

The Teething Troubles of the New Group of Editors

The year 2000 was the year of the VII International Scientific Congress in Fur Animal Production. The Congress was held in Kastoria in Greece, 13 – 15 September 2000. The proceedings from the Congress were published in *Scientifur*, 2000, Vol. 4, No. 4., and are also available at the IFASA web-site (<http://www.ifasanet.org>).

On the initiative of Gunnar Jørgensen, the first issue of *Scientifur* appeared in 1976. For nearly 25 years, Gunnar Jørgensen was the editor of *Scientifur* until he decided to withdraw after the publishing of Vol. 24, No. 3, in August, 2000. We wish to thank him very much for his contribution to the success of *Scientifur*.

After his withdrawal, it has been impossible to find a person able to take over the job as editor of *Scientifur*. Therefore, a group of editors has been appointed. The group consists of Gorm Sanson from Norway, Outi Lohi from Denmark, and Birthe Damgaard from Denmark.

The Board of IFASA has decided that in 2001, *Scientifur* is to be published as a printed as well as

an electronic version. There are to be four electronic issues of *Scientifur* a year, and these issues are also to be published as two paper issues. Three issues will contain short communications, abstracts, letters, book reviews etc. The fourth issue entitled "Fur Animal Science" is to contain only reviewed articles. We hope that our readers will approve of these changes.

The group of editors very much regrets that the publishing of *Scientifur* has been delayed in 2001. The delay is due to 'teething troubles' as all the people involved in the publishing of the periodical are new and have much to learn. The fact that the editors have been preoccupied has also caused delay.

We hope for your understanding, and assure you that, in the future, we will do our best to make sure that *Scientifur* will be published without any delays.

On behalf of the
Group of Editors

Birthe Damgaard

Obituary

Mikko Harri

Pioneer within research in the behaviour and welfare of fur animals in Finland, Professor Mikko Harri, has passed away. Mikko Harri who has for almost twenty years worked as professor of zoology at the University of Kuopio died on January 27, 2001 at the age of 58 after a short period of illness. Mikko Harri was born on March 27, 1942 in Seinäjoki.

Mikko Harri took his M.A. degree in philosophy in 1967 at Turun Yliopisto where he also passed his doctor's degree in 1974. In the same year he was appointed reader in animal physiology at the universities of Åbo and Kuopio. In 1974 he was appointed associate professor in physiology at the University of Kuopio where he later on worked as associate professor as well as professor. From the year of 1982 he worked first as associated professor and later as professor in applied zoology.

Mikko was a very inspiring and stimulating supervisor for the students, and he tempted many into the world of research. He also managed to work as supervisor, examiner and critic for more than twenty dissertations. With regard to research projects as well as studies it was characteristic of Mikko to question problems and solutions. In Kuopio he gathered around him a group of researchers within the field of animal behaviour and welfare, and this resulted in the first doctor's dissertations on this subject. The research in animal behaviour and welfare started in Kuopio was pioneer work in the whole of Finland and has later on been of great importance to similar research with other production animals started later on.

Mikko was a very prominent researcher in Finland as well as internationally. He also worked as a visiting researcher in Germany, Scotland and Canada over a total of three years. In the years 1992 – 1994 Mikko Harri was a member of the scientific committee of the Academy of Finland, and from 1995 he was part of the expert pool of the committee of research in natural resources and environment.

Mikko's expertise was also used in connection with the preparation of the European Council animal protection recommendations for fur animals. Without Mikko's invaluable efforts with respect to scientific fur animal research the scientific views would have been taken into account to a much lesser degree, especially with regard to the breeding conditions of foxes.

Mikko was a warm-hearted colleague whose humour could brighten up everyday life as well as festive occasions. His colourful stories on our congressional tours and his way of telling about mishaps in connection with research were the highlights of our social gatherings. Research in fur animal welfare will go on after Mikko's demise, but we will all for a long time refer to what he said and we will on innumerable occasions miss his assistance and support.

Translated from Finnish Fur Animal Journal, March, 2001.



Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists
Section V: Animal Husbandry
Subsection for Fur Animals

Catalogue of Nordic Research Projects on Fur Animals *Volume V - 2000*

Preface

The Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists has had a tradition every second year to publish overviews of Nordic research projects dealing with fur animals. The present catalogue is the fifth in the series. Different from the earlier ones is that this time the total catalogue will be available in electronic form on the Internet. The catalogue can be found at the address: <http://org.nlh.no/njf/pelsdyr/prosjekt/index.html>.

The present volume is still mainly in the Scandinavian languages but the future aim is that only English is used. In all projects, however, there is an English title and more information can be received from the coordinator of the research. By this we hope that also the colleagues outside the Nordic countries will be able to follow the ongoing research in this part of the world.

The catalogue is a good basis to get information about:

- An overview of all Nordic research projects on fur animals
- Information about institutes collaborating within projects
- Plans for future projects
- Contact information for researchers
- References to publications

In this Volume V are included projects presently running and projects that were terminated in 1998 or 1999. New projects starting later this year are included where it has been possible.

All Nordic research institutes and organisations have contributed to the material and thus we hope that the list is as complete as possible and will be useful for researchers, fur breeders organisations, and all others interested in fur animal research.

The work is financed by the Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists, Subsection for Fur Animals.

Oslo, November 2000

Prof. Einar J. Einarsson
Chairman of Division for Fur Animals
Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists



Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists
Section V: Animal Husbandry
Subsection for Fur Animals

Annual Seminar on Fur Animal Production

The Nordic annual seminar on fur animal production will be held in Denmark, in October 2001

- Place: Borupgård, Scanticon Comwell, Nørrevej 80
DK - 3070 Snekkersten, Denmark
- Time: 1 - 3 October 2001
- Registration fee: Subsection members: 3 500 DKR
Others: 3 800 DKR
Includes hotel for 2 nights and meals during the congress
- Further information: Dr. Niels Enggaard Hansen
The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University
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