



Conference Newsletter

Second Conference Newsletter,
May 2011

Minding Animals Conference 2012 **First Call for Papers**

The 2012 Minding Animals Conference is the second in a series of conferences about scientific, ethical and social issues related to human animal interactions. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics from many disciplines with politicians and a broad variety of interest groups. The conference offers a platform for exchange of information about research developments, debates about controversial political and ethical issues concerning the human treatment of animals, and a variety of cultural activities around human animal interactions.

The Minding Animals Conference planned for Utrecht in the Netherlands is proud to follow up on the internationally celebrated first Minding Animals Conference (Newcastle, Australia, July 2009). Unlike Newcastle which was a seven day event, the 2012 event will be split into a Pre-conference Event at Leusden (near Utrecht) followed by a more traditional conference at Utrecht University.

The Utrecht Conference will consist of keynote talks, parallel academic sessions based on the call for papers, workshops for the Minding Animals Study Circles, and the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series in which animal advocacy organisations and community advocates will present and discuss their work. The conference will be supported by an active social and arts programme.

1-3 July 2012: Final Pre-conference Event, International School of Philosophy, Leusden, The Netherlands

4-6 July 2012: Minding Animals Conference 2, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands



How to Contribute?

Over the coming months you will find out how you can participate in and contribute to Minding Animals 2. Initially, you may like to consider submitting an abstract for academic presentation or contributing to the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series.

→ submit an abstract for an academic presentation

Besides a great number of excellent keynote speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds, there will be many parallel sessions featuring presentations based on this call for papers. Abstracts, of a maximum 600 words, should contain the main question, line or argument, and (expected) conclusions. The abstracts will be reviewed with respect to quality and academic rigor.

→submit a contribution for the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series

The PASS is a forum for animal advocacy organisations and other community advocates to present and discuss their work and concerns with all conference participants.

To lodge an abstract or contribute to the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series, you must complete the abstract form or PASS form available from the Minding Animals website at www.mindinganimals.com. Forms must then be sent as an email to: mindinganimals@uu.nl. Please follow the instructions on the website!

Deadline for Abstract Submissions 2 October, 2011
You will be notified of your acceptance 31 January, 2012

Conference Session Themes

On the Abstracts Form, you will be asked to nominate from one of six themes in which you would like your abstract considered for inclusion in the programme. These themes are:

Session 1: The Human-Animal Relationship from Different Disciplinary Perspectives

(including animals in art, literature, religion, history of the human animal relationships, animals in the history of philosophy, psychological approaches towards the human animal relationships, cultural aspects of human animal relationships)

Session 2: The Human-Animal Relationship and Sustainability

(including (public) health aspects, social consequences, landscape, environmental effects, climate change)

Session 3: Scientific Developments in Human Understanding of Animal Abilities

(including animal emotions, animal cognition, extrapolation of capacities from animals to humans and vice versa)

Session 4: Welfare Concepts

(including animal welfare at the interface between science and society, approaches of positive welfare, welfare assessment in practice, animal husbandry, animal slaughter)

Session 5: Animal Ethics

(including duties towards animals, animal welfare, animal rights, animal liberation, the killing of animals, harm of death, vegetarianism and veganism, animal experimentation, chimeras and hybrids, dignity, integrity)

Session 6: Animals and Public Policy

(including animals in the law, politics and stakeholders, the use of best practice guidance, national identity versus the level playing field, the role of ethics in politics, current public policy themes concerning the future of animal husbandry)



Conference Keynotes and Plenary Speakers

Confirmed speakers for the conference and the Leusden Pre-conference Event include:

- 🌿 **Prof. Marc Bekoff**, former professor of animal behavior, author of numerous books about animal capacities and the human-animal relationship
- 🌿 **Prof. Harriet Ritvo**, expert on the history of human animal relationships
- 🌿 **Jill Robinson MBE**, influential animal protectionist and founder of Animals Asia
- 🌿 **Prof. Julia Driver**, Professor of Philosophy, who explores a Humean account of duties towards animals
- 🌿 **Prof. Dale Jamieson**, is Director of Environmental Studies at New York University

