

Wildlife in no-man's-land:

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PEOPLE,
Inc.**

Are war zones safer than refuges?

When the Persian Gulf War erupted in February 1991, ecologists shuddered at the probable fate of the wetlands at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The region, where Kuwait meets Iraq, is among the world's busiest corridors for migratory birds—both songbirds and waterfowl, coming and going from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. The bird populations were already in trouble. Intensive sheep-grazing had desertified thousands of acres of vegetation. Oil-rich Kuwaiti thrillseekers compounded the damage with reckless use of offroad vehicles and contests to see who could shotgun the most birds, without regard for either endangered species or bag limits.

Even before the war broke out, "It was like the battle of el-Alamein, a constant barrage of gunfire," recalls Kuwait University pharmacology professor Charles Pilcher.

After 14 years of struggle, Pilcher and other Kuwaiti environmentalists persuaded the government to establish three wildlife reserves in 1990, but designating them and actually protecting them were two different matters.

Then came Iraqi tanks, landmines, Allied bombs, and burning oilfields. Observers feared a repetition of the Lebanese civil war. Lebanon too was a major corridor for migrating birds, especially storks, until the early 1980s. Then, however, locked in monotonous standoff, troops of all the warring factions relieved stress by machine-gunning 15 to 20 million birds per year. By 1986 the Lebanese flyway was largely history. The stork population of Europe and the Middle East has yet to recover.

This time, though, there was no standoff. The heavy fighting was over in a matter of days. And recreational shooting hasn't resumed in a big way, either.

"The millions of unexploded mines and bombs still strewn across Kuwait are powerful ecological guardians," Reuter reporter Dominic Evans observed in February 1993. "Together with increased Kuwaiti military patrols," who guard against any repetition of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion, "the live ordinance is a daunting deterrent to hunters, desert joyriders, and flocks of grazing sheep."

Adds Pilcher, "Duck and coot species I've plotted since 1976 have risen in some instances a hundredfold. In the old days we might have had 20 or 30 of one species of duck, and they've gone up to 20,000."

Acknowledges Donald Heintzelman of the Wildlife Information Center, Inc., in his *Wildlife Protectors Handbook* (reviewed on page 19), "Ironically, longterm effects of war sometimes benefit wildlife. In Truk Lagoon

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

April 1993

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

Volume II, #3

Women's health vs. horses

ESTROGEN BOOM BRINGS BREEDING FOR SLAUGHTER

BRANDON, Manitoba—Rocketing demand for estrogen replacement drugs is expected to double the number of farms producing pregnant mare's urine (PMU) from 300 in 1991 to 600 by the end of 1993. Already, 485 farms are collecting urine from an estimated 75,000 catheterized mares. Because the mares must be pregnant to produce a commercially viable amount of estrogen, they will give birth to as many as 90,000 foals this year—most of them in May. The equine gestation cycle normally runs from June to May, while the PMU collection cycle normally runs from September to April.

"Most of the foals from the average PMU farm will be sold purely for meat," says Tom Hughes of the Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust, an agricultural industry umbrella group formed in 1988. "Some may be sold as potential riding horses, but I would think the demand would be fairly slim," as the North American riding horse market has been oversupplied since the mid-1980s. The primary humane concern Hughes sees in the PMU industry is the long distance many of the foals are trucked before slaughter. Most Alberta, Saskatchewan, and North Dakota foals go to Lethbridge, Alberta, while most Manitoba foals go to Owen Sound, Ontario. Quebec foals are slaughtered in the Montreal area. Colts and cull fillies are typically sold by PMU farms at four to five months of age, just as their mothers are impregnated again. They may or may not be fattened by the purchasers before slaughter, depending on horse-flesh prices. Fillies who show the temperament and conformation to become PMU producers are kept as replacements for worn out or infertile mares, or are used to expand production.

The PMU industry centers around Brandon, Manitoba, explains Member of Parliament Marianne Cerilli, because, "For 26 years Ayerst Organics

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INSIDE

Breed rescue:

Fanciers fight overpopulation

\$15 NEUTERING VS. 93%

EUTHANASIA RATE

NORTH SHORE HEAD QUILTS;

***SHELTER OFFERS FREE
NEUTERING WITH ADOPTION***

"Extinct" eastern cougar confirmed alive

USDA FOUND IN VIOLATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

G.M. halts animal testing

**ELVIS MANAGER
MADE FORTUNE FROM
ANIMAL SHELTER**

Exciting ideas for humane education

Dog and exotic pet attack statistics—page 13. (Mary Bloom photo.)

American SPCA drops New York pound contract

"Killing animals shouldn't be the business of a humane society."

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The American SPCA announced March 25 that it will cease providing animal control service to New York City after September 1994, and will begin turning operations over to the city as promptly as possible.

Losing money on animal control work, the ASPCA has threatened to pull out many times since 1977, most recently in 1991. Each time, New York offered concessions and the work of picking up and euthanizing strays went on as usual. In 1991, for instance, the ASPCA returned responsibility for selling dog licenses to the city—an intend-

ed fundraising function that had become a loser—and accepted a bigger direct subsidy instead.

This time, though, ASPCA president Roger Caras told media, the primary issue wasn't the new \$4.5 million pound contract just negotiated with New York for fiscal 1993—although the issue was essentially money. Caras said the ASPCA had lost \$6 million over the past four years, including \$1 million a year on provided pound services despite the substantial city subsidy.

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Editorials

Listen, talk, dicker

Members of the ardently pro-vivisection Foundation for Biomedical Research got quite a shock with their January/February 1993 newsletter. On pages four through six, the editors extensively, respectfully, and congenially interviewed Henry Spira, the most effective antivivisection activist of our time and perhaps of any time. He's not a household word, because he doesn't do big direct mailings touting his accomplishments, nor does he head a multimillion dollar organization, or go on television regularly to shout about victories he barely acknowledges, because he believes gloating is counterproductive. Still, working virtually alone, with a minuscule budget, Spira has accomplished more over the past 17 years toward getting animals out of laboratories than any of the national animal rights groups and antivivisection societies; perhaps more than all of them put together. The biomedical research establishment certainly knows his name, and significantly, some of the most influential people in that establishment thought it was high time to open public, friendly dialog—even if they got bashed for it by colleagues conditioned to view animal use/protection as a war zone, a Manichean struggle between good and evil in which one side or the other must ultimately be annihilated.

"Some may question the *FBR Newsletter* devoting space to the opinions of someone publicly opposed to positions supported by the Foundation (and its contributors)," the editors acknowledged, "but we feel it is essential to keep our supporters abreast of arguments made by both sides."

Given the opportunity to address an audience of thousands of biomedical researchers, whom many activists would regard as the enemy, Spira responded with tough but understanding grace. Demonstrating precisely why he's effective, he put aside inflammatory rhetoric and strident demands. Without yielding an iota of his moral position, Spira worked to find common ground, including defining a positive role for the people who have long been his opponents. Most important, he used and emphasized the word "we."

"We need to develop a plan to overcome the blocks (to discontinuing all use of animals)," Spira stated, "a lot of which have nothing to do with science but have to do both with regulatory requirements and with bureaucratic inertia. Much of the thinking urges a shifting of gears toward validation and implementation."

Those were Spira's words. His deeper message: *we're in this together. We all mean well. Those of us outside the laboratories understand, or ought to, that those inside are mostly people who in their own way are dedicated to reducing suffering, by combatting disease and injury. We are divided not by our objectives, nor by our essential motivations, but by the values we assume in deciding whether our ends justify the means used to achieve them. We share an understanding of the difficulties involved in bringing about change on the scale we seek. And we know, too, that we need the cooperation of the biomedical research community in the process of change, as well as in the practice of it, because validation and implementation are both essential parts of introducing alternatives, and are work which only scientists can perform.*

Inspirational individuals have long known that crediting people with noble qualit-

cling all the more steadfastly to their old behavior, to the point that action becomes part of attitude and self-image. At that point, few people ever change either willingly or lastingly.

Always direct and sometimes caustic, Spira is neither a psychologist nor a diplomat. He is rather a former labor negotiator, who developed his understanding of the process of change on picket lines and at the bargaining table. He explained his *modus operandi* to the FBR members, establishing a clear framework for fair exchange: "You start out with attempting dialog in a rational way, and if there's no response, you've got to be willing to go public and keep escalating." But the doors to rational dialog must always be kept open and unobstructed. "In a labor situation," Spira continued, "you don't start out with a strike. You start out with attempting to negotiate, attempting to talk. You use a strike basically as a last resort. You're not going out there to look for a fight; you're looking to get results. It's important that you see issues as problems with solutions."

And then, with the rules established and communication started, Spira began to negotiate. "If one talks about the ethical issue (of vivisection)," he told the vivisectionists, "I think that unless one believes in tyranny, nobody has a right to harm another, period, whether it's one human to another human or a human to an animal. But we're living in the real world," he added, "and I think in the real world what one is looking for is not the unattainable ultimate but what's practical or do-able. I think what's practical and do-able is the concept of the Three R's (Reduction of the number of animals used in research, Refinement of methods to require use of fewer animals, and Replacement of methods that use animals with methods which don't). I don't believe that there's anyone who can rationally or reasonably make a dent in the concept of the Three R's," Spira said, setting this principle as his basis for a new "contract" with the biomedical research community. "The reality is that if this were implemented across the board, there would be an enormous reduction in the use of animals, and then for those remaining, efforts could be made to reduce their pain and distress, and work toward quality of life...At that point it would make sense to me to shift substantial resources and energies over to the farm animal arena, where there are billions of animals suffering," compared with an estimated 20 million animals in all forms of biomedical research, testing, and teaching.

Here's the deal, Spira was saying. *If biomedical researchers make a genuine good-faith effort to adopt the Three R's as a governing principle of conduct, we'll back off from confrontation and give you time and space to satisfy your requirements of validity, accuracy, and efficacy—and to adopt change with dignity, as your own idea. There are bigger issues we all need to work on. We don't need to get bogged down in the sort of endless hostility and polarization that has thwarted progress and diverted resources, yours and ours, for far too long. As antivivisectionists, we are abolitionists, but we don't need to be fundamentalists. We don't need to see anyone smited, cast into hell, and/or forced to repent and recant. We just want to see serious, honest, open progress toward a mutually acceptable common goal, which can and should exist.*

Spira didn't just postulate such a deal as a hypothetical possibility. He made a

ties tends to move them to live up to expectations—to develop the necessary qualities, if they aren't already present. Thus Spira credited biomedical researchers with compassion, the very quality most antivivisectionists assert they lack most: "The fact that the science community accepts alternatives, wants to promote alternatives, wants to use animals only as a last resort, is a good omen...Scientists are not sadists. Most would want to eliminate the use of animals in research, education, and testing. The point of contention is what's possible today and how fast can we move?"

Instead of pushing researchers into a defensive posture, Spira allowed them room to align themselves with him, rather than against him, without sacrificing their own sense of righteousness. This is particularly important. Most people, in order to change behavior in significant ways, must feel good about themselves, if not necessarily about what they've been doing. People who feel bad about themselves rarely risk failure by attempting something different, especially when under the scrutiny of aggressive critics. Instead, they

point of saluting those whom he believes have already signed on. "Procter & Gamble, Hoffmann-LaRoche, Colgate, and Bristol-Myers Squibb have been particularly noteworthy in this regard," he said. "In addition to reducing their use of animals, they're also been rather aggressive in changing the culture of their science departments. Some have been active in the public policy arena, interacting with regulatory agencies and the international regulatory community to get them to accept some reduction or replacement. It's enormously encouraging." Spira acknowledged, "that some of the superstars in toxicology have placed their reputations on the line, publicly stating that some traditional, routine tests serve no purpose in protecting human health and the environment, and should be abolished."

The *FBR Newsletter* editors pointed out that, "Some of these very companies are getting bashed by animal rights groups. What do you say," they asked, "if you are talking to another company, one considering changing its policy, when they see that other companies have done so and yet continue to be targeted?"

Returned Spira, "There's no way to guarantee that they're not going to get bashed. On the other hand, if they do get bashed, they're in the best position in the public arena to defend their record."

Fundamentalists will continue to demand impractical absolutes, immediate response, and unlikely abject surrenders. The rest of us, however, will accept ongoing authentic effort.

