New winds are blowing for the newsletter!

This is the last of our internal newsletters! From 2016 our newsletters will be directed outwards. Our newsletters have evolved over the 5 years of the project. They have introduced new members to the centre and summarised our activities. More recently they have also highlighted results from some of our research and listed publications. They have played an important role in helping create the group feeling within the centre and it is now time to use it to promote our ongoing work to a wider and international audience.

So continue to keep us informed about your publications!

Linda Keeling, coordinator

2016 and onwards...

As you know, our project was intended to run for 5 years (2011-2015). But this doesn’t mean the end of the centre at the end of this year. Absolutely not! As most of you also know, we will be continuing our activities within the centre to build and expand upon our research network also in the future. I have already mentioned the ‘new’ newsletter format in the above text. There will also be a ‘new’ workshop format starting in 2016, replacing our traditional workshop in Sigtuna. The first of those is being planned to be held in Uppsala next summer.

Make sure you are on the email send list, so you hear about it first!
New PhD: Malin Axel-Nilsson

The title of this new thesis from SLU is “The match between horse and rider”. The opponent for the thesis defence was Dr Haley Randle, Department of Equitation Science, Duchy College, UK.

Congratulations, Malin!

New PhD: Pernilla Foyer

The title of this fresh thesis from Linköping University is “Early Experiences, Maternal Care and Behavioural Test Design - Effects on the Temperament of Military Working Dogs”. Opponent was Professor Daniel Mills, School of Life Science, University of Lincoln, UK.

Congratulations, Pernilla!

Annual autumn meeting

On October 19-20, we had our annual autumn get-together, and this time we met in Linköping! With 25 people attending, the meeting was cozy and informal. The program was quite varied, including invited speakers, research presentations from group members, a poster session and various discussions. As Linköping University has a strong medical research environment, we took the opportunity to invite two speakers from the medical faculty to talk about their research involving rodents. Annika Thorsell presented her work on affective disorders and addiction and gave us a very informative insight in working with rats in the laboratory. David Engblom talked about the use of mouse models to tease apart the mechanisms involved in making us feel sick.

During the research presentations from group members, we covered several of the group’s research topics, including broiler breeder welfare, tube feeding of calves, visual acuity in dogs and horse welfare assessment.

As the Centre participated in the Göteborg Science Festival earlier this year, we had a follow-up discussion on what we learnt from that experience, and how we can continue to promote our work in similar ways in the future. Finally, we also had a poster session with recent posters from several of the attending PhD students, followed by a discussion on how to make a good poster and present it.

In the evening, we enjoyed spending time together

ISAE in Japan

The 49th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology (ISAE) was held in Sapporo, Japan, this year. The main theme was ethology for sustainable society and the contributors from our research environment were Daiana de Oliveira (The body talks: body postures as indicators of emotional states in dairy cows), Elin Hirsch (Association of the behaviour of Swedish companion cats with husbandry and reported owner behaviours), Ann-Kristina Lind (Assessing stress and behaviour reactions of dogs at the veterinary clinic) and Cecilia Lindahl (Human-animal interactions and safety during dairy cattle handling). On the first evening there were several workshops to choose from, and I attended the one on local and global movements in animal welfare. We had some very interesting discussions, focusing on attitudes and important welfare issues in different parts of the world. The banquet was a blast, including the mandatory dancing, but this year accompanied by a traditional music instrument and dance. During the conference we experienced multi-tasking toilets, strange food and of course, KARAOKE! As always, it was a pleasure to interact with colleagues within the field.

Therese Rehn
over a tasty vegetarian dinner and challenged our brains with an “Around the World” quiz.

Pia Løtvedt

Meeting with our reference group

As you know we have a reference group of four experts from different areas outside the Centre. They are Leif Andersson (Uppsala University), Elisabeth Gauffin (KRAV, Visit Sweden), Lena Odland (Ministry for Rural Affairs) and Peter Sylwan (science writer and agronomist). We met them as a group at the start of the project, and several of you have also met them when they have joined our annual workshops at Sigtuna and, earlier in December, we met them again. We discussed our work and what we have all achieved in relation to the goals of the centre. We also presented our plans for the continued collaboration in animal welfare science even after the official end of the Formas project. The consensus was to continue with research workshops, our modified newsletter and the focus on the science of animal welfare.

Linda Keeling

CEAWS well represented at the annual IBANGS meeting

The 17th annual Genes, Brain & Behavior Meeting (IBANGS) was held in Uppsala late May this year. During a couple of warm spring days researchers from around the world gathered at Uppsala University to enjoy talks and learn about recent research findings within the topics of behaviour, brain and genetics. Among the many symposia, two were of particular interest to us from CEAWS; ‘Oxytocin and social behaviour: from fish to humans’ and ‘Genetic and epigenetic regulation of stress-related behaviors’. Per Jensen, one of the founders of CEAWS, was an invited keynote speaker at the conference. Per filled the entire auditorium during his much appreciated talk on ‘Genetics and epigenetics of domesticated social behavior’. During the poster session of the meeting, CEAWS was well represented with a total of 7 posters (details below) dealing with stress, heritability and personality. It was overall an interesting and international meeting covering a broad range of topics of relevance to several of our members.

Josefina Zidar

Publications
**PhD thesis**


**Peer reviewed papers**


heart rate and heart rate variability. Physiol. Behav. 155, 102-111.


Conference abstracts


Invited lectures and plenary talks