



# Tails & Tales

## Animal Welfare Centre updates

May  
2026

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 complete the [MS Form](#)

- Teaching Matters blog post:** [The wicked problem of animal welfare? Developing the problem solvers of the future with MScs in Animal Welfare](#). Cynthia Naydani, Professor Susan Jarvis, Dr Jill MacKay, and Dr Sarah M Brown, from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, draw a comparison between the discipline of Animal Welfare Science and the notion of ‘wicked problems’. They highlight two, innovative and long-standing MSc programmes as integral learning opportunities for the animal welfare community.
- New funding:** Dr Sarah Brown (PI), Dr Jill MacKay, and Fiona MacDowell have been successful in securing a pump priming grant for "A One Welfare approach to understanding workplace associated grief in veterinary nurses and its impact on animal welfare in clinics.
- New publications:** we have a list of new publications issued in the past month:
  - Curry O, Everett A, Pearson G, Dwyer C, Duncan J. Preliminary investigation of equine veterinary hospital staff attitudes towards pain assessment in a single centre. *Vet Rec.* 2025;e1–e10. <https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.6122>
  - Ricci-Bonot, C., Costa, E. D., Houpt, K., Jones, M., Koch, V. W., Pearson, G., Randle, H., van Dierendonck, M., & Mills, D. S. (2026). Development of a consensus definition of “separation anxiety” for horses. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 298, Article 106937. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2026.106937>
  - Gonzalez, C., Lawrence, A. B., Mendl, M., Robinson, E., Bombail, V., & Brown, S. M. (2026). Sex differences in the enjoyment of enrichment: affective bias testing confirms female rats prefer more playful and less vigorous tickling. *Biology Letters (2005)*, 22(4). <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2026.0075>
  - Jemberu, W. T., Lemma, M., Fatalo, T., Yitagesu, E., Doyle, R. E., Dione, M., & Knight-Jones, T. J. D. (2026). Impact evaluation of a small ruminant flock health intervention on animal health, welfare, and farmer income in Ethiopia. *BMC Veterinary Research*, 22(1), Article 222. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-026-05397-9>
- Presentation:** Professor Eddie Clutton presented at the “3Rs in One Health Preclinical Research” conference sponsored by Laboratory Animal Veterinary Association and hosted by the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) at Weybridge, Surrey. Presentation: “The Case Against NMBA Use in Laboratory Animals”.
- BONUS:** Dr Sarah Brown has recorded a short seminar summarising the Gonzalez publication (above) [recorded seminar on the topic](#)