We salute the wisdom and courage of both Henry Spira and the Foundation for Biomedical Research in undertaking this unprecedented exchange. We may be a long way yet from forming an alliance between the biomedical research and animal protection communities to implement the Three R's, but the opportunity may exist, at last, to reduce the level of rhetoric and sometimes incendiary action that has divided our respective communities into armed camps—and then subdivided the camps into factions quarreling in bitter desperation over who is most dedicated to waging ceaseless holy war. And make no mistake about it: the factionalism among the pro-vivisection groups is quite as nasty as it is on our side of the issue, where one regional antivivisection organization recently threatened to boycott **ANIMAL PEOPLE** because we carried an advertisement from another organization whose *raison-d'être* is not antivivisection *per se*, but rather "only" promoting the Three R's.

We support dialog, not only on the vivisection issue but on all topics of concern. Toward furthering dialog, reducing tensions, refining contentious generalities to resolvable specifics, and replacing acrimony with real discussion, we may if opportunity permits do just as *FBR Newsletter* did, interviewing people whom many of our readers may consider to be "the enemy." Concerning vivisection, for instance, we would be keenly interested in interviewing former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, a vivisectionist and militant vivisection defender whose recent public statements have nonetheless indicated agreement with those of us who believe preventive medicine—diet and exercise—is where we can make the most progress on behalf of public health. We know we won't agree with everything Koop has to say, just as we don't agree with everything many antivivisectionists say (and sometimes don't agree with anything some say). We also know that effective dialog begins with listening, and that even in the rant of an aggressive opponent there is often an opening to constructive exchange.

Our opinion pages and advertising columns are open to everyone working to help animals in an honest way. We don't demand purity or conformity or "political correctness" of anyone. As Spira put it to the *FBR Newsletter* readers, "Neither in the animal movement nor the biomedical research community am I into the question of intent. I'm interested in what the end result is."

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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The editors prefer to receive queries in advance of article submissions; unsolicited manuscript submissions will be considered for use, but will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of suitable size. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** does not publish unsolicited fiction or poetry.

Letters

Edison was a genius

I just received your letter announcing your newspaper. As I started rereading what you had to say, I felt as if you knew my husband and me personally. We are longtime vegetarian/animal advocates who write letters, take in strays, spay and neuter, help the sick and injured, and do what we can in general to fight cruelty.

There have been many times that we have felt alone in our efforts—like the time my husband tried in vain to slow down traffic on a busy street to help a frantic dog who was dragging her broken chain behind her; and just a few days ago when we were told by one of our local animal shelters, "There's nothing we can do," when we found a mother cat nursing six brand-new kittens out in the cold; and the time someone wanted to know why I would bother rushing a cedar waxwing we found lying in our driveway to a wildlife rehab center.

I know I really hit a nerve a couple of years ago when I wrote an anti-hunting letter to the editor of our local newspaper. For over two weeks the newspaper published angry, almost vicious replies, and several of my co-workers shunned me. My letter read as follows:

For me, hunting season is nothing to look forward to. I live outside the city, and when I hear gunshots in the distance, I can feel the pain and suffering of all the animals being senselessly slaughtered. The air is heavy with the awareness of needless death. It reminds me of these words written by Thomas A. Edison so many years ago:

"Non-violence leads to the

The editor is a genius

Thank you for the article about the North Shore Animal League in your March issue! (Thank you seems insignificant for such a great job.)

—Mary Bloom, New York, N.Y.

Or is he?

I love your newspaper. All the articles are informative, intelligent, and on the cutting edge. Why then does an ad for Wards appear on page 17 of the March issue? Most people I know have seen a copy of Wards' catalog, which boasts of being able to supply all your laboratory needs: cats and kittens, puppies and dogs, as well as fetal pigs and crustaceans.

—Mary Phillips, Liverpool, N.Y.

Our advertiser, the Washington D.C.-based animal welfare organization Working for Animals used in Research, Drugs and Surgery, was formerly known as Our Animal Wards. It has absolutely nothing whatever to do with Wards Natural Science Inc., of Rochester, New York.

FoA ad

Let's have the sense to come out of the rain

Please advocate the formation of a united umbrella. This does not mean that all kinds of animal welfare and animal rights organizations should become one; it simply means we should coordinate our actions from time to time so as to speak with one voice. Although we often greatly differ, I am sure we all see eye to eye on such issues as trapping, Draize and LD50 testing, and downed livestock. I have written to several of the big animal welfare organizations, but of course they don't want to hear about it. They have fat incomes and certain recognition, and are not about to give any of it up. The net result is that we receive dozens and dozens of requests for donations, requests to write members of Congress, tardy and sometimes conflicting information, etcetera. What a waste! Repeatedly I point at the National Rifle Association, an umbrella for a zillion hunting and gun clubs. When the NRA speaks, Washington listens and sometimes trembles. When we have a big rally—big deal; there were 2,000 people!—it often

isn't even mentioned in the papers. And yet combined we have many more people than the NRA.

—John N. Vermeulen,

Charlotte County Voice for Animals,
Port Charlotte, Florida.

Forming an "NRA of the animal rights movement" is a priority for some national leaders. However, as we editorialized in our first issue, "Powerful political institutions are essentially conservative, since they must draw upon existing opinion, and thus can only work to negative purpose, opposing change...The model of dominance and control exemplified by NRA-type politics is precisely opposed to the model of empathy and cooperation." This isn't to say there isn't room for more cooperation among animal protection groups. Eight years ago, the national groups began meeting in an annual Summit for the Animals, which initially offered promise for facilitating joint endeavors. However, the Summit failed to adopt appropriate conflict resolution techniques, such as impartial refereed discussion, binding arbitration of grievances, and an enforced code of ethics; many participants either withdrew or were ostracized after

criticizing the failures of the Summit to live up to even the unenforced code of ethics it did adopt; and over the past few years, the Summit has evolved into a paid winter vacation for organization executives in such sites as San Antonio, Tampa, and Albuquerque, with dwindling attendance and only token efforts at organizing joint campaigns.

Fish

I was profoundly moved by the extraordinary story, "A Fish Named Alice," by Margaret Hehman-Smith. I wish it could be promulgated around the world, because it is a startling illustration of how immensely we have underestimated these water animals. How sad it is to realize how billions upon billions have suffered so cruelly from our monumental insensitivity and willful ignorance and/or indifference.

—Annette Pickett, Acton, Mass.

"A Fish Named Alice" will soon be reprinted by Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine.

highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages."

Thank you for your efforts.

—Diane Evans, Pataskala, Ohio

The editor is either stupid or crooked

I have just read the article in the March issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** lauding the North Shore Animal League. The general consensus of opinion in this area seems to be that you are probably lobbying for a grant from NSAL, or have already received one—monies gathered from the suffering of many innocent animals, as documented by the enclosed material.

—Jacquelyn Cook, Seaford, N.Y.

*The enclosures were clip-pings of attacks on NSAL published elsewhere, largely based upon a 1988 exposé of NSAL financial practices, which was in fact authored by the editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. At no point did any of the material document any "suffering of innocent animals"; even most critics of NSAL's aggressive adoption and solicitation methods concede that NSAL animal care is first-rate. For the record, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has neither received nor requested financial aid from NSAL, but would accept NSAL advertising, or a grant if one were offered. As our article explained, NSAL helps pay for neutering 220,000 animals a year—more than any other two organizations combined. Thus we believe it is long past time to look beyond the ongoing acrimony over NSAL's unconventional approach, to examine actual accomplishments, detailed in our March cover story.*

JOIN

Friends of Animals' annual demonstration at U.S. Surgical Corp., 150 Glover Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut, in observance of World Week for Laboratory Animals. **FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1993, 12:30 to 2:30.**

SPEAKERS

Priscilla Feral, FoA; Wayne Pacelle, Fund for Animals; Rebecca Taksel, NEAVS; pipers and drummers; some of our favorite soap stars, who will be asking U.S. Surgical to clean up its act!

PROTEST

U.S. Surgical's cruel, unnecessary and irrelevant practice of training salespeople to market its line of surgical instruments by cutting, stapling and killing thousands of dogs each year.

BUSES

from New York leave at 10 a.m. Call FoA's New York office for information and reservations at (212) 247-8120, Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OTHERS

should congregate at FoA's Connecticut headquarters at 11:30 a.m. to

Politics, etc.

A letter in your March issue from Eileen Liska stated that as far as she knew, Adele Douglass of the American Humane Association and Martha Cole Glenn of the Humane Society of the U.S. "are the only animal protection lobbyists besides (Liska) who have actually worked as legislative aides and understand the system from the inside."

The ASPCA Washington D.C. National Legislative Office is headed by Deborah Feldman Weiner. Prior to her work with the ASPCA, Ms. Weiner was on the Hill as legislative director for Congressman Bill McCollum (R-Florida) and legislative assistant to Congressman E. Clay Shaw Jr. (R-Florida), and was a Lyndon Baines Johnson intern for the late Congressman Goodlow E. Bryon.

While I am not personally familiar with Ms. Liska's work, the ASPCA and I have extremely high regard for Adele Douglass and Martha Cole Glenn. I simply thought I should bring the background of our own highly effective Deborah Weiner to the attention of your readers.

—Roger A. Caras, President
American SPCA, New York, N.Y.

Innocent Friends ad

More letters

There is no better publication on humane issues today than *Animal People*. It is inevitable that with a small staff, most of whom are not paid, an occasional fact here and there will be wrong (e.g., Jeffrey Hon is no Asian). But even with errors, your articles are on target. We did hire an occasional Asian at the ASPCA, and several Afro-Americans and Hispanics. But for the most part, Asian interest in professional positions was nil, and your questioning why is the relevant point, and one I hope you will follow up on. All in all, an extraordinary achievement, particularly given the newness of your effort.

The Society for Animal Protective Legislation and the Animal Welfare Institute remain influential and focused primarily because of the strong energies of Christine Stevens, who, in my opinion has done far more to achieve measurable victories for animals over the last 40 years than anyone else. No one has had, for decades now, better or more immediate access to members of Congress and the heads of many federal and many state agencies, and with the Democrats back in power, once again her access is directly into the White House.

From our most influential political leaders, no one commands more respect.

Just before leaving the ASPCA, I wrote and published an editorial pointing out that, "Many of the problems that continue to adversely affect animals are extensions of problems that also affect relationships among human beings. Those who say they are committed to the humane movement but still demonstrate in their decisions and behavior an uncaring attitude toward others have a very incomplete understanding of the inherent meaning of humanness."

The fact is, if we don't see the humane movement as a continuum of caring and compassion for all creatures, human and nonhuman, we trivialize whatever leadership opportunities we have. Respect and compassion for all creatures is the starting point of everything else worth valuing and worth doing. I was very pleased to see this vision clearly stated in your March issue.

—John F. Kullberg, President
Guiding Eyes for the Blind
York Town Heights, N.Y.

(Kullberg was president of the ASPCA 1977-1991.)

Native American symbols

I have found it disturbing that the New Age movement has appropriated American Indian religious symbols using feathers, fur, and leather. I am enclosing pages from a catalog I recently received, and while many of the images are beautiful, those that use animal parts are at odds with the professed insight, compassion, and spirituality of the New Age movement.

—Diane Ersepke
Higganum, Connecticut

Many and perhaps most Native Americans also find the commercialization of their animal talismans profane and offensive, not least because the sale of animal talismans demeans the spirit of the animal(s) involved. Among the many prominent Native Americans who have addressed this topic are John Mohawk, longtime editor of various Native American newspapers including Akwesasne Notes and Daybreak; Ray and John Fadden of the Six Nations Indian Museum, the Mohawk tribal archive; Jake Swamp, chief of the Wolf Clan Circle within the Mohawk nation; Wampanoag chief Medicine Story; and Chris Peters of the Seventh Generation Fund.

Events & Deadlines

April 6 and continuing:
Animal Rights Mobilization will host a talk show Tuesday nights, 6:00-6:30 p.m., for 13 weeks on Chicago Cable TV, Channel 21.

April 17 and continuing through May: Adopt-A-McDonald's campaign by Beyond Beef. Get details from 202-775-1132.

