

**Professor Stephen Lea, AcSS MA PhD (Cantab) FBPSS CPsychol
Head of the School of Psychology, University of Exeter**

***‘Cognition in captivity: Animal Training, Animal Education,
and their relation to Animal Welfare in the zoo’***

Stephen Lea is a Professor of Psychology and leader of the Centre for Research in Animal Behaviour in the School of Psychology at the University of Exeter. He moved to Exeter in 1976 as a Lecturer, rising to Professor in 1990; served as Head of Psychology (1983-8 and 2005-10), Dean of Science (1993-6) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (2000-3). While remaining based at Exeter, he has spent periods working in Germany, New Zealand and the USA. In recent years he has facilitated the expansion of animal behaviour research at the University of Exeter, so that it is now uniquely placed as one of the few international groups with a critical mass of research strength in behavioural ecology, sensory ecology, signalling and communication and animal cognition. The group has strong links with researchers at Paignton Zoo and other local wildlife organisations. They are also well equipped for field studies in animal behaviour, and have links to a number of important field sites in the Southwest region -as well as in Australia, South Africa and America.



Professor Lea's own research in animal behaviour (especially cognition) he works primarily on feeding behaviour and visual cognition, principally in pigeons; but he also published on chickens, oystercatchers, cormorants, rats, hamsters, grey squirrels, flying squirrels, dogs, red pandas, seals, not to mention humans. He has a longstanding interest in animal welfare issues and has served on the Ethics Committee of the Association of the Study of Animal Behaviour as well as being for many years Chair of the animal welfare committee of the British Psychological society. In addition, he has a separate area of research in economic psychology, exploring the psychology of money, giving, debt, poverty, and most recently scams.

In his spare time, he was for a long time a school governor and children's and youth worker, and is a lay preacher for the Methodist Church; he is also a keen long-distance walker and an occasional (and rather slow) half-marathon runner.

Professor Georgia Mason- University of Guelph, Canada

***‘Recent findings from research animals suggest new reasons why
enrichment
is important for zoo animals’***

Professor Georgia Mason obtained her undergraduate degree in Zoology (1988) and Ph.D. in animal behaviour (1991) from Cambridge University, where she also held a Clare College research fellowship (1991-1994). She then moved to Oxford University, where she taught vertebrate evolution and animal behaviour for 5 years, and held a BBSRC David Phillips fellowship for 5 years. In 2004 she took up a research chair in the Animal Sciences Dept., University of Guelph, Ontario; she is also a Visiting Professor in Welfare Physiology at the Royal Veterinary College (London). She has over 100 publications including two papers in 'Nature', one on zoo elephants in 'Science' and a co-edited book on stereotypic behaviour. Her interests include abnormal behaviour, and why



some species, strains and individuals cope better than others with captivity. Learning about animal behaviour and evolution, and about how research is conducted, was a revelation and a joy for Georgia. She was particularly fascinated (and disturbed) by one contrast between what she was being taught and what she saw happening in zoos. Wild animals should use their time and energy efficiently, according to Optimal Foraging Theory – and yet in captivity they often spend hours pacing, rocking, or plucking their fur out. So began her lifelong interest in stereotypic behaviour (first pursued in a Ph.D. supervised by **Professor Pat Bateson** at the **Sub-department of Animal Behaviour, Madingley**), and her broader interests in animals' motivations to perform natural behaviours, the impact that captive environments can have on brain function, and the objective assessment of animal welfare.

Simon Bell – Producer BBC Natural History Unit



'Filming BBC TV's 'Orangutan Diary' - an intimate portrait of the World's Biggest Ape Conservation Project'

Simon Bell is a producer at the BBC's Natural History Unit where he's worked since 1997. He's followed leopards on 'Big Cat Diary', chased after (and occasionally been chased by) black bears through the night-time streets of Whistler for 'Big Bear Week' and sat a cleverly camouflaged Alan Titchmarsh on a damp riverbank in an effort to get him closer to kingfishers for 'Nature of Britain'.

Simon most recently completed 'Orangutan Diary', a 6 part series for BBC 2 broadcast in April 2009. The series focused on the work of the world's biggest ape conservation project; the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation's Nyaru Menteng centre in Borneo - home to over 600 rescued and orphaned orangutans. Simon will share some of his experiences as cameraman and producer on the series; witnessing the devastation wrought by the palm oil industry, filming the care and enrichment given to hundreds of animals in care, helping the Rescue Team as they dart and translocate animals at risk and witnessing the eventual release of a handful of animals housed at the Centre back into the wild.