Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2016 AWF Discussion Forum.

We believe that education and debate is the starting point for change, and this year we have a particularly impressive group of speakers hailing from veterinary practice, animal welfare organisations, universities, government and industry. The AWF trustees are extremely grateful to them for giving their time and expertise to help make this event what it is.

I would also like to thank Anthony Chadwick (thewebinarvet.com), who is generously filming the event for us. Videos of all the presentations will be available on our website soon.

Audience participation is a big part of this unique event, so we encourage you to put forward your views and questions to stimulate the discussions today.

We hope that you enjoy the day and leave inspired to use your knowledge and influence to help bring about positive change.

Yours

Dr Tiffany Hemming Chair of Trustees
Animal Welfare Foundation

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Programme

09.45  Registration and coffee

10.15  Introduction: Tiffany Hemming

10.30  Non-traditional companion animals (exotics): legislation or self-regulation?
   Session Chair: Sean Wensley, BVA President
   Setting the scene
   Sheila Voas, Chief Veterinary Officer, Scotland
   Poor welfare leads to harm
   Libby Anderson, OneKind
   Lists and education to prevent harm
   Michael Stanford, British Veterinary Zoological Society

12.30  Lunch

13.30  Welfare, production and economics: how many shades of grey?
   Session Chair: David Chennells, AWF Trustee
   Prophylaxis is my ethical duty
   Mark White, Pig Veterinary Consultant
   The role of vets in intensive farming: how can we use our influence?
   David Main, Bristol University
   Big supermarket perspective
   Sue Lockhart, Sainsbury’s

15.30  Tea

16.00  AWF update: The Links project
   Freda Scott-Park, The Links Group

16.15  The first decade of the Animal Welfare Act: has it worked?
   Session Chair: Chris Laurence, AWF Trustee
   Introduction
   Mike Radford, Aberdeen University
   Successes and limitations—is the Act working for large animals?
   Michael Park, APHA
   Is the Act working from the companion animal and equine perspective?
   David Bowles, RSPCA

17.15  Closing remarks: Tiffany Hemming

Today’s presentations will be available to view again on our website www.bva-awf.org.uk
Non-traditional companion animals (exotics): legislation or self-regulation?

SESSION THEME: Poor welfare in the pet trade is harming non-traditional companion animals (exotic pets). With government consultations on animal establishment licensing this year, we ask what is needed in terms of legislation and owner education. This session seeks to discover what can be done now to improve the welfare of the large variety of exotic pets in the UK.

Sheila Voas, Chief Veterinary Officer, Scotland
Sheila qualified from The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in 1988. She worked in a Yorkshire-based mixed practice for two years before returning to Scotland, where she locummed and worked part-time at a variety of practices. During FMD in 2001 she was a TVI and joined SVS permanently in 2002 working from the Hamilton Office. She became a veterinary adviser to the Scottish Government in 2004 and was named deputy CVO in 2010 and officially became CVO in 2012.

Libby Anderson, OneKind
Libby is the Policy Advisor of the animal protection charity OneKind. Before joining OneKind, Libby worked for the Scottish SPCA and then as a consultant for animal protection groups and local authorities during the passage of the 2006 Act. She was involved in founding the Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare in 1999 and acted as Secretary for several years.

Michael Stanford, British Veterinary Zoological Society
Now senior vice-president of BVZS, Michael qualified from Liverpool University in 1987. After working in an avian and small animal referral practice, he moved to Cheshire to run Birch Heath Veterinary Clinic with his wife. The practice specialises in the veterinary care of non-traditional companion animals, zoo and wildlife patients. In 2006 he was awarded the Diploma of FRCVS by thesis for his work on calcium metabolism in Grey parrots and was granted RCVS Specialist status in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine in 2007. He is a recipient of the BVA William Hunter medal for his paper on the effects of UV-b lighting in parrots. Michael is author of numerous texts associated with avian medicine and he has lectured extensively, both at home and abroad.

