

EDITORIAL

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Donald Broom, Colleen Macleod Professor of Animal Welfare, Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge to the journal's panel of Editorial Advisers. We also welcome two new Section Editors to the journal's Editorial Board: Professor David Fraser of the Animal Welfare Program, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Centre for Applied Ethics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver; and Professor Peter Sandøe of the Department of Animal Science and Animal Health, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen. Professor Sandøe will act as our Section Editor for papers in '*Ethics and Philosophy*' and Professor Fraser for papers on '*General Animal Welfare Science*'. All three will be well known to *Animal Welfare* readers and have contributed to the journal in the past. The new Section Editors have joined the Board following Professor Marian Stamp Dawkin's decision to step down as Section Editor of the '*Ethics and Philosophy*' section, owing to pressure of other commitments. We are most grateful to Marian for all she has done for the journal as a Section Editor – and we are pleased that she will continue her involvement with it as an Editorial Adviser.

Humans have hunted, farmed, competed against, and enjoyed the companionship of animals for thousands of years. The ethics of traditional practices in all of these areas are now, one by one, being held up for scrutiny through the new lens of animal welfare science. Are pigs stressed by witnessing the deaths of others? Do laboratory mice benefit from the provision of nest boxes? Do the electric lances used to kill whales, kill humanely? Is the welfare of transported livestock unacceptably compromised? Research contributing to our understanding of such issues plays an increasingly important role in the development of legislation and welfare codes, and whether or not arguments for improved welfare measures are won or lost depends increasingly upon the strength of the scientific case. It is gratifying that papers published in *Animal Welfare* appear to have had an important influence in a number of recent debates and also to have contributed to the development of standards and practices in a range of fields.

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James K Kirkwood
Editor-in-Chief