

# **Anthrozoology as International Practice (AIP): A Student Conference in Human-Animal Studies**

11-12 November 2022  
Online



*(Logo by Natasha Matsuert)*

## **Programme & Abstract book**

# Programme Outline

GMT/UTC	Day 1 Friday 11 November 2022	Pages
10:50-11:00	Introduction and welcome	3-4
11:00-12:15	Session 1: More than human communities (15 min & 5 min presentations)	5-9
12:25-13:40	Session 2: Grief, witnessing, and welfare (15 min & 5 min presentations)	10-14
Lunch (or Breakfast or Supper!)		
14:15-15:15	Session 3: Professor Sam Hurn (Keynote presentation)	15
15:20-16:35	Session 4: Animals, knowledge, and politics (15 min presentations)	16-18
16:50-17:50	Session 5: Ways of doing anthrozoology and the future of the field (workshop)	19
18:00-19:10	Session 6: Wild animals and wildlife (15 min & 5 min presentations)	20-23
GMT/UTC	Day 2 Saturday 12 November 2022	Pages
10:50-11:00	Introduction and welcome back!	
11:00-12:15	Session 7: Interspecies relationships and coexistence (15 min presentations)	24-26
12:20-13:35	Session 8: Health and being in animal interventions (15 min Presentations)	27-29
Lunch (or Breakfast or Supper!)		
14:10-14:30	Session: 9 Poster Viewing (Questions and answers) Printable A4 poster versions are at back of this book	30-32
14:40-15:55	Session 10: Children, animals, and cruelty (15 min presentations)	33-35
16:00-17:15	Session 11: Liminality, identity, and compassion (15 min presentations)	36-38
17:20-18:20	Session 12: Closing address and Prize-giving	39

# Welcome to AIP2022

The annual Anthrozoology as International Practice (AIP) conference welcomes presentations from students with a variety of educational experience and early career researchers in anthrozoology and related fields.

This conference aims to spotlight research being undertaken by students around the world, in the hopes of building a global support network of like minded individuals.

We would like to remind everyone that this is a student conference, and while we warmly welcome senior academics and professionals, we ask everyone to remain cognizant that many presenters are very early career scholars. As such we request you frame questions and feedback in an encouraging and constructive manner. That is not to say that we should shy away from debate or disagreement, but just to keep in mind that for many this will be their first experience of academic discussions.

The organisers of AIP2022 are postgraduate researchers or alumni of the University of Exeter's Anthrozoology PhD programme and members of the Exeter as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) working group. This conference is aligned to the EASE ethos of treating more-than-human animals as ethically significant beings. Read more here: <https://sociology.exeter.ac.uk/research/ease/>

Kris, Jes, Tom, Michelle, and Sarah



Visit our webpage: <https://anthrozoologyconference.com/>

Follow us on FB: [www.facebook.com/AnthrozoologyInternationalPractice](https://www.facebook.com/AnthrozoologyInternationalPractice)

# Meet the Organisers



**Tom Aiello** holds PhDs in History and Anthrozoology and is a professor of history and African American studies at Valdosta State University in Georgia, USA. His scholarly interests include writing about the relationship between humans and animals, in particular the role of speciesism and human supremacy in creating vulnerabilities for nonhuman animals. Learn more at [www.thomasaiellobooks.com](http://www.thomasaiellobooks.com) or follow on Twitter @thomasaiello



**Kris Hill** holds a PhD in Plant Molecular Biology and is currently working on a PhD in Anthrozoology. Her current doctoral studies focus on cat-human relations and discourses surrounding free-roaming cats. Learn more about Kris's research and other interests on [www.katzenlife.wordpress.com/](http://www.katzenlife.wordpress.com/) or follow on Twitter @Humananimalx



**Jes Hooper** is an Anthrozoology PhD candidate. Her doctoral research focuses on trans-species relations and disappearance in the Anthropocene as explored through the lens of civet (Viverrid) species. For more information and for a full portfolio of works, please see [www.thecivetproject.com](http://www.thecivetproject.com) or follow Jes on Twitter for academic updates @Jes\_Hooper



**Sarah Oxley Heaney** based her PhD project 'Kissing Sharks' around her passion for sharks and the ocean. She is also an activist-researcher for abandoned animals, and her anthrozoology Masters dissertation focused upon reasons given for, and factors affecting, abandoned cats in Saudi Arabia. Read more on [www.kissingsharks.com/](http://www.kissingsharks.com/) or follow on Twitter @kissing\_sharks



**Michelle Szydlowski** holds a PhD in Anthrozoology and her research focuses on captive elephant and mahout health and welfare in Nepal. She currently serves as the board chair of The Katie Adamson Conservation Fund and on Stand Up 4 Elephants advisory team. Find her at [www.internationalelephants.org](http://www.internationalelephants.org) and follow on Twitter @MichSzyd

## Governmental and Non-Governmental Organization involvement in the stray companion animal overpopulation management in Greece



Anna Stefani Sietto, Prof. Eleni Theodoropoulou, Prof. Vilelmini Karagianni, Dr. Evaggelia Sossidou

PhD Candidate, Harokopio University of Athens, Greece

### Abstract

Greece is home to an estimated one million stray dogs and cats. At present, local authorities mainly practice TNR which stands for trap, neuter/spay, and release. Their fate is either being released to the streets or being kept for a lifetime in shelters, if they are not adopted, since euthanasia is illegal. New legislation, enforced in 2021, holds municipalities responsible for addressing stray companion animal overpopulation with the help of non-governmental animal welfare organizations. This study firstly investigates the operational process and costs of ensuring satisfactory animal welfare conditions for stray dogs and cats; and secondly, examines dogs' characteristics that are more likely to be adopted by Greek citizens from animal welfare organizations. Data used include the responses of 31 (20% completion rate) animal welfare organizations and municipalities via a nationwide online survey; and 280 dog adoption data from an animal welfare organization as a case study. The results revealed that the total average cost of dog and cat management are 1,099.30€ and 720.93€ respectively. This includes an average cost of 418.07€ and 430.54€ of food provision for dogs and cats respectively, and an average housing cost for dogs and cats of 463.20€ and 151.52€ respectively. The Cox proportional hazards model indicated that smaller sized dogs ( $HR 0.96 p < 0.01$ ) had a higher likelihood of being adopted faster and fair-colored dogs (white  $HR 1.85 p < 0.05$ ; sandy  $HR 2.48 p < 0.01$ ; tan  $HR 1.85 p < 0.05$ ; tricolor -fair  $HR 2.89 p < 0.01$ ) and black and white colored dogs ( $HR 1.99 p < 0.01$ ) were adopted faster than black colored dogs.

**Anna Stefani Sietto** is a PhD candidate in Harokopio University of Athens in the department of Economics and Sustainable Development. Anna is a highly professional Economist with work experience including at large and prestigious companies and governmental bodies such as the Bank of Greece and the Hellenic Parliament. Professional advantages include outstanding communication skills and expertise in economics. Her love and passion for companion animals led her to commit to a PhD research on the overpopulation crisis and stray management in her home country Greece. The main goal is to investigate the welfare costs and whether the practices suggested by new legislation help tackle the overpopulation issue the country is facing.

## Has citizen-care of free-living dogs been explored as means for rabies-eradication in India?



Sindhoor Pangal

MA (Anthrozoology) student, Exeter University, UK

### Abstract

Indian free-living dogs occupy a liminal space that is neither considered domestic nor wild. These dogs are neither owned nor feral. They are free-living dogs (FLD). The “free lives” of these dogs are protected by the Indian constitution, meaning that the constitution not only protects the lives of these dogs but their right to live wherever they exist. There are also instances of severe human-dog conflict involving these dogs. In addition, a sentiment I have heard in various forms from people across the globe in the context of the free-living dogs (FLDs) of India is that these “stray animals” are a result of irresponsible care for dogs. Discourses often highlight situations where the dogs face scarcity of resources, need for medical intervention or suffer from the consequences of conflict are likely to pull at our heartstrings and make us arrive at a similar conclusion. But what do the dogs want and what makes more sense in the cultural context of India?

In this presentation, I will attempt to bring in a different perspective on these dogs that problematizes the notion of “good care”. I will build on the ideas of decolonizing attitudes towards FLDs, proposed by Srinivasan. I have been observing and studying FLDs for several years now, and I will be leaning on my experiences, observations, photos and video documentation to inform this discussion.

**Sindhoor** is a canine behaviour consultant, a canine myotherapist and an engineer by qualification. She is a TEDx speaker and the author of the book, Dog Knows. Sindhoor quit her corporate life to pursue a career in working with dogs, after her dog Nishi met with an accident and needed special physical and emotional care. She worked as a behaviour and myotherapy consultant for companion dogs, but soon discovered her passion for studying free living dogs in India. Her insights have been published in the IAABC journal and the PPG blog in the US, was presented at the PDTE summit in the UK and was mentioned in the book Canine Confidential by Dr. Marc Bekoff and a National Geographic Bookazine called the Genius of dogs. She is currently pursuing her masters in Anthrozoology from Exeter University (UK) and is also the principal and director of BHARCS. BHARCS offers a UK accredited level 4 diploma on canine behaviour and applied ethology. While she wears many hats, Sindhoor’s favourite role has been being a mommy to two amazing dogs - Nishi (who recently passed away) and Cheeru, who she considers her inspiration and her greatest teachers.



## Humans feeding free-roaming cats without offering other care/services



Audra Farrell

MS (Shelter Medicine) student, University of Florida, USA

### Abstract

In my five years overseeing the San Francisco SPCA Community Cats program, I was tasked with helping the public manage free-roaming cats (colonies and individuals). During my interactions with cats and the humans who cared for them, I noticed patterns of behavior with both cats and humans. There were some human caretakers who engaged in more-inclusive care, such as spay/neuter, vaccinations (and perhaps feeding and offering shelter) to reduce the number of free-roaming cats. Then, there were other caretakers who focused primarily – if not solely – on the feeding of free roaming cats. My intention is to research those caretakers who focus only on the feeding of free-roaming cats, and why they do this over other services. How does only feeding impact free-roaming cats and the people who share space with them?

