



## SEMINAR SERIES

1130 HOURS FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011

ROOM G08, CRUICKSHANK BUILDING, ABERDEEN  
UNIVERSITY

We would like to welcome

**Dr Pete Goddard**

Macaulay Land Use Research Institute

### **The wildlife welfare / conservation interface**

There is much contemporary debate about the human-animal conflicts embedded in animal conservation and the social and natural science needed to inform mitigation strategies. A primary focus is often equitable resource partitioning through the balancing of different species' (including humans') needs. On the other hand, the welfare of wildlife caught up in conservation actions either directly or indirectly is an aspect that has been considered far less – though recently interest has become more organised. The conservationist stance generally has as its objective the need to preserve particular (often iconic) species in their habitat - but is this enough? Is there a welfare “cost” to the sentient animals concerned and, if we think there is, should this be factored in when conservation issues are debated and actions implemented? In this informal seminar I want to develop some ideas that I and others have about the meaning of animal welfare in a wildlife context (set against the well-established situation for livestock) and then go on to explore whether legitimate concerns for the welfare of wildlife can serve any useful purpose when attempting to resolve complex and sometimes emotive conservation challenges.

Dr Pete Goddard heads the Macaulay Institute's Ecology Group. He is a veterinary surgeon with a particular interest in animal welfare, focusing especially on investigating behavioural and physiological indices of welfare in ruminants under extensive systems of management. For example, a recent Defra-funded project jointly held with SAC and ADAS investigated the economic, husbandry and welfare drivers for improved welfare on extensively-managed sheep flocks. The welfare of wild and semi-managed animals is also a keen interest and he currently leads a project exploring methods to monitor deer performance and health across Scottish open hill estates.

**Everyone Welcome!!! Should anyone wish to meet with Pete, please contact Lesley**  
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