



International



RSPCA International Review 2011

PROMOTING ANIMAL AND HUMAN WELFARE AROUND THE WORLD



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Thank you

Introduction



As world events continue to be dominated by the state of the global economy, we have had to work even harder to ensure that our international programmes deliver sustainable results.

In these difficult times cooperation becomes even more crucial, and over the years we have successfully expanded the range of partners involved in our programmes, from animal welfare organisations to governments to multilateral bodies. Our participation in the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) ensures that the RSPCA's animal welfare experience and knowledge contribute to the setting of OIE standards, which provide a globally accepted benchmark for the treatment of farm, laboratory and companion animals. In 2011 we were also invited, for the first time, to join the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) expert meeting on dog population management.

Professional bodies such as veterinary associations, laboratory animal science associations and others also welcomed our participation in conferences, seminars and workshops. Combining the breadth of expertise of RSPCA staff and our specialist partners, we continued to deliver a wide range of training in 2011, in shelter management in Korea, pet shop inspection in Taiwan, poultry welfare in Turkey, and law enforcement for police in Malawi.

Best wishes

Paul Littlefair

HEAD OF RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

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Society

Society drives animal welfare standards. Our relationship with animals is one of the elements that underpin our cultural identity, and imposes a duty on us to protect animals from exploitation and cruel use. Society recognises this duty through education and public awareness. Public opinion is critical to determining laws and standards governing the treatment of animals and in calling for effective enforcement. In addition, people and animals share living space and are susceptible to common health risks, so good public health is dependent on the prevention of animal disease. All these factors influence and impact on our work.

RSPCA International and society

We promote animal welfare education and responsible pet ownership for the benefit of both animals and people. The development and enforcement of effective animal welfare legislation and standards enhance the relationship between animals and people in society, and we actively work towards strengthening that link. We also work with governments, local animal welfare organisations and regional specialists to develop humane animal population management and catching methods, and in doing so help to prevent the spread of disease.

»» KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2011

- Alex Hammond-Seaman, Senior Programme Manager (Europe), participated in the FAO's expert meeting on dog population management as an independent expert.

She also spoke on the issue at the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations' (FECAVA) congress.

- We presented dog population management options at TAIEX events supported by the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission in Zagreb, Croatia and in Belgrade, Serbia.
- We provided training in shelter management and humane dog handling for Istanbul's three metropolitan municipal shelters, and ran our first shelter management training course in Korea.
- We delivered law enforcement training in Malawi, Japan, Korea and Taiwan.
- We chaired a session on animal welfare education at the Asia for Animals conference in Chengdu, China and we presented at the first ever dedicated session on animal welfare held within the Korean Society of Veterinary Science's Annual Conference.
- We launched an animal welfare manual for

teachers and volunteers in China delivering the RSPCA/Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots education programme.

- We supported the opening of a new permanent Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA) community vet clinic in Malawi.
- We advised on the first comprehensive dog population and attitudinal survey in Lilongwe as part of the development of a humane stray control strategy and supported a resolution to end the shooting of stray dogs.



£5 WILL VACCINATE A DOG AGAINST RABIES —

HELPING TO PROTECT BOTH ANIMALS AND PEOPLE



Society

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Shelter management training in Korea

Following preliminary visits to Korea in spring 2011, we secured support from Seoul city government, the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MIFAFF) and the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service, for a three-day RSPCA shelter management course for the managers and staff of public and private shelters.

A MIFAFF-appointed veterinary professor presented Korea's first shelter management guidelines; the professor was among the Korean government's delegation that we hosted in July 2011 as they researched shelter conditions. This research was done partly in response to a 2009 RSPCA-funded survey into shelter conditions, which exposed major welfare concerns in many of Korea's animal shelters.

Part of the training involved a shelter visit where participants were given two tasks: first, to identify different types of animal behaviour discussed in the training; second, to identify different types of accommodation at the shelter and then decide which they preferred, using ease of cleaning, disease prevention and welfare needs as criteria.



