and  
 Planning Consultants  
 Smith's Farm, Yardley Road  
 Olney MK46 5EH

# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK

We could not do any of the work that you have read about in this review without the support of people who care as much as we do about animal welfare.

We are extremely grateful to the many individuals and organisations who continue to support our work through donations, volunteering and remembering us in their Will.

## Leaving a legacy

In 2009 almost 60 per cent of our income came from legacies, allowing us to invest in improving the welfare of animals. In fact, it was thanks to a generous bequest from Coleen MacLeod in 1983 that the BVA was able to establish the BVA AWF. Making a Will is the best way to ensure that your friends and family have what they need when you are no longer there for them. It also gives you a wonderful opportunity to remember

## A big thank you to NOAH

The trustees were delighted to once again receive the proceeds from the raffle at the National Office of Animal Health's annual dinner in 2009. Over £1,600 was raised by the attendees and their generosity is very much appreciated.

organisations, like the BVA AWF, whose work you value and support. Remembering the Foundation in your Will is one of the most effective ways you can help us continue our work to improve the welfare of animals.

**For more information please telephone 020 7908 6375, email [bva-awf@bva.co.uk](mailto:bva-awf@bva.co.uk) or visit our website at [www.bva-awf.org.uk](http://www.bva-awf.org.uk)**



## Becoming a supporter

If you would like to support our work then please complete this form and return it to:  
BVA AWF, 7 Mansfield Street, London W1G 9NQ

### 1. Your details

Title: .....

Forename(s): .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Postcode: .....

### 3. Your bank details (for regular donations)

Pay to: Coutts & Co, Strand (18-00-02 a/c 59615210)

To the Manager, .....

Branch address: .....

.....

Post code: .....

Account number:

Sortcode:

### 2. Your donation (please delete as appropriate)

- a) I enclose a cheque/postal order in the sum of £ .....
- b) I have completed the standing order details above

The sum of £10 / £20 / £50 / Other ..... every month/quarter/ year with effect from ..... until further notice.  
THIS CANCELS ANY EXISTING INSTRUCTION TO THE PAYEE

## Make every £1 you give worth £1.28 with Gift Aid

I am a UK Tax Payer, and I would like the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation to reclaim the tax on all donations I have made as well as any future donations.  Yes  No

*giftaid it*

I understand that I must have paid an amount of tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount of tax that the charity will claim in the tax year.

Registered office:

**BVA Animal Welfare Foundation**

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London W1G 9NQ  
[www.bva-awf.org.uk](http://www.bva-awf.org.uk)  
[bva-awf@bva.co.uk](mailto:bva-awf@bva.co.uk)

Registered charity number 287118