Innocent Friends ad

April 19-25: World Week for Laboratory Animal Liberation.

April 22: Earth Day. Treat a clod to a vegetarian lunch!

April 23: Friends of Animals protest at U.S. Surgical office in Norwalk, Connecticut. Get info at 212-247-8120, or see ad on page 3.

May 1: Walkathon to Save Lab Animals, New York City. Get details from 212-989-8073, or see ad on page 16.

May 1: Legislative workshop, "The politics of compassion," in Rockford, Illinois. Contact the Humane Political Action Committee, P.O. Box 6671, Rockford, IL 61125.

June 3: Zoocheck Canada and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies present "Orangutans of Borneo: Back to Freedom," a lecture by Birute Galdikas, in Ottawa, Ontario. Order tickets at 613-755-1111, or 613-224-8072.

June 3-5: Fast for farm animals in Cincinnati, Ohio. Get info from Jack Norris, 2037-V Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45208; 513-321-6227.

August 4-8: Vegetarian Union of North America convention in Portland, Oregon. Get details from P.O. Box H, Malaga, NJ 08328; 609-694-2887.

Guest column

Helping all dogs through breed rescue

by Gina Spadafori

Some nights the telephone never stops ringing for Sheltie Rescue.

The local humane society is holding a dog and hopes we will pick her up soon—like today. A rescuer who works with a different breed has pulled a Sheltie from a municipal shelter two counties away—when can we pick him up? A veterinarian is calling in hopes we can help a middle-aged dog left for euthanasia when the family moved. Two people want to dump their dogs tonight, and we have no place to put them.

"If you don't come get this dog right now," hisses one caller, "it's dead. And I'm going to tell everyone what hypocrites you are. Sheltie Rescue my ass."

Some breeders don't like it when we point out their contribution to the overpopulation problem. Some shelter workers say we skim the cream off the adoptables. Some activists are critical because we limit our hands-on animal work to purebred dogs, and one breed at that. Prospective adopters are sometimes surprised that we charge for a used dog, even though the money covers the veterinary bills, nothing more.

We're used to the carping. This year, my partner and I will place close to 40 dogs—mostly purebred, mostly Shelties—in responsible new homes. The dogs we work with are brought into our homes, vaccinated, tested for worms, put on heartworm preventive, and neutered prior to placement. We take them young and old, sick and healthy. Most, but not all, are eventually placed. Since we started, we've taken two dogs, one cancerous and ancient, the other vicious, to be euthanized. We cried all the way home.

Despite the criticism, despite the sadness, we keep picking up the telephone. And we don't let the challenges go unanswered.

When show breeders say the purebreds in rescue programs come from puppy mills and casual breeders, we pull out the papers. We've had former show dogs and animals with some of the best pedigrees in the land come through our program—although such animals are certainly not the majority. Most of the dogs we see have nice temperaments and what show breeders would call reasonable conformation. They seem to be mostly the result of casual breeding by people who thought it would be fun—and maybe profitable—to breed their dogs. These people often bought their dogs from show breeders, but didn't follow through on neutering agreements.

When shelter workers say we pull only the best for rescue, our best response is time. They need to see us foster the old and sick of our breed, as well as the flashy young dogs. They need time to realize that the best rescuers, the people I work with, are fanatic about the homes our dogs go to, and are quite willing to help an occasional random-bred when time and space allow.

When activists say our efforts are flawed because we usually don't work with random-breds, we wonder how many dogs they save in a year. Shelties are generally small and non-aggressive, a must in my small house, with its small pack of permanent canines. Other breeds aren't so easy to handle. One of the rescuers I respect most works with Dobermans, to the tune of 200 a year, neutered and placed in responsible homes. This is a contribution, no matter what others say.

The adopters we work with are educated to the true value of companion animals, a view that transcends the monetary outlook they started with. The application process takes two weeks to a month, and includes reference checks and a home visit. By the time a family adopts one of our dogs, they've read 10 pages of literature and

have been steered toward hundreds of pages more. If someone is not appropriate for the breed, or for a dog of any kind, he or she is counseled about a more appropriate companion animal, if one exists. Our happy endings are the result of damned hard work—and we haven't yet had an adoption fail.

A purist might say, and many of them have, that if there weren't purebreds, people would adopt random-breds from shelters: that if there weren't purebreds, there would be no puppy mills. My outlook is more pragmatic. Some people will always want purebreds, and will find them in puppy mills and back yards if better options aren't offered. My partner and I, like other breed-rescue volunteers, offer a better option.

The work we do helps all dogs. Our fostering system saves the ones we pull and leaves more room and time at the shelter for the others. We serve as the nagging conscience of the show-breeding community, letting them know that a few pretty ribbons aren't worth a homeless dog. We educate people who want puppies to the possibilities of adult dogs, and increase the knowledge even of the people we turn down. And for my partner and I, rescue attacks the piece of the overpopulation problem we can handle without burning ourselves out.

I've heard some people argue that purebreds are no more deserving of saving than any other animal in the shelter. I'd argue that they're no less deserving.

In my house, the telephone will keep ringing for Sheltie Rescue.

[Gina Spadafori, a mild-mannered editor for a great metropolitan newspaper, often writes about animal issues. She is currently working to place two Shelties and a basset-Lab cross who was "too special" to leave at the pound.]

The Project BREED Directory: *access to a lifesaving network*

GERMANTOWN, Maryland—

Shirley Weber, by her own admission, is in over her head. Her savings are gone, her telephone bills sky-high. Her assets include four dogs and four cats, a condominium in a rough part of town, and two volumes of something called *The Project BREED Directory*. (BREED is short for Breed Rescue Efforts and Education.)

Weber also has the belief that what she has done in creating *The Project BREED Directory* is important, that it will make a difference for thousands of animals from coast to coast. The paperback directory includes contact information for every group Weber could find that rescues purebred dogs, some groups who rescue other specific kinds of animal, and a considerable amount of useful advice.

The growth of the directory from the first edition to the second indicates she's right. The 1990 first printing listed more than 1,500 contacts, some in every state, for 72 breeds of dog. The current edition, published in February, includes nearly 2,900 contacts for dog rescue, plus contacts for ferret and bat rescuers. It's a phenomenal resource that belongs on every breeder's bookshelf, and at the front counter of every animal shelter and veterinary hospital.

Breed rescue is an idea that has recently gained support in purebred dog circles, as recognition spreads that pounds and shelters are taking in huge numbers of unwanted purebreds. One dog in four received by major west coast shelters is a purebred. In the northeast, it's as high as two dogs in five. The statistics belie the traditional belief that only mixed-breed dogs get dumped.

The best breeders have always taken their own dogs back, but today they realize that's not enough: they have to help other dogs of their breed, no matter where they came from, no matter where they are. They know if they're going to allow more dogs to be born, they'd better be more responsible for the overflow.

Breed rescue proponents pull some dogs out of shelters, and take others home

(Reduce to 76% of original size.)

Basset hound getting a bath. (Mary Bloom photo.)
before they get that far. They evaluate the dogs, looking for good health and temperament, and make sure they're neutered before placement into carefully screened new homes. For people looking for purebred dogs, a rescue group is an outstanding source for healthy, well-mannered dogs.

Such groups, however, are often hard to find. While a few cities, such as Seattle, have well-organized multibreed rescue and referral services, most places have only a word-of-mouth network, hard to tap into if you're not into dogs.

Shirley Weber knew that if she could pull all the information together, thousands of dogs, purebred and mixed, would have a chance at a new life.

"I don't want it to come across that I care more about purebreds, because I don't," she explains. "I see it as a way of increasing the volunteer effort." Every purebred dog who moves into the rescue network opens up space at a shelter for another, Weber believes. With luck, two dogs are saved from euthanasia.

Weber's plan was grand and ambitious, especially for someone who barely

"This is a tool to help rescuers do what they're doing faster, better, more effectively," she emphasizes. "If you have people participating in the placement who are familiar with the breed, they'll be more realistic and they'll discourage people who won't be a good match. They haven't got more animals coming in constantly, so they're not under pressure like shelters."

Weber's problem now is making people aware of the directory, getting it out to where it can do the most good. Her longterm goal is to ensure the continuation of the directory, perhaps through the sponsorship of an animal welfare group or a pet food company. One tentative deal with a sympathetic group fell through because Weber refused to delete a passage recommending that people shouldn't eat meat. Determined, she keeps knocking on doors.

"People haven't even known that this information is out there, because it never was put together before," she states. "It's available now, and it's useful to everyone. The hardest thing to do is to sell it to the animal people, to convince them they need it. If they save even one dog, it's worth it, and there's no way they're going to save just one dog." Most customers, Weber says, credit *The Project BREED Directory* with helping them to save many more dogs than they were saving before they got it.

Letters and calls of praise from rescuers keep Weber going. "I never knew there was a way to help, as just one person," she explains. "The directory has taken every dime and every hour. I don't have a VCR, I don't go out, I don't take vacations. I don't think I made a decision to do this, but I feel driven. I can't imagine how you can make this sound intelligent, because it's not, but I see this as a way to give a little bit of help to every shelter. One person can make a difference."

The Project BREED Directory is \$28.05, including postage, from Project Breed Inc., 18707 Curry Powder Lane, Germantown, MD 20874-2014. Discounts are available for multi-copy orders.

—Gina Spadafori

Houston Humane Society then and now

\$15 neutering vs. 93% euthanasia rate

Then

In September 1980, Houston Humane Society board president Sherry Ferguson drafted a 12-page report to her fellow board members. Opened in February 1963, HHS was in every sort of trouble: badly overcrowded because of a no-kill policy, financially shaky because of weak administration, and struggling to adopt out 700 animals a year. By comparison, the Houston SPCA was adopting out 15,000 a year, and Citizens for Animal Protection, a group founded to reform HHS, was adopting out 2,500 even though it had no shelter.

That wasn't the worst of it. HHS had no neutering requirement for animals who were adopted out. When there wasn't space for newcomers, people who tried to surrender animals were turned away—so many came at night and simply abandoned the animals on the property, alongside a busy secondary highway. Many were killed by traffic before staff arrived in the morning. Vermin infestations were so severe that Ferguson said she wondered if HHS had become a shelter for rats.

"There are dead roaches, roach droppings, and rodent feces in all the drawers and cabinets," she wrote. "The records in the file cabinets are in disarray and have been eaten by rodents." But the rodents weren't all to blame for missing information. HHS hadn't kept any records pertaining to puppies until 1975, and didn't keep records on adult dogs until 1978. It was anyone's guess how long some of the 250 dogs on the premises had been there. Housed six or seven to a run, the dogs often fought; some were badly injured, and sometimes, some were killed.

A single elderly longtime staffer who lived on the premises served as shelter manager, bookkeeper, and secretary, handicapped by poor vision. There was no money to hire anyone else. "We have no education department, no cruelty investigator, and no animal rescue service," Ferguson noted. Numerous programs advertised in appeal letters also didn't exist. A pet cemetery founded to help finance HHS was instead losing money because of upkeep costs, which were high in part because workers were obliged

workers' wash usually hanging on it."

The trash piles included both feces from the shelter and the carcasses of any animals who died on the premises—even though they could have been buried in the pet cemetery.

Ferguson was just new enough to think she could do something about a situation that others had begun to consider hopeless. "I began working at HHS as a volunteer with no experience in January 1980," Ferguson recalls. "I became a member of the board of directors in February 1980, and was elected president of the board in August 1980. I served in that position until July 1984. At that time I temporarily took over as executive director," an appointment that soon became permanent.

Now

Today, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** affirmed on a recent visit, HHS is in most respects a model shelter. An immaculate modern building includes a state-of-the-art cat facility as well as spacious dog runs. The energetic, cheerful and multilingual 20-person HHS staff includes shelter director Edward Perez, whom Ferguson hired as a teenaged kennel attendant only days after becoming executive director; assistant shelter director Juan Acevado, who similarly worked his way up from kennel attendant; administrator Donna Hammond, who began with HHS as a volunteer even before Ferguson became involved; computer technician Dianne Carroll; executive assistant Elten Simmang, a former language instructor; and fulltime public relations director Jennifer Albert.