As a first stage in shelter development in Korea, the course was very successful in raising awareness of animal behaviour, needs and welfare, and in bringing diverse stakeholders together. We hope to pursue further work in this area, focusing on developing and standardising policies and routines.



RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Legal training for key stakeholders in Malawi

In March 2011 we ran several groundbreaking training events in Malawi, in partnership with the LSPCA and Malawi police service.

Police commissioners, prosecutors and chief magistrates from across the country came to Lilongwe for training on the importance of animal protection legislation and strategies for better enforcement. The course aimed to increase familiarity with the relevant legislation to enable more effective responses to incidences of animal cruelty such as poor transportation and the roadside selling of puppies and kittens. Police Commissioner Dzonzi, on behalf of the then Inspector General, opened the course.

A second course brought together police station managers and prosecutors from all the main cities in Malawi, again to improve knowledge of what constitutes animal suffering and when to prosecute. The training included detailed discussions on legislation, the powers of the police and courts in animal cruelty cases, and how to collect evidence, including accurate photos, witness statements and animal welfare assessments.



LOOKING AHEAD to 2012

We need your support to:

PROMOTE the RSPCA pledge to end the overpopulation of companion animals and tackle the related issues, internationally

EXTEND shelter management training in Turkey and Korea

HOST a national event to promote dog population management options in Turkey

WORK with authorities in Malawi and Zambia to develop and implement dog population management strategies.



“The [Malawian] Protection of Animals Act is an old law which needs to be updated because of current international standards. In recent years we have not paid as much attention to the law and its enforcement as we should have done. In the past, people were very particular on how to handle animals in a proper way, but for unknown reasons, in the past few years we have not paid close attention to the proper treatment and care of animals.”

Lot Dzonzi
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, MALAWI

Agriculture

Farm animals have always played a vital role in our lives, but in recent years there has been a sharp increase in global demand for meat, eggs and dairy products. A secure and safe food supply depends on the husbandry, veterinary care and nutrition that animals receive, so the challenge is to meet this increased demand while achieving higher welfare within different livestock production systems throughout the animals' lives. This challenge affects all producers, from large commercial concerns to small-scale subsistence farmers – in less-developed parts of the world, farm animals are not only part of a subsistence diet, but also provide a major contribution to livelihoods.

RSPCA International and agriculture

The RSPCA's work ranges from setting standards for and auditing farm assurance schemes, to advising on improving legislation and implementing OIE standards (see page 12) – all with the aim of improving farm animal welfare at all stages of the animals' lives. We also work in partnership to develop 'welfare outcome assessment' as a means of measuring welfare (see page 10).

We share our experience internationally, through training and by organising visits to assured farms in the UK to show how systems work in practice.

»» KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2011

- In cooperation with the Turkish Poultry Association, we delivered a poultry welfare workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, which focused on the production and primary processing of broiler chicken. We also made preliminary

arrangements for a training programme on the protection of animals during slaughter in collaboration with the ETBIR (red meat producers' association in Turkey).

- We attended the final Brussels-based meeting of a three-year European Econ Welfare research project, involving one of our Western Balkans partners, to assess the economic impact of higher welfare.
- We delivered a workshop on welfare in poultry production in Ohrid, Macedonia, which was attended by members of the Western Balkans Veterinary Network (WBVN).
- We spoke on the 'Role of civil society in the implementation of standards and legislation with regards to the protection of animals during slaughter', in Barcelona at a Better Training for Safer Food event run by DG SANCO.
- RSPCA International became a stakeholder partner in the FP7 AWARE (Animal Welfare Research in an Enlarged Europe) project.