Sean Wensley, BVA President, Session chair
Sean qualified from Liverpool Vet School in 2003, then obtained a Masters degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare from Edinburgh Vet School. After three years working in both companion animal and exotics veterinary practices, he joined PDSA as Senior Veterinary Surgeon for Communication and Education. Sean has contributed to animal welfare and conservation projects in East Africa, China, India, Europe and the Caribbean. He is an Honorary Lecturer in Animal Welfare at the University of Nottingham, a member of the Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) and a committee member of the Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law Veterinary Association (AWSELVA).
Welfare, production and economics: how many shades of grey

**SESSION THEME:** We take a candid look at how farming can compromise the welfare of livestock. What are the pressures on farmers, vets and supermarkets? How does economics play a part in the whole system and how might we work together to improve welfare in intensive farming?

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**Mark White, Pig Veterinary Consultant**
Mark White is a RCVS registered specialist in pig medicine who has spent an entire veterinary career working in clinical practice. He was partner in a mixed practice in East Yorkshire until 2013, when he retired to the Malvern Hills to run a pig consultancy business whilst enjoying the great outdoors. He served as President of the Pig Veterinary Society from 1999–2000 and is honoured to be asked to serve in that role again in 2017. He has a special interest in health control and therapeutics and as such represents the Society on medicines issues. He’s currently Chairman of the PVS Medicines Subcommittee and has served on the Farm Animal welfare Committee since 2012.

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**Sue Lockhart, Sainsbury’s**
Coming from a family and rural community whose livelihoods were forged through food, Sue developed an interest in food and drink at an early age. After gaining a BSc in Food Science, Sue joined Grand Metropolitan Foods Europe as a graduate trainee, later moving on to Taw Valley Creamery in Devon. She has worked for Sainsbury’s for over 20 years in many roles including product technology, regional sourcing and innovation. She led the Brand Policy and Sustainability Team, where she was instrumental in Sainsbury’s commitment to stop selling caged eggs and also ensuring that animal health, husbandry and welfare are at the heart of Sainsbury’s sourcing policies. Sue spent three years leading Sainsbury’s meat, fish and poultry technical team, before moving to the role of Head of Agriculture in December 2012.

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**David Main, Bristol University**
David Main is a veterinary surgeon and Professor of Animal Welfare at Bristol University. His research interests include welfare assessment, intervention strategies to improve welfare and animal welfare education. He is project co-ordinator of the AssureWel project, a collaboration with RSPCA and the Soil Association that aims to embed welfare outcomes into the assurance process of certification schemes. He was principle investigator for the Healthy Feet project that has been widely adopted by the dairy industry and he is also part of the EU WelNet project - a network of welfare scientists providing welfare advice to the European Commission.

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**David Chennells, AWF Trustee, Session chair**
Cambridge graduate David has spent most of his career in general practice, with the last 20 years specialising in pig work as the senior partner of a Bedford practice. David is a former president of the Pig Veterinary Society (PVS) and currently responsible for PVS publications, higher education and CPD. He is a member of the advisory committee of the RSPCA Freedom Foods and a veterinary adviser to the technical committee of the Red Tractor/ Assured British Pigs Scheme.
AWF update: The Links Project

SESSION THEME: Animal abuse does not confront us every day but when it does, veterinary professionals often find it difficult to know what to do.

At the AWF Symposium in 2013, the Links Group presented a talk entitled ‘Grasping the Golden Moment: does the vet have a role in tackling abuse in animals and humans?’ As a result of that presentation, The Margaret Giffen Charitable Trust offered funding to enhance the work of the Links Group through the Animal Welfare Foundation. AWF has since used its expertise, working with the Links Group to produce educational material including guidance documents and other support materials, which were launched at BSAVA Congress 2016. The educational materials will be distributed via RCVS to UK veterinary surgeons and registered veterinary nurses, thus ensuring that the whole profession has access to this invaluable resource. In addition, the ‘Links Veterinary Training Initiative’ is available to all members of the practice, who can receive a day of training plus useful introductions to local domestic abuse police units and the welfare agencies.

The substantial support from the Trust has enabled AWF and the Links Group to develop an online module that will train human healthcare professionals in basic animal welfare, so that they can assess the wellbeing of each human and non-human member of the household, and seek advice or help if there appears to be a concern: a perfect example of multi-agency working protecting the health and wellbeing of both animals and humans.

