

Geneva 1995 – Animals, Health and Quality of Life

After centuries of providing social companionship and useful functions for millions of people, companion animals are 'coming of age' as legitimate subjects for research concerning their intra- and interspecific behaviour and the role they can play in therapy programmes for various groups of people. As both companion animal section editor of *Animal Welfare* and as programme chairman of the 7th international conference on human-animal interactions, *Animals, Health and Quality of Life*, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 6–9 September 1995, it is my pleasure to invite our readers to attend this important occasion.

Both the programme committee and organizing committee are making every effort possible to build upon the experiences of past conferences and make this one – 'the best ever'. What do we mean by that?

We are *not* aiming to produce a 'bigger' conference, with more participants coming from more countries than ever before, but rather a conference that will be ear-marked as having the highest 'quality' of presentations ever made at such a meeting. That holds for the plenary talks, the poster session, the contributed papers, the non-commercial exhibits and the demonstrations being arranged.

The title *Animals, Health and Quality of Life* should not mislead you into thinking we are not interested in your research on . . ., or your programme on . . . We are defining these topics broadly and will make every effort to group presentations together around the diverse topics submitted as a result of the Call for Papers. Of particular interest to *Animal*

Welfare readers will be the plenary talks by Professor John C New, Tennessee (*Measuring and ensuring the quality of life of companion animals in therapy programmes*), by Dr John Bradshaw, Waltham Director of the AnthroZoology Institute, Southampton (*A new biological framework for considering social interactions between people and animals*), and by Dr Alexander Wandeler, WHO Centre in Canada (*Zoonosis prevention and management, especially the dog rabies case*). The special session which the University of Geneva has organized on 'The ethology of domesticated species and its consequences for the human-animal bond' and the contributed paper sessions on companion animal behaviour and welfare, will also certainly attract our readers.

We, of the programme committee, have an obligation to you and to the primary sponsor of the conference (Waltham in the UK) as well as to the endorsers of our conference goals – including the World Health Organisation, various national institutes of health, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, various university facilities and centres, and the Swiss Animal Protection Society among others – to deliver a conference well worth your while attending. We intend to do just that! I hope to be able to welcome as many *Animal Welfare* readers as possible to our beautiful country and the conference centre on the Lake of Geneva.

Dennis C Turner
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Registration forms are available from the conference secretariat, AFIRAC, 7 Rue du Pasteur Wagner, 75011 Paris, France.