

# Companion Animals and Us: One Welfare

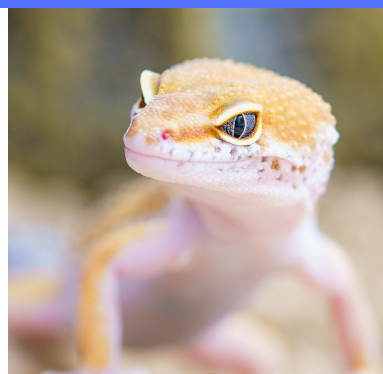
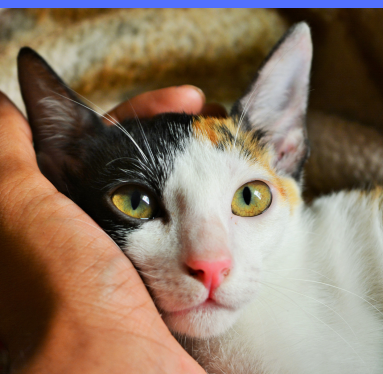
A Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) Conference

**Saturday 21 September 2019, 9am-4.30pm**

Whether you work with animals, or simply have a passion for them, this conference is for you!

The relationship between animals and people is fascinating; when we get it right it can be truly life changing, but when it goes wrong the consequences can be devastating.

Join us as we explore the concept of One Welfare. Listen to lectures from expert speakers and share your ideas in our series of workshops.



£45 for SCAS members and students.

SCAS member and conference package available!

The College of Animal Welfare  
Headland House, Chord Business Park  
London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs PE29 2BQ



Book a place online at [www.scas.org.uk](http://www.scas.org.uk)

08.00-09.00: Registration, coffee and opening of the exhibition

09.00-09.45

## Society for Companion Animal Studies: The first 40 years

*Dr Elizabeth Ormerod BVMS*

In the 40 years since SCAS was founded, SCAS members and like-minded colleagues across the globe have identified much of great relevance about human-animal interactions (HAI).

Significant contributions to our better understanding of HAI by SCAS members will be discussed, including key work undertaken by SCAS founder members. The wide range of programmes and the remarkable work undertaken by SCAS and its members will be described.

SCAS members, through their understanding of the human-animal bond and how to harness this, are helping a very wide range of clients with special needs in diverse settings. Together we have improved quality of life, whilst also raising standards in animal welfare.

We are all undertaking a journey in which, through raising awareness of the benefits accruing from animal companionship, we are now witnessing a paradigm shift in attitudes to companion animals and their role in society. In the early days, i.e. the early 80's, it was difficult to get permission for any animal to enter a care facility, and especially into a hospital. However, there is now general awareness that health and social benefits accrue from the presence of animals. And most health care facilities now have a much more positive view.

Unfortunately, an area of our work that has not developed apace concerns pets in housing. Many people in the UK who would benefit from having a companion animal are denied the opportunity by the existence of pets in housing bans. However, there is now growing interest and support from politicians and we take encouragement from other countries which have successfully introduced positive pets in housing policies.

09.45-10.20

## One Welfare: How do companion animals fit?

*Dr Anne McBride PhD, Hon Ass. Mem. BVNA, Hon Ass. Mem. BSAVA, ABTC CAB*

'One Welfare' is understanding the interdependency between Human and Animal welfare, Biodiversity and the Environment. Companion animal ownership contributes both positively and negatively to One Welfare. By considering this from both narrow and broad perspectives, the aim of this talk is to engender holistic, critical, objective and creative thinking around this, frequently, emotive topic.

When considering Companion Animals and the Human-Animal Bond, the focus is often on pets and the positive outcomes of ownership for both us and them. These include the emotional and physical benefits that a pet can facilitate, be that lowered blood pressure, increased exercise, and giving us a 'someone' to share our joys and problems with. For the individual animal, positive aspects include advances in veterinary care, more humane methods of training, and progressive legislative steps as in the Animal Welfare Acts, introduced only a dozen years ago.

For many the darker side of companion animal ownership may only comprise concern for the individual animal's welfare; as in cases of relinquishment and rehoming, inappropriate/problematic animal behaviour, abuse or neglect. However, it is increasingly recognised that people's welfare may also be compromised. So-called irresponsible owners may simply be so through ignorance; for example they may have received inappropriate advice on what would be a suitable pet or how to train it. Others may have economic, housing, physical or psychological factors that influence their abilities to provide effectively for their own and/or their animal's welfare.

