

Society for Experimental Biology meeting:
**Integrating animal physiology and behaviour: towards ecological
relevance and animal welfare**



A symposium titled 'Integrating Animal Physiology and Behaviour: Towards Ecological Relevance and Animal Welfare' was held at the Society for Experimental Biology Annual Main Meeting in Glasgow on the 3rd and 4th of March, 2007.

The BVA AWF sponsored one of the invited speakers, Dr Lynne Sneddon from the University of Liverpool. Lynne's talk was titled 'Assessing Pain Perception in Fish from Physiology to Behaviour' and highlighted the need to understand whether fish are capable of experiencing negative welfare states during procedures associated with industry and experimentation.

The symposium was strongly supported by scientists from a range of disciplines working with a variety of animals including invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. In total, 19 platform presentations were given (11 invited speakers and several Ph.D. and postdoctoral researchers). Other presentations within the symposium included a talk from Professor Felicity Huntingford, on the different behavioural syndromes documented in fish and the implications of these syndromes for fish welfare, and Professor Jane Hurst, who gave a fascinating insight into the differences in chemical signalling between wild and laboratory strains of mice and potential implications for welfare.

In addition to the spoken presentations, a poster session was run on the evening of the 3rd of March as part of the symposium, allowing extensive discussion of 12 submitted posters. These included a poster by Penny Hawkins, on the use of telemetry in the field and consideration of telemetry methods in relation to animal welfare, and a poster by Lewis Halsey, on estimating energetics in penguins.

The aim of this symposium was to raise awareness of animal welfare among the scientific community, to ensure that studies are robust, ecologically relevant and that knowledge generated can be utilised effectively in improving animal welfare. Feedback from the symposium suggests that it succeeded in being a stimulating and informative session which achieved its aim of priming discussion and collaboration into how current animal biology research can bridge the gap between traditional research and current concerns in animal welfare. Abstracts from this session have now been published in the journal, *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology*, volume 146A (4).