Thirteen years ago, HHS had only one sheltering agreement with the surrounding communities. Today it serves the south side of Houston plus five Houston suburbs. It is a recognized major part of Houston's unusually extensive shelter network, which was necessitated by rapid population growth and urban expansion during the past two decades: Houston today occupies more land than any other city in the United States. The Harris County pound shares coverage of the outlying part of the city with both HHS and

The operation begins.

\$15 Neutering

But HHS is trying to cut the euthanasia rate in other ways. An in-house clinic opened in 1990 not only neuters all animals adopted out, but also neuters any dog or cat for just \$15, one of the lowest rates in Texas. The facility runs at a substantial deficit, since the average actual cost per surgery is about \$40. This includes the salaries of a veterinarian, two veterinary technicians, an administrative assistant, and the cleaning staff. The neutering clinic is open four days per week. Animals are neutered as young as eight weeks of age.

"Our original working plan," says Ferguson, "was to follow guidelines approved by the Houston veterinary community. We wanted a cordial relationship with the veterinarians, who were afraid we were trying to take their business away from them, so we accepted their demands

ed to dig graves with broken hand tools. Trying to hold labor costs down, the management had hired half a dozen undocumented immigrants from Mexico, none of whom either spoke English or had discernable training in animal care.

"The men sleep on the floor in the office, cook in a makeshift kitchen with holes in the floor, and bathe in a shed outside with the garden hose," Ferguson stated. "We're supposed to be a humane agency, and if living accommodations are part of the working arrangement, we should provide proper humane accommodations."

No labor records were kept, no Social Security payments were made, and there were no health insurance benefits. For at least two years HHS didn't even have vehicular liability insurance.

Finally, Ferguson wrote, "the buildings are beyond repair and not worth keeping except to clean up and paint for an interim period. Visitors to the pet cemetery pass by trash piles, lean-to sheds, and a clothes line with

CAP, which now operates two shelters on the northern and western sides of town. The Houston SPCA and Houston pound still serve the central city, while a fourth organization, Special Pals, runs a no-kill shelter.

HHS is no longer a no-kill. In fact, HHS has a euthanasia rate ranging between 93% and 97%, one of the highest of any shelter in the U.S.—and while adoptions are up nationally, the HHS adoption rate is markedly down despite Ferguson's ambition, as of her 1980 report to the board, to boost it. HHS took in 16,339 animals in 1992, including 10,437 who were not in custody of animal control agencies, but offered fewer than 1,000 for adoption, and of those, adopted out only 674.

At that, HHS doesn't have the only high euthanasia rate in Houston. The Houston city pound took in 21,856 animals in 1992, returned 842 to their keepers, sold 225 to research laboratories, and adopted out just 78, for a euthanasia rate of 95% (96% if the animals used in research are included in the death toll). Harris County Animal Control did better in some respects, taking in 21,198 animals, returning 2,422 to their keepers, adopting out 322—but sold 1,065 to research laboratories. The Harris County euthanasia rate was either 82% or 87%, depending upon how the animals used in research are counted.

1990 data collected by the Texas Humane Information Network indicates that the statewide euthanasia rate is 78.7%. The 1992 figures from the Houston SPCA and CAP demonstrate that high euthanasia rates don't necessarily go with the territory. Receiving 33,090 animals, the most of any shelter in the Houston vicinity, the Houston SPCA returned 290 to their keepers and adopted out 7,757, holding its euthanasia rate to 76%. CAP received 13,903 animals, returned 174 to their keepers, and adopted out 2,967, precisely matching the state average. And even relatively tiny Special Pals dwarfs the HHS adoption figures, placing 2,592 of 2,733 animals received in 1992.

Ferguson defends the high HHS euthanasia rate and low HHS adoption rate by pointing out that, "HHS accepts all animals, regardless of their health, age, temperament, size, and breed. Because of this policy, our euthanasia rate is high. We feel very strongly," she adds, "that we are serving those very unfortunate animals in the most humane way. We detest having to destroy those we care so deeply for, but also believe that every potential adopter is not necessarily the best alternative."

The five-page HHS adoption application is unusually stringent, requiring answers to a minimum of 101 questions—from two to five times as many as most reputable shelters ask. Only 46% of all applications filed are eventually approved. Adoptions also involve a return visit.

that we would only operate on the animals of people who showed proof of needing some type of financial aid." During 1990, HHS neutered 1,347 animals, at \$10 each.

"After the first year and a half," Ferguson continues, "we felt that the entire public's needs were not being met because of the restrictions. In 1991 Houston was not faring well economically, and as a result, many individuals were either earning less money because of salary freezes, or simply lost their jobs. There were also many kind citizens who were trying to help with the pet overpopulation problem, but just could not afford a private clinic. These were the people we needed to reach: those not on financial aid, but not financially well off. So, we opened our clinic up to any and every pet owner. All folks need to do is call and schedule a surgery time."

HHS neutered 3,081 animals in 1991, and 5,451 in 1992, still at \$10 apiece. Rising costs forced a rate increase to \$15 at the beginning of 1993.

Breed Rescue

"Taking our sterilization and proper home message even further," Ferguson says, "HHS is supporting and helping to establish the All Breed Rescue Association. Through this group we intend to open and expand communication with breeders, and work with them on neutering programs, improved pet placements, and other animal welfare issues. To be perfectly honest," she adds, "I have felt much better working on this project than I have in the past several years working with some humane groups," several of which are sharply critical of the HHS euthanasia rate and adoption screening practices.

Formed in early 1992 by Susan Ingersoll-Cloer and Brandy Nunciato, ABRA initially included six breed rescue groups. Within six months, 42 groups belonged. The ABRA goal is to incorporate a rescue group for each of the 134 dog breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club. A contact telephone number (717-342-3078) is funded by the AstroWorld Series of Dog Shows, one of the major events on the U.S. breed exhibition calendar.

HHS released 24 dogs to nine breed rescue groups in 1992—a modest but encouraging start, according to Ingersoll-Cloer. "Rescue work is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week job," she states. "No organization standing alone can do it all and best serve the animals. However, by working together with various animal control organizations and private shelters, we really can make a difference."

—Merritt Clifton

Wildlife in no-man's-land

(continued from page one)

in Micronesia, for example, sunken Japanese warships now support an artificial reef rich in corals, sponges, and fishes. The demilitarized zone between North and South Korea is a wildlife sanctuary where endangered white-naped cranes winter," protected, like the Kuwait birds, by unexploded and largely unmapped landmines. "Populations of tigers increased in Southeast Asia's tropical forests during the Vietnam War," as combat drove out farmers who had killed tigers to protect their families and livestock. The human exodus apparently also helped the highly endangered koupri, a wild cow then thought to be extinct, but rediscovered in the Vietnamese highlands in 1988.

Nonetheless, Heintzelman's answer to war is, "Ban it!" No one rational could argue that war is good for animals, wild or captive. As a popular bumper sticker puts it, "War is not good for children or other living species." Any misanthrope under the misconception that the abrupt bloody massacre of human beings might help animals need only look at any war zone:

RWANDA, February 8 — Rebel troops overran, ransacked, and partially razed the late Dian Fossey's Karisoke Research Center, made legendary by the book and film *Gorillas In The Mist*. Jittery and often hungry soldiers had already scattered the local gorillas, half the world mountain gorilla population, with constant gunfire. A 23-year-old silverback named Mrithi, featured in the film, was an accidental fatality during May 1992. Others may have been poached.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, February 21— Biologist Betsy Brotman buried her husband, Brian Garnham, near his home in England. Garnham, manager of the Liberian Institute of Biomedical Research, was killed by looting Liberian soldiers on January 31 as he tried to defend a colony of 120 captive chimpanzees who had been used in hepatitis research and therefore couldn't be released without risk to the wild population. Twelve of the chimps subsequently vanished, apparently killed and eaten by soldiers, who may thereby contract and spread hepatitis themselves. Another chimp was shot and abandoned; yet another died of thirst. Veterinarian Patricia Gullett of the Lindsley

(reduce to 68% of original size)

Sigourney Weaver plays Dian Fossey, in Gorillas In The Mist. (Warner Bros./Universal City Studios photo.)

gunned down on sight by frightened villagers.

Specific incidents involving animals are only the beginning. Modern warfare almost inevitably devastates habitat. World War I shelling defoliated most of Europe; World War II hit just as forests were starting to grow again. The U.S. introduced chemical defoliation during the Vietnam War. Twenty years after that war ended, the jungle has largely recovered, along with wildlife populations, but meanwhile other wars have defoliated portions of Central America, Asia, and Africa. Along with defoliation comes flooding, topsoil loss, and loss of species. Though habitats do recover, the new growth seldom perfectly duplicates what was lost.

War zones vs. refuges

which is the 19.5-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Of course the regulated slaughter on wildlife refuges does not directly harm human beings, and the habitat damage resulting from hunting isn't as obvious as a mortar shell hitting a barn.

Home , home on the bombing range

Military use of National Wildlife Refuges and other protected lands has gone on continuously in some cases for more than a century (often beginning before the lands were "protected".) Damage to wildlife and habitat is well-documented. In November 1988, for example, a Navy weapons test killed 3,000 fish in an arm of Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, dividing the Patuxent Naval

F. Kimball Research Institute of the New York Blood Center made three trips to the chimp colony with food and water during the two weeks after Garnham's death, but was unable to get the factions fighting in the area to agree to a ceasefire long enough to permit the evacuation of the estimated 106 chimps believed to be still alive.

CAPLJINA, BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA, March 8 — A World Society for the Protection of Animals convoy set out on a thousand-mile journey through a gauntlet of Serbian, Croatian, and Muslim checkpoints to take concentrated livestock food to the two dairy farms left in Bosnia. The cattle at 11 other farms were killed by snipers and shelling.

"Children are literally starving to death in this conflict," said WSPA international projects director John Walsh, "because livestock have been used as a weapon of war," causing a critical shortage of food for infants in a region where thousands of infants have been separated from mothers, who often are too malnourished to nurse the infants adequately anyway.

Walsh reported after an October 1992 frontline inspection that combatants had deliberately torched about 40 square miles of prime wildlife habitat, then shot at a mother bear and her cubs as they fled the flames. At least one bear was killed by a landmine, while soldiers shot two displaced wolves when they attacked sheep.

"While rabies is endemic in foxes (in the area)," a WSPA report said, "an effective government vaccination program had in the past markedly reduced the threat. This program has collapsed. With the large number of roaming stray dogs increasingly interacting with the large numbers of foxes, wolves, and other animals, health officials and veterinarians fear an outbreak of rabies is imminent."

Earlier in the Balkan fighting, at least 20,000 cattle, 150,000 pigs, and a million chickens, ducks, and geese were killed when Serbian gunners shelled Croatian farms in a successful effort to disrupt the Croat food supply. The world paid little attention to that, but winced as shrapnel cut down at least 120 of the renowned Lipizzaner horses, and the entire menagerie at the once-acclaimed Sarajevo Zoo starved to death—a replay of the slow starvation of the Kuwait Zoo collection the year before.

Most media attention to the victims of warfare goes to humans; then captive animals, whose plight can be documented. But sketchier reports reached **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in recent months from the Caucasus and Georgia in the former Soviet Union, describing hungry wolves on the prowl after being driven from their native habitat by ethnic fighting. Some of the last wolves left in Europe, they were

Around the world, however, including in the U.S., dangerous no-man's-land frequently becomes the last refuge of wild animals when the shooting stops—and sometimes while it's still going on. A surprising variety of species actually seem to prefer the risks of such sites to sharing habitat with hunters in traditional sanctuaries.

As far-fetched as comparisons of the seemingly tranquil U.S. National Wildlife Refuge system to the battlefields of eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa would superficially seem, hunting is permitted on 259 of the 472 U.S. refuges, which conduct more than 550 hunting seasons, putting 133 "game" species at direct risk and disturbing virtually all the other native birds and mammals. Of the 259 refuges that allow hunting, 91 also permit trapping.

The military, too, is a more disruptive presence on many wildlife refuges than on some of the biggest bases. Roughly 100 U.S. refuges are used in military training, ranging from artillery practice to tank maneuvers to low-level strafing runs by jet fighters. The military also makes heavy use of other protected lands, including 17 million acres borrowed from the Bureau of Land Management and three million acres distributed among 57 National Forests.

