

Module 33

Animal Welfare Organisations



This lecture was first developed for **World Animal Protection** by Dr David Main (University of Bristol) in 2003. It was revised by **World Animal Protection** scientific advisors in 2012 using updates provided by Dr Caroline Hewson.

Free online resources

To get free updates and additional materials, please go to www.animalmosaic.org/education/tertiary-education/

This module will teach you about

Different types of organisations

Their different approaches to animal welfare and protection

The role of organisations in informing, educating and influencing society

How animal welfare organisations work with governmental and non-governmental organisations

The ways in which vets, the veterinary profession and animal welfare organisations work together

Animal protection movement

Focuses on the prevention of cruelty and the relief of suffering

Differences in philosophy

- ⌘ Animal rights
- ⌘ Utilitarian (welfare)

Activities range from direct action to shelter work, education, etc.

Groups often collaborate, but may be divided over differing ethics and resource competition



Organisations: what they look like

Local, national, regional or international in scope

Run by volunteers, paid staff or both

Varying access to resources

Reflect the values of charity and compassion in their culture and society

Work on animal welfare at the 'individual animal' and / or 'issues' level

Organisations: does size matter?

ORCA (Serbia): organisation started by six college students, lobbied for nine years and saw success in the form of a national animal protection law

Animals Lebanon: organisation of ~10 people succeeded in closing down three of the worst zoos in Lebanon and is working with the government to draft and enact minimum standards

Pretoma (Costa Rica): organisation of ~10 people successfully campaigned to stop shark-finning in Costa Rica, enacted a new law, promoted shark conservation internationally including at the UN, and led to new legislation in Hawaii where it is now illegal to possess, sell or distribute shark fins

International animal welfare organisations

Have offices and staff in many countries

Are necessarily quite large organisations

Usually work with local animal welfare groups /
personnel on local projects

Usually have global aims for animal welfare

Informing communities

Raising awareness

Information sharing

- ▣ Posters
- ▣ Leaflets
- ▣ Public service announcements

Education and training

Differs from awareness raising

Formal

Informal



Organisations provide training for stakeholders

Training of local authority employees in humane trap–neuter–release schemes

Training vets in how to perform humane spay / neuter operations

Training vets in equine dentistry / farriery

Training vets for mass vaccination

Training farmers in adequate care for their livestock

Influencing communities

Influencing through persuasion

- ❖ Campaigning
- ❖ Lobbying
- ❖ Direct animal protection



Lobbying: influencing policy-makers and big business

Provide information and advice to important organisations including governments

Comment on proposed legislation and policies

Lobby for new laws and amendments

Provide direct information and advice to businesses that have a direct (or indirect) impact on animal welfare

Direct animal protection: shelters

Direct intervention in cases of animal suffering and cruelty

- ✦ Seize / rescue animal
- ✦ Treat or euthanise animal
- ✦ Find a new home for the animal

Contact relevant authorities in cases of inhumane treatment of animals

- ✦ Police
- ✦ Government animal welfare officials



Direct animal protection in the community

Projects / campaigns may have a direct effect on a community, e.g.

Reducing the stray dog population may improve both human and animal welfare

Providing low-cost veterinary services benefits animals and their owners

Improving the welfare of working equines benefits the livelihoods of the owners

Disaster response, providing food and veterinary treatment to livestock

Collaboration with supranational organisations

Can make use of international infrastructure

Can make use of local knowledge

May allow large-scale animal health and welfare projects

UN, WHO, FAO, OIE, Gates Foundation

Summary so far...

Different types of organisations

Different approaches to animal welfare and protection by different organisations

The role of organisations in informing, educating and influencing society

How animal welfare organisations work with governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Welfare organisations and vets: working together

Vets can play a central role in the work of animal welfare organisations

A good working relationship between welfare organisations and vets rests on

- ✦ Mutual respect
- ✦ An understanding of the capabilities of each partner
- ✦ Knowledge of the aims of each partner
- ✦ Trust in the ability of each partner to carry out requirements

Welfare organisations and vets: not working together

The work of animal welfare organisations and vets can conflict

- ❖ Veterinary malpractice
- ❖ Undercutting veterinary fees
- ❖ Undermining the veterinary profession and animal welfare organisation
- ❖ Lobbying against vets

Examples of animal welfare organisations and vets working together

1. Career opportunities in veterinary medicine
2. Advancing animal welfare
3. Veterinary education and training
4. Supporting the veterinary profession's reputation

