

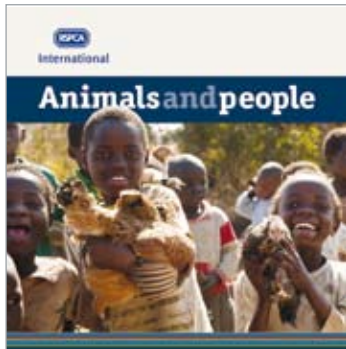


International

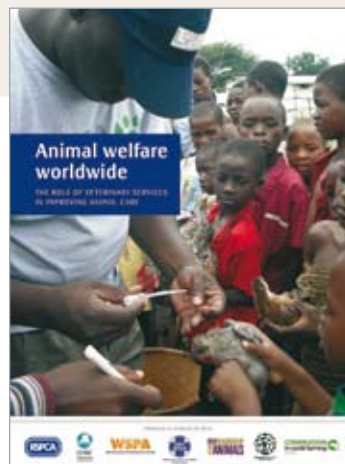


RSPCA International review 2009

Publications



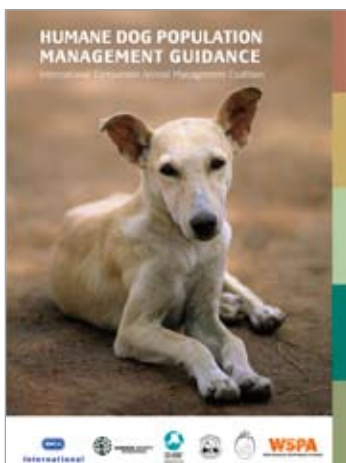
Animals and people



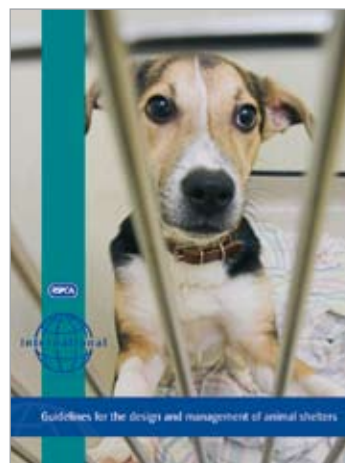
Animal welfare worldwide: The role of veterinary services in improving animal welfare



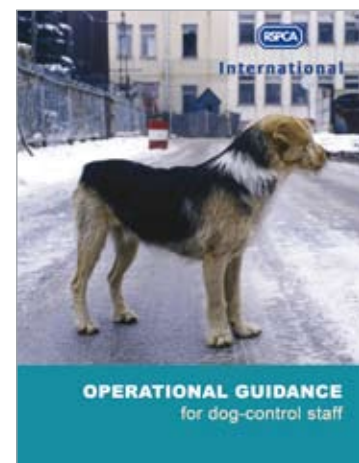
With welfare in mind: Animal welfare in international development programmes



Humane dog population management guidance (ICAM)



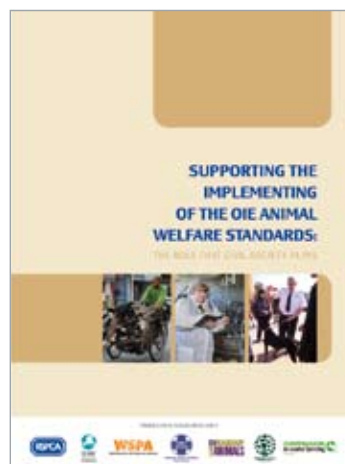
Guidelines for the design and management of animal shelters



Operational guidance for dog-control staff



Seals and trade rules: can they live together?



Supporting the implementing of the OIE Animal Welfare Standards: The role that civil society plays



Western Balkans Veterinary Network for Animal Welfare leaflet

Please contact RSPCA International if you would like a print copy of one of these documents. They are also available as PDFs on our website: www.rspca.org.uk/international
Telephone: 0300 123 0059 E-mail: international@rspca.org.uk

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Introduction

In the past few years the RSPCA has focused on the importance of enforcing legislation in order to improve animal welfare, running several courses to train government veterinarians and officials, and disseminate best practice. However, enforcement capacity building requires legislation to exist in the first place. The RSPCA estimates that about two-thirds of the world's countries have no basic animal protection law, including the largest country by size, the Russian Federation, and the country with the largest population, China.