Wars ravage a landscape for a few weeks or months or in extreme cases, years; but most wars do end, eventually. Hunting on federal refuges is usually for just a few weekends each fall, but it does take place each and every fall, simulating recurring outbreaks of war, and the aggregate still comes to roughly one million hunter visits per year (out of 31 million total human visits, the rest of which mainly involve summer recreation areas). Wildlife refuge hunters outnumber the combatants in most recent wars, and may expend more ammunition per year than is used in the whole of some significant regional conflicts. The known death toll is on the order of 400,000 animals per year, not counting as many as three million ducks who die from ingesting now-banned lead shot left in the marshes where they feed by generations of hunters who often claim their permits bought the refuge system. In fact, hunting revenues bought only about 4% of it; the remaining 96% was acquired with general tax revenues.

The annual hunting-related animal casualties in U.S. National Wildlife Refuges closely parallel the known losses to date in the two years of the Serbo-Croatian-Bosnian war. The fighting in the Balkans has raged across about 25.6 million acres of the 63.2 million acres of the former nation of Yugoslavia. Intense fighting involves about 12 million acres. The National Wildlife Refuge system includes 14 million acres outside Alaska—plus 77 million acres in Alaska, a fourth of

Air Test Center from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The incident was remarkable less for the relatively low number of animals affected than for having happened in broad daylight in a heavily traveled boating corridor. Until early last year, seals, sea lions, and birds were routinely disturbed by naval bombardment at Sea Lion Rock, a tiny island on the Copalis Wildlife Refuge in Washington state. The attacks ended only after the Navy closed the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station as a cost-cutting move. The U.S. Army acknowledged in 1991 that birds were ingesting bits of white phosphorous left after shelling exercises at the Fort Richardson Range, near Anchorage, Alaska. Also in 1991, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and the Wilderness Society sued the Army because a variety of activities at Fort Benning, Georgia, are allegedly destroying habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Investigators are still trying to assess the impact of military nuclear waste disposal on the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, 30 miles west of San Francisco. Between 1946 and 1970, the Navy dumped more than 47,500 barrels of radioactive materials in the vicinity, along with a floating drydock and the aircraft carrier *Independence*. The *Independence* was nuked in a test blast at Bikini Atoll in 1946. Surviving the bombing, it was towed to the Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco Bay to see if it could be decontaminated and repaired, but the Navy finally gave up and scuttled it on January 26, 1951. The Gulf of Farallones sanctuary, created 30 years later, is home to 7,000 seals and sea lions, 17 species of whales and porpoises, and more than 300,000 sea birds. So far, none seem to have been harmed by nuclear waste, but many of the steel barrels are now leaking.

Low-level jet flights reportedly inhibit waterfowl nesting at the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada, but that's the least of the problems in that vicinity. In 1983-1984, flooding spread from Stillwater into the Navy's 41,000-acre Bravo 20 bombing range. Toxic materials from Bravo 20 allegedly poisoned seven million fish along with tens of thousands of birds. In 1989, cleanup crews trying to cleanse Bravo 20 removed 1,389 live bombs, 28,136 rounds of ammunition, and 60 tons of shrapnel.

The General Accounting Office in 1991 reported that hunting, military use, and other inappropriate activities were adversely affecting 63% of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Wildlife habitat outside the refuge system is also often at risk. Bravo 20, for instance, is only one of a cluster of huge bases in southwestern Nevada near the California border, with clusters of well-publicized wildlife problems. The biggest base of the cluster is the 400,000-acre

Wildlife in no-man's-land: critters win the Cold War

Nellis Air Force Range, reputedly home of the largest wild horse population left in the world. According to the Bureau of Land Management, the Nellis Range harbored 6,200 wild horses in July 1990, but only 4,300 a year later, after hundreds and perhaps thousands died of thirst and starvation during a prolonged drought that cut the carrying capacity of the range to an estimated 1,500 horses. The Air Force and the Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses saved the remaining horses by trucking in food, antibiotics, and 10,000 gallons of water a day. In July and August 1991, the BLM removed 2,000 horses from Nellis, at cost of \$500,000. The Air Force, the horse rescuers, the Sacramento-based Animal Protection Institute, and the Public Lands Resource Council all disputed the BLM horse population figures, however, and the true extent of the 1990-1991 crisis remains in doubt. Bombing and strafing practice on the adjacent Desert National Wildlife Range meanwhile may menace the threatened desert tortoise.

Across the state, nuclear fallout from weapons testing done from 1951 until 1962 at the Nevada Test Site is believed to be one reason why the desert tortoise population at the Woodbury Desert Study Area near St. George, Utah, fell by 50% between 1982 and 1987. Plutonium absorbed in the tortoises' shells didn't kill them, but apparently inhibited reproduction. Since desert tortoises may live for 80 years, and don't reach sexual maturity until age 15, the effect of the fallout took 25 years to become evident—long enough for tortoises who reproduced before the nuclear testing to die out, and for the paucity of young tortoises to translate into a general population decline.

To the north, Hill Air Force Base, the Wendover Range, the Deseret Test Center, and Dugway Proving Grounds occupy much of the Great Salt Lake Desert. Involved to some extent in nuclear work, this cluster of bases is even more notorious as the primary U.S. chemical weapons arsenal. Chemical weapons tests may have routinely killed wildlife as well as animals used in research, but details remain classified. The work done at Dugway didn't become generally known until March 14, 1968, when a test of a nerve gas called VX went awry, killing 6,000 sheep who were grazing near the Skull Valley Indian Reservation, 30 miles downwind. The resulting outcry moved then-U.S. president Richard Nixon to renounce first use of chemical weapons in war, while Congress imposed restrictions on chemical weapons testing and research.

(*Robert Harrison photo.*)

human abuse of habitat to a minimum.

The potential value of a military presence on protected lands surfaced during a decade of debate over the use of Monomoy Point, Massachusetts, as a naval gunnery range. The rocky point is located at the southern tip of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, off Cape Cod, almost within sight and sound of the head offices of the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the International Wildlife Coalition. For more than 40 years, Navy pilots bombed and strafed Monomoy Point from low-flying aircraft, startling seabirds for whom the refuge is a critical nesting area—one of the few protected barrier islands of significant size along the New England coast. By the mid-1980s, Monomoy Point was a *cause celebre*. Executives of the Massachusetts Audubon Society nearly got lynched by other wildlife protection groups when they published a report suggesting the bombing and strafing might have helped the seabirds more than it hurt, inasmuch as it kept the rookeries off limits to hikers, picnickers, surfers, and boaters. Overall, despite the military activity, the seabird

Wildlife Service tried to prevent predation in 1989 by trapping hundreds of non-native red foxes). The Marine Corps takes gung-ho pride in protecting six endangered bird species at 125,000-acre Camp Pendleton—peregrine falcons, light-footed clapper rails, California least terns, California gnatcatchers, least Bell's vireos, and brown pelicans. Troops are taught to recognize and avoid them, along with the also endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat.

Despite constant war games waged for decades by the Ninth Infantry Division, much of the 193,000-acre Yakima Firing Range may be in better shape, ecologically, than adjacent property used for cattle grazing.

On the other hand, the Yakima Firing Range is visibly far more damaged than the almost adjacent 570-square-mile Department of Energy Hanford Site. The Hanford Site was established in 1942 for the purpose of extracting and processing the plutonium used in the first atomic bombs. Nuclear bombs were manufactured there for approximately 40 years; the site is now primarily a repository for radioactive waste. As early as 1958, government

Though most military activities are now covered by stringent environmental regulations, a National Guard training exercise in Utah broke 35 of 81 safeguards as recently as 1988, according to then-House Interior Subcommittee chair Bruce Vento.

*"There ain't no home
like a hole in the ground."
—Bugs Bunny*

Yet the military legacy on public lands may be more positive than not, if only because, as in Kuwait, unexploded ordinance and toxic wastes have kept other

population of Monomoy Point was in good health compared to the populations of similar sites where the public either was given or simply took access. Indeed, within another few years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was obliged to close several relatively peaceful beaches along the New England coast to protect the nests of the endangered piping plover, a ground-nesting bird at much greater risk from careless footsteps than from flying shrapnel.

Similar ironies have emerged at countless other sites. Forty-five endangered species thrive at the 100,000-acre Vandenberg Air Force Base in southern California, and endangered clapper rails make a last stand at the nearby Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (where in keeping with a tradition of trying to kill problems, the Navy and U.S. Fish and

biologists found radioactive rabbit and coyote dung scattered over a 2,000-acre area; apparently the rabbits tunneled into contaminated earth, and were then eaten by the coyotes. Still, as *Newsweek* reporters Sharon Begley and Patricia King put it in a February 8 feature article, Hanford is "a study in dueling images. Ground water is contaminated with radioactivity," they explained, "and 177 unlabeled tanks leak radioactive glop. But flocks of bats use the nine decaying reactors as caves and 17 rare species—among them peregrine falcons, bald eagles, pygmy rabbits, and sage grouse—make their homes on the reservation." A 1980 study by the Department of Energy discovered noteworthy numbers of redtailed hawks and ravens at Hanford, who found forests of electrical transmission towers a congenial habitat. The National Park Service recommended in 1991 that 89,000 uncontaminated acres of the Hanford site, straddling the Columbia River, should become an official wildlife refuge. Agricultural interests want to claim 57,000 acres, and the water rights that would go with them, for grazing and truck farming.

Because nuclear facilities have always been protected against hunters, trappers, and other despoilers by barbed wire and armed guards, they tend to be the most hospitable of all no-man's-land to wildlife, so long as the nuclear weapons aren't detonated. In 1952 the Department of Defense evacuated the town of Ellenton, South Carolina, to create the 300-square-mile Savannah River Plant, a top-secret nuclear fuel processing center. Only 15 acres have ever been actively used. The rest are an undisturbed buffer zone—and are now home to another government institution, the Savannah River Ecology Laboratories, whose primary purpose is studying how nature reclaims the one-time plantation lands. Radioactive deer and ducks, and turtles with strontium levels 1,000 times above normal, have been discovered up to half a mile beyond the outermost fences. But the Savannah River Plant is probably the largest place in either South Carolina or nearby Georgia where deer and ducks are not under intense hunting pressure.

After 15 years of captive breeding, highly endangered Mexican grey wolves are tentatively scheduled to be returned to the wild next year on the 3,152-square-mile White Sands Missile Range near Alamogordo, New Mexico (although a site in Arizona is still under consideration). The site of the first atomic explosion, White Sands includes about 1,000 acres of prime wolf habitat, and because of military protection, is believed to be the place where the wolves will have the best chance of avoiding massacre by irate ranchers, whose opposition to wolf restoration delayed publication of a release plan from 1982 until 1991. White Sands has already been the scene of another controversial

The price of conversion

MADISON, Indiana — The pros and cons of converting no-man's land into wildlife refuges are nowhere more evident than at the 57,600-acre Jefferson Proving Ground. Since 1941, Army personnel have fired more than 23 million artillery, mortar, and tank rounds at Jefferson, including 1.4 million dud rounds that may still go off at any minute. The Army wants to close Jefferson, to save \$7 million a year. But the closure will cost southern Indiana at least 410 civilian jobs. Virtually the only alternative use for the site would be as a wildlife refuge, which would require the least amount of clean-up. But even removing enough unexploded ordinance to make Jefferson minimally safe for refuge personnel could run as high as \$550 million.

Despite all the shooting, the edges of Jefferson are still forested, while the firing ranges, carpeted with wildflowers, attract birds and butterflies. Whether or not Jefferson is formally designated a wildlife refuge, chances are it will be increasingly important to wildlife as the human presence diminishes.

(Robert Harrison photo.)

From bunkers to bat caves

by Doug Reed

NEWINGTON, N.H. — The weapons storage area lies brooding at the core of the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, surrounded by an eight-foot-high chain link fence capped with barbed wire and razor wire. Thirty concrete block buildings, 250 power poles, miles of wire, and 15 weapons storage bunkers—fortified cement crypts covered with earth and grass—crowd the site with silence.

