



Tails & Tales

Animal Welfare Centre updates

Sept
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

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1. **New Centre Director:** Congratulations to Dr Rebecca Doyle who has been appointed as the new Director for the Animal Welfare Centre. Rebecca is jointly appointed with the University of Edinburgh and the International Livestock research Institute (ILRI). She is also a member of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) where she coordinates the Animal Welfare Action Network. [Weblink](#)
 2. **New Programme Directors:** We would like to congratulate the following who have been appointed as Co-directors for the MSc Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare – Prof. Susan Jarvis and Cynthia Naydani; Online MSc International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law - Dr Sarah Brown and Dr Jill MacKay.
 3. **Welcome:** We would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new and returning MSc students. We look forward to seeing you in-person and online and we encourage you to engage with activities across campus, the University and keep in touch through our various social media channels. [Vet School Postgraduate webpage](#)
 4. **New publication:** Otani, Y. et al. (2025) Cross-cultural variation in understanding of animal welfare principles and animal management practices among veterinary and animal welfare professionals in the UK and Japan. Animal welfare. [Online] 34. <https://doi.org/10.1017/awf.2025.10026>
 5. **Conference:** Dr Sarah Brown and Dr Michelle Reeves attended the ISAE meeting in Utrecht, Netherlands. Sarah's presentation formed part of an NC3Rs funded project, 'Affective bias testing confirms sex differences in rats' preference for how they are tickled' and Michelle presented research completed during her PhD at SRUC, 'Assessing ewe welfare: ewe-lamb distance measured by Bluetooth Low Energy data'.
 6. **Visitors:** The Centre hosted the Global Coalition for Animal Welfare at R(D)SVS, over the summer, for a workshop where we presented our work alongside colleagues from SRUC, and discussed how animal welfare changes are enacted by GCAW members
 7. **Symposium:** Dr Rebecca Doyle presented at the 'sharing knowledge between R(D)SVS and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Mansoura University, Egypt (FVM-MU), on 1 Sept 2025. Rebecca's talk 'the role of animal welfare in One Health'.