

ISAZ

International Society for Anthrozoology

NEWSLETTER No. 1

August 1991

Welcome from the President

Friends and colleagues, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ). The ISAZ was developed by researchers, for researchers in order to help us nurture our growing field and the people working in it. We have joined together to promote academic, scientific and scholarly research into all aspects of human-animal interactions and to foster interaction between researchers in this area on an international basis.

It was a great honour for me to be elected as the first president of ISAZ. As a researcher, the ISAZ's aims are close to my heart. I expect to devote my tenure to fostering interaction among researchers at a truly international level. I hope that you will join me in thanking the Organising Committee, especially the subcommittee of John Bradshaw, James Serpell, and Dennis Turner, for their efforts in founding the Society. The Officers, Organising Committee, and Council join in welcoming you to participation in the ISAZ.

The ISAZ is unique in focussing its efforts only on research and researchers throughout the world, while several organisations provide a forum for addressing multiple aspects of human-animal interactions within specific locales. I and my fellow ISAZ council members strive to make ISAZ a useful asset to the research community. In order to accomplish this we set several items before the first annual general meeting in Cambridge in April. Concrete steps have

been taken to accomplish our goals which include satellite meetings at national and international conferences of related organisations, development of a research networking database, and the publication of this newsletter. Details of some of these meetings can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

Frequent interaction with colleagues is an important aspect of the development of research and researchers. Unfortunately, the opportunity for valuable informal interaction is limited when dealing with a scattered community. Too frequently we conduct our research in isolation within our universities or countries and share it only after it has been completed. We have limited opportunities to exchange our current research problems and concerns on an informal basis and often don't know what other people are doing or thinking. Individuals or groups researching human-animal interactions may be unaware of research programs and interests of researchers in other areas of the world.

This newsletter is the first tangible step at moving our agenda to reality. Many thanks are due to Sarah Brown and John Bradshaw for making our Newsletter come to fruition. Their commitment made it happen. We look forward to hearing from you, our colleagues, about your needs and ways for enriching the cooperative experience of being researchers in this interdisciplinary field.

Erika Friedmann

The Origins of ISAZ

The original idea for ISAZ grew out of informal discussions between the six speakers who had gathered in Harrogate in April 1990 for the Waltham Symposium on Pets, Benefits & Practice. Lynette and Ben Hart, Erika Friedmann, Dennis Turner, James Serpell and myself, together with the Symposium organiser, Ivan Burger, were all agreed that the Waltham meeting had given us a highly valuable opportunity to trade ideas on research methods, philosophies and aspirations. As research workers in a new and often uncharted field of inter-disciplinary science, we felt that the mutual support of our colleagues around the world was something we could ill afford to be without, and so the idea of a organisation to encourage such support was born.

It was decided that the Society should initially be based in Europe, and James Serpell, Dennis Turner and I were delegated to draft the rules, and plan an inaugural meeting. James was already planning to hold a workshop on dog behaviour in Cambridge, to which many of the potentially interested researchers would be attending, and so the date for the inaugural meeting was set for 12th April 1991. Over 120 invitations to attend this meeting were sent to individual research workers, together with 25 invitations to organisations, mostly within the U.K. By the time of the inaugural meeting, 75 applications for individual membership, and 9 corporate applications, had been received. Most of these came from the U.S.A. and the U.K., but Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Australia, Germany and Canada were also

represented, giving the Society a real international flavour right from the outset. The meeting itself was attended by thirty of the potential members, from six of those countries, and it was particularly gratifying to welcome those who had travelled from overseas specifically to be present at the birth of ISAZ.

Most of that meeting was taken up with the adoption of the Rules, which will be circulated in full to all members attending the next AGM, since votes still have to be taken on two items. To avoid expense, we will not be sending copies to all members until all the Rules are formally adopted, but copies of the drafts can be obtained at any time by writing to the Secretary. Rules 2 and 3, which concern the Aim and Membership of the Society, are reproduced below.

The Officers and other members of the Council are listed elsewhere in this issue; we have tried to make nominations that would represent a wide range not just of academic backgrounds, but also of countries. The next elections for Council will be held in 1993, but suggestions for nominations can be made to any of the Officers at any time. Activities planned for next year (1992) are centred around the 6th International Conference on Human-Animal Interactions to be held in Montreal from July 20th-25th (see separate article), but there will also be more local (but still international!) meetings, such as one to be arranged in the U.K. in conjunction with S.C.A.S.

John Bradshaw

THE AIMS OF ISAZ

"The aim of the Society is to promote the study of all aspects of human-animal relationships, by the encouragement and publication of research, the holding of meetings, and such other activities as may be held to forward the purposes of the Society"

MEMBERSHIP OF ISAZ

"The membership of the Society shall be open to all individuals who are, or have been, engaged in academic, scientific or scholarly research on any aspect of human-animal relationships. Additionally, Honorary and Corporate membership is allowed and shall be governed by the Bye-Laws."