- We collaborated with Animal Welfare and Protection Association, Zagreb, Croatia to agree the parameters for an RSPCA-supported 'Higher welfare food' project.
- We hosted a poultry welfare and quality conference in Surabaya, Indonesia in March for over 100 delegates from veterinary services, industry, government and non-governmental organisations.
- In collaboration with China Agriculture University, we co-hosted the International Symposium on Healthy Environment and Animal Welfare, in Chongqing.
- We delivered a paper in Melbourne, Australia on the 'Role of NGOs in supporting veterinary services in developing countries: Case study of a Newcastle Disease programme', which was published in *Ecohealth*.





£7.50 A YEAR WILL VACCINATE

300 CHICKENS AGAINST

NEWCASTLE DISEASE AND

SUPPORT PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Improving poultry welfare in Turkey through training

In collaboration with the BESD-BIR (the Turkish poultry meat producers' and breeders' association) and the Turkish Veterinary Association, RSPCA International organised a poultry welfare officer training course for poultry meat producers, which included a welfare outcome assessment module. Industry operators and official veterinarians also attended the course.



Course participants visited poultry plants to see welfare outcome assessment in action, and took part in a practical assessment that combined elements of animal-based indicators with more conventional input-based measures.

Over 100 participants completed the training, which was the first of its kind in Turkey. We have been invited to return and run additional modules, focusing on the welfare of laying hens and breeding stocks.

“It is clear that there is a need for the meat industry in Turkey to improve animal welfare and keep abreast with new developments. In addition, European Union accession talks require amendments to legislation to be in line with EU standards. Participants from poultry producers and processors, as well as veterinarians from the Ministry of Agriculture, have indicated that they benefitted from the RSPCA training course and are applying their knowledge in commercial practice.”

Dr Haluk Anil DVM PhD Dip ECVPH
ADVISOR TO RSPCA INTERNATIONAL

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Critical farm animal work in China

In October 2011 the RSPCA's Head of External Affairs, Paul Littlefair, represented Compassion in World Farming, the World Society for the Protection of Animals and the Humane Society of the United States at the International Symposium on Healthy Environment and Animal Welfare in Chongqing, China – the world's largest city. He delivered a presentation on welfare outcome assessment, which was developed in conjunction with the RSPCA's farm animals department.

Our farm animal welfare work in China is critical as the country is a major meat consumer – of animals raised in China as well as imported meat. More than one-quarter of all meat produced worldwide is eaten in China, and one-half of the world's pigs

What is welfare outcome assessment?

Farm animal welfare has traditionally been measured by focusing on 'inputs' such as an animal's environment, feed, and veterinary care – the facilities provided for them. However, the RSPCA believes that a more accurate picture of an animal's welfare can be gained by measuring the 'outputs' i.e. the effects that these facilities have on the animals themselves. This type of assessment is still being developed and trialled.

– nearly 500 million – live there. The Chinese eat an average of 38 kilogrammes of pork each year, compared to an average 27kg eaten by Americans. In 2012 chicken consumption in China is expected to overtake that of the USA for the first time.

China consumes far less beef than Western countries. This is partly due to its higher cost, although human and environmental issues are also crucial influences on agriculture and meat production. Beef is land and grain-intensive as cattle require large plots of grazing land and a lot more grain per pound of weight gain than pigs or chickens, in fact more than double that of pigs.

Because China has limited land and water supplies but a huge population – one-fifth of the world's total – it has to use efficient forms of animal protein. In 2011 China harvested the largest ever grain crop of any country. One-third of that harvest was to feed animals to meet the growing demand for meat, milk, eggs and farmed fish.

Despite this incredible crop, China still had to import a net seven million tonnes of grain, while more than 60 percent of world soybean exports, nearly all from the USA, Brazil and Argentina, also go to China. Increasing meat demands have led to more land now being planted with soybeans than with wheat or corn.

If China's feed imports continue to rise, prices will rise with them. At the moment, per capita meat consumption in China is still relatively low. For example, if China reached US consumption levels it would need more than three-quarters of the current world beef output and 80 percent of the world's broiler chickens.

