



2016 Animal Welfare Research Symposium

Call for Abstracts

The Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare (CCSAW) invites you to participate in our 9th Annual **Animal Welfare Research Symposium**. The symposium will cover a range of topics related to animal welfare, animal ethics and the role of animals in society.

With over 50 Associated Faculty working in disciplines from animal biosciences and veterinary medicine to philosophy and psychology, CCSAW is uniquely positioned as a centre of excellence in animal welfare. The Symposium showcases this excellence and provides a forum for faculty and graduate students to share research results, techniques and ideas and to foster discussion and collaboration among the many interested individuals and research groups across campus.

The symposium will feature long talks on completed and near-completed projects (~10-15 min), short talks on planned and ongoing projects (~5 min), and poster presentations on projects at any stage of completion. Prizes will be awarded for best student talk and best student poster.

Date: Wednesday May 11th, 2016, 9am – 5pm

Location: Room 1800, Pathobiology AHL Building

Registration: Please register via the link provided [here](#), or on the CCSAW home page. Registration and lunch are free, but a donation is suggested and greatly appreciated to help defer the costs of putting on the event (\$10 for students, \$20 for faculty, staff, and other visitors).

An announcement in late-April will provide details of the final program. In the interim, if you would like more information please contact Kim Sheppard, CCSAW Communications Coordinator (ksheppard@uoguelph.ca) or Derek Haley, Chair of the CCSAW Steering Committee (dhaley@uoguelph.ca).

Abstracts

Please submit abstracts by **5pm, Friday March 18th**, to Lee Niel (niell@uoguelph.ca). You will receive a confirmation when your abstract has been received, and you will be notified on the status of your submission (accepted as talk or poster) by **April 20th**.

Abstract Guidelines

The study or concept summarized in the abstract must be directly related to animal welfare science, ethics, or the role of animals in society.

Please state clearly whether you would prefer a LONG TALK, a SHORT TALK or a POSTER. Due to time constraints, we may need to limit the number of talks presented, so please indicate whether you would be willing to present a poster if a talk is not available.

Abstract formatting:

- Preference for talk or poster
- Abstract Title
- Full names of authors - please place an asterisk beside the name of presenting author
- Author affiliations using superscripts (see model formatting sample)
- Body: The abstract must contain a clear statement of aims and where appropriate, theoretical background (humanities) or hypotheses and predictions (sciences). For presentations on completed or near-completed projects, methods and results should be clearly explained (including sample sizes and test statistics, unless a theoretical paper). For ongoing projects without results, please include intro, objectives/hypothesis, methods, and expected results. A concluding sentence should sum up the implications of the study.
- The main text of the abstract should not exceed 350 words.
- Please format your abstract EXACTLY as presented in the sample abstract on the next page.

If accepted, your abstract will be publically available online in PDF format, within the symposium's program and schedule. Please format it accordingly (i.e., proof-read to ensure accuracy, correct spelling and grammar, and that any special symbols appear correctly).

A final reminder – **format your abstract to look exactly like the sample on the following page.** Thanks in advance!

Sample Abstract Formatting:

The effect of reduced access to teats on feeding patterns and performance of dairy calves

Emily K. Miller-Cushon^{1*}, Renée Bergeron², Ken E. Leslie³, Georgia J. Mason¹, Trevor J. DeVries¹

¹Department of Animal Biosciences, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada

²Department of Animal Biosciences, University of Guelph, Alfred, ON, Canada

³Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada

There is evidence that short-term reduced teat access in group-housed dairy calves decreases milk intake. This study examined the longer-term effects of consistent levels of competition for teats throughout the milk-feeding period. The hypothesis was that calves reared in a more competitive environment would adapt feeding patterns to achieve similar milk intake. Twenty Holstein bull calves were pair-housed and provided milk replacer (MR) *ad libitum* via either: 1) 2 teats/pen (non-competitive feeding; NCF), or 2) 1 teat/pen (competitive feeding; CF). Calves were followed for 6 weeks. Intake was recorded daily and calves were weighed 2x/wk. Feeding times were recorded from video for 3 d in each of week 2, 4, and 6. Meal criteria (minimum time interval between meals) were estimated from frequency distributions of feeding times and used to calculate daily meal frequency and meal time. For all treatment pens, meal time was also divided into synchronized or unsynchronized meal time, based on whether calves were engaged in overlapping meals, with meals defined by individual meal criteria. Data were summarized by pen and analyzed in a repeated measures general linear mixed model. Milk intake was subject to a treatment by week interaction ($P=0.002$), with calves in CF pens having initially lower milk intake, but compensating by increasing intake over time to a greater extent than NCF (wk 2, 8.3 vs. 9.6 L/calf/d, SE=0.6 and wk 4-6, 13.3 vs. 12.0 L/calf/d, SE=0.7; CF vs. NCF). Weight gain was also subject to a treatment by week interaction ($P=0.003$), but body weights were similar at the end of wk 6 (103.6 kg; SE=3.9; $P=0.9$). Corresponding to milk intake, milk meal frequency and meal time evolved differently over time ($P<0.03$), with meal time increasing in CF pens and decreasing in NCF pens (wk 2, 48.5 vs. 87.1 min meal time/d, SE=15.9, and wk 4-6, 50.8 vs. 38.7 min meal time/d, SE=4.6; CF vs. NCF). Unsynchronized meal time was also subject to a treatment by week interaction ($P=0.02$), increasing in CF pens and decreasing in NCF pens. These results indicate that moderate competition for teat access does not negatively affect performance, as calves adapt by increasing time spent feeding alone.