Beyond the immediate horizon of the individual, keeping companion animals has direct and indirect impacts on society, other animal species, biodiversity and the environment. These include the animal's origin (bred by people or wild caught) and land use. To conclude, some discussion thoughts for sustainable and ethical pet keeping will lead to the next lectures.

10.20-10.45: Morning break

10.45-11.30

## Improving One Welfare: Domestic pets

*Vicki Betton BA (Hons), PGDip IDM*

Can pet ownership become more detrimental to One Welfare than we would like to admit?

With some owners making poor pre-purchase choices about which pet to get, from which species is right for their circumstances and lifestyle, to selecting breeds whose looks can cause health and welfare issues, the human-animal bond doesn't always get off to the best start.

It doesn't always improve either, with many owners not providing the right diet, living environment, or companionship for their pets, or misunderstanding their pet's natural behaviours and not recognising if they have a health issue, such as obesity or BOAS in flat-faced breeds.

An owner's relationship with their pets can be fraught with misunderstanding. However, with only a fraction of owners undertaking sufficient pre-purchase research, and poor quality advice available online in abundance, it's not hard to see how the puppy farmers, pet smugglers and poor breeders are preying on the emotions involved in companion animal ownership.

The emotion in that bond is not only manipulated around the acquisition of the pet. There is a darker side of the human animal bond – when that very relationship with an animal is used to coerce or harm a vulnerable person within a violent home, a recognised tactic of domestic abusers, known as 'The Link'.

This session will outline some of the highs and lows of modern pet ownership, diving into the latest research on how we're really keeping our pets, giving insight on some of the key issues and what can be done to tackle them.[1]

11.30-12.15

## Improving One Welfare: Exotic pets

*Clifford Warwick PGDipMedSci CBiol CSci EurProBiol FOCAE FRSB*

'Exotic pets are essentially non-native and or non-domesticated wild animals. At least 13,000 species are globally involved in the trading and keeping practices [1]. Issues of concern regularly associated with the exotic pet 'business' are: animal welfare – because stress, malhusbandry, generalised species unsuitability [1-3], disease and suffering are commonly involved at all points in the supply and keeping chain; species conservation – because collection of wild animals remain inherent to trade; ecological alteration – because released or escaped animals become invasive species; captive-breeding complications – because animals are often 'battery-bred' and manifest genetic and other production diseases; zoonotic infections – because people are frequent victims of disease transmitted by animals; anti-microbial resistance – because overuse of antibiotics results in threats to general medical and veterinary treatments; and educational challenges – because objective messaging is difficult to impart and confounded by industry misinformation.

Recent times have seen an explosion of scientific reports addressing all of these issues of concern. Remedial actions proposed include education, positive lists (lists of permitted species only), and bans [1]. Of all these potential remedies, education has had the least effect [1], but remains a constant endeavour for many, positive lists are effective, but are also a novel and emergent phenomenon, and bans have the strongest controlling effect.

This lecture will present an overview of the exotic pet trade, including animal sourcing and distribution routes, trade handling and storage practices, background on threats to species in nature from trading and keeping, animal welfare considerations both arising directly from trade practices and also from general captivity, and some human health aspects.

1. Warwick, C., Steedman, C., Jessop, M., Arena, P., Pilny, A. & Nicholas, E. (2018). Exotic pet suitability: understanding some problems and utilizing a labeling system to aid animal welfare, environment, and consumer protection. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior*, 26, 17-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2018.03.015>
2. Ashley, S., Brown, S., Ledford, J., Martin, J., Nash, A. E., Terry, A., Tristan, T. & Warwick, C. (2014). Morbidity and mortality of invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals at a major exotic companion animal wholesaler. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 17(4), 308-21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10888705.2014.918511>
3. Baker, E.E., Cain, R., van Kesteren, F., Zommers, Z.A., D'Cruze, and MacDonald, D.W. (2013) Rough Trade: Animal Welfare in the Global Wildlife Trade. *BioScience*, 63(12):928-938.

12.15-12.45

## Pets and Housing: A national and international perspective

*Debbie Rook LL.B (Hons); LL.M; Fellow of the Higher Education Authority*

This presentation will consider the legal implications of 'no pet' covenants in residential leases. There is no law in the UK permitting the use of 'no pet' covenants; it is left to the discretion of the landlord and freedom of contract of the parties. Is this the correct approach bearing in mind the current housing shortages? The presentation examines the law in England and Wales for the enforcement of 'no pet' covenants and considers the need for legislation to govern the use of such covenants. Recent changes in housing law and policy in parts of Australia and New Zealand will be considered together with the deliberations of the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee that is currently considering whether legislation is needed in Scotland to prohibit the use of 'no pet' covenants in residential leases.