Some areas to explore:

- Often the feeders are “outsiders” feeding cats not on their own properties, and this can lead to conflict with residents.
- In areas of only feeding, not TNRing, are there breeding/disease hotspots?
- What happens to colonies when they're only fed, not cared for in other ways?
- By only feeding, are people engaging in a type of hoarding?

Impact on cats:

- Does this create dependence on humans for food?
- Are there health issues such as obesity?
- What happens when the person stops feeding and cats lose the food source (e.g., death, moving)?

**Audra Farrell** (she/their) is on track to complete their MS in Shelter Medicine from the University in Florida in December 2022. Their capstone project focused on improving housing for cats in shelters. Audra has worked in animal welfare around the Bay Area of San Francisco for the past 12 years, focusing on free roaming cats, foster programs, and community access to care. She oversaw the Community Cats Program at the San Francisco SPCA and is interested in continuing to study the relationship between people and free roaming cats.

## Health Hazards of the Human-Nature Relationship

S. Ramya

M.Ed Scholar, V.O.C.College of Education, Tuticorin, India

### Abstract

Over the past four decades, more and more research has been focused on determining whether there is a connection between the altering relationship between humans and nature and how it affects people's health. However, examining whether there is a correlation necessitates interdisciplinary research on its scope and underlying mechanisms. The debates surrounding the relationship between humans and nature are first reviewed in this article, after which they are analysed and reformulated from an interdisciplinary standpoint.

The World Health Organization's definition of "health" is then used to investigate the notion and historical development of the term. Combining these ideas, a conceptual model is then developed to study the link between humans and nature and how it affects human health. It is believed that taking an interdisciplinary approach can help one gain a greater knowledge of the difficulties associated with achieving optimal health at the interface between humans and their environment.

Keywords: human health, human–nature relationship, natural environment, interdisciplinary.

**Ms.S.RAMYA** is a Research Scholar and Self - Artist, who lives in Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. She is now studying as M.Ed Scholar in V.O.C. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, TUTICORIN, TAMILNADU, INDIA. She has a degree in Bachelor of English from St. Mary's College, Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. Also, she has a degree in Bachelor of Education (ENGLISH) from V.O.C. College of Education. She has completed her Professional courses in Diploma in Office Automation, AUTO - CAD, Multimedia and its Applications, English Typing (Lower). Ramya has completed her Certificate courses in Certificate in English Language Teaching, English for Journalism, English for Media Literacy, Saral Hindi Moukhik Shikshan Exam, English for Professional Competence. She has completed three Swayam Courses – Effective writing Online, Developing Soft skills and Personality, Outcome based Pedagogic Principles Online. She has presented twelve paper in International and National Conference. She has published thirty-two Papers and Chapters. Finally, she has an interested in Sketching, Painting, reading fantasy books, Learning new things.



## Anticipation of animals consuming constitutional rights

S. Rajalakshmi

M.Ed Scholar, V.O.C. College of Education, Thoothukudi, India

### Abstract

In topical ages, Animals are largely treated as property and have few if any legal rights under the majority of state and federal legislation. Due to this position, the management and usage of the owner is typically presumed to be in the animal's best interests—as long as no law is broken. For instance, if a family dog or cat is deemed to be "too much bother," it is allowed to give the animal companion to a vet for euthanasia. Most people agree that animals have rights, at least to some extent. The real question is, however, what exactly such rights include. By addressing that topic, it is possible to provide a clear picture of the situation, illustrate the variety of potential viewpoints, and investigate the theoretical and empirical concerns that set reasonable individuals apart. Upon contemplation, the theme of pain and happiness deserves to be given the utmost attention. This stance necessitates the denial of some of the more extreme arguments made by proponents of animal rights, particularly those that emphasise the "autonomy" of animals or oppose any use or control of animals by humans. However, this stance also has quite radical ramifications. For instance, it strongly implies that there should be strict restriction of animal usage in entertainment, research, and agriculture. It also implies that there is a solid case can be made in favour of outlawing many extant uses of animals.

**Ms.S.RAJALAKSHMI** is a Research Scholar and Self - Artist, who lives in Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. She is now studying as M.Ed Scholar in V.O.C. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, TUTICORIN, TAMILNADU, INDIA. She has a degree in Bachelor of English from St. Mary's College, Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. Also, she has a degree in Bachelor of Education (ENGLISH) from V.O.C. College of Education. She has completed her Professional courses in Diploma in Office Automation, AUTO - CAD, Multimedia and its Applications, English Typing (Lower). Rajalakshmi has completed her Certificate courses in Certificate in English Language Teaching, Basic French Language Skills, Proficiency Test in English (Shakespeare Institute), Saral Hindi Moukhik Shikshan Exam, English for Professional Competence. She has presented more than 10 Book Chapters/Articles/Papers in International and National Journal and attended and Presented More than 20 Papers in State Level Seminar, National Level Seminar and International level Seminar. She Has Attended Workshop /Webinar More Than 50. Her main areas of Specialisation in Education, English Literature, Psychology and ICT Technology. Her area of interest in Educational technology, Educational psychology as well as teacher education. She completed her Swayam courses – Effective Writing Online and Developing Soft skills and Personality. Finally, she has an interested in Sketching, Painting, reading fantasy books, Learning new things. Other ways to stay in touch with Rajalakshmi: [rajalakshmiramya27@gmail.com](mailto:rajalakshmiramya27@gmail.com)

## Is witnessing enough? Considering impacts and entanglements when bearing witness with other-than-human animals



Irene Perrett

MA (Anthrozoology) graduate (2022), Exeter University, UK

### **Abstract**

This research attempts to recognise those involved in the relations of bearing witness when situated in hierarchical frameworks of human exceptionalism and sovereignty. My aim is to centre the witnessed and witnesses themselves by engaging with the narratives of others who find themselves entrapped in the role of witness, and investigate the literature relating to constructs associated with bearing witness. Two types of writing are used to lay out the analysis. The first is expository and employs literature to explore the positioning of those who are the subjects of this research, the second is reflexive and uses autoethnographic narrative to enliven and engage the reader beyond the written page. Throughout, there is a cohesive thread drawing on paradigms of feminist care theory that intertwine with constructs associated with bearing witness; for example, responsibility, recognition, becoming, and grief. Findings highlight the intersection of systems of power in the perception and treatment of nonhuman animals. The witness is made vulnerable because of exposure to these systems that conflict with her own ethical values, and therefore is drawn to re-evaluate her identity as it becomes entangled with those who are witnessed. However, the testimony borne through witnessing has the potential to transform the listener intellectually and emotionally, and thereby they too become situated within the narrative. The intimacy of narrative may reposition those involved in bearing witness.

**Bio:** A life time of working with equines has prompted Irene to start to explore the dynamics of human-nonhuman relations and the possibilities this holds. She lives in a quiet corner of Devon where she fosters rescue dogs. Many have come from Romanian shelters and need time and space to learn to feel safe before they can integrate with home life. This recognition of the personhood of the individual, whichever species, was the catalyst for further study. Having previously not come from an academic background, Irene completed her MA Anthrozoology at the University of Exeter in Autumn 2022 focusing on the inherent qualities of personhood, dignity, awareness of end-of-life, non-human abuse, and witnessing. Alongside her work with clients enabling and enhancing the human-equine relationship, she writes and tutors canine and equine courses for an online education provider The DoGenius. In any spare time she will be found with her dogs exploring Exmoor.

### Management of Grief and Mourning in Zoological Housed Primates:

Are there opportunities for zoological collections to meet both the needs of grieving non-human primates and those of the visiting public?



Steve Daniels

MA (Anthrozoology) graduate (2022),  
Exeter University, UK

#### **Abstract**

The study of primate thanatology over the last twenty years has seen extensive research which has been predominantly undertaken in wild settings although some studies have taken place in captivity. This research aimed to bring together two important elements of managing the death of primates within zoological collections; the way in which collections support their primates through the process of grief and mourning and how collections can ensure the visiting public are not negatively impacted by these methods. The topics of Infant Corpse Carrying (ICC) and the death of adult primates were both investigated aiming to present details on potential ways for collections to effectively manage each of these scenarios. Surveys and interviews were carried out with zoo keepers exploring their experiences of primate death in captivity and the ways in which they were managed in an effort to try and collate management practices. Online surveys were undertaken with zoo visitors to ascertain their knowledge of grief and mourning in animals and which methods of managing primate death in collections would be most favourable. Keeper responses were limited but provided a range of approaches previously undertaken. Results found the public had a general awareness of the prevalence of grief and mourning behaviours in animals and were able to identify a range of species that perform behaviours related to grief and mourning. Results were collated and suggestions were made for potential methods of managing the requirements of the primates and those of the visiting public.

**Steve** is the Programme Lead in Animal Care for the SMB college group, lecturing at both FE and UG levels. Prior to becoming a qualified lecturer, Steve was an education officer in a number of zoological collections in the UK, also working on section with Western Lowland Gorillas. Steve was awarded an MA in Anthrozoology in 2022, where fuelled by his previous experiences, his studies focussed on the topic of grief and mourning in primate species. His research covered a range of elements such as its prevalence, variation across species and whether it was comparable and should be compared, with grief and mourning behaviours seen in humans. Identifying a lack of published material on the topic, his dissertation investigated whether it was possible for zoological collections to meet the needs of their grieving primates, as well as the visiting public. Steve hopes to carry out further research into the subject area covering aspects such as comparing the range and duration of grief related behaviours, between captive and wild primate species.