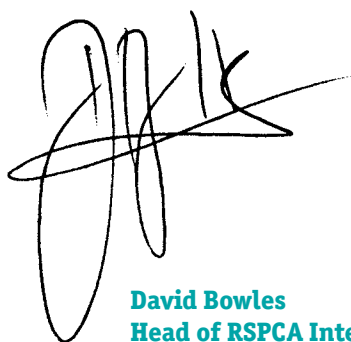
Two important steps towards progress occurred in 2009. China published its first draft law addressing animal cruelty, running to some 40 pages and covering all the major welfare issues, including some of the most controversial for the country, such as dog meat consumption and the production of fur. The draft is warmly welcomed but the 10 years that the RSPCA has spent working in China show how long it can take for new laws to be developed and agreed.

Secondly, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the inter-governmental body that covers animal welfare and animal health, adopted its first guidelines on non-farm animals when it agreed recommendations to its member countries on how to control their dog populations. Each year, 55,000 people die from rabies worldwide, with most cases contracted from street dogs whose populations are not managed humanely or sustainably. So, implementing a humane dog control programme is important to countries, particularly developing and least-developed ones, in order to improve human and animal welfare. The RSPCA will be using the OIE guidelines as a mechanism to improve dog control and also to support those countries seeking to enact basic animal legislation.

In 2009 RSPCA International worked proactively in 19 countries. We were particularly pleased when many countries in the western Balkans adopted their first animal welfare laws and improved laws were agreed in the European Union on laboratory animal standards.

A report submitted to the OIE in 2009 from animal welfare groups on the implementation of OIE standards shows that there is still a long way to go before all 175 member countries incorporate them in their legislation. However, the changes achieved in 2009 show that there is progress.

I hope you enjoy reading about our programmes in more detail.



David Bowles
Head of RSPCA International



ABOVE: The OIE has adopted its first guidelines on dog population control.

RSPCA International in Europe



RSPCA International continues to support its partners across Europe in making lasting improvements to animal welfare. This was an exciting year, particularly in the Balkans, where the first animal welfare laws were passed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, and a major new body, the Western Balkans Veterinary Network for Animal Welfare began advocating for animal welfare.

WBVN

The Western Balkans Veterinary Network for Animal Welfare (WBVN) was founded by the RSPCA and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Skopje, Macedonia. It provides a unique platform for the advancement of animal welfare through education, research and professional training in seven countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.



It facilitates closer collaboration between key stakeholders and combines the research capabilities of seven major universities in the region with leading animal welfare research centres in western Europe. The RSPCA and the WBVN have just undertaken the necessary steps to conduct a series of dog population surveys across the western Balkans. These will provide the data necessary to develop targeted strategies for bringing dog population management into line with existing legislation and standards. Find out more about the network by visiting its website: www.wbvn.net.



ABOVE: The RSPCA and the WBVN will be conducting a series of dog population surveys.

Society

Animal welfare education

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The University of Sarajevo held a workshop to launch a new teaching manual for animal welfare education in July, following a two-year project supported by RSPCA International. The manual will be distributed to teachers across the country. The workshop generated a lot of interest and gained news coverage on four national television stations.

SERBIA

The Organisation for the Respect and Care of Animals (ORCA) continued its long-running animal welfare education project, training more than 150 additional teachers this year. They provided a new training programme for pre-school teachers and developed a closer relationship with the Pedagogical Faculty in Belgrade.

Legislation and law enforcement

SERBIA

RSPCA International supported ORCA's successful campaign for animal welfare law in Serbia, which culminated in legislation being passed in May. Following this, we encouraged the establishment of the Coordination Team for Animal Welfare Enforcement. This body (made up of official representatives from government ministries, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Belgrade University and ORCA) has already successfully pushed for stronger penalties to be introduced for animal fighting offences.

Aleksandra Hammond-Seaman, RSPCA International's senior programme manager, met with Serbian President Boris Tadić in April to underline the importance of animal welfare for Serbia's European future.



ABOVE: We have been working with authorities in Izmir to improve stray control techniques and shelter management.

Companion animals

CROATIA

The RSPCA organised a study visit to London for a delegation from Zagreb City Government to see how local authorities manage companion animal welfare. The delegation visited two RSPCA award-winning local authorities in Lewisham and Newham, as well as Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, and met with a number of RSPCA staff.

FYR MACEDONIA

The RSPCA worked with the City of Skopje municipal dog holding facility and the State Veterinary Department to develop shelter operating procedures, and delivered training in collaboration with Stray Animal Solutions.