Rook, D 'For the Love of Darcie: recognising the human-companion animal relationship in housing law and policy' (2018) *Liverpool Law Review*, Vol.39, 29.  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10991-018-9209-y>

12.45-13.00

## Panel Question and Answer Session

13.00-13.30

## AGM and poster viewing

13.30-14.15

## Lunch and poster viewing

14.15-15.15

## Working Tea Groups/Workshops

Workshops will focus around the following three areas:

1. Housing
2. Domestic pets
3. Exotic pets

15.15-16.00

## Workshop summary and future direction for SCAS

16.00-16.30

## Final poster viewing

16.30

## Close of conference

## Our speakers



### **Dr Elizabeth Ormerod BVMS**

Elizabeth became attuned to the significance of companion animals in the lives of vulnerable people whilst working in an inner city veterinary clinic in Glasgow. Over a period of 40 years she and her husband pioneered bond-centred veterinary practice, supporting and encouraging healthy human-companion animal bonds. Outreach programmes delivering Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) programmes were delivered to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, sheltered housing, psychiatric hospitals and prisons.

Elizabeth has travelled widely to visit model AAI programmes, as a Churchill Fellow, and subsequent study trips to N America and Asia. Elizabeth is Chairman of SCAS; Vice President of The International Association of Human-animal Interaction Organisations (IAHAIO); Trustee of Our Special Friends; co-founder and Vice President of Canine Partners, the UK assistance dog programme; and visiting lecturer to veterinary schools. She was awarded the Inaugural International William McCulloch Award for excellence in human-animal interaction education and practice.



### **Dr Anne McBride PhD, Hon Ass. Mem. BVNA, Hon Ass. Mem. BSAVA, ABTC CAB**

Anne's background is in Psychology and her PhD was on rabbit behaviour. She has been privileged to have worked with a wide variety of domestic and exotic species. She started practising as a Clinical Animal Behaviourist in 1987 and was director of the first UK University based course in the field, which ran at Southampton University from 1994 – 2015. She lectures in Human-Animal Interactions and animal behaviour nationally and internationally. Her main professional goal is to help others develop their ability to be creative, yet objectively critical thinkers and practitioners. She feels this is essential if current and future knowledge of both humans and animals is to be applied successfully to the welfare improvement of all. Her main personal goal is to grow old whilst never truly growing up, and to continue learning and laughing all the way!



### **Vicki Betton BA (Hons), PGDip IDM**

Vicki has worked at PDSA, the UK's leading veterinary charity, since 2006, establishing a national youth engagement and schools teaching programme, and a national community education scheme. Now leading their Veterinary Policy & Campaigns team, she's responsible for producing the PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report, development of the organisation's research and evidence strategy and their policy and campaigning activities.

Vicki also represents PDSA on a number of government and sector working groups and manages PDSA's joint working with other organisations to tackle issues identified in the PAW Report, and those affecting the wider pet population of the UK. These include issues such as the online advertising of pets for sale, the health and welfare of brachycephalic dogs, and the link between animal abuse and family violence, for which she received BSAVA's Ray Butcher Award in 2018.



### **Clifford Warwick PGDipMedSci CBiol CSci EurProBiol FOCAR FRSB**

Clifford Warwick qualified in biology, and later in primary health care at The University of Leeds School of Medicine. His fieldwork has included both conventional and high-risk investigations and studies into human use of animals, for which Clifford was one of the first scientists to have SAS-personnel training in survival, infiltration, escape and evasion. He was made a Fellow of The Institute of Biology (now Royal Society of Biology) for his 'distinction in biological research'. He also became a Member of the European Communities Biologists Association and a Fellow of The Royal Society of Public Health. In 1992 he won the British Veterinary Association Intervet Animal Welfare Award. More recently he was awarded Chartered Scientist status by the Science Council and the Society of Biology, and Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. Clifford has produced around 100 peer-reviewed publications in biology, animal science, and human medicine.



### **Debbie Rook LLB (Hons); LLM; Fellow of the Higher Education Authority**

Debbie is a Principal Lecturer in Law at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne where she has taught for over 20 years. Prior to joining academia she was a practising solicitor at the law firm Freshfields on Fleet Street, London which is one of the top 10 Law firms in the country. She specialises in Animal Law and Land Law and has a number of publications in these fields including her most recent, 'For the Love of Darcie: recognising the human-companion animal relationship in housing law and policy' (2018) Liverpool Law Review, Vol.39, 29.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10991-018-9209-y>

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