## Understanding Companion Animal Bereavement within the Indian context



Ayisha Rushda

MS graduate (2021), Gitam University, India

### Abstract

While pets and their owners enjoy a special affinity, at a larger societal level, human-animal relationships may not be viewed on par with relationships between humans. Consequently, the pain emerging from companion animal loss can elicit much lesser support from the community leading to invalidated or disenfranchised grief. To further complicate the scenario, this grief may also be ambiguous. There are cases where a pet is lost—not always by death, but occasionally by escape, disappearance, or theft—which causes ambiguity and doubt about the pet's life and hinders the grieving process. India has one of the fastest-growing pet industries and there are a growing number of companion animals in Indian households. Despite this, research on companion animal bereavement and its impacts, within the Indian context, is largely lacking. Against this backdrop, the current research investigates, within the Indian population, i) bereavement experiences in adults and children following the loss of a companion animal ii) the grief experiences that accompany ambiguous loss of a companion animal iii) the grieving process, coping mechanisms used and variations therein iv) the role played by veterinarians in this process. To this end, we propose a mixed methods approach incorporating standardized scales, personal interviews, and an investigator-designed survey (with open and close-ended questions). Cumulatively, our findings can enable a better understanding of the grief experiences emerging from companion animal loss within the Indian context, and can also better inform veterinarians and other helping professionals in providing the required support to normalize such experiences.

**Ayisha Rushda** completed her postgraduate degree in psychology from Gitam University India in 2021. Her master's exposure enabled her to bring together her career interests and her passion-HAI. She completed her master's thesis with a focus on human-animal bonding and co-authored a paper with her mentor, Dr. Georgitta Valiyamattam, for the ISAZ 2022 conference which examined veterinarians' perspectives on animal abuse in the Indian setting. She currently works with Meru International School, Hyderabad, India as a student counsellor. She is also pursuing a distance-education course on Animal-assisted therapy in counselling from the CAAT, University of North Texas under Prof. Cynthia Chandler. She is very keen to better understand the science behind human-animal interactions, so as to enable a wider dissemination of this knowledge across cultures. To this end, she is currently also working towards possible PhD positions in the area.

## Remembering 'Roadkill': Perspectives on Nonhuman Road Casualties by Ghost Bike Activists



Natasha Matsaert

MA (Anthrozoology) student, Exeter University, UK

### Abstract

This is a proposed project in its very stages, which aims to explore how people involved in the Ghost Bike movement feel about wildlife 'roadkill'. The Ghost Bike movement consists of a network of mourners and activists who create white bikes that commemorate automobile fatalities and in doing so work to make streets safer. I am curious about how the politicized mourning of wrongfully killed cyclists impacts the visibility of violence towards nonhumans killed on roads and their grievability. Prompted by the recent emergence of 'ghost hedgehogs' in Dorset and the ghostly animal specters in L.A. Watson's 'The Roadside Memorial Project', I want to ask: how does this community respond to these memorials and nonhuman 'roadkill' generally? What does bringing roadkill into conversation say about or do for nonhuman animals and cyclists? Does or can a shared community of interest emerge out of common vulnerability? This research aims to fill a gap in the literature on 'roadkill' by exploring the feelings and social patterns surrounding 'roadkill' encounters in a particular group. It has the potential to expand discussions of grief and mobility across species boundaries, and in doing so perhaps inform a wider, more intersectional social movement.

**Natasha Matsaert** is a current MA Anthrozoology student at the University of Exeter. She is passionate about using her research and background in communications as a tool for advocacy and activism, particularly in the realm of animal agriculture and vegan outreach. She is currently in the process of devising research projects which explore the phenomenon of intersectionality in social movements. Natasha hopes to merge her scholarly work with artistic practice in order to advocate for 'ungrievable' nonhuman lives.

**Natasha's design was chosen by the organisers as the official AIP2022 logo!**





## Animal Welfare and Social Media

G. Sujitha

M.Ed Scholar, V.O.C. College of Education, Thoothukudi, India

### Abstract

This composition discusses social media's contribution to animal protection. The internet was controlled by animals. Online, there are countless cute and humorous animal movies and images. Given the enormous popularity of animal videos and images online, it is not surprise that activists and groups will work to raise awareness of animal rights and welfare among social media users. Although social media can be useful and has a clear impact on the animal movement, its power shouldn't be overstated. Additionally, some of these seemingly innocent images and films advocate the maltreatment of animals, and viewers could unknowingly encourage dangerous and prohibited behaviours. These organisations are actively working to increase their impact and recruit new members through a variety of platforms, including social media, all the while promoting animal rights, protection, and conservation. This article looks at how animal rights organisations' social media strategy relates to the three core components of a social movement: group identity, actual mobilisation, and network organisation. How animal rights organisations use social media, particularly Face book and Instagram, to accomplish their main objective as a social movement Based on their ideologies, tactics, and goals, the movement for animal preservation in Indonesia is also being mapped out in this analysis's new media context.

**Mrs.G.Sujitha** is a Research Scholar, who lives in Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. She is now studying as M.Ed Scholar in V.O.C. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, TUTICORIN, TAMILNADU, INDIA. She has a degree in Master of Botany from V.O.Chidambaram College, Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. Also, she has a degree in Bachelor of Education (Biological Science) from Chandy College of Education. She has completed her Multimedia and its Applications, English Typing (Higher). She has completed One Swayam Course – Effective writing Online. She has presented twelve paper in International and National Conference. She has published thirty Papers and Chapters. She has Presented paper published Article UGC care. Finally, she has an interested in Dance, Stitching, Reading fantasy books, Learning new things.



## Keynote Address



Sam Hurn

Associate Professor in Anthropology and Programme Director for Anthrozoology at the University of Exeter, UK

Director of Exeter Anthrozoology as Symbiotic Ethics (EASE) Working Group

**Sam Hurn** is Associate Professor in Anthropology and Programme Director for Anthrozoology at the University of Exeter. Sam's research and teaching cover both social anthropology (the comparative study of human culture and society) and anthrozoology (the study of human interactions with other animals). Sam devised, developed and launched the world's first MA and PhD programmes in Anthrozoology and has published widely on an array of anthropological and anthrozoological topics arising from in-depth qualitative research. Her research has included fieldwork in Southern Africa (Swaziland and South Africa - investigating rhino poaching, primate conservation and human-wildlife conflict) and Europe (Romania, looking at street dog welfare and management; rural Andalusia, Spain and Wales, UK - focussing on domesticated animals, the care and welfare of animals in agricultural production systems, the enrolment of animals in ritual contexts, human kinship with dogs and other companion species, and the ways in which sound impacts on staff, visitors and the otherthanhuman residents at zoos). More recently her research has focussed on end of life care for companion animals, and childhood experiences of grief following companion animal loss. Her research has received funding from National Geographic, the Economic and Social Sciences research council, and the Society for Companion Animal Studies.



<https://sociology.exeter.ac.uk/research/ease/>

## An Elephant in Dublin: Animals and Knowledge in the Late Seventeenth Century



Amanda Coate

PhD Candidate, Stanford University, USA

### Abstract

In June 1681, an elephant died in a fire while on display in Dublin, after which his remains were dissected by Irish surgeon and anatomist Allan Mullen. My paper examines this elephant's time in Britain and Ireland, as well as the events that occurred following his death. Reconstructing the elephant's life and death reveals a web of connections centered around the animal, with members of the East India Company, the Royal Society, and the future Dublin Philosophical Society playing key roles in his journey to London, his dissection, and the publication of Mullen's findings. His story illuminates the multiple meanings that other-than-human animals like him could have in early modern Europe, as well as their presence in a variety of places in early modern life. In both life and death, he was considered a commodity to be bought, sold, and displayed. He was a wonder and a curiosity, inspiring fascination in those who saw him. He was also a subject of study that could provide highly sought after natural knowledge. In all his roles, the elephant was an animal with whom people interacted, whether as a living creature or in the form of preserved remains. His story intersects with and offers insight into several larger histories, such as the history of science, the history of empire, and the history of trade, and underscores the importance of other-than-human animals and human-animal interactions in early modern history.

**Amanda Coate** is a PhD candidate in History at Stanford University, where she studies early modern Europe. Her research focuses primarily on the cultural and intellectual histories of 16th- and 17th-century Britain, Germany, and France. In her work, she has investigated ideas about cannibalism (particularly survival cannibalism), science and medicine in Britain and Ireland, and human-animal interactions. Her ongoing dissertation research examines early modern European understandings of hunger and food scarcity.

## From Baaa to Ballot - Putting Animals into (local) Politics



Victoria Mitchell

MA (Anthrozoology) student, Exeter University, UK

### Abstract

“..To Parliament we must go” (1). This was the 1977 conclusion of Lord Houghton, former Labour MP, and campaigner for animal welfare reform. In 1978 Houghton helped establish the General Election Co-ordinating Committee for Animal Protection (GECCAP). GECCAP’s aim was to turn the treatment and protection of animals into a mainstream political issue, and public policy goal (2). Using the slogan “Putting Animals into Politics”, GECCAP lobbied for parties to publicly commit to statements on animal protection in the run-in to the 1979 General Election. By May 1979, for the first time in history, the manifestos of all three main parties committed to improving animal welfare (3). The success of GECCAP was persuading political parties that animal welfare was a salient issue, electorally. This coincided with a move away from the ‘Michigan Model’ of voter behaviour by political scientists in the late 1960’s and 70’s, and the emergence of ‘issue voting’ (salience) as an explanation for voting behaviour. Lobbying for national legislation is critical. However, it is at local government level that welfare standards are often implemented and enforced(4). This presentation will look at how (and why) activists and campaigners can achieve positive political outputs for other animals in their communities. By using the ‘issue salience’ model as driver to communicate persuasively with elected officials, local party policy commitments can be re-orientated towards animal protection. It is time to ‘think locally, act locally’. To the council chamber we must go!