TURKEY

The RSPCA funded an educational project in Kutahya, and worked with authorities in Izmir on improving stray dog control techniques and shelter management. A report on dog control written by the RSPCA and other international organisations was translated into Turkish and distributed to mayors and municipalities.

Agriculture Farm animals



ABOVE: Farm animal welfare at slaughter has been a priority in Portugal and the Western Balkans this year.

PORTUGAL

The 'Welfare of Food Animals' project was launched in 2008 in partnership with Lusofona University and Animal Welfare Training of the University of Bristol. It now has 30 certified trainers to work with animal welfare officers at abattoirs across Portugal.

WESTERN BALKANS

The WBVN began a programme in the western Balkans on welfare during slaughter, with Animal Welfare Training of the University of Bristol. It is being delivered over two years to 37 participants across the region and will culminate in the development of national training programmes.

This year the first module, 'Understanding welfare and quality', was delivered in March followed by the second module, 'Understanding stockmanship and restraint', in June. Modules three and four followed in August: 'Understanding unconsciousness, stunning and slaughter' and 'Abattoir welfare assessment'.



ABOVE: A stray cat hunts for food in a rubbish skip in FYR Macedonia.

Industry Research animals

RSPCA PHOTO LIBRARY



ABOVE: This year witnessed the introduction of laboratory animal welfare laws in Croatia.

CROATIA

As part of its accession process to join the EU, Croatia has adopted the EU legal framework on animal protection including laws regulating the use of lab animals. The government is now looking at ways to improve the implementation of these laws in practice.

The RSPCA and the Croatian State Veterinary Directorate held a groundbreaking workshop in Zagreb in June 2009, bringing together all the major stakeholders to cooperatively consider laboratory animal welfare for the first time.

FYR MACEDONIA

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Skopje, began a project on behalf of the WBVN to research affordable alternatives to the use of animals in the teaching of veterinary medicine. The faculty is already developing alternatives to trial across the six participating universities in the WBVN. It will then produce an educational DVD in cooperation with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb, to be distributed throughout the network.

Environment Wildlife

POLAND

Following two years of research by scientists based at the University of Wrocław, a new report looking at the conditions of bears in captivity was launched in Warsaw. The joint report commissioned by Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Zwierząt Animals (OTOZ) and the RSPCA identified 51 bears in 13 Polish zoos. Many of them are kept in conditions that do not meet their welfare needs and so are illegal under European rules.

BELOW: Michał, a brown bear kept at the Zoobotanical Garden in Braniewo.



ROBERT MASLAK



ROBERT MASLAK

ABOVE: Yogi, a brown bear kept at the mini zoo in Białystok.

Training in Europe

Society

SHELTER MANAGEMENT, PORTUGAL

Twenty-one municipal vets attended this course in Lisbon, run in conjunction with Stray Animal Solutions and Miranda Luck Associates in April.

The course highlighted the importance of holistic stray animal management strategies, including proactive work to encourage responsible pet ownership and neutering, and to improve the standing of a municipal shelter within a community.

The importance of agreed policies and standard operating procedures within a shelter in order to ensure a high standard of animal welfare was also addressed, particularly regarding euthanasia, neutering and rehoming. All the participants took home action points and draft policies that they could implement in their shelters.



RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

SHELTER ROUTINES AND DOG HANDLING, PORTUGAL

Stray Animal Solutions and Miranda Luck Associates also led this course, which trained personnel from shelters run by the municipal vets who attended the earlier course. Both components built on a long-term programme of work in Portugal which included similar courses in Coimbra in 2008.

This was a highly practical course to develop staff skills in humane dog catching and handling through improved understanding of dog behaviour. It looked at strategies and techniques for catching dogs in different situations, and the correct use of catching equipment. Ways to improve and formalise existing daily routines to improve the welfare of animals in their shelters were also discussed.

The 31 participants visited Amadora shelter where they split into two groups, each spending an hour with one of the lead trainers. A shelter dog was used to demonstrate good handling techniques and the correct use of dog catching equipment while the other group was taken through a very practical exercise on kennel cleaning routines.

Participants were able to present inexpensive and practical solutions to both humane dog catching challenges, and towards improving routines at their shelters. Because their managers had also attended training, they felt there would be room for better cooperative working following the course.

LEFT: Brian Faulkner demonstrates humane dog handling.

BELOW: Training course participants assess the state of enclosures during a kennel-cleaning activity.



RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

Animal welfare and the EU

INSPECTORATE DEVELOPMENT, POLAND

In April 2009 Mateusz Janda from Straż dla Swierząt and Paweł Gebert from OTOZ visited the UK for four days. They attended training school at HQ, spent a day shadowing an inspector and visited South Godstone Animal Centre. Three main training needs were identified for the inspectorates that they head: communicating with the public; gathering evidence; and assessing the welfare of animals.

Twenty-seven inspectors then attended a course run by Superintendent John Wilkins in Serock in October. The course focused on communication skills and developing investigation standards. Participants looked at case studies of problematic issues including hoarding, neglect and abandonment. They developed action plans with five time-bound goals as a result of the training. The course helped to build confidence and motivation for the inspectors and the two inspectorates should now be working to the same standards. A follow-up to the training course is planned in 2010, which will use the participants' action plans as its basis.

BELOW: Polish inspectors from Straz dla Swierząt and OTOZ pose for a group photo at the end of their course.



The RSPCA is a key member of Eurogroup for Animals, which coordinates campaigns and lobbying at EU level. This year saw a number of important developments.

In December, following a process lasting eight years, the principles for a new law covering the regulation, care and use of laboratory animals in the EU were agreed by the three main institutions (European Commission, Parliament and Council). The RSPCA handed the UK government a petition, signed by more than 68,000 people, calling on it to work towards ending the use of animal experiments, replacing them with humane alternatives, and to support the RSPCA campaign for tougher controls on animal use and better conditions for lab animals. If rigorously implemented, the new legislation should lead to improvements in many countries across the EU. The use of animals will be subject to a system of authorisation and ethical evaluation, and improved standards of housing for animals and training for scientists and animal carers will be required.

However there is still room for improvement. Limits on the level and nature of suffering that can be caused to animals need to be determined along with measures to reduce the use and suffering of primates.

The EU agreed a prohibition on the import of seal skins and other products due to concerns about the inhumaneness of the seal hunt in countries such as Canada and Namibia. The ban is due to come into effect fully in 2010 but Canada and Norway have already objected to the new law (see page 15).

The RSPCA launched a new website to coincide with the European elections. This gives information on the major issues such as live transport, the ban on the battery cage, and the use of animals in research and testing. It was extensively used by politicians and the public during the election period.

BELOW: The principles for a new law covering the regulation, care and use of laboratory animals in the EU were agreed in 2009.



RSPCA International in East Asia



Opportunities to provide training across the region grew in 2009. In particular, the RSPCA's expertise and experience were brought into play in the fields of legislation, law enforcement and laboratory animal welfare.

Society Legislation

CHINA

The RSPCA began collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Law in 2008, and last year we continued to support the work of a committee of experienced academics brought together to draft China's first general animal protection law.

Currently, only designated species are protected by wildlife legislation in China and there is no penalty for harming other animals. Systematic abuse and individual cases of cruelty have given rise to growing criticism within the country. Following rabies outbreaks, reports often emerge of large-scale campaigns to kill dogs using inhumane and indiscriminate methods. In recent years, high-profile incidents of deliberate cruelty have also been publicised on the internet. Journalists have often investigated and exposed the perpetrators but in the absence of legal protection none of this abuse has been punished. The Chinese authorities have responded to increasing public concern by endorsing preliminary work on a draft law.

The draft law attracted significant attention from the public and media, and was debated across China. Many of the country's emerging animal rescue groups, as well as international organisations, provided feedback. A more focused draft then emerged specifically to address the issues of most concern to the Chinese public – deliberate cruelty and abandonment of animals. Given the growing support across the country for at least a basic anti-cruelty law, the RSPCA hopes to continue to play a key role in further developing the draft during 2010.



PAUL LITTLEFAIR/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

ABOVE: Increasing pet ownership among young Chinese is changing attitudes to animals.

Agriculture

Farm animals

CHINA

Following a very successful joint farm animal welfare conference in Beijing in 2008, the RSPCA once again partnered Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), Humane Society International (HSI) and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) to hold a series of five follow-up seminars, under the titles ‘The Benefits of Animal Health and Welfare for the Food Industry’ and ‘The Importance of Animal Welfare for the Future’. The seminars were addressed to audiences of retailers, producers, agriculture university lecturers and students, and research institute staff. Leading British and North American animal welfare scientists and experts from the food retail industry gave presentations and took part in discussions. Chinese institutions and agriculture authorities are showing increased interest in the welfare of farm animals and research is now being carried out into the impact on livestock of conditions on Chinese farms.