China is not the only country trying to move up the food chain. As many developed countries are cutting back on meat consumption, billions of people in the developing world are trying to eat more. In the face of this trend, sustaining farm animal welfare will be a huge challenge.

LOOKING AHEAD to 2012

We need your support to:

PROMOTE the RSPCA pledge to increase the proportion of animals reared under higher welfare systems, internationally

DELIVER poultry production training in Malaysia for key government, veterinary, NGO and industry stakeholders

ENCOURAGE the development of standards and legislation for farm animals in Europe, East Asia and southern Africa

WORK with the meat industry in Turkey and provide training on red meat production

PARTICIPATE actively in regional and national conferences, and seminars across our regions

SUPPORT ongoing farm animal welfare initiatives in the Western Balkans.



Raising standards

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) sets international standards that benefit both animals and people. These may, for example, ensure that food is safe for consumption and improve the management of stray dog populations, which can be hazardous to human populations.

The RSPCA is a member of the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), which provides experts for the OIE's working group on animal welfare. We believe that agreeing and establishing OIE standards is an important part of developing a legal framework for animal welfare, particularly in OIE member countries that do not have animal welfare legislation. Through our membership of ICFAW we are able to improve compliance with and enforcement of OIE standards in our partner countries.

ICFAW members currently have active programmes involving OIE standards in 47 countries. For a programme to run, there needs to be a basis to improve animal welfare such as the existence of a key animal welfare partner, which could be national, regional or local government, or an animal welfare organisation. The availability of financial and other resources also needs to be considered.

In 2011 the RSPCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Istituto G. Caporale (ICT)

in Teramo, Italy, which is the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare. In 2012 the ICT and RSPCA will work together to assist with the implementation of OIE standards in the Western Balkans and Turkey, through collaborative workshops, training initiatives and support for our partner institutions in the region. The first workshop has been scheduled for April 2012 and will focus on mapping out animal welfare priorities, and training and education needs.

- **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**
The global standard setter for baseline animal welfare standards.
- **International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW)**
An umbrella body representing animal welfare organisations at the OIE.



THERE ARE 178 OIE MEMBER COUNTRIES, SO ENSURING

THAT STANDARDS ARE IMPLEMENTED AND ENFORCED

BY ALL MEMBERS IS A HUGE CHALLENGE

OIE standards agreed as of November 2011

- Dog population control
- Transport and slaughter of fish
- Transport of animals by land, sea and air
- Slaughter of animals for disease control and food
- Control and use of animals in laboratories

OIE standards currently being drawn up

- Beef cattle production
- Broiler chicken production
- On-farm welfare of dairy cattle
- Transport of animals for use in research

OIE guidelines on stray dog population control

In 2011 RSPCA International's work around OIE standards focused on the humane slaughter of animals, stray dog control, and the use of animals in research and education in East Asia, Europe and southern Africa. We have worked, for example, to ensure the implementation of the following guidelines for the collection and capture of stray dogs.

- The Competent Authority should collect dogs that are not under direct supervision and verify their ownership.
- Capture, transport, and holding of the dogs should be done humanely.
- The Competent Authority should develop and implement appropriate legislation and training to regulate these activities.
- Capture should be achieved with the minimum force required and equipment should be used that supports humane handling.
- Uncovered wire loops should not be used for capture.

Since 2009 RSPCA International has worked on the promotion and implementation of OIE guidelines on the collection and capture of stray dogs in: **Albania; Bosnia & Herzegovina; Croatia; FYR Macedonia; Greece; Korea; Kosovo; Malawi; Montenegro; Serbia; Thailand; Turkey; Ukraine; and United Arab Emirates.**



Industry

Each year millions of animals are used by industry around the world in the development and manufacture of products for human and animal consumption. This includes animals farmed for food, those whose skin or fur is used in clothing or textiles, and animals used in research and testing by pharmaceutical and chemicals companies.

