1. Contents 1
2. Notes 5
3. Announcements 7
   Retirement of Keiji Kondo from Hokkaido University 7
4. Articles 9
   Multidisciplinary 9
   An assessment of British farmers’ and gamekeepers’ experiences, attitudes and practices in relation to the European polecat *Mustela putorius*. J.J. Packer, J.D.S. Birks 9
   Validation of a cell culture bioassay for detection of petroleum exposure in mink (*Mustela vison*) as a model for detection in sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*). M.H. Ziccardi, J.A.K. Mazet, I.A. Gardner, W.M. Boyce, M.S. Denison 10
   Behaviour and welfare 10
   How do adolescents perceive wire floor in fox cages? M. Harri, T. Rekilä 10
   The application of a temperament test to on-farm selection of mink. S.W. Hansen, S.H. Möller 11
The type of operant response affects the slope of the demand curve for food in mink.
*S.W. Hansen, M.B. Jensen, L.J. Pedersen, L. Munksgaard, J. Ladewig, L. Watthews*

Water absorption and the drying and cooling rates in mink (*Mustela vison*) following simulated diving. *H.T. Korhonen, P. Niemelä*

Time budget as related to feeding tactics of European polecat *Mustela putorius*. *T. Lodé*

The impact of American mink *Mustela vison* on water birds in the upper Thames. *P. Ferreras, D.W. MacDonald*

The use of trapping records to monitor populations of stoats *Mustela erminea* and weasels *M. nivali*: the importance of trapping effort. *R.A. Mc. McDonald, S. Harris*

**Breeding, reproduction, genetics**

Testicular mitosis, meiosis and apoptosis in mink (*Mustela vison*) during breeding and non-breeding seasons. *S. Blottner, H. Roelants, A. Wagener, U.D. Wenzel*

Geographical variation in genet (*Genetta genetta L.*) diet: a literature review. *E. Virgós, M. Llorente, Y. Cortés*

Microsatellite markers for American mink (*Mustela vison*) and ermine (*Mustela erminea*). *M.A. Fleming, E.A. Ostrander, J.A. Cook*

Estimation of genetic parameters and genetic trends for litter size components using Bayesian inference in rabbits. *J.A. Ortega, A. Blasco, M. Piles, L. Varona*

Analysis of litter size traits in a three line diallel cross in rabbits. *M. Baselga, M.L. Garcia, J.P. Sánchez, J.S. Vicente, R. Lavara*


Crossbreeding effects for post-weaning growth, rectal and ear temperatures and respiration rates in crossing Saudi Gabali with Spanish V-line rabbits. *M.H. Khalil, K. Al-Sobayel, I.H. Hermes, A.H. Al-Homidan*

Effect of selection on body size at fixed age on muscle characteristics in rabbit. *F. Gondret, C. Larzul, S. Combes, L. Cauquil, B. Darche, H. de Rochambeau*

Estimation of crossbreeding parameters for average daily gain, feed intake and feed conversion ratio in five rabbit lines. *E.A. Gómez, M. Piles, J. Orengo, O. Rafel, J. Ramon*

Characterisation of a local population of rabbits in Algeria: Reproductive performance of the does. *N. Zerrouki, M. Berchiche, G. Bolet, F. Lebas*

Relation between litter size and kappa casein genotype in inra rabbit lines. *Zs. Bösze, G. Bolet, Z. Mészár, G. Virág, E. Devinoy*

Breeding for wool quality in apparel wool sheep. *I.W. Purvis, A.A. Swan*

Estimation of additive and dominance variances in wool production traits of Western Australian merino sheep. *K.V. Konstantinov, F.D. Brien, J.C. Greeff*

Genetic variation of merino wool felting. *J.C. Greeff, A.C. Schlink*
Genetic parameters for reproduction and fleece traits for South Australian merino sheep. V.M. Ingham, R.W. Ponzoni

The use of weaning weight to adjust for pre-weaning environmental effects on bodyweight, fleece weight and fibre diameter in merino hoggets. D.J. Brown, A. Reverter

Predicted response to multiple trait selection when crimp frequency is included in a breeding objective for merino sheep. J.L. Smith, I.W. Purvis, A.A. Swan