Environment

Wildlife

INDONESIA

ProFauna, the RSPCA’s partner organisation in Indonesia, continued its work on the illegal parrot trade. Working with enforcement authorities, ProFauna staff successfully raided bird markets in Surabaya and Jakarta, confiscating birds and prosecuting the illegal traders. The Sultan of the island of Ternate, one of the major sources of protected birds, issued a decree banning their export, which should improve enforcement in the region.

LAOS

Following our previous work on elephant veterinary assistance in Thailand, the RSPCA funded a mobile elephant clinic in Laos, working in the north of the country. Although Laos has only 1,200 elephants, 40 per cent of these are domesticated and are used in tourism or the logging industry. Many have inadequate welfare due to their remote locations, the unavailability of veterinary help and poor education of the mahouts. The RSPCA’s partner organisation ElephantAsia completed a review of the project, which has now been published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



PROFAUNA

ABOVE: Parrots such as this red and blue lory in North Maluku are vulnerable to poachers.

BELOW: This year RSPCA International funded an elephant clinic in Laos.



ELEPHANTASIA

Training in East Asia

BELOW: International training officer Kasia Kilvington and David Coggan demonstrate animal welfare lesson ideas to primary and secondary social studies teachers in Taiwan.

Society Animal welfare education

CHINA

In Nanning, southwest China, consultant David Coggan of Humanebeing, led a half-day education session for more than 200 heads of school, teachers and officials in the 'Ecological Experience Education' programme annual conference, which was followed by a third RSPCA course for 50 teachers, focusing on effective resource development and practical lesson ideas. A core team of the most experienced teachers has begun to write animal welfare materials for children and guidance for teachers. This activity is funded in part by the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust.

The RSPCA also funded a survey of the attitudes of secondary school students towards animals, which formed the thesis of China's first Master's student of animal welfare education. We plan to support the drafting of an animal welfare module for grades 7–8 secondary biology teaching (pupils aged 14–15), based on needs identified from the survey.

BELOW: Senior programme manager Paul Littlefair discusses the welfare issues around performing animals with Chinese teachers at Nanning Zoo's dolphinarium.



PAUL LITTLEFAIR / RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

TAIWAN

Following a successful course held in 2008 at the National Academy for Education Research for the Nature, Science & Technology (NST) teacher training team, we were invited back to deliver a second course to NST teacher trainers and a first course for social studies trainers. The Ministry of Education received such positive feedback from participants and observing officials that from 2009 it has incorporated animal welfare concepts into the national teacher training programme.

RSPCA associate, Environment, Animals and Society Taiwan (EAST) provided input on local animal issues and is now developing follow-up courses and workshops to be delivered around Taiwan for teachers in all subject areas.

Law enforcement

CHINA, HONG KONG

Following secondments in the UK by inspectors from the Hong Kong SPCA in 2006, Superintendent Gary Arnold of the RSPCA made a preliminary visit to Hong Kong in 2008 to assess the SPCA inspectorate's training needs. The SPCA's uniformed inspectors have significant animal rescue experience, and are well-equipped to work with ropes on Hong Kong's tall buildings and steep slopes. With RSPCA support the SPCA hopes to strengthen other areas of work such as cruelty complaint investigations and prosecutions.

In 2009 Superintendent Arnold designed and delivered a two-day course to all of the SPCA's 17 inspectors. The training covered animal welfare assessment, investigation standards and evidence gathering, and introduced the RSPCA's case file system.

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL



JAPAN

The Japan Animal Welfare Society (JAWS) organised three study visits to the UK during 2004–06 for local authority officials involved in investigating animal abuse. In 2009 RSPCA International delivered its first training course in Tokyo. It was hosted by JAWS and attended by 28 local authority veterinary inspectors responsible for law enforcement, auxiliary NGO inspectors and JAWS staff. Inspector Jackie Hickman led sessions on welfare assessment and evidence gathering, and presented four RSPCA cruelty cases. Assessment visits to three pet shops of varying quality were included in the course and the trainees reported their detailed findings in group presentations. Further training is being planned for 2011 for inspectors in the western part of Japan.

TAIWAN

The RSPCA's support for Taiwan's inspectors goes back more than a decade to shortly after the animal protection law was passed. Between 1990 and 2004 we carried out four training courses in the three largest cities and hosted visits to the UK by Taiwan inspectors.