The impact of these uses on animals is influenced by many factors, for example the implementation of legislation and standards relating to the protection of animals; increasing sensitivity among the public (as consumers) to ethical and welfare issues; and the inclusion of an animal welfare component in the corporate social responsibility policies developed by companies seeking to demonstrate their commitment to ethical and sustainable business.

RSPCA International and industry

The RSPCA helps to develop legislation, guidelines and standards regarding the use and welfare of laboratory animals, and to encourage ethical animal welfare policies in the clothing, food and cosmetics retail trades.

Animals in research and testing

Internationally, in recent years, we have worked closely with institutions using animals in experiments, and with governments, and other relevant bodies, to develop and deliver courses on many aspects of laboratory – animal science and welfare – with a particular emphasis on two geographical regions: Central and Eastern Europe, and East Asia.


Courses and workshops are developed at the invitation of national legislators or laboratory

animal science associations and are funded by the organising bodies. They are tailored to the specific research environment and the requirements of the countries concerned, though common course topics include legislation, training for personnel, ethical review, the 3Rs (see page 16), and animal housing and care.

In addition to RSPCA speakers, experts from across academia, industry and government are invited to participate in the delivery of these events.

»» KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2011

- We participated in the 3rd East Mediterranean Symposium of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS). Speakers included the RSPCA's Dr Maggy Jennings and Professor Zoran Todorovic from Serbia who spoke on behalf of the Western Balkans Veterinary Network (WBVN).
- We worked with Chinese-Taipei Society of Laboratory Animal Science (CSLAS) officials to develop plans for a laboratory animal welfare training workshop to be held in early 2012.
- We collaborated with institutions in the Western Balkans on the development of a regional platform for laboratory animal science and welfare within the framework of the WBVN.



“The use of animals in research and testing is a global issue. It is vital that opportunities exist for people to come together to share experiences, exchange views and promote best practices in ethical review and implementing the 3Rs.”

Dr Maggy Jennings OBE

RSPCA HEAD OF RESEARCH ANIMALS DEPARTMENT

YOUR DONATIONS CAN **HELP TO FUND** THE DEVELOPMENT OF

ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF ANIMALS IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Industry



RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Sharing ideas on ethical review in Turkey

The RSPCA was approached by the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) to sponsor and participate in a session on ethical review at the 3rd East Mediterranean Symposium held in Istanbul, Turkey.

The event was attended by 300 delegates from the eastern Mediterranean basin. The RSPCA's Dr Maggy Jennings gave a presentation on harm/benefit assessment and how pain and distress in animals can be better recognised and evaluated. We also sponsored Professor Zoran Todorovic from Serbia to present (on behalf of the WBVN) a session on the importance of ethical review committees.

ICLAS is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organisation. It exists to promote high standards of animal care and use in education, research, testing and diagnosis, and to promote good science which fosters humane practices. The main aims of the organisation are: to promote and coordinate the development of laboratory animal science throughout the world; to collect and disseminate information on laboratory animal science in developing countries, as a matter of priority; to promote worldwide harmonisation in the care and use of laboratory animals.

RSPCA International plans to help initiate the establishment of a regional platform for laboratory animal science and welfare in the Western Balkans in order to create opportunities for better promoting and disseminating knowledge and information relating to ethical review and the implementation of the 3Rs.



WHAT ARE THE 3Rs?

REPLACEMENT Using methods that replace or avoid the use of animals in experiments.

REDUCTION Minimising the numbers of animals used, e.g. by improving the experimental design and statistical analysis used in a study.

REFINEMENT Improving experimental procedures and other factors affecting animals, such as their housing and care, in order to reduce suffering and improve welfare throughout the animals' lives.

WHAT IS ETHICAL REVIEW?

Ethical review is a framework that allows for ongoing critical evaluation of the ethical and welfare issues relating to the use of animals. This includes: consideration of the necessity and justification for using animals i.e. the potential harms for animals and the likely benefits of the research, and how these balance; experimental design; implementation of the 3Rs; animal husbandry and care; other related issues, such as staff training.

