



**INTERNATIONAL COMPANION
ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE**

12th October 2018

ANNUAL ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 20th ANNIVERSARY OF IMPROVING GLOBAL ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal welfare experts from 39 countries across the globe met in Krakow this week to discuss the world's most pressing animal welfare issues in order to make the world a better place for companion animals. The 271 animal welfare delegates were united for Dogs Trust's 20th International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC) from the 9th -11th October to share best practice and expert knowledge.

The delegates from 107 organisations attending ICAWC shared their successes and challenges and worked together to find solutions to global animal welfare issues including; disaster response and management, telemedicine in remote communities and how to promote humane animal catching. The former president of BVA, Sean Wensley, spoke about putting animal welfare at the heart of rescue and rehoming.

Adrian Burder, CEO of Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity comments:

"For two decades ICAWC has been the foremost platform for the World's animal welfare organisations to learn and share experiences. We are delighted to be in Krakow, welcoming delegates from all corners of the world to share their experiences and become empowered to improve animal welfare in their own countries."

Adrian continues:

'It is so heartening to see that eight of our speakers are recipients of grants from Dogs Trust Worldwide, that we are able to see the fruits of their labours. A number of those grant recipients have also attended our highly successful International Training Programme (ITP). ITP is held twice a year in the UK, bringing delegates from across the globe to learn a range of subjects from fundraising to biosecurity.'

One delegate, Nadia Stancheva, from Animal Rescue Sofia who along with her colleague, Svetlo Petrov, spoke about how their organisation has successfully managed the stray dog population in Bulgaria.

Nadia explains "If I had not attended ITP, none of this would have happened. Everything has gone from greyscale to colour".

ENDS

For more information or interview requests, please contact:

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The International Companion Animal Welfare Conference was developed by Dogs Trust with the belief in working towards a world where no healthy companion animal is destroyed for want of a caring home with responsible owners.

Mission Statement

- Elevating the level of care for companion animals
- Promoting positive animal welfare legislation
- Developing and promoting educational programmes to encourage better understanding, appreciation and care of companion animals
- Providing a platform for the interchange of ideas that impact on companion animals
- Through "Strength in Numbers" making the world a better place for companion animals

Dogs Trust is working towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

All organisations attending the conference have the opportunity to promote what they do to increase the sharing of information across the animal welfare community.

Next year's conference, the 21st, will be held in Valetta, Malta from 8th – 10th October 2019.