1. Stallwood, K. (2014). Growl: Life lessons, hard truths, and bold strategies from an animal advocate. Lantern Books, New York.
2. Garner, R. (1998) Political Animals : Animal Protection Politics in Britain and the United States, Palgrave Macmillan, London
3. Garner, R. (1998) Political Animals : Animal Protection Politics in Britain and the United States, Palgrave Macmillan, London
4. Local Government Animal Welfare Group (2022) ‘Why LGAWG is Needed’. Available at: <https://localgovernmentanimalwelfare.org>

**Victoria Mitchell** is in her second (and final) year of a Masters in Anthrozoology at Exeter University. Her academic background is in politics, and prior to starting her master's link 2021, she was Campaign Co-ordinator for a political party in Plymouth. Victoria is interested in the intersection of legislative politics and animal protection, particularly at a local level. She is also interested in pest discourses relating to co-living in urban spaces.

## Atik across Canada: Cree perspectives of "caribou"



Max Pospisil

PhD Candidate, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

### Abstract

Due to sharply decreasing populations, woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) have become an animal of concern for Canadian and Indigenous peoples. In north-central Saskatchewan, Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, policy makers, land users, communities, and industry have faced multiple challenges working together to support caribou populations. Some of these challenges are due to cultural differences in ways of knowing and engaging with the natural world. As Mario Blaser (2018) and others have identified, the caribou of Indigenous cultures (atik, atiku, etc.) is not quite the same as that which exists for Euro-Western settlers. For reasons of cognitive justice, and toward better intercultural stewardship of caribou, it is important that these Indigenous understandings be recognized and included in policy and management. This review of anthropological and grey literature, informed by my fieldwork with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band in north-central Saskatchewan, examines who atik and atiku are for Cree and Innu peoples across Canada, identifies the values (explicit and implicit) present in these perspectives, and discusses implications for intercultural working together on caribou stewardship.

- Blaser, Mario. 2018. *Doing and Undoing Caribou/Atiku: Diffractive and Divergent Multiplicities and Their Cosmopolitical Orientations*. *Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology and Society* 1 (1): 47-64.

**Max Pospisil** (she/they; third- and fourth-generation Czech and Scottish) is a posthumanist doctoral candidate in Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan. Max grew up with and continues to care for forested land near Ithaca, New York, in the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' or Cayuga peoples; these forests were her first teachers in more-than-human relationship and communication. Max's doctoral research is centered in the boreal forests of Saskatchewan, traditional homelands of the Nîhithaw (Woodland Cree) peoples, where she focuses on intercultural atik (caribou) stewardship: working with Nîhithaw communities to explore relational values (e.g., respect, reciprocity, and balance) that are key to the survival of atik. Through multispecies ethnographic and visual arts methods, Max builds on her master's work with wildlife rehabilitators to continue to explore the multiple ways of knowing and listening to wild animal voices that are used by the humans who encounter them in daily life. Within and without the academy, Max enjoys collaborating with diverse groups of humans and other-than-humans, sharing experiences and knowledges to strengthen relationships and communication across species and worlds.

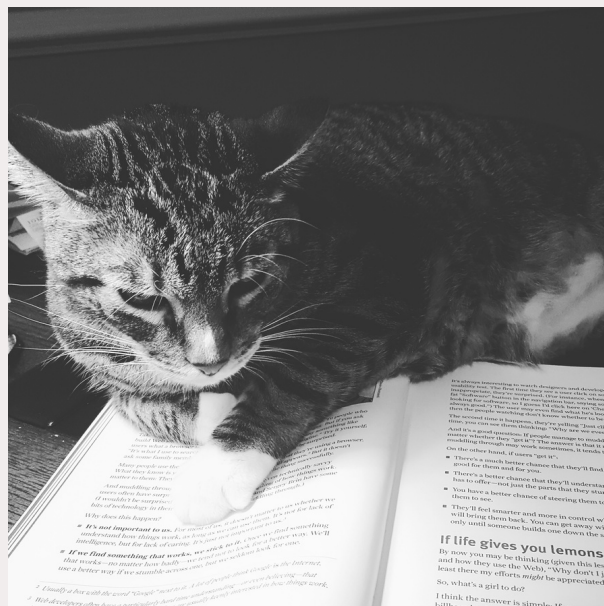
## Ways of doing anthrozoology and the future of the field

### Workshop

This workshop will explore ways of doing anthrozoology (or related) research degrees and applying research outside of academia. The format will be breakout rooms, followed by a roundtable discussion aimed at including early-career voices.

Come prepared to think about some of these questions:

1. What do you think are the most important questions to address in anthrozoological research?
2. What advice or guidance would you give/like to receive regarding pursuing a research degree in anthrozoology or a related field?
3. Is academia the only way to do meaningful research?
4. How would you like the field of anthrozoology to be defined in the future?





## Ethics of Predation in Programs of Rewilding



Oscar Courchaine

MS (Anthrozoology) student, Canisius College, USA

### Abstract

In my paper, I'll explore the notion of rewilding, particularly where it involves reverting areas to Pleistocene-like conditions by filling missing environmental niches with analogous, present-day species. One such project, Oostvaardersplassen (OVP), has become a representative example of failures in rewilding. Originally intended to be a safe haven for wetland species, the ungulates introduced to manage wetland-destroying forest growth suffer periodic mass starvation events during bad winters when they cannot leave the 56 sq. km enclosed reserve for fresh forage. To remedy this, authorities facilitate yearly culls where hunters shoot the hungriest-looking ungulates for their meat, which is then sold to the public. Many call for the ungulates to be removed from OVP, but presently they remain.

It is hard to argue that it is in the ungulates' best interest to remain in OVP. It is likely that we could see them leave in the next decade, so I want to examine what could unfold in OVP in their absence. If the founders of OVP are correct in their prediction that the growing forest in OVP left unchecked could ultimately displace the thousands of animals that can only live in wetlands, then should other measures be taken to prevent that? Or should the area be left to be as free from human influence as it can be? Most importantly, what is in the interests of the nonhuman animals involved? Looking outside OVP, how many of our rewilding practices are beneficial for the individuals and communities experiencing them? I plan to address these questions in a critical examination of rewilding practices and attempt to find the best paths forward for our relationships with nonhuman animals in the wild.

**Oscar** (he/him) is an Anthrozoology M.S. student at Canisius College and software developer. He plans to graduate in 2024 and is looking for PhD positions related to animal ethics, conservation, and longtermism. He is interested in the intersection of technology and animal studies and wants to find ethical, respectful, applications for technology in nonhuman animals' lives. Oscar can be contacted by email at [courchao@canisius.edu](mailto:courchao@canisius.edu) or at his website, <https://oscardcourchaine.github.io/>



## Biologists singing: Speculative bioacoustics, interspecies audibility, and the posthuman choir



Jami Reimer

MFA (Fine Arts) student, Simon Fraser University, Canada

### Abstract

The construction of the humanist liberal subject voice is bound up in a history which relies on a systematic separation of listening and sounding subjects and objects. But what about when voices join? From Greek theatre to Western musical traditions (and beyond!), the notion of a chorus has muddled the individuation of voice by assembling an observing or narrating mass rather than invoking a self-realizing subject. By performing a kind of ‘audienceship,’ choral voice beckons listeners into its fold with aggregational sonic momentum. While interpreting such a phenomenon as musical may be circumscribed to the human, vocal and indeed chorusing behaviours are prevalent across species. My research focuses on locating multispecies voices as features of sympoietic (collectively making) systems as a way to interrogate the primacy of the human within interspecies sonic relationships. This inquiry into voice binds sonic materiality with auditory perception– the two caught in a perceptual loop, one hailing the other in an ever-emerging system.

As chorister, prophetic muse, and climate change poster child, the humble frog quickly surfaced as an intriguing leader for this work. I partnered with the Amphibian Natural History Lab and the Fonoteca Neotropical sound archive (University of Campinas, Brazil) during the mating chorus field season to immerse myself within modes of recording and listening to chorusing frog species alongside the biologists who listen to them. Through shared experiences of listening in the field, formal and informal interview, and lab and field ‘shadowing,’ I used a phenomenological and ethnographic approach to listen for the perceptual experiences of bioacoustic biologists. By looking to bioacoustics as a site of sonic acoustic knowledge and interspecies relation, this arts-based research uses a combination of video, text, and sound to consider the disciplinary production of listening modalities and the sonic aesthetics of ecological inquiry.

**Jami Reimer** is a musician, performance maker, composer, and educator from Winnipeg, Canada on Treaty 1 territory. From choral music to field recording practices, Jami explores voice as interspecies phenomenon. In her current research with frog mating choruses, Jami looks at how bioacoustics forms particular postures towards animal voice. Jami currently resides on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations known as Vancouver where she is completing a Masters of Fine Arts at the School for Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University.

## Speciesism in the zoo



Dominique P. Augustin

MS (Anthrozoology) student, Canisius College, USA

### Abstract

This study investigates speciesism scale scores across zoo-affiliation, with a focus on zookeepers. Speciesism is a form of prejudice that assigns varying moral worth based on species membership. While zoos keep and display only non-human, non-domesticated animals, suggesting speciesism, many zoos tout missions of wildlife conservation and high animal welfare, suggesting some assignment of moral worth to the species in their care.

Utilizing the Speciesism Scale created by Caviola, Everett & Faber in 2019, this study surveys 431 participants, including 267 zookeepers, on their zoo-affiliation, diet choices, and the speciesism scale questionnaire. Laymen respondents that did not work at a zoo scored statistically significantly lower on the speciesism scale (Med = 2.2 ) than zookeepers (Med = 2.5,  $p = 1.194e-06$ ), though were not significantly more likely than zookeepers to follow plant based diets, supporting ideas of a 'meat paradox'. Speciesism scores from respondents who indicated they were morally opposed to the existence of all zoos (Med = 2.0) were significantly less than scores from respondents who were not (Med = 2.5,  $p = 0.025$ ).