Genetics of furs and special fibres. O. Lohi

Inheritance of down hair and live weight for Inner Mongolia cashmere goats in China. H. Zhou, D. Allain

Genetic variability of night melatonin blood levels in relation to coat changes development in rabbits. D. Allain, B. Malpaux, F. Puechal, R.G. Thebault, H. de Rochambeau, P. Chemineau

Favourable genetic correlations between maternal traits and dam weight changes during lactation exist in mink. B.K. Hansen, P. Berg

Relationship between feltability and other greasy wool traits and the association with the processing performance of fine/superfine merino wool. S.A. Barton, I.W Purvis

Microsatellite variation and population genetic structure of selected merino sheep flocks. R. Al-Atiyat, W.D. Flood, I. Franklin, B.P. Kinghorn, A. Ruvinsky

Studies on breeding method in high quality Nei Mongol Cashmere goat. J. Li, W. Zhang, H. Zhou, Y. Zhang


Congenital hypotrichosis in the Sicilian Valle del Belice sheep. R. Finocchiaro, G. Sironi, C. Domeneghini, B. Castiglioni, B. Prtolano, G. Madonia, P. Giaccone

Segregation analysis of coat colour phenotypes in Llama. C. Renieri, E.N. Frank, M.V.H. Hick, V. La Manna, C.D. Gauna, J.J. Lauvergne


Genetic and environmental variation of the effective radiative properties of the coat in Holstein cattle. A.S.C. Maia, E.C.A. Bertipaglia, R.G. Silva

RAPD Polymorphism in chinchilla breeding stocks. A. Hidas, M.E. Edvi, L. Potháczky, Á. Tóth


Correlated responses in litter result, body size, fur quality and colour clarity in Blue Foxes (Alopex lagopus) selected for confident behaviour. H. Kenttämies, K. Smeds

Nutrition and nutritional physiology

Mink dam weight changes during the lactation period. II. Energy consumption and plasma concentrations of thyroid hormones and insulin. B. Krogh Hansen
Effects of different fat supplements on growth and hepatic lipids and fatty acids in male mink. R. Käkelä, I. Pölönen, M. Miettinen, J. Asikainen

Fatty fish and defatted fish products for male mink (Mustela vison) in the growing – furring period. II. Effects on haematological and clinical – chemical parameters, vitamin E status and fatty acid composition. B.M. Damgaard, T.N. Clausen, S.K. Jensen, R.M. Engberg

Quantitative glucose metabolism in lactating mink (Mustela vison) – Effects of dietary levels of protein, fat and carbohydrates. R. Fink, C.F. Børsting


Pathology and diseases

An evaluation of the efficiency of rabies control strategies in fox (Vulpes vulpes) populations using a computer simulation program. T. Selhorst, T. Müller

Replication of Aleutian mink disease parvovirus in vivo is influenced by residues in the VP2 protein. J.M. Fox, M.A. McCrackin Stevenson, M.E. Bloom

Host range relationships and the evolution of canine parvovirus. C.R. Parrish

Morbillivirus infections, with special emphasis on morbilliviruses of carnivores. T. Barrett

The nucleotide sequence of the high-leukemogenic murine retrovirus SL3-3 reveals a patch of mink cell focus forming-like sequences upstream of the ecotropic envelope gene. A.H. Lund, F.S. Pedersen

Fur properties

Visual colour shades in pelts from brown mink (Mustela vison) explained colourimetrically. P.V. Rasmussen

Amounts and variation of soluble collagen in mink skin during growth from kits to adult animals. B. Riis

Effect of weight development, pelting time, colour type and farm on skin length in mink. S.H. Møller

The diversity of mammalian pelage. K. Kondo

The beauty of mink pelage observed with SEM. K. Kondo, M. Vanek, P.V. Rasmussen, L. Blomstedt

Role of prolactin in regulating the onset of winter fur growth in mink (Mustela vison): A reconsideration. B. Johnston, J. Rose

5. New Books

Selection for feed efficiency in mink (Mustela vison), Ph.D. thesis. K. Sørensen