



Tails & Tales

Animal Welfare Centre updates

June
2025

Welcome to the Animal Welfare Centre updates, **Tales and Tails**.

We will provide regular (monthly) updates via email and socials. If you would like to sign up to the mailing list to receive emails to your inbox, please email: JM.Welfare@ed.ac.uk

1. **Announcement:** We start off with an important announcement. Cathy Dwyer, our Centre Director, is leaving her post with us. As SRUC expand their Aberdeen-based School of Veterinary Medicine and Biosciences, Cathy will be leading on the development of animal welfare in the school strategy, along with continuing to lead the SRUC animal behaviour and welfare team. Our AWC team will be led by Rebecca Doyle in the interim. Together, we look forward to continuing to collaborate on animal welfare research and extension between the AWC and SRUC.
2. **New team member:** We welcome Poppy Sibthorpe to the team; Poppy is a post-doctoral researcher leading a research program on the welfare of racing horses. The project is a collaboration between UoE and SRUC, with the team including Cathy Dwyer, Tamsin Coombs, Gemma Pearson, and Marie Rowland. Funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club
3. **New resource:** A range of free pdf resources (aligning with the 5 domains) focusing on **dairy cattle**. You can also self-test your understanding with the mini-quiz. edin.ac/welfare-dairy



4. **New publications:** Loftus, L., Newman, A., Leach, M. *et al.* Exploring the induction and measurement of positive affective state in equines through a personality-centred lens. *Sci Rep* **15**, 18550 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-98034-8>
Loftus, L. *et al.* (2025) *Inducing and measuring positive affective state in domesticated equines: A Delphi consultation*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2025.106370>
5. **Visitors:** Over the past two months we have welcomed a delegation from the vet school in Karnataka, India (KVAFSU; Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University), who were on a study tour fostering animal welfare research; an intern, Sujit Regmi from Nepal visiting on a World Veterinary Association/CEVA studentship; and Dr Femi Oyeniya from Ekiti State Polytechnic, Nigeria who was visiting SRUC and the Animal Welfare Centre, on a UFAW scholarship.
6. **Congratulations:** Professor Nat Waran has been awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE), for services to equine welfare, research and education.