



## **Center for Animal Welfare Science (CAWS) update July 2014**

### **Center highlights from the Director**

Although the Center for Animal Welfare Science is still very early in its development, since appointment of its first Director in February of 2014, quite a lot has happened.

### **Center faculty hires**

As part of the provost-funded initiative to create CAWS, several Center faculty were hired:

- Candace Croney, Director, Associate Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Agriculture
- Brianna Gaskill, Assistant Professor, Animal Welfare, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Maja Makagon, Assistant Professor, Applied Animal Behavior, College of Agriculture
- Maggie O'Haire, Assistant Professor, Human-Animal Bond, College of Veterinary Medicine

### **CAWS Steering committee**

A steering committee was appointed in March, 2014 with constituents chosen to broadly represent multi-disciplinary and multi-species expertise and interest in the respective sciences of animal welfare. Committee members include:

- Alan Beck (College of Veterinary Medicine)
- Nadine Dolby (College of Education)
- Nancy Edwards (School of Nursing)
- Don Lay (USDA ARS LBRU/ College of Agriculture)
- Bill Muir (College of Agriculture)
- Tracy Vemulapalli (College of Veterinary Medicine)
- Nicole Olynk Widmar (College of Agriculture)

The steering committee has established mission and objective statements to be revised as needed over time, and has prioritized short term Center goals and activities, which are to be

expanded on with input from Center members, who are soon to be recruited. Currently, the mission statement and objectives are:

*Mission: The Purdue Center for Animal Welfare Science facilitates the well-being of animals through interdisciplinary discovery, learning and engagement. We identify animal welfare challenges, approaches to alleviate them, and education to advance socially responsible decision-making on animal care, management, and policy.*

*Objective: Facilitate inter-disciplinary collaborations on animal welfare science.*

The short term goals were:

- Establish and administer travel fellowships for students and faculty to attend and present at conferences in animal welfare science
- Develop a one day symposium on animal welfare
- Develop a seminar series on animal welfare
- Develop at least one collaborative grant proposal on animal welfare science
- Develop at least two white papers relative to animal welfare science
- Develop an RFP for seed funding for Center members

### **Formalizing the Center & membership**

Paperwork has been submitted to formally recognize CAWS at Purdue University; the official call for membership will follow shortly after approval.

### **CAWS activities**

*Sponsorships.* CAWS was recognized as an official sponsor of the regional meeting of the International Society of Applied Ethology held in May 2014 at Michigan State University.



**Jiaying Hu**

*Awards.* The inaugural CAWS graduate student travel fellowship was awarded to Jiaying Hu (Animal Sciences; advisor, Dr. Heng-Wei Cheng, USDA ARS LBRU) to present her research on hen well-being at the 2014 Poultry Science Association's annual conference; CAWS intends to administer scholarships twice annually to facilitate graduate student presentations of their work related to animal welfare. Congratulations to Jiaying and Dr. Cheng!

*CAWS on the Hill.* CAWS and the Center for the Human-Animal Bond were represented by Dr. Alan Beck at the American Society of Animal Science's "Snack and Fact" on Capitol Hill.

*CAWS and Think Policy.* CAWs is represented by Director Croney on the new Purdue Think Policy Initiative Group, which is aimed at increasing Purdue's presence as a policy shaper by creating databases, courses, white papers and reports for think tanks.

*CAWS logo and website.* A new Center logo is being designed along with a new website (current website is located at <http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/CAWS/>).

### **CAWS Collaborations**

New collaborative partnerships established with USDA APHIS Center for Animal Welfare, the Pet Industry Joint Action Committee, World Pet Association and Pet Food Institute on companion animal welfare have resulted in a grant of \$900,000 to establish and scientifically evaluate standards for the care and welfare of breeding dogs. Led by Dr. Croney, this joint venture includes multiple members of the CAWs steering committee, as well as several prospective CAWS members in the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture. Additional research collaborations are also in development with Fair Oaks Farms/IN Pork Producers Association, Zoetis and several other organizations.

### **CAWS in the media**

CAWS has been highlighted on television, radio, print and social media; coverage of the new Center has been featured in Inside Indiana Business, NPR, Feedstuffs Foodlink, Brownfield Ag news, Meatingplace.com, Hoosier Ag Today, Modern Farmer, National Hog Farmer and many more.

### **Coming soon.....**

- Call for official CAWS membership; anticipated late August, 2014.
- An administrative assistant is currently being recruited to support the work of CAWS
- Development of a strategic plan for CAWS is set to occur early in the Fall term of 2014
- New CAWS website
- Inaugural CAWS symposium on Animal Welfare; spring, 2015
- CAWS seminar series on Animal Welfare; Fall, 2015
- RFP for seed funding for CAWS members
- CAWS newsletter detailing Center member activities and impacts
- And much more.....!

Input and feedback relative to building on the early successes of CAWS are not only welcome, but highly encouraged. For more information, please contact Dr. Candace Croney (ccroneyp@purdue.edu).