

**Scottish Charity Number SC045958**

**WAWC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

**19 APRIL 2021**

**Wild Animal Welfare: Does it matter?**

**Can it be assessed? How can it be optimised?**

**PROGRAMME**

**About the Wild Animal Welfare Committee**

Founded in 2014 and registered as a charity in Scotland, the aims of the Wild Animal Welfare Committee (WAWC) are to:

* provide an independent evidence base for evaluating, monitoring, assessing and improving decisions affecting the welfare of free-living animals in the UK
* increase awareness of the importance and value of wild animals in general
* promote the welfare of individual wild animals, in particular
* highlight harm to, and suffering of, wild animals caused by human activity, with the aim of reducing these negative impacts.

While the WAWC’s remit covers wild animals in the UK, WAWC members are keen to promote wild animal welfare and engage with experts and stakeholders at a global level. Our first two conferences in 2016 and 2019 featured internationally renowned speakers and we are pleased to be able to use conferencing technology for our third event, in order to engage with an even wider audience.

**About the conference**

The WAWC is delighted that its first virtual conference includes presentations from some of the leading names in animal welfare around the world. We are most grateful to all the speakers for embracing the challenge of answering our three questions about wild animal welfare (Does it matter? Can it be assessed? How can it be optimised?), in addition to agreeing to speak at times of day which are not necessarily conducive to their own welfare. We extend our thanks to them all.

We are also looking forward to discussion and interaction with delegates from many different countries - making connections, contrasts and comparisons about how we interact with the sentient individual wild animals who share our environment.

The WAWC wishes to thank UFAW (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) for hosting the virtual conference and for the provision of invaluable support and technical assistance.

All views expressed during the conference are those of the speakers.

**Speakers**

**Ngaio Beausoleil,** Massey University, New Zealand; **Mark Jones,** Born Free Foundation; **Sarah Dolman**, Whale and Dolphin Conservation/WAWC member; **Mike Radford,** University of Aberdeen; Heather Bacon, Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE); **Alick Simmons**, former UK Deputy CVO /WAWC member; **Becca Franks**, New York University; **Cathy Dwyer**, SRUC/JMICAWE; **Sandra Baker**, WildCru, University of Oxford/WAWC member; **Justine Shotton**, Marwell Zoo and BVA; **Jessica Findlay**, NatureScot; **Chris Draper**, Performing Animal Welfare Society /WAWC member; **Steven McCulloch**, Winchester University; **Alastair MacGugan**, NatureScot.

**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

**(Timings are shown in British Summer Time)**

**08:45 Welcome and introductions
Pete Goddard, WAWC Chair**

**Session 1.1 Safeguarding wild animal welfare using the Five Domains approach
Chair: Pete Goddard**

**09:00 Ngaio Beausoleil**The assessment of wild animal welfare and the application of the Five Domains model in this process

**09:40 Mark Jones**Why wild animal welfare matters

**10:00 Sarah Dolman**Marine mammal welfare – how do we know that welfare is at risk?

**10:20 BREAK**

**Session 1.2 The contextual nature of how we value wild animals differently
Chair: Angus Nurse**

**10:40 Mike Radford**Wild animal "welfare": familiar concept, misnomer, or radical departure?

**11:00 Heather Bacon**Human behaviour towards wild animals: why are they valued differently and how does this affect their welfare?

**11:20 Alick Simmons**Why are different welfare standards applied to different wild animals in different settings?

**11:40 Becca Franks**From wildlife to farmed to invasive and back again: animal welfare problems and solutions revealed in our inconsistent treatment of fishes

**12:00 GENERAL DISCUSSION FORUM**

**12:30 LUNCH BREAK**

**Session 2.1 Evaluation of wildlife welfare
Chair: Liz Mullineaux**

**13:00 Cathy Dwyer**Evaluating wildlife welfare: Outcomes from a welfare prioritisation using a Delphi approach

**13:20 Sandra Baker**Using the Sharp and Saunders model to evaluate animal welfare impacts in wildlife management

**13:40 Steven McCulloch**Government decision making on wildlife conservation and animal welfare: Applying impact assessment and dealing with moral disagreement

**14:00 Jessica Findlay**How do we ensure a consistent approach to embedding welfare in practical wildlife management?

**14:20 BREAK**

**Session 2.2 Interaction between individual animal welfare and species conservation / management / human issues**
**Chair: Alick Simmons**

**14:40 Chris Draper**Applying the principles of ethical wildlife control to protect wild animal welfare

**15:20 Justine Shotton**Assessing welfare of captive wild animals using the Animal Welfare Assessment Grid (AWAG)

**15:40 Alastair MacGugan**How do we make wildlife welfare relevant in a net zero carbon Scotland?

**16:00 GENERAL DISCUSSION FORUM**

**16:30 Pete Goddard**Closing remarks

**Following soon: full speaker biographies**