

## Wood-Gush Memorial Lecture

This lecture is named after Professor David Wood-Gush, a pioneer in applied ethology at the University of Edinburgh. The lecture was instituted as an ISAE event following David's death in 1992, with funding support from the *D.G.M. Wood-Gush Memorial Trust*. According to the ISAE Guidelines, the invited lecturer is a person of eminence in their field who can both inspire and provoke the members of the ISAE on subjects relating to applied ethology. The following is an excerpt about David from a book chapter on pioneers in applied ethology (Newberry & Sandilands, 2016). More detailed accounts of his life and work can be found in Manning (1992) and Sandilands (2004).



*David Wood-Gush, during a visit to the Swedish Pig Park. Photo by Claus Nielsen.*

David G.M. Wood-Gush (1922-1992) trained in botany at the University of the Witwatersrand before moving to Scotland to pursue studies in genetics at the University of Edinburgh (Sandilands, 2004). After completing his PhD on gene flow in wood lice in 1952, he catapulted into an appointment as the first Head of Ethology at the Poultry Research Centre outside of Edinburgh (now the Roslin Institute). Strongly influenced by both Lorenz and Tinbergen, David's early research years focussed on causation of behaviour in domestic fowl. In 1970, he became the first non-veterinarian elected to the Society for Veterinary Ethology (now ISAE), serving as Chairman of the Society in 1976. In 1978, David moved to the University of Edinburgh's School of Agriculture and he and his students branched out to study the behaviour and welfare of domestic pigs, sheep, cattle and horses in addition to chickens. One of his methods of studying domestic animals was to release them into wild or semi-natural environments and study how they behaved when freed from confinement. This approach was used to study hens released on Holy Island off the west coast of Scotland and pigs in the Edinburgh Pig Park. He also developed a research group on pain in domestic animals, particularly related to amputation (beaks, horns), influenced by his own wartime experience of limb amputation

and its consequences. David supervised and worked alongside many PhD students and colleagues, attracting visiting scientists from all over the world and inspiring a future generation of applied ethologists. He published in a wide range of journals (e.g. Lake and Wood-Gush, 1956) and produced three books ('Behaviour of the Domestic Fowl', 1971; 'Elements of Ethology', 1983 and, with Pat Monaghan, 'Managing the Behaviour of Animals', 1991). In 1990, David and colleagues established an MSc programme in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare, which helps to continue the tradition of Edinburgh as a Mecca for our field. Active to the end, David died suddenly in 1992 after arriving in London to attend the ISAE Winter Meeting.

### *References*

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