Clustered at the far end of the 62-acre storage area, the bunkers are empty of the missiles and explosives stored there for the past 30 years. The double steel doors are six inches thick and weigh five tons each. A heavy-duty hydraulic jack opens one door, and visitors, mostly members of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, wander into the dark. Jim Halpin, the manager of this new refuge, explains that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is exploring the bunkers' potential as bat caves. It's an ironic exchange of wildlife for arms: bats for bombs.

The U.S. Air Force transferred 1,095 acres of the 4,254-acre former Pease Air Force Base to the USFWS in August 1992. Including six miles of undeveloped shoreline close to Hampton Beach, a leading tourist attraction, the base was closed in March 1991. After considerable political struggle, the shoreline was included in the refuge. About 2,700 acres of the remaining land will be sold; another 500, saturated with jet fuel, are off limits as a toxic waste site. A cleanup plan is to be finished by 1994.

The newly created Great Bay refuge was dedicated October 9. The ASNH has assisted the USFWS in developing wildlife management plans. Of particular interest to members were efforts to maintain the nesting sites of upland sandpipers and ospreys, and to protect a perch site for wintering bald eagles. Loons and black ducks are also to be protected, though black ducks are heavily hunted on Great Bay itself.

The bunker we explored on September 19 does feel like a deep bat cave. It's dark, damp, about 60 feet

Thomas Kunz, "Bats have naturally occupied old bunkers, but mostly in the southern states where temperatures are higher." Bats of the northeast require warmer temperatures for summer roosting and rearing young than are likely to be maintained within the Great Bay bunkers.

"The first question," Kunz says, "is 'what are the normal summer and winter conditions?'"

Agrees Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game biologist Tom French, "You have to put thermometers in the bunkers first, and monitor the temperatures through the seasons."

(Photo by Robert Harrison.)

Tuttle cautions that, "Anything you do will be highly experimental. There has been very little research on alternative roosting for bats, and there are no guarantees."

In fact, the University of Florida at Gainesville was badly embarrassed in 1991 after spending \$30,000 on a special bat tower, intended to replace roosting areas destroyed during extensive stadium renovations. About 2,000 of the estimated 10,000 bats who were expected to live in the tower actually remained there, briefly, after they were live-trapped and released inside. Within two months, however, all the bats were off to parts unknown.

long, 20 feet wide, and 15 feet high at the top of the arched ceiling. The smooth concrete surface glistens with condensation from the warm air entering the open door. At the far end, we could just make out the weapon capacity figures painted high on the wall: TYPE 1.1 — LIMIT 86,000 lbs. The other four types are all listed UNLIMITED. Since bats can hibernate in dense clusters of 300 individuals per square foot, one bunker could conceivably house a colony of 100,000. But why bats, and what would attract them to this place, when New England bats usually roost in steeples and beneath the eaves of barns?

According to Boston University biologist Dr.

There are no cave-breeding bats in the northeast, as caves are just too cool in this region for the young. In the winter, however, large colonies of bats do hibernate in caves and mines. Chester Mine in Massachusetts attracts 2,500 bats each fall, as "the largest known hibernaculum in New England," according to French.

Bat Conservation International director Dr. Merlin Tuttle and a group of BCI biologists hope to convert one bunker into a summer roosting chamber with a new entrance, proper ventilation, and carefully spaced wooden slats hanging from the ceiling. Bats may move into the new home if they find it attractive. However,

rabbits, and great horned owls have also become abundant amid abandoned refinery equipment and crumbling buildings. So far, the toxic wastes seem to have little effect on the wildlife, although the eagles reportedly will not eat roadkilled deer in the vicinity, who may have fed on tainted brush. Renewed human incursions may be another matter. Already, bus tours of the arsenal conducted by USFWS, the Army, the Audubon Society, and the National Wildlife Federation attract 50,000 visitors a year.

Negotiating a ceasefire

The long National Wildlife Refuge War has not been waged without opposition. For approximately a decade, an umbrella organization for major animal and habitat protection groups called the Wildlife Refuge Reform Coalition has tried to secure passage of various versions of a Wildlife Refuge Reform Act, intensely opposed by both the gun lobby and the military, as well as western ranchers who might lose grazing privileges on refuge land. Over the same period, hunting lobbyists have succeeded in opening scores of refuges up to hunters, often on the pretext of controlling deer populations, while the military has sought, with mixed success, to obtain use of another 4.5 million acres on top of the 25 million acres it already controls. (By comparison, the National Park system controls 26 million acres.)

On February 4, 1993, Representative Sam Gibbons (D-Fla.) introduced H.R. 833, the latest edition of the Wildlife Refuge Reform Act. Senator Bob Graham (D-Fla.), who introduced a similar measure in the last Congress, is soon to introduce a Senate companion version.

Chances for passage have never been better. While twelve years of Republican administrations, 1981-1992, were openly hostile to wildlife refuge reform, the Bill Clinton administration appears friendly—and not only because vice president Albert Gore supported all previous attempts to pass a Wildlife Refuge Reform Act during his

years in the Senate. On February 23, Clinton ordered Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to cut grazing, timber, mining, and water subsidies, by raising use fees for federal lands to market rates—a 400% increase for many ranchers, and an even steeper hike than that for miners, who acquire mineral rights for as little as \$2.50 an acre under a fee structure set in 1872.

Whatever the conditions, the USFWS preliminary plan calls for managing the high-security wildlife reserve "to restore threatened and endangered species."

As we turned to leave, I noticed a narrow trail in the grass and followed it up the steep bank to the top of the bunker. There, with a strategic overlook, was the entrance to a woodchuck's burrow.

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The same day, Clinton nominated Wildlife Refuge Reform Act co-architect George Frampton Jr. to become Assistant Secretary for National Parks and Wildlife. Frampton is currently president of the Wilderness Society. Clinton also nominated former Wilderness Society board member Jim Baca to head the Bureau of Land Management. Now land commissioner for the state of New Mexico, Baca bucked the ranching and hunting lobbies bigtime on November 16, 1992, when he threw the federal Animal Damage Control program off New Mexico state lands for refusing to check traps more often than once every 72 hours. The ADC, essentially a tax-supported exterminating firm for ranchers, killed 2.5 million animals in 1991, at cost of \$25.8 million, and is widely regarded in environmental and animal protection circles as a boondoggle.

Both the Frampton and Baca appointments must be confirmed by the Senate, which is, however, controlled by Democrats inclined to align with Clinton.

In addition to securing wildlife refuge reform, the Clinton administration and the current Congress will preside over downsizing the U.S. military to reflect the end of the Cold War. At least 165 military facilities are scheduled for closing and conversion to other purposes during the next seven years, including sale for development. With the human population and resultant economic pressures growing in even the least populated parts of the U.S., this may be our last opportunity to return land other than rocks and ice to wilderness, and to keep it wild.

—Merritt Clifton

Diet & Health

Riley Detwiler, age 17 months,

on February 21 became the fourth toddler to die from the outbreak of *E. coli* bacteria poisoning that hit Jack-in-the-Box restaurants in Washington state and San Diego, California, in December and January. March 16, President Bill Clinton responded to the deaths by proposing a complete overhaul of the USDA meat and fish inspection systems. Tainted meat killed more than 150 Americans and made more than 150,000 seriously ill during the past decade.

Tainted pork killed 63 people in France last year, made 279 people seriously ill, and caused seven abortions.

Americans ate more animal fat per capita in 1992 than 1991, according to the annual Harris Poll of eating habits. American Medical Association president Dr. Todd Davis called the poll "disturbing."

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine has asked the Federal Trade Commission to probe allegedly "false nutritional advertising" by McDonald's restaurants. A joint promotion aimed at children by McDonald's and the American Dietetic Association omits discussion of vegetables, and claims eating meat "can make it easier to do things like climb higher and ride your bike farther." In fact, eating meat inhibits athletic performance for the next few hours.

McDonald's will be allowed to open restaurants in India, the Indian government says, if they don't serve beef. McDonald's is expected to offer a menu similar to that of Wimpy's New Delhi franchise—chicken, lamb, and lentilburgers.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest called March 17 for cutting the animal fat content of school lunches.

The 9th annual Great American Meatout climaxed March 19 with a demonstration on Stockyard Row in Chicago, led by the Farm Animal Reform Movement and Animal Rights Mobilization.

HORSES

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is to rule soon on whether the National Park Service can remove about 20 feral horses from the Ozark National Scenic Riverways park, 150 miles southwest of St. Louis, Missouri. The horses are feral descendants of a herd released during the Great Depression. A three-judge panel is to decide whether they are protected by the same laws as western mustangs—whose own protection is currently in dispute.

More than 60,000 Americans needed emergency treatment for head injuries suffered while riding horses in 1991, reports the Johns Hopkins Injury Prevention Center. Children under 15 were the most frequent victims. The center recommends that riders wear helmets.

The estimated 250 to 400 wild horses in the Rocky Mountain foothills of Alberta are at risk of extermination by horsemeat suppliers, provincial environment minister Brian Evans has acknowledged, pledging to have "a good hard look" at the situation.

Police in Hampshire, England, are questioning an 18-year-old in connection with sexual assaults and knifings of at least 30 horses during the past 19 months. A string of 200 similar attacks in Sweden during the past few years remains unsolved.

The USDA "caved in to industry pressure" in relaxing inspection rules for Tennessee walking horses, the American Horse Protection Association charges. The relaxation came in the next-to-last week of the George Bush administration. The USDA also reassigned Dr. Joan Arnoldi, DVM, who as former head of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, tried to stringently apply the often circumvented Horse Protection Act.

A 4,300-year-old clay horse recently found in Syria is the earliest evidence yet of horse use in the Middle East.

Horses vs. women's health *PMU farm. Anne Streeter photo.*

(continued from page one)

Limited of Brandon has cornered the market" on PMU-based estrogen replacement drugs. The Ayerst plant at Brandon is the only one in the world set up to collect estrogen from PMU. The concentrated estrogen is then shipped to Ayerst manufacturing plants in Montreal and New York. The business emerged in the 1960s when birth control pills went into widespread use, and is booming again because PMU is the base material of Premarine, a synthetic hormone drug often prescribed to menopausal women. As the Baby Boomers who stoked the birth control industry reach middle age, Premarine therapy is expected to become one of the most lucrative drug markets. Ayerst is preparing a \$100 million (U.S.) expansion to take advantage of the opportunity with the aid of \$20 million (U.S.) provided by the federally and provincially backed Western Economic Diversification Fund.

As environment critic for the opposition New Democratic Party, and as a

ditions, not simply to ease normal menopause. The preferred approach even to conditions for which Premarine is beneficial, Cerilli suggests, is preventive diet and exercise. (There is evidence that cutting meat intake significantly reduces the risk of developing osteoporosis.)

As Hughes points out, the living conditions for PMU-producing mares are comparable to those of intensively raised dairy cattle—which are offensive to most humane people. Confined to their stalls for more than half of each year, the mares can only stand up and sit down for exercise. Because sanitary conditions and public image matter to Ayerst, farms accepted as PMU suppliers must adhere to a detailed *Recommended Code of Practice*, published in June 1990, in hopes of heading off horse abuse scandals similar to those that killed the Ontario PMU industry 23 years ago. Since PMU production is currently the most lucrative branch of the horse trade, Ayerst reportedly has 10 applicants for every opening, and in Hughes' opinion, effectively screens

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Powell & Associates
Organizational Fundraising

Manitoban, from a Winnipeg district, Cerilli is critical of the Ayerst deal for multiple reasons. In February, she published a nine-page report, *The Business of Estrogen Production, the Environment, and Women's Health*, detailing how the investment will apparently add only 71 industrial jobs to the Manitoba economy, how Ayerst waste allegedly already overburdens the Brandon sewage system, how the industry may be cruel to animals, and at greatest length, how the promotion of Premarine itself may involve risks to women's health, much as birth control pills were found to have harmful side effects for many women (especially older women and smokers) after prolonged use. "In the 1960s," Cerilli wrote, "estrogen was hailed as a wonder drug, and Premarine was prescribed on its own. Later it was discovered that there was a link between this estrogen replacement therapy and endometrial cancer." Consequently, Cerilli indicates, women's health experts now recommend that Premarine be prescribed only to deal with osteoporosis and other serious medical con-

them. However, Hughes has recommended that Ayerst add at least one veterinarian to its field inspection staff, who would visit each farm at six-month intervals.