In 2009, at the invitation of the Council of Agriculture (CoA), which is responsible for all animal welfare policy in Taiwan, Superintendent Corina Stables of the RSPCA's training department made a familiarisation visit to the island in March, touring four cities and interviewing 17 inspectors from both urban and rural counties, to learn more about the challenges they face in enforcing the ten-year-old law. She also visited pet shops and municipal dog shelters in preparation for a course design consultancy workshop later in the year.

In August Superintendent Stables returned to lead a two-day workshop for more than 20 animal protection inspectors, representing two-thirds of the cities and counties of Taiwan, which was aimed at identifying common enforcement issues for a panel of observing academics selected to design a new national training course. Following the workshop, a one-day meeting with the course design team was held to establish a work plan and roles. We will continue to provide consultancy support to the CoA in 2010.

RIGHT: Superintendent Corina Stables familiarised herself with conditions in Taiwan's animal shelters before the law enforcement workshop.

Industry

Laboratory animal welfare

CHINA

Following the translation by the Chinese Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) of RSPCA materials on laboratory animal housing and care, CALAS invited the head of the RSPCA's research animals department Dr Maggy Jennings and former Chief Inspector of the Home Office Inspectorate covering research animals Dr Derek Fry to deliver a training course on 'Good Science and Animal Welfare in Experimental Design'.

The two-day event took place in the city of Xi'an, and attracted around 90 CALAS members: scientists, academics, laboratory technicians and breeding establishment representatives. The course focused on good practice in laboratory animal care and the importance of sound experimental design in promoting the 3Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement of animal use). Further collaboration between CALAS and the RSPCA is planned for 2010 and beyond.

TAIWAN

Dr Jennings and Dr Fry led a similar 'Protocol Review Workshop: Good Science and Animal Welfare in Experimental Design', hosted by Taiwan's National Laboratory Animal Centre (NLAC) and the CoA. They delivered two such workshops in Taipei to a total of 100 ethical review committee members, representing half of all research animal establishments across Taiwan.

We will continue our support for laboratory animal welfare in the region through participation in the 4th Congress of the Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations, to be held in Taipei in 2010.



PAUL LITTLEBAIR/RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

RSPCA International in southern Africa



In southern Africa RSPCA International focuses on integrating animal welfare with wildlife conservation and human livelihoods projects. This holistic approach aims to improve the health and welfare of domestic, farm and wild animals, and to protect human health and livelihoods.

Society Companion animals

MALAWI

In 2009 RSPCA International continued its support to the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals in Malawi, which has achieved great success since it was established with our support in 2008. The LSPCA's work with companion animals expanded in 2009. More than 470 dogs and cats were spayed and neutered, and 50 dogs were rescued and rehomed. The LSPCA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture to vaccinate more than 11,500 dogs against rabies in Lilongwe.

Agriculture Farm animals

MALAWI

The LSPCA has also initiated farm animal clinics to treat goats, chickens, donkeys and cattle. Keeping livestock healthy is vital to the livelihoods of poor farmers and with so few vets in the country, these clinics are essential. Free veterinary care has now been given to more than 7,200 farm animals. The LSPCA is piloting a vaccination programme against Newcastle disease, which can kill entire flocks of village chickens in Malawi every year. Local animal health officers will be trained in good chicken husbandry so they can better advise their communities.

Environment Wildlife

ZAMBIA

In Zambia RSPCA International is working with French NGO Awely to develop animal welfare-friendly solutions to human-wildlife conflict around South Luangwa National Park. Villages surround the park and this close proximity results in conflict between people and wildlife due to the destruction

of crops by wildlife, disease transmission between humans, livestock and wildlife, and attacks on humans and livestock by wildlife.

Elephants are a particular problem and Awely staff use an innovative technique to keep them away from crops. Elephants find chillies aversive so crushing chillies, mixing them with motor oil and coating the fence around the crops with the mixture is proving a successful, animal welfare-friendly method of protecting them. With RSPCA International's support, Awely has trained 200 farmers to grow chilli, which also provides an alternative income for poor farmers.

Awely runs workshops for both the farmers and local schools on elephant behaviour, conservation and animal welfare, and how people and wildlife can live together. Awely collects data on all incidents of human-wildlife conflict in the area, which will be used to recommend land-use policies to reduce the incidences of human-wildlife conflict in the future.

BELOW: LSPCA vet Richard Ssuna vaccinates village chickens to protect them against Newcastle disease.



RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

Global and development issues

The RSPCA continues to play a leading role in ensuring that animal welfare receives the attention it deserves on the international stage.



OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)

The OIE agreed a new standard on humane dog control in 2009, supported by the RSPCA, which could be instrumental in improving standards of dog welfare in more than 130 OIE member countries that presently lack animal welfare legislation. The OIE also started work on new global standards on the use of animals in laboratories, the production of beef cattle and the farming of chickens.

The key issue now that the OIE has agreed six global standards is to ensure their enforcement and implementation. The RSPCA, WSPA and other international groups issued a new report at the OIE General Assembly in May highlighting the work that NGOs have done globally to train, advise and help countries to implement global animal welfare standards. More than 40 countries have benefitted from proactive and strategic help from the RSPCA, WSPA and others, and real improvements are starting to be seen in countries as diverse as Dubai, Brazil and Bulgaria.

The OIE has begun to implement regional strategies to encourage countries to implement its standards, agreeing strategies for Asia and Europe in participation with local animal welfare groups, which will be used to improve standards in countries where programmes exist.

BELOW: The WTO may be called upon to look at an animal welfare law for the first time as Canada and Norway challenged an EU import ban on seal products in 2009.

ISTOCK



World trade

The RSPCA joined forces with the European Commission, Eurogroup and others to stage a two-day conference in Brussels looking at opportunities for improving farm animal welfare. More than 20 speakers from five continents gave presentations outlining changes that have occurred in farm standards in their areas due to consumer demand.

Following the EU's agreement on an import ban on seal products, Canada and Norway announced that they would challenge this in the WTO. Initial negotiations started in December but it is likely that a panel will be set up in 2010 to review whether the import ban conforms to international trade agreements. This would be the first time the WTO has looked at an animal welfare case. The RSPCA issued a new briefing looking at the history of WTO jurisprudence on other laws that are relevant to the seals challenge.

UN Declaration

High-level negotiations took place at the United Nations (UN) this year to introduce the idea of animal welfare and the need for a UN Resolution on the issue. A reception was held in March in the UN headquarters, hosted by the Seychelles and attended by over 20 countries. WSPA lobbied the member countries in the autumn to agree a resolution that included animal welfare in its language and though this was not ultimately successful, it did raise the profile of the issue.



ANDREW FORSYTH/RSPCA PHOTOLIBRARY

ABOVE: Opportunities for improving farm animal welfare have been on the European agenda this year.

Emergency response

In 2009 RSPCA International attended an oil spill in Norway, provided training for oiled-wildlife responders from across Europe and helped to establish a new network for oiled-wildlife responders.



Full City oil spill – Norway

In the early morning of 31 July 2009 the Panamanian freighter MS Full City grounded on the Norwegian south coast near the town of Langesund, spilling 1,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil. The oil threatened a coastal area rich in wildlife, especially seabirds that were breeding and moulting.

An emergency centre was set up by a network of Norwegian wildlife organisations, in partnership with the Norwegian authorities. Expert staff from the RSPCA were invited to help supervise the washing and after-care of over 150 oiled birds, including eiders, scoters, herring gulls, mute swans, terns and cormorants. The birds were washed by hand and monitored while they recovered in specialist rehabilitation pools. The last birds were released in the second week of September.

shared their experiences on all aspects of oiled wildlife response from planning and prevention to rescue, rehabilitation and post release studies. RSPCA Chief Inspector Geoff Edmond led a workshop on capturing oiled birds with Rebecca Dmytryk from WildRescue (USA). They discussed preparedness, safety issues and capture strategies, and then held a practical session on the beach with a robotic duck.

Oiled-wildlife response training

In 2009 three places were made available for external participants to attend the RSPCA's long-running oiled-wildlife training. Two wildlife vets from Norway and Germany and a wildlife assistant from Norway joined RSPCA staff to learn how oil spills affect animals, methods of oiled-wildlife collection and how to administer first aid to casualties. By sharing the RSPCA's expertise we hope to help other European responders become better prepared to deal with incidents in their own countries.

'EMPOWER'

In 2009 the RSPCA helped to set up EMPOWER – the European Management Programme for Oiled Wildlife and other Emergency Responses. EMPOWER is an initiative led by the Sea Alarm Foundation that will develop and support the implementation of policies and activities that promote professional preparedness to marine wildlife emergency responses in all European coastal countries.

It encourages NGOs, the scientific community and the oil and maritime industries to work together on important policy issues. Members can also benefit from national and regional training events and gain access to the latest information in the field of oiled wildlife and other marine emergencies. As a founding member, the RSPCA is helping to establish and develop the network.