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Promoting laboratory animal welfare in Asia

In recent years RSPCA International has developed partnerships with key laboratory animal science associations and academic institutions in East Asia.

In 2010 RSPCA International encouraged and provided funding for the establishment of the Institute for the 3Rs at Konkuk University in Korea. This was the latest in a long history of initiatives to improve laboratory animal welfare across the region.

Since 2007 the RSPCA has worked closely with the Chinese government and academic institutions and laboratory animal science associations to promote laboratory animal welfare. This collaboration has included the sharing of materials, the provision of conference speakers and the delivery of training. In 2007, for example, the Chinese Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) translated

RSPCA materials on the housing and care of 14 species commonly used in research.

In 2008 CALAS invited the RSPCA to give presentations at the 3rd Congress of the Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations (AFLAS) in Beijing on 'Ethics, animal welfare and the 3Rs'. Then in 2009 the RSPCA delivered a two-day training course with CALAS on 'Good science and animal welfare in experimental design', followed by a second joint training course in 2010 entitled 'Laboratory animal welfare and alternatives', which was attended by 100 scientists and technicians.

In 2010 OIE standards were published on 'Animals used in research and education' (www.oie.int) (see page 12), which put the welfare of millions of laboratory animals higher up the agenda, both across Asia and globally.

LOOKING AHEAD to 2012

We need your support to:

PROMOTE the RSPCA pledge to reduce the number of animals that undergo severe suffering when used in experiments, internationally

ORGANISE and deliver future training events relating to laboratory animal science and animal welfare in East Asia and the Western Balkans

PRODUCE and disseminate new training materials and resources

PARTICIPATE actively in regional and national conferences, and seminars across our regions such as the Congress of the Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations (AFLAS)

SUPPORT ongoing laboratory animal welfare initiatives within the WBNV.



Environment

Humans and animals depend on healthy, functioning ecosystems, as natural ecosystems play an essential role in regulating climate, air, water and infectious diseases. In turn, animals' biological processes contribute to the sustainability of ecosystems. Poor environmental health affects both human and animal health, and activity harmful to the environment i.e. habitat destruction and pollution is detrimental to the welfare of individual animals. Many diseases can be transmitted between domestic animals, wildlife and humans.

RSPCA International and the environment

We work to integrate animal welfare into projects that both support wildlife conservation and protect human livelihoods. We develop our work under the One Health concept, which seeks to increase the synergy between veterinary public health, public health and environmental health professionals and programmes.

We work with the RSPCA's wildlife department and external agencies to develop research and policy on captive wildlife and advise on wildlife rehabilitation, including setting up visits to UK wildlife rehabilitation and education centres for overseas visitors.

»» KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2011

- We attended a conference in Portland, USA on oiled – wildlife response and wider response issues, data from which will feed into future national and international response planning.
- We held a two-day training course in Taiwan on pet shops and breeding establishments, focusing on the welfare of exotics; this was delivered by Rob Quest of the City of London.
- Four European brown bears were moved from Poland to sanctuaries in Germany following a 2007 RSPCA-funded research project that identified welfare concerns with several bears held in captivity.
- We supported Community Markets for Conservation's (COMACO) pilot project to develop animal-welfare-friendly laying hen units in local communities around South Luangwa national park in Zambia as part of an alternative – livelihoods programme designed to curb poaching.



DONATIONS ARE CRUCIAL IF WE ARE TO RESPOND

TO INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCIES

Environment

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Improving bear welfare in Poland

In 2009 we announced that following two years of research by scientists based at the University of Wrocław, a new report had been launched looking at the condition of bears in captivity in Poland. The document, sponsored by RSPCA International and Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Zwierząt Animals (OTOZ), identified 51 bears in 13 Polish zoos that were being kept in conditions which did not meet their welfare and were in fact illegal under EU rules. Amazing progress has been made on this issue since then.

The project identified major welfare problems and these results highlighted challenges for zoos and focused the government's attention on areas to improve, including legislative changes.