Horse expert Sharon Cregier is more critical. As author of works including *Farm Animal Ethology: A Guide to Sources*, *Road Transport of the Horse: An Annotated Bibliography*, and *Alleviating Surface Transit Stress on Horses*, Cregier argues that the *Recommended Code of Practice* is insufficient to guarantee PMU-producing horses even the minimal comfort possible when spending six-plus months tethered, catheterized, and pregnant. Cregier believes the recommended stall size is a foot too narrow to allow the average mare to enjoy deep sleep, while the recommended brushed concrete flooring may cause sore hooves.

[The Cerilli report is available from the Animal Alliance of Canada, 221 Broadview Ave., Suite 101, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4M 2G3; telephone 416-462-9541; fax 416-462-9647. Donations for copying and postage are appreciated.]

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The Watchdog

The Watchdog monitors fundraising, spending, and political activity in the name of animal and habitat protection—both pro and con. His empty bowl stands for all the bowls left empty when some take more than they need.

North Shore Animal League changes guard, offers free neutering

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y.—North Shore Animal League president David Ganz resigned March 1, just as the March issue of ANIMAL PEOPLE reached readers with a page one probe of NSAL's unconventional approach to promoting adoptions and neutering. The investigation discovered that the NSAL approach is substantially reducing both pet overpopulation and euthanasia rates wherever tried, and found little current evidence to support criticisms often directed at NSAL by more conventional humane groups.

Although a successor to Ganz was not named immediately, NSAL chairperson Elizabeth Lewyt said, "It is business as usual at NSAL, with all divisions running smoothly," adding, "All NSAL programs and policies, including support and assistance for other animal shelters, will continue without interruption."

NSAL attorney John Stevenson is now acting chief executive officer. "As chairperson," Lewyt continued, "I am now taking a more active role in the management of the shelter."

As Lewyt's first public action, she announced that, "Commencing April 1, NSAL will be providing free spaying and neutering to all NSAL adopters."

A cofounder of the 48-year-old shelter, Lewyt is widow of longtime NSAL president Alexander Lewyt. "For close to 50 years, saving animals' lives has been NSAL's top priority," she said, "and I pledge to fulfill this commitment."

Ganz, at \$220,000 a year, had been the highest-paid individual in the humane field, by a margin of over \$50,000. "Differences of opinion arose between Mr. Ganz and the members of NSAL's board of directors," explained Lewyt, "which resulted in a parting of the ways." Lewyt did not elaborate, but according to some reports, Ganz' wife, also a NSAL staffer, was dismissed the day before. The Ganz' departures were said by these sources to resolve a conflict with longtime NSAL chief veterinarian Edward Hamilton, who briefly left the organization but is now back on duty.

With assets of \$58 million and an annual budget of \$26 million, NSAL is the wealthiest animal protection group in the United States, and perhaps the world.

Woofs and growls...

Freedom of speech cases

Animals' Agenda cofounder Patrice Greanville

New *Animals' Agenda* editor quits; board sacks Greanville

MONROE, Connecticut — Apparently on the verge of bankruptcy after seven months of late issues and falling circulation, *The Animals' Agenda* magazine is again rudderless as well. Acting editor

Jim Motavalli quit in late February, acting publisher Patrice Greanville was fired two weeks later in a move of questionable legality, and the salaries and hours of the two staffers left, art director Julia Timpanelli and part-time business manager Peter Hoyt, were cut in half.

Motavalli quit, he said, "because it was taking too much of my time, and I didn't want a career in animal rights." He had worked one day a week for a stipend of \$200/week since August 1992. Other sources said he was tired of second-guessing by the board of directors. As editor of the *Fairfield Advocate*, a local weekly, Motavalli had no background in animal work, but was elected to the board in 1991 upon the nomination of Jim Mason, a board member 1988-1991, following a stint as both editor and board member, 1981-1986. Motavalli succeeded to the editorship after helping orchestrate the firing of Merritt Clifton, news editor from mid-1988 until the July/August 1992 issue. That firing brought the subsequent resignation of Kim Bartlett, editor and a board member since September 1986, when she was recruited to replace Mason.

Clifton and Bartlett are now editor and publisher of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Still on the *Animals' Agenda* board, Motavalli inventoried the magazine's physical assets in early March.

Greanville was a cofounder of the Animal Rights Network Inc., publisher of *The Animals' Agenda* since 1981. He had served

(continued on page 12)

A lawsuit filed February 9 by U.S. Surgical Corporation alleges the firm was defamed in remarks made to reporters by Fund for Animals Connecticut representative Julie Lewin and Fund president Cleveland Amory, who are codefendants, along with the Fund itself. Lewin sued U.S. Surgical for defamation in 1991. Lewin's suit, still pending, alleges her reputation suffered when operatives of the private security firm Perceptions International, hired by U.S. Surgical, recruited Fran Trutt (who had little previous involvement in activism) to join in protests against the firm's use of dogs in surgical staple demonstrations; gave her the money to buy four pipe bombs; and drove her to the U.S. Surgical corporate headquarters in November 1988, where she was arrested just after placing one of the bombs in the parking lot. Lewin's suit and a similar suit filed by Friends of Animals allege the bombing plot was arranged to discredit the protesters by association. While a countersuit of some sort against Lewin is only conventional legal strategy on the part of U.S. Surgical, this suit is unusual in that it alleges the defamation occurred through major news media, in regular news coverage, without also alleging libel on

the part of the media—which include the most influential newspapers in Connecticut.

A libel suit filed by the McDonald's restaurant chain against British environmentalists Helen Steel and David Morris is tentatively scheduled for trial in October, according to the March 1 issue of *Corporate Crime Reporter*. Circa Earth Day, 1990, Steel and Morris distributed leaflets critical of McDonald's food, hiring practices, and alleged sale of beef raised on former rainforest. At about the same time Steel and Morris were sued, McDonald's also sued a TV station, a major newspaper, two labor organizations, and a theatrical company, all in Britain, for issuing similar criticisms. All the others apologized to McDonald's and settled out of court.

Former journalist Rik Scarce, now a graduate student at Washington State University, was jailed March 10 for refusing to testify to a federal grand jury probing the Animal Liberation Front. Scarce is author of *Eco-Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement*, a 1990 book that includes the most definitive history to date of the ALF, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Earth First!,

(continued on page 12)

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Woofs and growls, continued

and a variety of other direct action groups. The grand jury wants to question Scarce about his knowledge of Rod Coronado, in particular, a former Sea Shepherd crew member who is believed to have organized a raid on a Washington State University animal laboratory in August 1991, while staying at Scarce's house. Another of Coronado's former housemates, Jonathan Paul, was jailed last December for refusing to testify to the grand jury. Paul and Scarce could remain in jail until the end of the grand jury empanelment, next December. Coronado himself has evaded both the FBI and Canadian police since May 1992. He is considered the top suspect in a string of fur farm arsons and laboratory break-ins perpetrated during the past two years on both sides of the international border.

The NRA today

The National Rifle Association took an embarrassing defeat March 15 when the Republican-controlled New Jersey Senate voted unanimously with 26 abstentions not to overturn the state's three-year-old ban on semi-automatic assault rifles. The NRA heavily backed Republicans last November, attempting to isolate Democratic governor Jim Florio, who in June 1991 vetoed a previous attempt to overturn the ban. Another bill to repeal the ban cleared the New Jersey House in February, but was opposed by many leading Republicans, including former governor Thomas Kean and Senate president Donald DiFrancesco, who pledged to donate \$10,000 the NRA gave him to aid any legislators the organization tries to defeat.

Meanwhile, NRA director of federal affairs David Gibbons resigned March 11 after he was identified as the source of false rumors circulated to U.S. Senate Republican aides that Attorney General Janet Reno, then awaiting confirmation, had been stopped for drunk driving but not charged. Reno is an outspoken advocate of gun control.

Despite the bad publicity, the NRA has grown from 2.5 million members to three million during the past 18 months, mainly via hook-and-bullet magazine ads that play up the alleged threat to hunting posed by hunter harassment protests, and spotlight the NRA role in securing hunter harassment legislation—including in New Jersey, where Florio signed a hunter harassment bill into law on the eve of legislative action on the assault rifle ban.

Short items

Connecticut governor Lowell Weicker Jr. has refused to disclose what compensation he receives, if any, from Americans for Medical Progress, a vivisection support group set up by U.S.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Ohio Veterinary Medical Board member George Wenning, DVM, resigned March 11 under pressure for having called filing horses' teeth "nigger work" during a board meeting. The governor's office ordered another member, Tom Liggett, DVM, to take a one-day course on cultural diversity at his own expense—and made the annual course mandatory for all 400 members of state boards and commissions. Liggett reportedly routinely inquired as to whether applicants for veterinary licenses were "Americans." The situation came to light when former board president Linda Randall, DVM, an Afro-American, told media that her private complaints to Governor George Voinovich had gone unanswered for six months.

The *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium responsible for Lyme disease has now been discovered in Lone Star ticks, American dog ticks, and the Pacific Coast tick, as well as the deer ticks and western black-legged ticks previously known to carry the disease. "These new results expand the list of potential Lyme disease transmitters to include tick species covering nearly the entire United States," said a spokesperson for Fort Dodge Laboratories, promoters of a Lyme vaccine for dogs. There is no vaccine yet for humans.

Fox rabies recently spread to coyotes, a rarity, at the confluence of Brome, Missisquoi, and Shefford counties in southern Quebec, where 18 cases were discovered in January and February. While fox rabies has swept through the area several times over the past 30 years, no human has contracted rabies in Quebec since 1966.

The Max Bell Foundation has awarded \$95,000 (Canadian funds) to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon "to establish a consistent system of veterinary care of wild animals that will be acceptable both to the veterinarians and to agencies responsible for wild animal management and control."

Norwegian Polar Institute researcher Oystein Wig believes polar bear fertility is dropping because the mother bears are accumulating PCBs from eating seal blubber. The seals get the PCBs from eating fish, who in turn pick them up from deposits of industrial wastes dumped at sea—often decades ago.

An unidentified Australian seal trainer has become the first human known to get tuberculosis from a seal. The seal, who got the bovine strain of the disease, was the first pinned ever known to be infected with TB.

The first known case of feline AIDS in Hong Kong was discovered Feb. 2—but because few Hong Kong cats get regular veterinary care, the disease is expected to spread fast. "The population of cats infected could be tremendous," said Rosana Lai of the Hong Kong RSPCA.

Religion & Animals

The General Association of Davidian Seventh Day Adventists, a 500-member vegetarian sect active in New York, California, and South Carolina, wish to make known that they have nothing whatever to do with the Branch Davidians, who have been involved in an armed standoff with police and the FBI since February 28 at their compound near Waco, Texas.

"Any priest working alone should seriously consider getting a pet," says the Rev.

Animals' Agenda...

(continued from page 11)

in various staff capacities ever since. Board members refused to comment to ANIMAL PEOPLE, but Greanville was apparently fired chiefly because of his longstanding allegiance to Bartlett. Greanville was also the only board member present who opposed the Clifton firing, which occurred in Bartlett's absence, and had been sought by executives of the Doris Day Animal League, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the American SPCA, the National Anti-Vivisection Society, In Defense of Animals, and the Humane Society of the U.S., following disclosure of a variety of financial and political dealings by their respective groups.

Although the Animal Rights Network Inc. articles of incorporation require that all board members be notified of meetings, that a two-thirds quorum be present, and that a two-thirds vote is required to dismiss staff, Greanville was not notified of the meeting at which he was dismissed, held at

Surgical. Weicker is among the AMP directors. Tax records show that in 1991 AMP spent more than \$50,000 on unexplained "legislative activities" and consulting fees, and paid \$13,000 in directors' fees and staff salaries.

1993 budget figures for pro-vivisection activity given by the January 25 issue of *The Scientist* include \$225,000 for Putting People First (nearly quadruple its 1991 budget); \$225,000 for the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research; \$200,000 for the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research; \$181,000 for distribution of National Institutes of Mental Health pro-vivisection materials aimed at children; and \$400,000-plus for the Coalition for Animals and Animal Research, divided among 40 regional chapters.