Freda Scott-Park, The Links Group

Freda is a veterinary surgeon living and working in Scotland and is currently Chairman of the Links Group. During her time as President of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association and following that, as President of the British Veterinary Association, she sought to ensure that veterinary surgeons were made aware of their role in recognising animal abuse, and beyond that, the possibility of associated violence to humans in a violent home. Freda qualified from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh, in 1979; completed a PhD in canine cardiology and worked for eight years in Glasgow in a mixed, mainly small animal practice.
The first decade of the Animal Welfare Act: has it worked?

SESSION THEME: On its 10th anniversary, we look at what has changed as a result of the Animal Welfare Act of 2006. The Act has advanced animal welfare legislation and helped prevent suffering through preventive action. But what are the views of those who enforce it? We compare how it was meant to work with how it is actually working for those who interact with it on a daily basis.

Mike Radford, University of Aberdeen
Mike Radford is Reader in Animal Welfare Law at the University of Aberdeen. He has worked extensively on the development of animal welfare law and policy with politicians, officials, veterinarians, NGOs and other interested parties. Mike is presently a trustee of Dogs Trust, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, the Humane Slaughter Association and the Association of Lawyers for Animal Welfare. He is a member of the All Party Group on Animal Welfare and a visiting lecturer at both Edinburgh and Glasgow Vet Schools.

Michael Park, APHA
Michael graduated from Glasgow Vet School in 1988 and went on to complete a pathology residency and research fellowship on genetic resistance of sheep to gastro-intestinal parasites leading to a PhD. After eight years of mostly farm animal practice in Aberdeenshire and Lanarkshire Michael joined the State Veterinary Service in 2003. He has had a number of roles including Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Business Partner for Scotland, Veterinary Head of Exotic Disease and Welfare, and now Veterinary Lead for Scotland. Michael is committed to improving animal welfare through his role in APHA by delivering an effective multi-agency approach and actively engaging with stakeholders.

David Bowles, RSPCA
As Assistant Director of Public Affairs, David coordinates the RSPCA’s political, local government and campaign work. The organisation works in Westminster, the National Assembly Wales and Europe to ensure that animal welfare standards are improved through changing and enforcing legislation. David has worked for the RSPCA for 20 years and was closely involved in giving evidence to Parliament to get the Animal Welfare Act adopted in 2006 and produced the RSPCA three year review of the legislation in 2010. He is a Board member of the Canine and Feline Sector Council, which submits advice on legislation to Defra and the Association of Dog and Cat Homes, which is the umbrella organisation for organisations that run shelters.

Chris Laurence, AWF Trustee, Session Chair
A Bristol graduate, Chris worked for 30 years in a predominantly small animal practice in Chippenham. In 1998 he joined the RPSCA and in 1999 became the charity’s Chief Veterinary Officer. Chris was the Veterinary Director at the Dogs Trust from 2003 to 2011. He was awarded an MBE in recognition of his work on the Animal Welfare Act. Chris is now retired and is a trustee of several animal welfare charities.
Extend the debate at the House of Commons reception

If you haven’t been before here’s what to expect

The post-Forum House of Commons reception is a joint event held with the British Veterinary Association. Members of Parliament and other invited guests join Forum delegates to continue discussions from the day. We are grateful to BVA Honorary Associate, Neil Parish, for hosting the event this year.

The reception starts at 7pm. There’ll be drinks and canapés and a few short speeches at 7.30pm and then everyone can relax, network, wind down or raise the temperature with new and returning MPs.

You will not be allowed entry to the Terrace Marquee before 7.00pm. You probably need to allow 20 minutes to get through security. Here’s our list of favourite things to do in SW1 in the short break between the Forum and the Reception:

- Stretch your legs and check out the bird-life and flowers in lovely St James’s Park
- Take a stroll along the South Bank
- Get a great picture of the world-famous local landmarks: Big Ben, the London Eye, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Cathedral, St James’s Park, Buckingham Palace, 10 Downing Street and Horse Guards Parade are all a short walk away
- Visit a characterful pub – we like The Westminster Arms on Storey’s Gate and St Stephen’s Tavern on Bridge Street
About AWF

Veterinary research underpins our work in developing evidence-based education. From our rabbit care leaflets and horse welfare films to the recently launched Links Guidance, AWF is committed to achieving its vision of advancing animal welfare by using veterinary knowledge to give animals a better life.