The higher incidence of speciesist beliefs and attitudes in zoo-affiliated individuals helps explain the human behavior of keeping certain animals captive in zoos, though as speciesism scale scores can range from 1 to 7, zookeepers still score relatively low on the scale. This placement seems to reflect the liminal space of zoos and suggest that, while speciesism may play a part, the ethical question of wildlife captivity may be more of an issue of utilitarianism versus rights than purely speciesist beliefs.

**Dominique** recently earned her Master of Science in Anthrozoology from Canisius College. She works in the Animal Wellbeing department of Zoo Miami, where she utilizes research methods to propose data-driven management solutions to animal welfare concerns. Dominique is also interested in the various human-nonhuman animal relationships at the zoo, within the greater context of zoo mission goals: good animal welfare, wildlife conservation, and education. She believes zoos can only exist ethically if they are successful in these goals, and considers a wider understanding of the perspectives and relationships within zoos to be central to achieving that mission.

## The Effects of Tourism on Coral Reefs



Alexander Rhodes

Undergraduate, Beacon College, USA

### Abstract

This research paper will discuss how tourism has affected the coral reef system through activities like recreational scuba diving, snorkeling, boating, and fishing. Over the past decades, reef-based tourism has developed dramatically. In that time, many activities have arisen; and these activities have negatively affected the non-human inhabitants of coral reefs. For example, boating has caused significant damage to coral reefs through anchoring. The type of damage that can be traced to anchoring is coral fragmentation and breakages. In some instances, the anchor and chain found on commercial shipping boats have been known to dislodge the coral causing long-term damage. Likewise, recreational scuba divers and snorkelers have caused significant coral degradation by introducing coral disease outbreaks. These outbreaks occur due to the high amount of stress put on the coral through being touched and broken by scuba divers and snorkelers. These diseases include white syndrome, black band disease, growth anomalies, and skeletal-eroding band disease. Likewise, recreational fishing affects coral reefs by overfishing the natural grazing fish found in coral reefs, like the parrotfish, who keep the coral clean by eating up the algae growth. Blast fishing also causes large-scale damage to the coral reefs and the fish species found within. It is time to consider anthropogenic impacts on all species, not just charismatic megafauna. Coral are significant beings, vital to the ecosystem, and deserving of consideration.

**Alexander Rhodes** goes by the pronoun of he/him. He is currently a student attending Beacon College in Leesburg, Florida, majoring in Anthrozoology with a minor in History. Alexander is currently in his senior year and will graduate in the spring of 2023. Along with his schooling, Alexander Rhodes is a certified Marine Dive Guide, working his way towards becoming a certified Scuba Diving Instructure. In the meantime, he is an acting Assistant Scuba Diving Instructor and teaches the Marine Ecological side of Scuba Diving. Alexander Rhodes's passion is in the Anthrozoological world. He aspires to work in every aspect of the marine world, working in the field on marine-focused conservation projects and in aquariums or zoos caring for captive marine life. Alexander Rhodes also plans to become a teacher to educate the youth about marine life and the issues they face.

## Factors associated with play behaviour in human-cat dyads



Julia SL Henning,

Torben Nielsen, Eduardo J Fernandez, Susan Hazel

PhD Candidate, University of Adelaide, Australia

### Abstract

Play is a common behaviour, often exhibited within human-cat dyads. Play is a behaviour that may have numerous benefits to both cat and human, including within the realms of social cooperation and inter-species communication. However, little is known about human-cat play and foundational information is needed. The current study aimed to investigate total daily play durations, play session lengths, and the factors associated with play times in human-cat dyads. An online survey was developed using demographic information, questions related to play times, resources available to the cat, “games” played with the cat, free text sections and the following validated measures: cat quality of life (QOL), the cat owner relationship scale (CORS) and the human adult playfulness trait scale (APTS). Regression analysis was conducted using SPSS 26. Responses were completed by 1,591 cat guardians from 55 countries. Total daily play times and play session lengths were both significantly higher in human-cat dyads where the cat was younger in age, the guardian reported playing a larger diversity of “games” with the cat, and the guardian reported experiencing a closer relationship with their cat. Some guardians reported avoiding play during times when they were too busy or due to fears over incurring injuries. The amount of play available in human-cat dyads may have an effect on establishing and maintaining social bonds between cats and their humans. Further research into understanding play within human-cat dyads and how it affects inter-species relationships is needed.

**Julia Henning** (she/her) is a PhD candidate at the University of Adelaide. Julia has a special interest in feline behaviour, animal affective states and human-cat dyads. Her current PhD project focuses on play as an indicator and promotor of positive affective state and welfare in domestic cats. Two papers from her studies have been published to date (1,2). Julia is also a passionate science communicator, having written several articles for The Conversation (3) and presented a TedX talk about her move to science from music (4).

1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2022.05.007>

2. <https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.836>

3. <https://theconversation.com/why-does-my-cat-wake-me-up-so-early-and-what-can-i-do-about-it-180959>

4. [https://www.ted.com/talks/julia\\_henning\\_actually\\_do\\_give\\_up](https://www.ted.com/talks/julia_henning_actually_do_give_up)

## **Partner, Companion, Servant, or Tool? Exploring the Inter-species Relationship between People with a Vision Impairment and their Guide Dogs**

Tim Stafford

MA (Anthrozoology) graduate (2022), Exeter University

### **Abstract**

Guide dogs are members of the canine species (*Canis familiaris*) who are trained to assist the mobility of people with a vision impairment (PVI). Ensuring the continued efficacy of guide dog provision is a fundamental requirement for any service provider but cannot be achieved without a deep understanding of the perceptions of the PVI themselves and the multi-species relationship that is created. This qualitative study, drawing on the lived experience of PVI and guided by a critical realism approach, explored the perceptions of UK-based PVI about their relationship with their guide dogs. These perceptions were then compared with the lived experience of guide dog mobility instructors (GDMI) and others in the academic, service provider and public space. Findings confirmed that this multi-species relationship is complex, dynamic, affective, and influenced by many relational factors. An argument is offered regarding the degree to which the dogs benefit from this unique dog/human relationship and whether this relationship conforms to the description of a reciprocal, mutualistic partnership.

**Tim** has worked for Guide Dogs (UK) since 1985, qualifying as a guide dog mobility instructor in 1989 then working in the UK and New Zealand. Tim holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and has just completed a Master's degree in Anthrozoology. Tim has progressed through a succession of management and leadership roles, being appointed as Director of Canine Assisted Services in 2014 to lead the re-design and development of the canine system of breeding, puppy development, dog training, behaviour, welfare, and partnership services. Tim moved into his present role as Director of Canine Affairs in 2020 where he leads on strengthening engagement and collaboration with national and international partners and providing global leadership. Tim is a Director/Trustee of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) where he leads on education, standards, and dog welfare. He is also a Director/Trustee of Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK).



## Living with the wildlife in a time of human-wildlife conflict: A case from Western Ghats, South India



Deepak Bhat Dundi

PhD graduate (2022), University of Roehampton, UK

### Abstract

This paper examines how capitalist agriculture, plantation forestry, the exclusionary model of wildlife conservation and the responses of wild elephants to these regimes have together shaped an interspecies conflict in which both elephants and humans have been injured or killed. In this context, the choice of many indigenous Adivasi families to live inside the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve with the wild elephants presents a valuable situation in which to explore alternative kinds of relationships between people and elephants. In recent years Adivasi communities have fought for their forest rights and the right to live inside the forest. In order to explore the ways in which Adivasi relate to elephants, this study uses ethnographic approaches and focuses on detailed stories told by the Adivasi who live in contact with the elephants about why elephants kill people, and why elephants bless people; why they eat some crops, but walk right past others; why they eat meat cooked by people; why they destroy houses; and how they play with people. Building on the insights offered by these stories, the paper investigates the nature of the relationship between Adivasi people and wild elephants in and around the Ngauruhoe Tiger Reserve of the Kodagu District in South India, incorporating a multispecies ethnography to study the contact zone between humans and wild elephants. This paper argues that the awareness that elephants possess agency and intelligence enables the Adivasi people to act as co-participants in a multispecies world rather than as masters or caretakers of non-humans.

**Deepak Bhat Dundi** completed his doctorate at the Centre for Research in Evolutionary, Social and Inter-Disciplinary Anthropology, University of Roehampton, in August 2022. His dissertation 'God, Enemy, Child: Relationships between Elephants and Humans in the Western Ghats, India,' focuses on Human and Asian elephant interaction in a rapidly changing landscape. Since the dissertation centred on justice in both non-human and human terms, he used the multispecies ethnography approach as the methodology to study the contact zone between humans and elephants. Originally from India, Deepak worked as a research associate in a wildlife conservation organisation in India before moving to the UK to complete his doctorate. Deepak's research interest broadly focuses on the relationship between nature and society.



## **Wagging the compassionate tail: Highlighting the interests of the individual in wildlife research**

Louise Hayward

PhD candidate, EASE, Exeter University, UK

### **Abstract**

I am part-way through a project looking at the ethics and welfare of wildlife monitoring ('tagging'). For my purposes, this means anything put on, or in, a free-living vertebrate (e.g. wing tags, microchips, satellite trackers). My paper will explore some of the issues and provide a preliminary picture of the views of my researcher-participants. Thus far, respondents have been asked to complete a qualitative survey, detailing their experiences of ethical and welfare issues during their tagging work (including capture, attachment techniques and post-release outcomes). I have also conducted interviews with a range of interested individuals. My research takes into account the complex context in which most tagging work takes place. We are in the midst of a mass extinction period, brought about by human activity (1), which threatens not only wild animal species, but also the welfare of individuals (e.g. from the direct effects of pollution), and the survival of humans. Conservationists are increasingly trying to accommodate the interests of all stakeholders (2), but to what extent does this include the interests of individual animals used in tagging research? In response to the growing 'Compassionate Conservation' movement, which emphasizes the intrinsic value of the individual, some wildlife researchers have countered that, 'the compassionate tail should not wag the conservation dog' (3). I will discuss this apparent division as I consider a pragmatic way forward to improve the way that such work is planned and carried out.

