

Top animal welfare award goes to Canadian

UBC's own Professor of Animal Welfare, David Fraser, was recently presented the 15th annual Animal Welfare award of the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). The award cites Fraser's "outstanding contribution to the science, philosophy and practice of animal welfare."

From designing better pig pens to reducing road accidents involving moose, Fraser's research has contributed to numerous animal welfare issues. His work has been published in more than 200 scientific papers, book chapters and articles.

Noting the rapid changes in animal welfare standards happening in North America, Europe and worldwide, Fraser stressed: "There is an urgent need for good science on which to base international animal welfare standards."

Fraser joined the University of British Columbia (1997) to launch the University's Animal Welfare Program within the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics. In just five years, the program has attracted some 50 graduate students, research associates and visiting scientists from five continents. The program conducts research, education and public outreach on animal welfare issues arising in farm, laboratory, companion and wild animals.

"This award integrates the welfare and production aspects of animal science," stated Dr. Tony Suckling, RSPCA Deputy Director General in presenting the award. "It has become increasingly important as pressure increases on food producers to integrate welfare standards – based on the best scientific evidence – into their production systems."