Ethical Decision-Making in Field Innovation to help Animals

Presented by:
Joyce Briggs
Jesse Winters
TWO of ACC&D’s Ethical Dilemmas
Today’s Session

- What is an ethical dilemma?
- ACC&D’s pathway to address resource gaps to aid with decisions
- Project output:
  - Animal sheltering
  - Guidance materials, &
  - Online interactive tool
- Next Steps
Anatomy of Ethical Dilemmas

→ A choice has to be made
   (not choosing is a choice)

→ Choices are mutually exclusive

→ Consequences of each choice results in something morally unacceptable

→ Creates conflict between ethical values
Field research with dogs/cats

Laboratory Animal Ethics
Human Medical Ethics
Wildlife ethics

Our work
Think Tank, February 2017

Denver, Colorado
24 participants from 5 countries
Hosted by the Institute for Human-Animal Connection in the Graduate School of Social Work; University of Denver

Made possible by funding from:
Participants from left to right: (back row) Carla Forte Maiolino Molento, Kate Atema, Peter Sandøe; (middle row) Andy Sparkes, Sarah Endersby, Michael Barrett, Amy Fischer, Kevin Morris, Apryl Steele, Jesse Winters, Roger Haston, Lisa Moses, Deepashree Balaram, James Serpell, Carly Robins, Vic Spain, James Yeates; (front row) Valerie Benka, Joyce Briggs, Carmen Espinosa, Monica List, Susan Getty, Phil Tedeschi.
Three areas of focus

- Sheltering - animal welfare agency initiatives
- Veterinary - clinical trials and novel treatments
- International welfare initiatives (global scope, sensitive to work in developing countries)
Sheltering focused on Moral (di)Stress

“When one knows the right thing to do, but institutional constraints make it nearly impossible to pursue the right course of action.” A. Jameton, 1984
Project #1: Sheltering

Navigating Ethical Dilemmas Workshop

• ½ day workshop
Pilot Workshop: Navigating Everyday Dilemmas in the Animal Shelter
Facilitators

**Lisa Moses, VMD, DACVIM**
Practicing vet: Pain and Palliative Care at MSPCA-Angell, Boston
Started as Animal Welfare officer, 30+ years in animal protection
Bioethicist with appointments at Harvard Medical School and Yale University

**Jesse Winters, ASPCA**
Senior Director, Shelter Outreach
20+ years in sheltering, consulting and program implementation, facilitation and strategic planning
Board of Directors - ACC&D
Who's Here

33 staff participated

- Pet Admission/Customer Care = 17.52%
- Animal Care = 2
- Pet Admission/Customer Care = 17
- Behavior = 4
- Foster Care = 1
- Veterinary Care = 6
- Other = 3

Veterinary Care = 6.18%
Foster Care = 1.3%
Behavior = 4.12%
Other = 3.9%
• Identified what an ethical dilemma is
• Become acquainted with concept of moral stress
• Compared competing ethical obligations
• Practiced an Ethical Analysis
• Applied Ethical Principalism to a sheltering dilemma
Outcomes from Debrief

→ Increase animal welfare ethical literacy at the national level

→ Find and/or develop tools/paradigms for ethical decision-making

→ Increase awareness of moral stress, distress, and injury at the staff and organizational level

→ Find and/or develop training for awareness, self-care

I Hurt.
I don’t even know where exactly I hurt—it’s just a dull dry ache of the soul.
Today’s Session

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• Project output:
  • Animal sheltering
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• Next Steps
Project #2: Veterinary Trials & Novel Treatments

Guidance Document: Ethical Decision-Making for field innovations in animal welfare

Select Think tank leadership:

- **James Yeates**, Chief Veterinary Officer, RSPCA
- **Peter SandØe**, Professor of Bioethics, University of Copenhagen
- **Dr. Vic Spain**, Epidemiologist; former Senior Director, Research & Development, ASPCA
Project #3: International Welfare Initiatives

Online Interactive Tool

Select Think tank leadership:

- **Kate Atema**, Director, Global Community Animal Welfare Program, IFAW
- **Dr. Deepa Balaram**, Outreach Director, Global Alliance for Rabies Control
- **Dr. James Serpell**, Professor of Ethics & Animal Welfare, University of Pennsylvania SVM
Filling the Gap – Projects 2 & 3

- Laboratory Animal Ethics
- Customized guidelines
- Wildlife ethics
- Human Medical Ethics
Project Funding and Leadership

Project Consultant: Dr. Lou Tasker
ACC&D Director of Programs: Valerie Benka

Seed funding from:

The William and Charlotte Parks Foundation
Supporting Animal Welfare and Protection

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William and Charlotte Parks Foundation
700 Professional Drive
Gaithersburg, MD
20879

The 2017 Grant Application Process is now CLOSED.
Exploring the Gaps in Practical Ethical Guidance for Animal Welfare Considerations of Field Interventions and Innovations Targeting Dogs and Cats

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Simple Summary: Large populations of domestic dogs and cats, with often difficult associations with humans. They are often targeted by fieldwork, with the aim of improving their welfare or to reduce conflict with communities or wildlife. Properly designed and implemented, these activities can provide valuable insights and solutions to ethical dilemmas. This commentary highlights the inadequacies of current ethical frameworks when applied to the conduct of innovations and interventions for dogs and cats in field context situations. In doing so it identifies the unique issues facing organisations participating in these activities.
Audience

- Involved in Field research or innovation involving dogs and/or cats
- Animal welfare, scientific & veterinary communities, governmental, nongovernmental, intergovernmental organisations
- Resource for consultation by ➢ ethical review bodies ➢ project funders ➢ journals
Resource Structure

Practical Guide to Ethical Decision-Making for Field Interventions Targeting Dogs & Cats

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

ETHICS TOOL KITS
- Foundations for Decision-Making
  - Ethical Principles
  - Ethical Review
- Cross-Cutting Themes
  - Conflicts of Interest
  - Consent
  - Monitoring
- Key Stakeholders
  - Owners
  - Animals
  - Community

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Guidance document

• Dr. Lou Tasker lead
• ACC&D Staff
• Under review by Think Tank Committee members
Contents

Introduction

a) The inspiration for this resource
b) Who this resource is for
c) How to use this resource
d) The framework for this resource

Why do an ethical review?

Ethics

a) What is ethics?
b) Ethical Theories
c) Ethical Principles
d) Animal Ethics

Ethical considerations when planning, implementing:

a) Ethical considerations when planning an intervention
b) Ethical considerations while implementing
c) Ethical considerations upon completing a study

Summary

References

Further Information
Stakeholders

- Owners, guardians, keepers, and carers that provide some form of care to dogs and cats
- The community that comes into physical contact or shares the same environment with dogs or cats
- Your organisation; specific individuals in that organisation and wider colleagues
- Your donors
- Organisational collaborators (e.g., local authorities, local government, and/or other governmental organisations, research organisations, or institutions, academic partners)
- Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal welfare officers, and animal care staff
- Research participants included in any monitoring and evaluation plans

Common community or individuals that are interested in the findings of the intervention or the effectiveness of the intervention, as identified through stakeholder analysis. Such individuals or organisations will have different interests and needs, and those stakeholders will be affected differently and in different stages (initial planning through final evaluation and reporting). Details on conducting stakeholder analysis are below.

**Key Stakeholders**

- Owners, guardians, keepers, and carers that provide some form of care to dogs and cats
- The community that comes into physical contact or shares the same environment with dogs or cats
- Your organisation; specific individuals in that organisation and wider colleagues
- Your donors
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**Harms and Benefits**

Any intervention has the potential to harm and/or benefit stakeholders, which contributes to the ethical questions around implementation. It is important to attempt to identify whether harms are mild, moderate, or severe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Human</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>Short-term mild pain, suffering, or distress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Short-term moderate pain, suffering, or distress, or long-term mild pain, suffering, or distress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Severe pain, suffering, or distress, or long-term severe pain, suffering, or distress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Stakeholder Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>Who is affected</th>
<th>Risk severity</th>
<th>Action steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder</td>
<td>Stakeholder’s specific interests in the intervention or study</td>
<td>How stakeholder affects (positively or negatively) the innovation or intervention</td>
<td>How stakeholder is affected positively or negatively by intervention</td>
<td>Are the risks/negative effects on the stakeholder, mild, moderate or severe?</td>
<td>Steps to avoid or mitigate negative effects, and to maximise benefit positive effects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Studies

Worked examples to analyze stakeholder needs/ issues, as well as other ethical considerations
An Online Tool!
Our role, our aspirations

• Serve as incubator, getting this launched
• Initially host on ICAM coalition website
• IFAW interested in beta test this internally to readdress their Project Review process.
• Perhaps interest you in beta testing this.
• Seek to transition this to a broader missioned organization to manage/refine/continue to build and potentially build a community on this topic.
• Provide a resource for the field and it’s funders
“Grasshopper’s resume”

- Unknown birth/parentage
- Stray at animal control
- Participant GonaCon study
- Beloved pet.
Acknowledgements

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• Susan Getty
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Questions, Comments