The AWF Research Fund

Our trustees recently set up the AWF Research Fund to broaden the scope of our grant giving by funding short research projects into a variety of species. This year sees the launch of our new Student Summer Grant Scheme. AWF already runs animal welfare debates for students and this new initiative will help to further embed animal welfare into their education. The scheme is open to students of veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing and agricultural studies.

Norman Hayward Fund research project snapshots

**Improving dairy cattle welfare: promoting uptake of veterinary advice, Kristen Reyher, Bristol**

Being a vet is not just about science and methodology. In the livestock industry, encouraging and motivating farmers to improve animal husbandry and adopt veterinary advice remains a critical challenge to improving animal welfare. Now in its second year, this project is investigating the applicability of a communication strategy called Motivational Interviewing (MI) to the veterinary profession. Where ambivalence and clinical communication are acute stumbling blocks for the implementation of positive change, equipping veterinarians with MI communication skills could facilitate meaningful improvements in how clients perceive and manage their animals. A training package is currently in the final stages of development and trial, and will be made freely available to the veterinary profession.

**Development of a validated lameness control plan for sheep flocks, Laura Green, Warwick**

Up to 30% of sheep across the UK get footrot annually, causing pain, reduced body condition, ewe productivity and lamb growth rate. This study involves the development and testing of a holistic lameness control plan with 42 sheep farmers participating in a clinical trial over two years. The trial tested current evidence to minimise footrot with farmers’ individual management and limitations. The final plan will be based on factors associated with reduced levels of lameness on some or all farms and so give vets, advisers and farmers a tool with a ‘must, should, could’ management guide on how to best prevent lameness that can be adapted for individual flock and farmer requirements.

Visit www.bva-awf.org.uk/grants to read more about AWF research projects and to find out how to apply for a grant.
Get involved with AWF

Here are just some of the ways you can get involved in our work

Support Graham
AWF trustee and retiring vet, Graham Duncanson, has set himself the task of raising £10,000 for AWF over the next two years by cycling from Norfolk to Cape Town – a feat that he’ll be undertaking in stages.

To support Graham in this challenge visit his Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/Graham-Duncanson

Follow Graham’s adventures via his blog: vetdunddares.wordpress.com

Become a Trustee
There will be two AWF trustee vacancies in 2016. Trustees are responsible for AWF’s strategic direction and performance. The role is challenging and requires significant commitment but is also extremely rewarding. New trustees will join a group of vets who are passionate about improving animal welfare.

Interested? Have an informal chat with one of our trustees today.

Become a Rep
Apply to become an AWF representative and use your experience and local knowledge to support AWF in a practical way by raising awareness of AWF at the grassroots of the veterinary profession and assisting in local fundraising activities.

Do you have a fundraising idea?
If you have some fundraising ideas, get in touch to find out how we can support you. Or visit our website to find out more: www.bva-awf.org.uk/support-us
Give us your feedback

Thank you for attending the 2016 Discussion Forum. We value your opinion and would be grateful if you’d take a minute to share your thoughts about the day. You can also feedback online at [www.bva-awf.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.bva-awf.org.uk/contact-us)

Name: 

Email address: 

**Overall Forum rating:**
- [ ] Excellent
- [ ] Very good
- [ ] Acceptable
- [ ] Below expectations
- [ ] Poor

**Forum content rating:**
- [ ] Excellent
- [ ] Very good
- [ ] Acceptable
- [ ] Below expectations
- [ ] Poor

**Was the time available for audience questions during the day:**
- [ ] About right
- [ ] Inadequate
- [ ] Too long

**What attracted you to the Forum?** (tick all that apply)
- [ ] Programme content
- [ ] Specific speakers
- [ ] Networking opportunities
- [ ] Other (please specify)

**Which topic did you find most interesting or useful?**

What topic(s) would you like to see on the 2017 Forum programme?

Would you like to use your smartphone again to answer polls and ask questions during the Forum?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

**Any additional comments about today:**

Would you like to receive our monthly newsletter?
- [ ] Yes

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