1. Cowie et al. (2022) 'The Sixth Mass Extinction: fact, fiction or speculation?' *Biological Reviews* 97, pp. 640-663
2. Sterling, et al. (2017) 'Assessing the evidence for stakeholder engagement in biodiversity conservation.' *Biological Conservation* 209, pp. 159-171
3. Hayward et al. (2019) 'Deconstructing compassionate conservation', *Conservation Biology*, 33(4), pp. 760-768.

**Louise Hayward** is a PhD student within Exeter's EASE group. She studied wildlife ecology as an undergraduate, before completing an MSc. in animal behaviour and welfare. Having worked in animal care and rescue, as a humane educator and now, primary science teacher, she decided to return to study to tackle an issue that has shadowed her throughout that time, and which combines her interests in wildlife and animal welfare. She is investigating how researchers consider the interests of the individual animal when planning wildlife tagging projects. By working with those in the field, she hopes, ultimately, to generate workable ideas for sharing expertise that could lead to a reduction in negative welfare impacts.

## The “Poultry” Industry, Avian Influenza and the Inadequacy of an Anthropocentric One-Health Approach



Deniz Diler

MA (Sociology) graduate (2022), Bogazici University, Turkey

### Abstract

According to OIE, mass killings of birds because of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) between only January and June 2022 amounted to 73,41 million birds. As part of precautionary measures to stop the spread of the virus, they were killed by horrifying mass “depopulation” methods such as “ventilation shutdown”, burying/“dumping” alive or by the use of firefighting foam or CO<sub>2</sub> gas. These numbers were in addition to the routine killing of 75 billion birds each year within the “poultry” industry, whereby they are raised in overcrowded, ammonia and disease-filled factory farms, mutilated, being forced to live on top of each other and their manure, being subjected to an untimely and violent death many years before their expected lifetime. With the cyclical (re)emergence of avian influenza viruses since 1997 (when it first “jumped” from birds to human species), the practices and processes of the world “poultry” industry were indicated by a diverse range of scientists as suspect for aiding the evolution, increased virulence of HPAI viruses and the higher frequency of the virus outbreaks. Bringing these discussions together, this paper aims to argue that unless steps are taken to cease the practices of the capitalist “poultry” industry, the continuous emergence of not only avian influenza but other zoonotic diseases (e.g. Salmonella) is inescapable. This calls for an un-anthropocentric One-Health approach that recognizes the industrial suffering and commodification of birds as the culprit of the emergence of HPAI and the threat of its evolution to gain human-to-human transmission ability.

Keywords: poultry industry, avian influenza, One-Health, animal-industrial complex, commodification of birds.

**Deniz Diler** has recently received her MA in sociology from Bogazici University, Istanbul. Her research explored the link between capitalist poultry industry and zoonotic avian influenza and examined poultry supply chains in Turkey, the US and the EU. Her work generally focuses on human-nonhuman animal relations, critical animal studies, industrial animal agriculture, zoonotic viruses and representation of nonhuman animals. She received her BA in sociology from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. She is planning on applying to PhD programs concerned with human-animal relations across Europe and the US. She has been living with Kırpık for the last six years.

## Effects of equine-assisted interventions on children's mental health



Annika Barzen

PhD Candidate, University of Cologne, Germany

### Abstract

The scientific research on animal-assisted interventions is a young research field and the understanding of positive effects is lacking empirical validation. In the field of equine-assisted interventions for mental health, children are a central target group. Therefore, in the present qualitative study, children themselves were asked about their experiences in the equine-assisted setting to understand the effects from their point of view. The study surveyed 20 children who grew up in stationary living groups and therefore were exposed to psychosocial stress. They attended an equine-assisted intervention once per week for at least several months before they were interviewed. The interviews were conducted with semi-structured questions. The interviews were analysed using the grounded theory methodology. As another form of expression, the children also drew a picture of themselves at the stable so they had an orientation during the interview and additional data was collected. The drawings were analysed with a segment analysis. The results showed the positive effect of a trusting relation to the riding instructor who constructed challenging situations with the horse where the children could gain positive experiences. By overcoming challenges with the horse, the children gain self-confidence. They experience support from the riding instructor, the group and the horse, which strengthens their interpersonal trust. The positive influence of trust on mental health can therefore be emphasized as a central factor in the equine-assisted setting for children.

**Annika Barzen** is a social scientist with an academic background in the areas of education, sociology, innovation studies and mental health. She also completed further education in the field of Animal Psychology and Husbandry as well as in Animal-Assisted Therapy following an integrative approach. In September 2022 she submitted her PhD-thesis at the University of Cologne in which she reconstructed children's perspectives on equine-assisted interventions. Using qualitative methods she included children into the research process to gain new insights in the effect factors of Equine-Assisted Interventions. For the cumulative PhD-project five articles were published which discuss the research field of Animal-Assisted Interventions, review existing literature on Equine-Assisted Interventions for children's mental health or dive into the empirical work by collecting and analysing children's interviews and drawings. It is her goal to find a job outside of Germany to pursue her research interests and dedicate her work to a better understanding of the relationship between humans and animals. **Please feel free to contact her if you know any projects starting in this area in 2023 using qualitative methods.**

**The Trouble with a Cuddle: Experiences from care givers of interactions involving close physical contact between children aged 7-11 and the family dog**



Anna Baatz

PhD candidate, University of Salford, UK

**Poster presentation**

**Anna** is completing her first year of a PhD in her home city of Salford. She holds a Masters degree in Educational Planning, Economics and International Development from University College London Institute of Education and is passionate about child-animal interaction, and understanding the behaviour change effects of third sector community & education programmes. She has published research work on the evaluation of dog welfare charity Dogs Trust UK wide education programme and has worked in charity impact evaluation for a further five years. Whilst undertaking her PhD she works part time as Outcomes Measurement & Evaluation Specialist for Canal & River Trust. She lives with her four year old son and partner and has a scruffy dog called Mo and a horse with floppy ears called Nazari.

*See end of this book for A4 version of poster*

## Communicating equine health and welfare concepts with young people - do influencers influence?



Vicki Newton, Dr Tamzin Furtado, Bryony Lancaster

MS graduate (2022), University of Edinburgh, UK

### Poster presentation

**Vicki Newton** recently completed an MSc in Equine Science at the University of Edinburgh. With a background in education (achieving qualified teacher status in 2009), Vicki has worked in the charity sector for almost 10 years. In a role held at equine welfare charity World Horse Welfare, she led on education, training and capacity building within the charity's international team, shaping the development and growth of the Asia and Southern Africa equine welfare programme. Alongside her continued work in the charity sector, she is now undertaking a PhD studentship with the University of Bedfordshire, supported by the British Horse Society, investigating the mental health benefits of the horse-human partnership.

*See end of this book for A4 version of poster*

## **Towards a functional synthesis of wildlife welfare and conservation: Integrating wildlife rehabilitation with compassionate conservation**



Sarah Helmbrecht

MEM (Environmental Management) graduate  
(2010), Duke University, USA

### **Poster presentation**

Prior and subsequent to obtaining a Master's degree in Environmental Management **Sarah Helmbrecht (Sal)** has worked in wildlife and habitat conservation, including in marine and estuarine turtle conservation, salmonid conservation, and stewardship of conservation lands and easements. The lives of wild individuals and other animals living in proximity to, but not with, human beings came into clear relief during a several-months-long and eventually successful search for a lost cat companion. This experience engendered the desire to provide direct care to individuals and thus to train as a wildlife rehabilitator. Working in wildlife rehabilitation as well as conservation has illustrated the potential benefits of facilitating communication between the two; of situating rehabilitation within conservation efforts and of adapting conservation and monitoring methods that respect the welfare of the individual.

The survey here presented is undertaken with the intent of generating discussion amongst people working or otherwise interested in wildlife conservation or rehabilitation. How might we integrate habitat conservation, wildlife conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation within a framework of ethical standards that protect individual welfare, and should we try to do so?



## Speciesism as Curated Choice: What Libraries Teach Children About Animals



Lynda M Korimboccus

PhD Candidate, University of East Anglia, UK

### Abstract

Sociology's original thinkers asked us to challenge taken for granted assumptions and to use our 'sociological imagination' to see the world differently. Speciesism is everywhere, passed on from one generation to another through agents of socialisation. From the average family's belief that nonhuman animals are suitable to be used for food, through an education system that reinforces ideas of nonhuman animals as lower species, workplaces dependent on their exploitation for profit, to a media still presenting ideas of nonhuman animals as unequal 'others': it is so normalised, it is barely noticed. Throughout childhood, the norm of speciesism is seldom challenged. Despite many children loving nonhuman animals, and more children than ever being raised as ethical vegans, speciesism remains an entrenched barrier to a fully inclusive society. Nonhuman animal use is evident in so much of what and how children are taught, including through film, television and books. Local libraries provide free access to books, many of which generally reflect the norms and values of the society in which they are located. This small study found speciesism alive and well in the curated choices made on behalf of children within one small local authority library in West Lothian, Scotland, and this talk will present its findings.

**Lynda M. Korimboccus** (she/her) has been a committed ethical vegan and grassroots activist since 1999. She is a passionate advocate for equity, justice and liberation, and her doctoral research investigates speciesism and the lived experiences of young vegan children in key Scottish social institutions such as education. Lynda graduated Exeter's MA Anthrozoology programme in 2019, and holds undergraduate Honours degrees in Philosophy, Politics, Social Psychology and Sociology. She is an active member of The Vegan Society's Researcher and Education Networks, and a volunteer writer for Faunalytics. Writing independently in the field of critical animal studies and vegan sociology, Lynda has published several papers and authored various forthcoming edited book chapters, mostly on the socialisation of children into normative views of the nonhuman. She is also Editor-in-Chief of the International Association of Vegan Sociologists' Student Journal of Vegan Sociology, and has been Lecturer in Sociology at West Lothian College, Scotland, for more than 15 years. Lynda can be found on Twitter @lmkorimboccus and is open to collaborative ideas to further the rights of nonhuman animals.