A few zoos had already planned new enclosures for bears before the study was completed. The situation has since changed in other institutions, although some still have very poor bear welfare standards. Help is being offered in the most difficult situations, for example, to find a

permanent solution for bears being kept in a dog pound in Korabiewice. Here are some examples of how the welfare of captive bears in Poland improved in 2011.

Legal confirmation

After a long legal battle the director of Wrocław Zoo was found guilty of animal abuse in January. Mago, a 15-year-old European brown bear, hit the headlines in September 2006 when it was discovered that the zoo had kept him in a six-metre-square concrete

“The bears' move to Germany was one of the best moments and very satisfying for researchers conducting the project to assist in a transfer and observe these bears living like real bears. They were eagerly discovering the pleasure of digging, swimming and exploring after many years on concrete with only stressful stimuli. Now they are back to a natural cycle and two of the three even hibernated for a short time. The youngest – three-pawed Michal – is managing very well in his semi-natural enclosure. He spends a considerable amount of time playing with balls and hanging pipes, looking for a way to get at the rewards hidden inside.”

Agnieszka Sergiel
CAPTIVE BEAR PROJECT



cage with no outdoor access for a whole decade. The verdict was a great breakthrough in animal-welfare decision-making, confirming that the director had failed to meet the animal's welfare needs sufficiently. It demonstrated that those responsible for zoos have an obligation to meet an animal's welfare needs, just like everyone else has, and reinforced the principle that causing suffering by neglect is as serious as causing suffering through deliberate cruelty.

In the bears' best interests

In February the RSPCA funded a detailed clinical examination of seven bears being kept in Braniewo. The project team invited bear specialists, including Professor Djuro Huber from Croatia, and vets from the Veterinary Faculty of Wrocław University of Life Sciences, to participate. Unfortunately, two bears had to be euthanased but the remaining animals were microchipped and are now fully prepared for transfer.



Help was also offered in the form of training for the bear-keepers and enrichment for the bears.

A chance for a better life

Three bears were transferred from Poland to the Vier Pfoten sanctuary in Germany towards the end of 2011, where they are now enjoying life in semi-natural enclosures, with lots of stimulation and a chance to exhibit natural behaviours. Basia and Kasia, now aged 27 and 16, had spent their whole lives at Leszno mini zoo, where they were kept isolated and fed a diet of bread and carrots. Eight-year-old Michł, who has only three paws, was relocated from Braniewo, and is discovering an enthusiasm for life.

You can monitor the work of this project at <http://en.bearproject.org>

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL IN ACTION

Piloting poultry group layer facilities in Zambia

RSPCA International supports projects in southern Africa that not only improve animal welfare but also support human livelihoods and conservation of wildlife.

Community markets for Conservation (COMACO) in Zambia has developed a range of programmes to provide an income for local people as an alternative to poaching in the national park. In 2011 RSPCA International partnered with COMACO, and together with expertise from our farm animal department, supported the development of an animal welfare-friendly laying hen programme.

The pilot project, with five local farmers, aimed to improve the welfare of village chickens by looking at the benefits of different types of poultry housing, in relation to space, ventilation, sanitation and food and disease control. Participating farmers received 10 hybrid laying hens on a subsidised loan basis, to be repaid within three months, and were expected to construct either a grass-thatched or a brick housing unit, rather than allowing hens to free range and scavenge.

Demand for the eggs from local safari lodges has been overwhelming and provided valuable income to the community. Additionally, it is a very inclusive programme since it can involve any household member regardless of age or gender, thereby introducing additional livelihood support. This pilot shows that low-cost, welfare-friendly egg production can provide both a protein and an income source to enable communities to move away from poaching.

LOOKING AHEAD to 2012

We need your support to:

PROMOTE the RSPCA's pledge to reduce the number of exotic animals kept as pets and increase their humane care internationally

RESPOND to emergencies – rescuing animals and supporting affected communities

DEVELOP wildlife rehabilitation standards internationally

PRODUCE joint standardised working protocols for emergency response with other responders

PROVIDE continued support to the Polish captive bear project.