Editorial

Welcome, everyone, to the first ISAZ Newsletter. Inevitably, this edition is rather full of welcomes and business matters and less than packed with the stimulating research reports, ideas and discussions to be found in later issues! Please, please, please send us pieces for inclusion in the Newsletter - project summaries, forthcoming meetings, letters etc. - anything you think other members would like to know about. We've included a loose sheet of paper with this edition hoping to inspire people to jot down their contribution to the newsletter and send it or fax it to us (Sarah Brown or John Bradshaw) at the following address:

Dept. of Biology,
University of Southampton,
Bassett Crescent East,
Southampton,
SO9 3TU.
Fax: (0)703 - 594269

(We would particularly like to hear from our overseas members as information is a lot slower in filtering through to us from abroad.)

Membership

A list of current members names and addresses is included - if you know anyone wanting to join, membership forms can be obtained from John Bradshaw at the above address.

Sarah Brown

Subscriptions

In view of recent changes in the dollar/sterling exchange rate, and the costs of converting dollar cheques into sterling, it was agreed at the inaugural meeting that the individual subscription should be fixed at £12 or \$24 for 1991. Details of how to pay your subscription are enclosed with this Newsletter. If you have already paid in dollars at the originally proposed rate (\$18), the new rate will not apply until 1992. Also enclosed with this Newsletter is a form for recording your research interests, so that a directory of these can be compiled. This will be invaluable for planning scientific meetings, both in terms of their subjects and the best place to hold them, but the directory will also be available to members who wish to set up interdisciplinary or international research links.

Madrid Conference

ANIMALES DE COMPAÑÍA Y SOCIEDAD



ORGANIZADO POR:
EXCMO. AYUNTAMIENTO DE MADRID
ILUSTRE COLEGIO OFICIAL
DE VETERINARIOS DE MADRID



CON LA COLABORACION DE EFFEM ESPAÑA INC. Y CIA.
WALTHAM CENTRE FOR PET NUTRITION

Over the last few years The Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition (WCPN) has sponsored a number of meetings in Spain which have featured aspects of pets in society, pet behaviour and human-companion interactions. The earlier sessions were in Barcelona, but this year we moved to the capital and the meeting on Companion Animals in Society was held in Madrid on 23 and 24 March.

The venue was the attractive city park in a building called the "cow shed" which seemed rather appropriate, considering the content of the symposium, but somewhat challenging in terms of a conference location. In the event it contained a pleasant tiered lecture hall where an audience of about 100 had gathered ready for the morning session.

The conference started with reviews of the place of pets in society with particular reference to the Spanish pet population. Isabel Tenaille, a well-known Spanish broadcaster and journalist, then gave an amusing account of dogs in the family, told from the pet's point of view. After lunch Helen Nott and Ian Robinson from WCPN presented lectures on aspects of behaviour in dogs and cats, one relating to development, the other to feeding.

On the second day John Bradshaw's talk on the behavioural adaptation of dogs to

domestication was particularly well-received. The Spanish veterinarians presented important issues relating to the control of pets in an urban environment. In particular the control of stray animals was a hotly discussed subject. The conference closed with an interesting presentation on behaviour problems and solutions in dogs and cats by Ken Sewell, an Englishman who runs an animal behaviour "clinic" in Barcelona.

It was evident from the lively participation that the subject developed a keen interest. It was also clear that the beneficial aspects of pets on people are not yet very widely appreciated. One member of the audience - the Director of Health Services for Madrid City Council - was obviously impressed by the fact that pet ownership had many demonstrably positive aspects.

As members of ISAZ, naturally we are all aware of major developments in the understanding of pet behaviour and the significance of their interactions with society. Many interested parties "out there" are not so well-informed but nevertheless are eager for information. Effective communication is clearly an important role for us all.

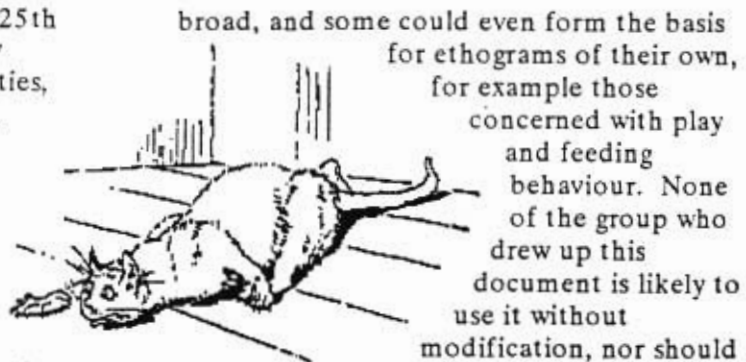
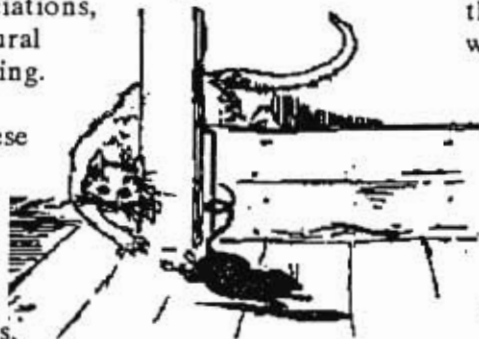
Ivan Burger
WCPN