Other invited speakers yet to confirm include:

- 🌿 **Dr. Jane Goodall DBE**, the world's most famous primatologist, and patron of Minding Animals International
- 🌿 **Prof. John Coetzee**, world famous author and Nobel Prize winner
- 🌿 **Prof. Robert Garner**, expert on the political representation of nonhuman interests and animal rights, author of several books about animal ethics, politics and justice
- 🌿 **Prof. Donna Haraway**, celebrated animal studies scholar, feminist biologist and philosopher studying human animal relationships
- 🌿 **Prof. Mike Mendl**, expert on cognition and emotion in animals and assessment of animal welfare
- 🌿 **Dr. José Luis Bermudez**, specialist of the philosophy of mind
- 🌿 **Prof. Christine Korsgaard**, Harvard professor of philosophy, who developed a novel Kantian approach concerning human duties towards animals

And many others to be announced soon ...

Next to outstanding academics, eminent politicians and policy makers will be involved in the discussions, as well as the public and representatives of animal advocacies.

Pre-conference events

Pre-conference events are being organised around the world up to Utrecht 2012. The next and fifth Minding Animals Bulletin that features these events and other items of interest from Minding Animals will be released very soon. Information about pre-conference events can also be found on the website: www.mindinganimals.com

Stay informed!

If you've been forwarded this newsletter from a friend and would like to receive further newsletters or more information about Minding Animals International or any of the pre-conference events, please e-mail mindinganimals@gmail.com

If you would like specific information about the Utrecht conference or the Leusden Pre-conference Event, please e-mail mindinganimals@uu.nl

Venue

Utrecht is the fourth largest city of the Netherlands. The town is located in the center of the country, half an hour by train from Amsterdam. Utrecht is easily accessible and therefore a major commercial and conference town. It is the fastest expanding commercial center (mainly services) in the Netherlands. Utrecht is one of the oldest towns of the Netherlands with an important historical center, characterised by the canals and the mediaeval Dom tower. There are many educational institutes in Utrecht, and one sixth of the city's population of over 300,000 is a student.

Utrecht University is the biggest university in the Netherlands. The conference will take place at De Uithof, the modern university centre of Utrecht. The spectacular modern buildings there attract visitors from all over the world.



The Organising Committee for Minding Animals Utrecht 2012 includes the following members:

- 🌿 *Marcus Düwell, Prof. and Director of the Ethics Institute, Utrecht University*
- 🌿 *Frauke Ohl, Prof. in the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Utrecht University*
- 🌿 *Tatjana Visak, Utrecht University*
- 🌿 *Frederike Kaldewaij, Utrecht University*
- 🌿 *Franck Meijboom, Utrecht University*
- 🌿 *Erno Eskens, International School of Philosophy, Leusden*
- 🌿 *Rod Bennison, Minding Animals International CEO*
- 🌿 *Kim Stallwood, Minding Animals Deputy CEO*

Plan a break in Europe!

Why don't you consider a longer break in Europe?

Immediately preceding Utrecht 2012 will be the 11th World Congress in Bioethics, to be held in Rotterdam, in The Netherlands, between June 26 and 29. The conference, entitled "Bioethics for the Future - The Future of Bioethics" will consider new technologies and new problems, with special attention on methodology and theory in bioethics. For further information, see: <http://bioethicsrotterdam.com/>

Or stay a little longer and enjoy the London 2012 Olympics. For details, see: <http://www.london2012.com/>

But most importantly, place these dates in your diary:

July 1 to 3: Leusden Pre-conference Event at the International School of Philosophy

July 4 to 6: Minding Animals Conference 2 at Utrecht University

Tot ziens in Nederland! See you in The Netherlands!