Financial information

Overseas Fund expenditure

The RSPCA's international work is funded through the Overseas Fund. This pays for project work, training courses, research and consultancy. Below is a list of the projects supported by the Fund, while far right is a breakdown of how the money was spent.

COMPANION ANIMALS

KOREA	Shelter management training
MALAWI	Project funding for companion animals/veterinary
MALAWI	LSPCA organisational development
PHILIPPINES	Purchase of mobile spay/neuter vehicle
TURKEY	Shelter assessments and advisory work
TURKEY	Clinical equipment for neutering campaign
WESTERN BALKANS	Dog population management

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT

CHINA	Chinese animal welfare textbook
JAPAN	JAWS inspectorate training
MALAWI	Police law enforcement training
ZIMBABWE	Vehicle for animal welfare law enforcement

RESEARCH ANIMALS

TURKEY	Ethical review seminar ICLAS
TAIWAN	AFLAS conference

FARM ANIMALS

CROATIA	Slaughter training
INDONESIA	Poultry welfare and quality conference
INDONESIA	Development of farm animals website
KOSOVO	Red meat production training
MALAWI	Newcastle Disease vaccination programme (poultry)
MALAYSIA	Train-the-trainer poultry production programme
TURKEY	Animal welfare training
TURKEY	Poultry welfare course (April)
TURKEY	Poultry welfare course (September)
WESTERN BALKANS	Poultry welfare workshop in Skopje
ZAMBIA	Laying hens project

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

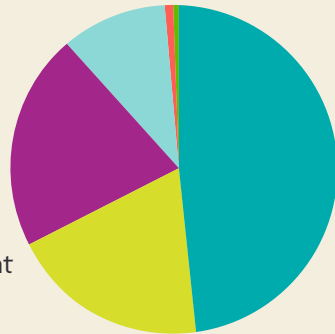
ASIA	Co-sponsor the 'Asia for Animals' conference
CHINA	Develop and trial animal welfare modular course in secondary biology education
CHINA	Animal welfare manual
CROATIA	Consumer awareness project
MACEDONIA	Consumer awareness project
TAIWAN	Animal welfare education training

WILDLIFE

POLAND	OTOZ grant for research and campaigning on bears
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BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE BY FUNDING CATEGORY

- Farm animals
- Companion animals
- Education and awareness
- Legislation and enforcement
- Wildlife
- Research animals



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE BY REGION

- Europe
- East and southeast Asia
- Southern Africa



MEET THE TEAM



Paul Littlefair
Head of RSPCA International

MY HIGHLIGHT OF 2011: Our farm animal work in China is immensely gratifying when I think about the scale of the impact on billions of animals, now and in the future.



Alexandra Hammond-Seaman
Senior Programme Manager (Europe)

MY HIGHLIGHT OF 2011: Working with a wide range of stakeholders in Turkey to improve poultry welfare at all stages of production, on-farm and at slaughter.



Donnamarie O'Connell
Senior Programme Manager (Africa)

MY HIGHLIGHT OF 2011: Working with LSPCA and the Malawi police service on the first-ever training course on animal welfare legislation. Malawi has since delivered its first convictions under the Act.



Kasia Kilvington
International Training Officer

MY HIGHLIGHT OF 2011: Seeing immediate improvements being made to shelter conditions in Istanbul as a result of training inputs we provided. It's great to see real change on the ground.



Johanna Hunton
RSPCA International Secretary

MY HIGHLIGHT OF 2011: Supporting the team to deliver another year of really positive work and helping overseas organisations with a wide range of enquiries.



Joe Murphy/RSPCA, photolibrary

»» **Cover photo:** Joseph Kwanunkhatonde, Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals' education officer, registers all animals brought to the mobile spay and neuter clinic.



International

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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