An Ethogram for Behavioural Studies of the Domestic Cat

Two workshops were held on October 25th and November 30th 1990, attended by ethologists from three British Universities, Cambridge, Oxford and Southampton, and the Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, all of whom wished to provide an agreed set of descriptions of domestic cat behaviour for their own use, and for those who might study the same species in the future. All are (or have been until recently) actively involved in the study of cat behaviour and ecology, observing cats in environments ranging from artificially restricted areas, such as cages in welfare homes, through the whole range of cat-human associations, to the more natural free-ranging setting.

The result of these workshops is a document comprising a list of behaviours and their descriptions.

Many of the descriptions are extremely



broad, and some could even form the basis for ethograms of their own, for example those concerned with play and feeding behaviour. None of the group who drew up this document is likely to use it without modification, nor should any future user feel that the categories should not be moulded to suit the objectives of a particular study. The list is intended only to be a common starting point, but as such should help to alleviate the problems that can be caused by research workers using the same words to indicate different behaviour patterns, and vice versa.

The Ethogram is still being circulated and edited by the participants of the workshops but it is hoped that it will be generally available in the near future, possibly as a UFAW publication.

Sarah Brown

ISAZ meetings - Montreal, 1992

The main ISAZ meetings for 1992 will be held as satellites to the 6th International Conference on Human-Animal Interactions, at the Palais des Congrès in Montreal. The AGM will be held on the afternoon of Monday 20th July, preceded by a Council meeting, and hopefully followed by a reception. On the following day, Tuesday 21st July, there will be an ISAZ Scientific Meeting on the subject of Research Methodologies. This will be structured around four talks of about 30 minutes each, which will introduce some of the main subject areas: possible speakers are Erika Friedmann on psychological instruments, Sam Ahmedzai on measuring the quality of life, and John Bradshaw on ethological methods. The rest of the day will be organised to give members the chance to present and discuss their current methodological problems (without placing any great emphasis on results or conclusions, which can be more usefully presented at the main Conference on the following days).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The quality of this first major ISAZ scientific meeting depends critically on the contributions made by the members. Please write a very brief summary of the work or issue you would like to discuss (even if you haven't actually done the research yet - the emphasis will be on current problems!), so that the contributions from members can be organised into sessions with a common theme. The presentations should be planned to last for a maximum of 10 minutes, to give plenty of time for discussion. Send these summaries to: John Bradshaw, Department of Biology, University of Southampton, SO9 3TU, U.K., to arrive no later than 1st February 1992.

Meetings and Activities of Other Societies



"ANIMAL WELFARE"

is a new journal to be produced by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) aimed at bringing together advances in knowledge in the scientific and technical aspects of animal welfare in zoos, laboratories, farms, and the care of companion animals. "Animal Welfare" will be issued quarterly and the first issue is to be published in January 1992. Further details from: U.F.A.W., 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 3QD, U.K. Tel: 0707 58202 Fax: 0707 49279.

Meetings and Activities of Other Societies (contd.)

"ANIMALS AND SOCIETY : Changing Perspectives"



Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th October, 1991 at the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

- a conference aimed at exploring the history and nature of our relationships with animals.

Further details available from: The Meetings Secretary, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22,24 George Street, Edinburgh. EH2 2PQ,U.K. Tel: 031 225 6057 Fax: 031 220 6889.

"ANIMALS AND US"



Just a reminder that this, the 6th International Conference on Human Animal Interactions, is in Montreal, Canada, 21-25th July 1992. It is hosted by HABAC (The Human Animal Bond Association of Canada) and co-sponsored by IAHAIO (The International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organisations). The conference will consist of plenary sessions, workshops and parallel discussion sessions that explore and detail the theoretical and scientific bases of the human animal bond as well as therapeutic and practical applications of the interactions between animals and humans.

Further details available from: HABAC, P.O. Box 313, Station B, Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1P 6C4.

Tel: 613 747 0262 Fax: 613 745 1846;

or AFIRAC, 7 rue du Pasteur Wagner, 75011 Paris, France.

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