## The Meat Paradox: Uncovering the Psychology Behind Meat-Eaters and Vegetarians



Riley M. Fisher

MS student, University of Winchester, Canada

### Abstract

The central premise of my topic is an idea coined the "meat paradox." This paradox entails the psychological conflict that most people endure when they prefer to eat meat yet are disturbed by animal suffering. In order to gain a better understanding of this quandary, three aspects are often analyzed: the characteristics of the person, the animal being eaten, and the act of consumption. The meat paradox has its roots in Festinger's theory of cognitive dissonance. However, in this particular instance, the meat paradox is described in its own right as meat-related cognitive dissonance (MRCD). Since meat-eating is so normalized and ritualized in Western culture, the general population does not--for the most part--give it a second thought. Without salient triggers, decreased cognitive dissonance accompanies chronic meat-eating. This, in turn, continues the cycle of MRCD and the meat paradox. So, when an individual goes against the grain of the "norm" (i.e., becoming vegetarian or vegan), it is often perceived as radical. As such, the practice of abstaining from eating meat or consuming animal-derived food products encompasses more than just a physical behaviour, it often becomes an identity. This suggests that being cognizant of one's lifestyle choices can influence more than just eating practices—it can actually embody the particular personality traits of an individual. When analyzing something as complex as the meat paradox, researchers have proposed that certain personality traits can help explain why some individuals may be at a greater disposition to meat-eating, while others have an aversion towards it.

**Riley M. Fisher** (she/her) recently began her MSc in Animal Welfare, Behavior, Ethics and Law at the University of Winchester. Riley holds a BA(Hons) in Philosophy and a Certificate in Anthrozoology from the University of Windsor. Her undergraduate capstone project, "Neuroethics and Nonhuman Animals," focused on how progress in animal neuroscience, comparative psychology, and comparative cognition can be used as ethical justifications to help achieve legal personhood status for nonhuman animals like elephants, cetaceans, and chimpanzees who might be confined in unsuitable captive settings. Riley is extremely passionate about understanding the philosophical views about our relationship with nonhuman animals and evaluating moral principles and ethical theories—especially notions of justice and rights. She looks forward to exploring these interests, among others, over the course of her master's degree. In her spare time, Riley enjoys going for walks with her three companion poodles.

## Childhood cruelty toward animals, and the impact of a human education reading program on children's attitudes towards the mistreatment of animals



Diane Karagienakos

MA (Anthrozoology) (2019), Exeter University, UK

### Abstract

Humane Education Programs (HEPs) aimed at children and adolescents have traditionally focused on nurturing empathy for, and the ethical care of, nonhuman animals. The strong association between animal abuse and domestic violence is often cited as a reason for the promotion of HEPs as an attempt to prevent violence not just toward animals, but also ultimately toward humans. Despite this, most HEPs do not adequately address the topic of animal cruelty and abuse. The objective of this research is to determine if a five-week Humane Education Reading program might impact children's attitudes toward the mistreatment of animals. The research was conducted in 4th grade classrooms, where students twice completed a Likert-scaled questionnaire, comprised of statements regarding feelings, thoughts, and behaviors toward animal abuse: once prior to the program's commencement, and again upon the program's completion. Results measured for variation between overall pre- and post- treatment questionnaires, and whether or not gender and pet ownership were factors in the resulting impact of the humane education program. The study found that overall, children's empathy toward witnessing animals being mistreated increased by the end of the program. Though these results were more pronounced for boys than for girls, the most striking variation was between the results for those with pets, whose empathy increased dramatically, compared to those without pets. Survey design concerns were revealed that warrant further discussion.

**Diane** earned an MA (with Distinction) in Anthrozoölogy from the University of Exeter in 2019. She holds certifications as a Pet Loss Grief Recovery Specialist (PLGR-S), a Human-Animal Intervention Specialist (HAIS-C), and recently graduated from her local Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. In addition to managing a satellite office for a Fortune 500 company in the US, Diane is also a published journalist, award-winning performer, and multimedia creator. Her current areas of interest include – but are not limited to -- the impact of capitalism and neoliberalism on the lives of non-human earthlings; and the One Health Agenda, which encourages an integrated approach to addressing human, animal, and environmental/ecosystem health concerns. Diane is on a mission to subversively convert her friends to veganism, one homemade Greek vegan dish at a time. In her free time, she helps care for eighteen chickens, eleven goats, and a donkey on an organic farm in Folsom, CA. Diane enjoys writing, research, and collaborating with curious minds on both academic and creative projects. If you have any ideas you wish to explore, feel free to contact her.

## Studying Liminal Identities - Developing a multimodal approach to explore the lives of New Guinea singing dogs living as companion animals



Molly Sumridge

PhD candidate, EASE, Exeter University, UK

### Abstract

At best guess the current number of New Guinea singing dogs (NGSDs) living as companion animals in North America is somewhere between 200-400. What looks on the surface to be an ordinary relationship between an owner and their dog, is in fact, a world of social status and expertise, classifications and laws, the trading of lives, and the deaths that come as a consequence. NGSDs are spread across the continent, living hundreds of miles apart, and yet, their lives are interconnected by online communities and the influence of their members. Beliefs and ideologies surrounding the classification of these dogs inform and impact their individual lives. While it is overwhelming to conceive of how to witness, record, and understand the influence of power and control taking place in this community of owners, and its effects on the lives of the dogs in their care, it is our responsibility to design an approach that can encompass all of these elements. Understanding these lives and liminal identities requires methods designed to capture culture, discourse, themes, ideologies, and daily lives taking place across the internet and in owners' homes. In addition, the Coronavirus pandemic raised further considerations for an in-person observational study. To conduct this research I found no single method that could trace and disassemble this complicated world of real-life relationships between owner and dog, conjoined on a social media platform, and directly influenced by information distributed on the internet. In this presentation, I will describe the multimodal approach I have constructed for this research and how it has progressed.

**Molly Sumridge** is a PhD candidate at the University of Exeter, as well as an Assistant Professor of Anthrozoology at Carroll College. Her professional interests focus on primitive/ancient dogs, and behavior modification for dog sports and pet aggression. Her research focuses include human-animal relations and relationships specific to domestication, primitive/ancient dogs, non-traditional companion animal relationships, and dog sports. Molly leads the canine program in the Carroll College Anthrozoology department, in which students train and care for foster dogs during the academic year. Her courses focus on research, training, canine ecology, cross-cultural human-canine relationships and conflicts, working dogs, and critical analysis of human-animal interactions and relationships. When she is not teaching or consulting she is up to her eyeballs in research working on a PhD in Anthrozoology, focused on discourse involving the labeling of dogs, specifically New Guinea singing dogs. While the intersection of all things human and non-human animal is her love and her life, Molly grounds herself through her loving husband, calamitous cat, patient parrot, spicy snakes, a flock of charming chickens, and a cast of colorful canine characters.

## Pit Bull Type Dogs and Dog Fighting Rings



Brynn Shewman

MS (Anthrozoology) student, Canisius College, USA

### Abstract

My research paper is titled Pit Bull Type Dogs and Dog Fighting Rings. The purpose of this paper is to analyze and discuss the predominantly illegal practice of maintaining and taking part in dog fighting rings in the United States. This paper will discuss the welfare considerations that should be considered for pit bull type dogs, as well as the complicated history pit bull type dogs share alongside humans. Throughout, I will analyze different facets of this human-animal relationship combined with all of the aforementioned aspects. To conclude, I will attempt to provide alternative welfare protocol perspectives to take into consideration.

**Brynn Shewman** graduated this past May from Carroll College in Helena MT with a bachelor's degree in Anthrozoology. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Anthrozoology at Canisius College, and is quite excited to begin her journey of earning a PhD as soon as she completes her MA. Brynn's primary Anthrozoological research interests pertain to pit bull type dogs and their respective owners, the animal's welfare, the complicated history pit bull type dogs share with their human counterparts, and how these specific dog breeds and their owners are affected by media and public biases. Brynn is passionate about animal welfare advocacy and hopes to delve further into this aspect of Anthrozoology as she continues her education. In addition to her academic pursuits, Brynn presented a TEDx talk titled, "The Language Within Us," about interspecies communication and spends her days helping owners with their pet's behavior problems. When not working Brynn is busy spending time with her dog Seward and sharing his world on Instagram.



## Compassion Fatigue Risk Factors in Animal Shelter Employees

Lexy Ritenburgh

MS (Anthrozoology) student, Canisius College, USA

### **Abstract**

Animal shelter staff are often subjected to a variety of traumatic experiences during the course of their work. These traumatic experiences can lead to a phenomenon known as compassion fatigue. A variety of factors have been shown to contribute to compassion fatigue in shelter staff, including euthanasia, contact with animals, job responsibilities, and motivation. The present study aims to determine whether ideas and attitudes towards the welfare of animals in an individual's care contribute to compassion fatigue. A grounded theory methodology using two distinct demographic groups, those who are reporting compassion fatigue symptoms and those who are not, will be utilized. Participants will be randomly selected from a convenience sample to complete an interview responding to questions about their experiences working at an animal shelter. The data collected will be coded for themes between the two demographic groups, and similarities and differences will be identified. The results of this study will allow for better preventative measures to be taken in preventing compassion fatigue among those working in this caring profession.

**Lexy Ritenburgh** (she/her) is on track to complete their MS in Anthrozoology from Canisius College in New York in May 2023. Her thesis project focuses on risk factors for Compassion Fatigue amongst those working in animal shelters. Lexy has worked at an animal shelter for the last 6 years, focusing on improving the relationship between community members and the shelter. When she isn't performing television or radio interviews, she is often working with staff on ways to improve their own mental health in addition to that of the animals in their care. She is interested in continuing her research on the relationship between employee and animal wellbeing in the future.