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL



ABOVE: International aid officer Coralie Farren and wildlife assistant Cori Smith wash oiled birds after Panamanian freighter MS Full City grounded in Norway.

'Effects of oil on wildlife' conference

In October the RSPCA supported the 10th 'Effects of Oil on Wildlife' conference in Estonia, run by the Sea Alarm Foundation. Over 130 participants from around the world

Overseas Fund financial awards



The Overseas Fund is the RSPCA's grant-making trust for its international work. In addition to running training courses, conferences and other events, RSPCA International makes grants to animal welfare organisations to carry out consultancy, project work and service development.

During 2009 the Overseas Fund paid out grants totalling more than £320,000. Funding consisted of project grants to organisations in 21 countries and consultancy payments for long-term strategic activity in China, Taiwan, Poland, Turkey and the Western Balkans. A further £50,000 was spent on training courses. Further details on grants, consultancy work and training in Europe, East Asia and southern Africa can be found in this review's regional sections.

Society

Animal welfare education

- CHINA** China National Institute for Educational Research – animal welfare education project
- CHINA** Jane Goodall Institute (China) – animal welfare education publication
- ETHIOPIA** SPANA – animal welfare education project
- SERBIA** Organisation for Respect and Care for Animals (ORCA) – animal welfare education project
- TAIWAN** Ministry of Education – animal welfare education project

Legislation

- CHINA** Chinese Academy of Social Sciences – animal protection legislation development
- SERBIA** Organisation for Respect and Care for Animals (ORCA) – animal welfare legislation campaign

Companion animals

- BULGARIA** Stray Animal Solutions – stray control programme
- CHINA** Second Chance Animal Aid – shelter development and equipment
- CYPRUS** Kyrenia Animal Rescue – shelter development
- GREECE** Animal Rescue Thessaloniki – shelter development
- INDIA** Help In Suffering – vehicle for animal rescue work and neutering
- MACEDONIA** Stray Animal Solutions – dog control guidance and population survey
- MALAWI** Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals – community veterinary clinics
- POLAND** Animals' Guard in Poland (Straż dla Zwierząt w Polsce) – animal rescue vehicle
- THAILAND** PhaNgan Animal Care – equipment for new shelter

Agriculture

Farm animals

- PORTUGAL** Lusofona Veterinary Faculty – meat industry training programme
- SPAIN** ANDA – live markets campaign
- SRI LANKA** Srikandi Animal Care – poultry welfare campaign
- WESTERN BALKANS** West Balkans Veterinary Network – animal welfare promotion in the livestock production sector
- INDONESIA** Srikandi Animal Care – poultry welfare

Industry

Research animals

- CHINA** CALAS – laboratory animal welfare conference
- KOREA** Korean Animal Welfare Association – ethics survey
- TAIWAN** Council of Agriculture – laboratory animal welfare promotion

Environment

Wildlife

- INDONESIA** ProFauna – parrot trade and education programme
- POLAND** OTOZ Animals – captive bear research project
- ZAMBIA** Association Awely – human-wildlife conflict resolution project

Aid by region, 2009

%

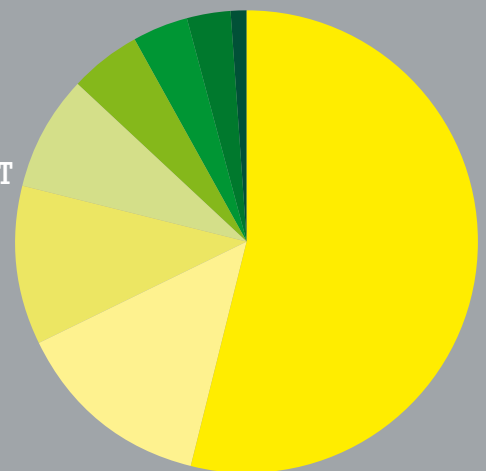
- 36** EAST ASIA
- 23** EUROPE
- 15** SOUTHERN AFRICA
- 26** OTHER (WORLDWIDE)



Aid by area of expenditure

%

- 54** EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
- 14** RESEARCH
- 11** STRAY CONTROL
- 8** FARM ANIMALS AND EQUINES
- 5** WILDLIFE
- 4** LEGISLATION
- 3** RESCUE/TREATMENT VEHICLES
- 1** CLINIC/SHELTER DEVELOPMENT AND VET EQUIPMENT



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