

Wild Animal Welfare Committee

Scottish Charity Number SC045958

WAWC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 19 APRIL 2021

Wild Animal Welfare: Does it matter? Can it be assessed? How can it be optimised?



PROGRAMME

About the Wild Animal Welfare Committee

Founded in 2014 and registered as a charity in Scotland, the aims of the Wild Animal Welfare Committee (WAWC) are to:

- provide an independent evidence base for evaluating, monitoring, assessing and improving decisions affecting the welfare of free-living animals in the UK
- increase awareness of the importance and value of wild animals in general
- promote the welfare of individual wild animals, in particular
- highlight harm to, and suffering of, wild animals caused by human activity, with the aim of reducing these negative impacts.

While the WAWC's remit covers wild animals in the UK, WAWC members are keen to promote wild animal welfare and engage with experts and stakeholders at a global level. Our first two conferences in 2016 and 2019 featured internationally renowned speakers and we are pleased to be able to use conferencing technology for our third event, in order to engage with an even wider audience.

About the conference

The WAWC is delighted that its first virtual conference includes presentations from some of the leading names in animal welfare around the world. We are most grateful to all the speakers for embracing the challenge of answering our three questions about wild animal welfare (Does it matter? Can it be assessed? How can it be optimised?), in addition to agreeing to speak at times of day which are not necessarily conducive to their own welfare. We extend our thanks to them all.

We are also looking forward to discussion and interaction with delegates from many different countries - making connections, contrasts and comparisons about how we interact with the sentient individual wild animals who share our environment.

The WAWC wishes to thank UFAW (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) for hosting the virtual conference and for the provision of invaluable support and technical assistance.

All views expressed during the conference are those of the speakers.

Speakers

Ngaio Beausoleil, Massey University, New Zealand; **Mark Jones**, Born Free Foundation; **Sarah Dolman**, Whale and Dolphin Conservation/WAWC member; **Mike Radford**, University of Aberdeen; Heather Bacon, Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE); **Alick Simmons**, former UK Deputy CVO /WAWC member; **Becca Franks**, New York University; **Cathy Dwyer**, SRUC/JMICAWE; **Sandra Baker**, WildCru, University of Oxford/WAWC member; **Justine Shotton**, Marwell Zoo and BVA; **Jessica Findlay**, NatureScot; **Chris Draper**, Performing Animal Welfare Society /WAWC member; **Steven McCulloch**, Winchester University; **Alastair MacGugan**, NatureScot.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

(Timings are shown in British Summer Time)

08:45 Welcome and introductions

Pete Goddard, WAWC Chair

Session 1.1 Safeguarding wild animal welfare using the Five Domains approach

Chair: Pete Goddard

09:00 Ngaio Beausoleil

The assessment of wild animal welfare and the application of the Five Domains model in this process

09:40 Mark Jones

Why wild animal welfare matters

10:00 Sarah Dolman

Marine mammal welfare – how do we know that welfare is at risk?

10:20 BREAK

Session 1.2 The contextual nature of how we value wild animals differently

Chair: Angus Nurse

10:40 Mike Radford

Wild animal "welfare": familiar concept, misnomer, or radical departure?

11:00 Heather Bacon

Human behaviour towards wild animals: why are they valued differently and how does this affect their welfare?

11:20 Alick Simmons

Why are different welfare standards applied to different wild animals in different settings?

11:40 Becca Franks

From wildlife to farmed to invasive and back again: animal welfare problems and solutions revealed in our inconsistent treatment of fishes

12:00 GENERAL DISCUSSION FORUM

12:30 LUNCH BREAK

Session 2.1 Evaluation of wildlife welfare

Chair: Liz Mullineaux

13:00 Cathy Dwyer

Evaluating wildlife welfare: Outcomes from a welfare prioritisation using a Delphi approach

13:20 Sandra Baker

Using the Sharp and Saunders model to evaluate animal welfare impacts in wildlife management

13:40 Steven McCulloch

Government decision making on wildlife conservation and animal welfare: Applying impact assessment and dealing with moral disagreement

14:00 Jessica Findlay

How do we ensure a consistent approach to embedding welfare in practical wildlife management?

14:20 BREAK

Session 2.2 Interaction between individual animal welfare and species conservation / management / human issues

Chair: Alick Simmons

14:40 Chris Draper

Applying the principles of ethical wildlife control to protect wild animal welfare

15:20 Justine Shotton

Assessing welfare of captive wild animals using the Animal Welfare Assessment Grid (AWAG)

15:40 Alastair MacGugan

How do we make wildlife welfare relevant in a net zero carbon Scotland?

16:00 GENERAL DISCUSSION FORUM

16:30 Pete Goddard

Closing remarks

Following soon: full speaker biographies