## AIP2022 Awards

**Katie Adamson Conservation Fund (KACF)** is a Denver (Colorado) based non-profit active in 22 countries. This fund helps endangered animals through the financial support of local researchers, anti-poaching groups, human-wildlife conflict resolution efforts, sustainable development projects, conservationists, and other agencies. They also sponsor educational and professional sharing of information by promoting global conservation and veterinary relationships.

Visit the website to learn more: [www.katieadamsonconservationfund.org/](http://www.katieadamsonconservationfund.org/)



The **AIP2022 KACF prize** will be awarded for the category ‘most novel examination of human-wildlife relationships or relationships in conservation practice’ and will be open to all presenters who have recently completed their master’s degree (within one year), are about to complete their master’s degree or are in their first year of their PhD. Judges will also consider how well the presentation fits the conference theme of symbiotic ethics.

The winner of this prize will be awarded a \$50 (USD) Visa gift card, swag pack (hat, t-shirt, set of signed children’s books by the KACF executive director), and be featured on the AIP and KACF social media feeds! The winner will have the chance to build conservation relationships with members of the team, or receive mentoring (if desired, and dependent upon applicability of recipient’s area of study).

**Fanimal’s Fellowship Program** is designed for post-grads to develop skills in non-profit management, networking, WordPress, marketing, social media, research, education and outreach, event planning and management, content development, and visual design. Fellows also receive a stipend to attend a conference (up to \$500).

Visit the website to learn more: [www.fanimal.online/programs/fellowship-programs](http://www.fanimal.online/programs/fellowship-programs)

The **AIP2022 Fanimal Prize** will be awarded to the ‘most progressive post graduate exploration of symbiotic human-animal relations’ and will be open to all presenters who are within the five years after completion of their undergraduate studies or are currently enrolled in an MA or MSc program (and not currently studying for a PhD).



The winner of this prize will be awarded a place on the Fanimal Fellowship Program, an exciting opportunity for emerging animal scholars and advocates to explore animal-focused careers.

## The Trouble with a Cuddle

### Experiences from care givers of interactions between children aged 7-11 and the family dog

Anna Baatz

Academic Supervision: Prof Robert Young, Dr Amy Bidgood



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

## PhD Year 1 Qualitative Study

- 10 in person semi structured interviews with families (at least one parent and child in interview unit) within borough of Salford
- Recruited via parents groups on social media
- Research question “what are dog owning parents of 7-11 year old children’s lived experience of supervising child dog interactions?”
- Thematic analysis methodology

*\*full findings write up in progress at time of print*

“Cuddle”- to hold somebody/something close in your arms to show love

Always The Best of Friends? Scan  
and find out



Observed stress behaviours from dog occurred when dog had limited or no physical agency in an interaction e.g. close physical contact initiated by the child

Interviewer: "And what do you think that it is that she most enjoys?"

Female adult: "The cuddles I think"

"I do wonder.. I think is he enjoying that? When she can be like, Ohhhhhhhh, like hugging him and you know, mwa mwa mwa mwa kissing him and stuff and he kind of... And I've noticed him yawn then. But he doesn't do anything else. He just kind of sits there."

"It's generally when he's being a bit grabby, and trying to pick her up, or use his hands to move her closer to him. She's like GRRRRRRR"

**"Cuddling" frequently described as child's favourite interaction (play a close second)**

**Such interactions reported to be more likely when the dog is tired, in bed or at night time**

"She'll indicate if she doesn't want to do something. Often by like.... not a full on growl, but a GRRRRRRRR"

"it gets to about half six at night, she gets on the sofa and her whole attitude, towards the kids, changes. If they come down, and they start stroking her she's very like, 'no, I'm not up for playing'. She won't bear her teeth of anything, but she growls at the back of her throat and it's almost like, she looks at me like, 'I thought you sent these to bed?'"

"And she's... She's been quite clear with a... a... not a big growl, but just a minor growl just to say leave me alone now"

### Care givers and children likely to describe growl resulting from interactions in minimising terms

Care givers frequently interpret dog attachment to child with observations of the dog having physical agency and freely approaching child

"she tends to go to her before anyone else. Yeah, if they both walked in together and she's not seen them for the same amount of time, 100% she'd go to the oldest [child] first."

### Work Leading Up To Project

*Education as a tool for improving canine welfare: Evaluating the effect of an education workshop on attitudes to responsible dog ownership and canine welfare in a sample of Key Stage 2 children in the United Kingdom*

Anna Baatz, Katharine L. Anderson,  
Rachel Casey, Maria Kyle, Kirsten M.  
McMillan, Melissa Upjohn, Hollie  
Sevenoaks [https://doi.  
org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230832](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230832)



**“What three words describe your child and your dog’s relationship?”**



**Implications for dog welfare education:**

Physical agency in an interaction to be considered as key central consideration of encouraging mutually beneficial child dog interaction



# Communicating equine health and welfare concepts with young people – do influencers influence?

Vicki Newton, Dr Tamzin Furtado, Bryony Lancaster (University of Edinburgh)

## Abstract

**Introduction**  
Equine play important and multi-dimensional roles in human lives across the globe, with welfare intricately linked to their interactions with humans. Equine care and management behaviours of young people are shaped by their knowledge and understanding, those around them, and their lived experiences. This paper provides novel insights into how young people access equine health and welfare knowledge.

**Methods and Discussion**  
Reflecting on the results of a cross-sectional, online survey disseminated to 18- to 24-year-olds through colleges and universities, evidence-based scientific advances in equine health and welfare were found to have some perceived influence over equine management behaviours. All those who participated in the survey (n = 61) used social media, with six different social media channels accessed regularly by over 60% of participants. Almost all follow friends and family, over three-quarters follow elite equine sportspersons, and over half follow influencers across their channels. Social media was the most popular – albeit not the most trusted – source of news and current affairs. When asked to identify the most important attribute in others when seeking equine care and management advice specifically, 80% reported that someone with a professional qualification would be the priority.

**Conclusions**  
The role of all groups of people followed through social media must be considered in understanding how to best communicate equine health and welfare information. In doing so, there is an opportunity for scientific research to be communicated in innovative ways to secure the future welfare of equines.



## Introduction

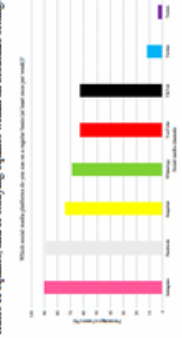
Animals play a significant role in the lives of children and young people throughout the world, and their benefits to mental health and well-being and social interactions have been demonstrated throughout research (Hawkins and Williams, 2017). Human-animal interactions undoubtedly pose both challenges and opportunities to optimising equine welfare in today's world. As the future generation of equine owners and users, it is important for equine health and welfare professionals to be able to meet, educate and influence young people (RSPCA, 2017) in the pursuit of advancing welfare standards. There is an increasing view that children and young people are important recipients of interventions that promote and improve animal welfare, yet research which seeks to establish their perspectives is still lacking (Ollendick et al., 2010).

Adults influence the behaviours of young people in a variety of ways, including those behaviours learnt either intentionally or unintentionally through the influence of example (Hard et al., 2009). As well as seeking advice and guidance from those with whom young people have a personal relationship, it is plausible that they may also look to those with whom they have a peripheral relationship. Influencers (a person that influences somebody something, especially a person with the potential to influence a large number of people) are a type of social media celebrity who have the potential to serve as role models for young people, and as such their opinions and actions may influence the behaviours of those that 'follow' them through the media.

## Results

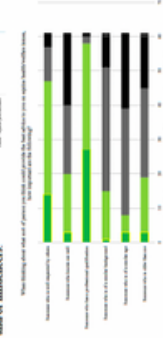
There were 61 young people who participated in the survey, with a 100% completion rate. The study population composition was 86% UK based, with 10% from Nepal, 2% from France, and 2% from the UAE. The majority (83%) of participants were female. The average (median and mean) age of participants was 20, with the full range of participants distributed from 18 to 24.

Over half of participants (57%) reported multiple relationships with horses at the time of participating, with over half owners/keepers, riders of equines, and/or studying equines within an academic setting.



The mode of technology used to access information varied amongst participants, with just over half (52%) preferring to use their smartphone compared to those who use a computer more often. Despite this variance in mode of technology, every participant (100%) confirmed that they use social media, with six different social media channels being accessed on a regular basis (at least once per week) by at least one third of participants.

Two thirds of participants reported that they use social media most often to access latest news and current affairs. Almost all (98%) participants reported that they follow friends and family members across social media, with over half of people also following elite equine sportspersons and/or influencers.



Over two thirds (69%) of participants felt that they would benefit from having more information on equine health and welfare available to them. When asked to identify who they felt could provide the best advice on equine health/welfare issues, 80% reported that someone who has a professional qualification would be the priority.

"I listen to others' advice, but ultimately make sure I do my own research before deciding what is best as you cannot completely trust any person, even those with qualifications."

"Just because a celebrity has been paid to get people to buy a product does not make me trust that they actually feed it to their horses or that it actually works."

## Conclusions and Implications

This study has shown that evidence-based scientific advances in equine health and welfare appear to be influencing equine management behaviours amongst some groups of young people. This is likely to be dependent upon content, context, and delivery of these concepts, with a range of intrinsic and extrinsic factors involved in the journey from advice-seeking behaviour to equine care and management practices. Importantly, this study has highlighted the need for more research and equine professionals are sought after for advice on equine care and management, but that there will be other influences involved – from friends and family to elite sportspersons and influencers.

In the pursuit of securing the long-term welfare of equines, it is important to pay attention to young people and the next generation of equine owners and understand their changing attitudes and behaviours. This study has shown that young people adapt their practices, based on their knowledge of both the subject matter but also on their understanding of the world – and the people – around them, as well as the emerging technologies they have access to. As they continue to become critical thinkers, there is an opportunity for scientific research to be communicated in novel and innovative ways to reach all those who interact with equines and have the power to secure their future health and welfare.



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