Working together: through career opportunities in veterinary medicine

Provide career opportunities for vets and vet nurses

- ▣ Vets may provide information / advice for animal welfare organisations

Provide opportunities for vets to act as ambassadors for animal welfare

- ▣ Vets and animal welfare organisations may work together to improve animal welfare

Examples



Working together: to advance animal welfare

Raising standards of veterinary practice

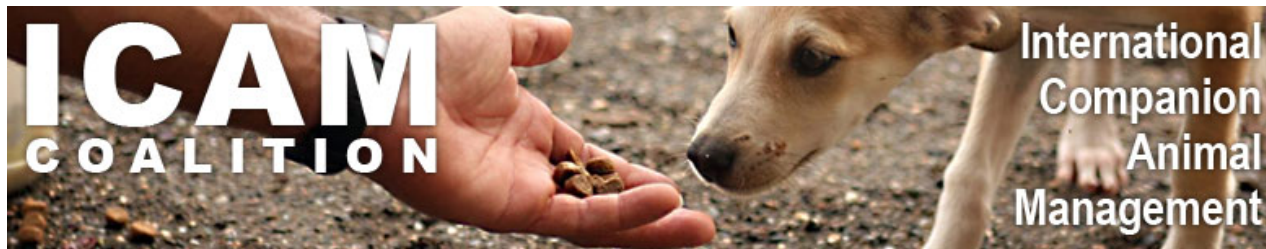
Reducing veterinary malpractice

Making veterinary services accessible

Funding or conducting new research / technology in veterinary medicine

Developing new veterinary specialist areas

Examples



Working together: in veterinary education and training

Delivering or supporting animal welfare education

Encouraging and supporting engagement with welfare research

Provide training to local vets

Examples



Humane stray animal control training



Veterinary training



Improving the welfare of working equines

Working together: to promote the reputation of the veterinary profession

Building awareness and respect for the veterinary and veterinary nursing professions

Promoting good public relations for the veterinary profession through campaigns

Placing the veterinary profession and vets as the 'go to' professionals for animal welfare

Vets working for animal welfare organisations may work to influence the development of welfare focused veterinary attitudes / procedures

Examples



vets beyond borders

Conclusions

Animal welfare organisations may have different aims, roles and ways of operating

Animal welfare organisations work with governmental and non-governmental organisations

Vets and the veterinary profession are central to the work of animal welfare organisations

Positive links between animal welfare organisations and the veterinary profession can be mutually beneficial and promote better animal welfare

Feedback:

Please let us know what you think

- ❖ **How have you used this module?**
- ❖ **What did you like about it?**
- ❖ **What did you not like?**
- ❖ **Do you have any tips to share?**

Please take part in our 10 minute survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BKP3D6H>

Your feedback will help other teachers like you

Relevant links

ACTAsia for Animals

www.actasia.org

Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

www.anaw.org

Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs

www.acc-d.org

Animal Concerns Research and Education Society

www.acres.org.sg

Asociacin Nacional Protectora de Animales (ANPA)

www.anpacostarica.org

Association of Shelter Veterinarians

www.shelternvet.org

Blue Cross of India

www.bluecrossofindia.org

Relevant links

Brooke Hospital for Animals

www.thebrooke.org/our-work/what-we-do/veterinary

Friends of the Animals of Sosua

www.aaasosua.com/

Fundación Luca AC

www.fundacionluca.org.mx/

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)

<http://www.sPCA.org.hk/eng/home.asp>

IFAW Community Led Animal Welfare (CLAW)

www.claw-sa.org/about.html

International Companion Animal Management

<http://icam-coalition.org/>

International Network for Humane Education (InterNICHE)

www.interniche.org/

Relevant links

Spay Panama

www.spaypanama.org/SpayPanama.com.html

Curaçao Foundation for the Protection of Animals

www.dierenbeschermingcuracao.com/

The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANNA)

<http://spana.org>

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA)

www.pdsa.org.uk

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) LINKS Scheme

www.ufaw.org.uk/links-news-events.php

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) Vet File

<http://www.worldanimalprotection.org/WSPA vets>

Vets beyond borders

www.vetsbeyondborders.org

Further Reading

Jamieson, J., Reiss, M. J., Allen, D., Asher L., Wathes, C. M., & Abeyesinghe, S. M. (2012). Measuring the success of a farm animal welfare education event. *Animal Welfare*, 21, 65-75.

McLean, A. K., Heleski, C. R., Yokoyama, M. T., Wang, W., Doumbia, A., & Dembele, B. (2012). Improving working donkey (*Equus asinus*) welfare and management in Mali, West Africa. *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour*, 7, 123-134.