



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Global Challenges University Alliance
Workshop 10 – Animal Welfare



Global Challenges University Alliance (GCUA) Workshop, 18 – 20 June 2018, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden.

ANIMAL WELFARE & THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, the United Nations adopted a set of goals necessary for a sustainable future on our planet. These sustainable development goals (SDGs) form an important framework to build a better future on a global scale. The seventeen goals have a very wide scope, that is to say, to end poverty, protect our planet and ensure prosperity for all. But where is the welfare of animals considered in this sustainable future?

You are cordially invited to a workshop that aims to:

- **Assess the relationship between animal welfare and the SDGs**
- **Map the existing knowledge gaps and future research objectives**
- **Plan for a summer school for PhD students**
- **Write a collaborative publication on the integration of animal welfare into SDGs**

Animal welfare as a global challenge

The welfare of animals is often discussed in terms of production, i.e. a sound husbandry to generate eggs, meat and milk. This approach may coincide with good animal welfare but there can be conflicts when other values, such as economic performance or food security, are given priority. Also, how does the welfare of companion animals, which also need to be fed, and the welfare of wild animals, whose natural environment is diminishing on account of the increased agricultural production, fit into this sustainable future? Each sustainable goal has specific objectives to be achieved during the forthcoming 12 years. To reach these objectives we need to cooperate, from the personal to the governmental level and this includes taking account of the fact that awareness, attitudes and knowledge about animal welfare vary. We interact with animals and animal welfare is therefore an integral part of the global sustainability challenge.

In this workshop, organised within the Global Challenges University Alliance, we aim to use our knowledge of animal welfare science to integrate animal welfare issues with their relevant sustainability development goals to identify knowledge-gaps and expand ideas of how to address them.

A workshop of interest to you

In some parts of the world an increasing awareness of animal sentience has resulted in legislation as well as private standards that influence how animals are kept and that have led to considerable improvements in the wellbeing of animals in our care. Thus this conference is relevant to those interested in promoting sustainability via official control and market-driven routes. For some people, euthanasia and humane slaughter are considered a part of good animal welfare, whereas others prioritise an animal's dignity and right to life. Thus, on a global scale there are contradicting perspectives to sustainability which may be of interest to you. The emphasis of the workshop is on production animals, because of their importance for food security and the prosperity and welfare of humans, but we will be addressing the bigger issue of animal agriculture.

Workshop Objectives

In the workshop we will relate the diverse perspectives on animal welfare to the United Nations sustainable development goals and identify future challenges in the specific research fields. This workshop therefore offers an opportunity for animal welfare scientists around the world, together with scientists working in other areas of sustainability who plan to include animal welfare in their work, to share experiences and thoughts on the global challenges ahead.

We aim to investigate how indicators for monitoring animal welfare can best be combined with other sustainability indicators to utilize available data collected on a global scale. An expected outcome is a collaborative paper identifying knowledge gaps and future research areas to integrate animal welfare into broader sustainable goals and to monitor progress.

We also aim to develop a plan for a summer school for PhD students within the Global Challenges University Alliance (GCUA) network.

Online registration is open until May 18 2018 at:

<http://reg.akademikonferens.se/gcuaw10/participant>. For questions concerning the workshop and registration, please contact: GCUAW10@akademikonferens.se

For information about the GCUA initiative, please contact the GCUA coordinator Ioannis Dimitriou ioannis.dimitriou@slu.se. Website <https://www.slu.se/gcuaw>.

Organizing Committee for GCUA Workshop Animal Welfare and the Sustainable Development Goals: Linda Keeling, Anna Wallenbeck, Harry Blokhuis, Margareta Steen, Håkan Tunon, Lotta Berg, Marie Forsberg Lönn

Looking forward to future communications and hopefully meeting your representatives in Uppsala!