Fundraising tactic

Animal shelters and advocacy groups might consider emulating an Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine fundraising tactic, Iowa Veterinary Teaching Hospital chief of staff Dr. Ronald Grier recently told *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*. The vet school encourages alumni to send small memorial gifts after pets in their care die or are euthanized—and to send along each pet keepers' name and address. The pet keepers then receive personalized sympathy cards from the school's Companion Animal Fund, notifying them of the veterinarians' gifts, along with brochures describing how donations to the fund buy equipment to help save animal lives. Although the cards and brochures do not directly ask for money, many recipients respond with gifts. The participating veterinarians build good will, and the vet school collects about \$35,000 a year in donations.

Micah Publications

James Roche, parish priest for the Church of the Holy Eucharist in Tabernacle, New Jersey. Roche himself, recently profiled by *The New York Times*, keeps two cats, who help him handle the stress and loneliness of celibacy. "I have found that it's very therapeutic to have another presence in the house," he told the *Times*.

The 600,000 members of the desert-dwelling Bishnoi sect have led the fight to save wildlife in India for more than 400 years. A reform branch of Hinduism, the vegetarian Bishnois forbid killing wild animals and cutting live trees. About 250 years ago, 300 Bishnois were axed to death as they hugged trees to keep them from being chopped down—but the action saved the forest, when the king who had ordered the logging intervened. The Great Indian Desert, where most of the Bishnois live, is known to have the most biodiversity of any part of India.

Forty-one British Anglican bishops signed a statement of opposition to fur-wearing in February, issued to coincide with publication of a new book, *Cruelty and Christian Conscience*. We'll try to get further details for our May issue.

Wildwear ad

the March 11-13 Summit for the Animals in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Only three members of the eight-member board were listed among Summit participants: Kenneth Shapiro of Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Peter Gerard (Linck) of the moribund National Alliance for Animals, and board president Wayne Pacelle of the Fund for Animals. Some sources also placed board member Vicki Eide there. Other board members may have been consulted later by telephone.

Ironically, Bartlett and Greanville gave Pacelle his first job in animal rights, as an *Animals' Agenda* assistant editor; and both Bartlett and Greanville recommended that Fund president Cleveland Amory should hire him.

According to Greanville, the *Animals' Agenda* subscription renewal rate fell from 80% to 35% during the past eight months. Although there is apparently little or no money with which to hire an editor, candidates under review include Kim Sturla of the Fund for Animals, former PETA staffer Kim Stallwood, Gerard (Linck), and freelance writer Phil Maggitti. Applicants have been told the magazine—which is liable for at least \$14,000 on its present lease—can be moved to their own communities.

Other changes of leadership

The direct action wing of Greenpeace prevailed in a recent internal power struggle, as confrontation advocate Paul Gilding, 34, of Australia, succeeded moderate Matti Wuori, 47, as international chairperson. Greenpeace revenues are down from \$167 million in 1991 to \$139 million last year, forcing the group to cut international staff by 15% and U.S. staff by 25%.

Sharon Cregier, vice president of the Canadian Wild Horse Society since 1979, resigned in February. A frequent contributor to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Cregier is now in Australia to study the Jeffrey Method of gentling wild horses.

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Dog and exotic pet bite statistics

In our January/February issue, we published Saginaw County Animal Control division head Mark Wachner's advice that pit bull terriers trained to fight should be euthanized rather than being put up for adoption, along with Ohio animal health technician Donna Robb's account of how a young pit bull she rescued and had apparently successfully socialized went berserk on Christmas Eve, breaking down a locked door dividing two parts of her house to kill two cats and a rabbit. We published a letter defending pit bulls in our March issue, and responded that while some people may be more successful than others in handling pit bulls (or any kind of dangerous animal), this does not mean we should encourage anyone to keep any kind of high risk animal as a pet. This brought a barrage of letters and calls from pit bull fanciers, who swear it's all a matter of training, that pit bulls are no more dangerous than any other dog.

As it happens, the editor has kept a file of press accounts of dog attacks and attacks by exotic pets since 1982—about five years before the public furor over pit bulls began. (The editor was working on an exposé of the exotic cat trade at the time, and had recently been mauled—separately—by both an attack-trained German shepherd and a pit bull who may have been attack-trained, but was kept as a family pet.) Attacks by animals trained to fight have been excluded; this table includes only attacks by household pets and strays believed to have been household pets, only one of whom was a pit bull. The "maimings" column records attacks causing permanent disfigurement or loss of use of a limb.

Here's how the numbers stack up:

Animal type	Attacks doing bodily harm	Child victims	Adult victims	Fatalities	Maimings
African lions	3	2	1		1
Akitas	2		2		1
Australian shepherds	1				1
Black bears	2				
Chows	1	1			1
Coonhounds	1	1			
Dobermans	1	1		1	
Ferrets	9	8	1	1	3
German shepherds	5	5		2	
Gray wolves	2	2		1	1
Huskies	3	3		1	
Leopards	2	1	1	1	1
Ligers (lion/tiger cross)	1				
Malamutes	2	2		2	
Mastiffs	2	1	1	1	1
Mongrels (no type)	1	1		1	
Pit bulls	103	43	60	18	35
Pumas	3	2	1		1
Pythons	2	1	1	1	
Rottweilers	18	12	6	2	8
Wolf hybrids	9	9		3	6

Of 184 total attacks, 56% involved pit bulls. Of 158 dog attacks, 67% involved

Mary Bloom photo.

Elvis manager Tom Parker made first fortune from animal shelter

TAMPA, Florida—While playing Elvis Presley's longtime manager Colonel Tom Parker in the recent NBC made-for-TV movie *Elvis & the Colonel*, actor Beau Bridges mentioned to Canadian Press TV writer Wendy McCann that Parker was "one of the first people to come up with the concept of a pet cemetery," as a fundraiser for an animal shelter he ran in Tampa, Florida.

Since every tabloid needs an occasional Elvis story, even once removed, we jumped right on it. And it's as true as any story involving either the King or the Colonel; truer than most.

Born as Andreas van Kuijk in

Farren, dug up much more. Apparently Parker did a good job for the humane society, by the standards of the time, enlarging the cages and boosting adoptions by dressing as Santa Claus to give away puppies at Christmas. But as he later did with Elvis, he took his own cut, too.

He "worked the hustle for all it was worth," Vallenga and Farren state. "He pushed the tearjerk quality of unwanted pets all the way to bathos. He constantly hit the local press with weepy stories and found a particularly warm reception from Paul Wilder, one of the editors of the *Tampa Tribune*, who used Parker's doggy and kitty

pit bulls. Of total attacks on children, 44% involved pit bulls; of dog attacks on children, 54% involved pit bulls. Of total attacks on adults, 71% involved pit bulls. Of dog attacks on adults, 87% involved pit bulls. Of fatalities, the category of attack most certain to make the papers, 52% involved pit bulls. Of dog attack fatalities, 56% involved pit bulls. Of maimings, 57% involved pit bulls. Of dog attack maimings, 65% involved pit bulls.

The numbers take on even more significance when weighed relative to the population of each animal type. The U.S. and Canadian pit bull population is usually estimated at about 500,000; the Rottweiler population is under 100,000 (of whom 52,000 are registered by the American Kennel Club); and published estimates of the wolf hybrid population range from 100,000 to 300,000. Together, pit bulls, Rottweilers, and wolf hybrids account for 84% of the dog attacks, 81% of dog attacks on children, 87% of dog attacks on adults, 68% of fatalities caused by dogs, and 93% of maimings caused by dogs.

Other studies have turned up similar statistics. The Centers for Disease Control reported in 1989 that of 157 U.S. dog bite fatalities, 1979-1988, 41.6% involved pit bulls. British researchers found that pit bulls were involved in 125 of 465 serious dog attacks during 1990. New York City reported in 1988 that pit bulls, only 2% of the city dog population, accounted for 14% of biting incidents (422 of 3,057).

According to the CDC, 70% of dog attack victims are children under age nine.

(Chestnut Lane ad)

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Breda, the Netherlands, in 1909, Parker was adept at handling animals and teaching them tricks even in boyhood. At age 19 he reached the U.S. as a stowaway, took a new name, concealed his Dutch accent behind a southern drawl, and spent most of the next decade as a carnival animal handler. After several years of running a pony ride concession at the Tampa fairgrounds, Parker married a local woman, Marie Mott, brother of one-time major league ballplayer Bitsy Mott, and wangled a more steady job in 1940 as dogcatcher for the Tampa Humane Society, now the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. According to HSTB director of education Karen Cheeks, the organization has no archives predating 1985, and little record of Parker's doings, but the authors of *Elvis & the Colonel*, Dirk Vellenga and Mick

stories on a regular basis," and was rewarded later with the first exclusive interview with Presley after Parker made the singer a star. The articles brought donations of money and food—and Parker stretched his salary by trading pet food for items he and his wife could eat. The pet cemetery "was Parker at his flamboyant sleaziest," say Vellenga and Farren. "He contacted a Tampa stonemason who would make miniature gravestones for \$15 a pop. In turn, Parker sold them to the bereaved for \$50," along with equally pricy floral arrangements and tiny coffins.

Parker left the humane society in 1942 to become animal handler on the set of the Spencer Tracy/Van Johnson film *A Guy Named Joe*, which was made in Tampa, and the rest is, if not quite accurate history, at least an enduring legend.

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ASPCA: *done with dogcatching*

(continued from page one)

Added ASPCA spokesperson Howard Rubenstein, publicity over the number of animals the ASPCA euthanizes has hurt donations. "The image of being a killing machine is distasteful to many, many people," he said. "Instead of going to research and development, contributions were being used to kill animals."

Only about 140,000 of the 400,000 active donors to the ASPCA live in the New York City area, compounding concern on the board of directors that the donor base might be alienated by the continuing emphasis on pound service—which the ASPCA, founded in 1867, has provided since 1894.

"We want to get back to saving animals," Caras emphasized. "Animal control has sapped our humane society of its emotional and financial resources, pulling us away from our efforts in the areas of humane education, law enforcement, legislation and advocacy—efforts which can help us end the cycle of overpopulation and maltreatment of animals in our society."

In fact, by joining many other organizations in bringing pet overpopulation to public attention, the ASPCA has substantially reduced its euthanasia numbers. In 1992 the ASPCA received 56,000 animals, euthanizing 33,857—a 38% improvement since 1986, when 68,000 animals were received and 54,575 were euthanized. But indications are that little more can be achieved without significantly increasing funding for subsidized neutering and multilingual humane education in poverty areas.

Caras did not apologize for euthanizing animals. "These animals most assuredly had to be euthanized," he said before a battery of TV cameras. "But killing these

unfortunate animals should not be the primary business of a humane society."

The ASPCA has assigned staffer Steve Zawistowski to work with New York City health and human services director Caesar Peralis in planning the transfer of duties to the city, which has never had any animal control department or facilities of its own. Since the ASPCA will continue to direct animal control operations during the early part of the transfer period, Zawistowski suggested that, "For the next year, I don't think the people of New York are going to notice a difference."

Zawistowski said the future of the ASPCA's \$4 million shelter on 110th Street, opened only last summer, is uncertain. "The city may buy it from us, lease it from us, or may build something else," Zawistowski speculated. Some sort of sale or lease arrangement is most likely, however. As Zawistowski explained, "Our two shelters, the one on 110th and the one in Brooklyn, are the only two high-volume animal sheltering facilities in New York."

ASPCA will still run shelter

The ASPCA is not getting out of sheltering entirely. While former ASPCA president John Kullberg speculated in 1991 that the organization might eventually relinquish shelter functions to focus on advocacy, Zawistowski insisted that isn't the present plan. "We do intend to run a shelter," he maintained. "What we want to do is reach a position where the amount of killing we have to do doesn't have a degrading effect on all of our other services. Essentially we want to have an owner-consent facility, where people bring in their animals to try to have them

adopted, with the understanding that euthanasia may be necessary as a last resort if we can't find the animals new homes. We want to expand our neutering and placement services. We don't want to be in the position of always bringing in thousands of animals for whom there is no alternative but euthanasia."

The ASPCA pledged to "maintain and expand" humane law enforcement, the discount neutering program already in effect at its Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital, and the adoption program operating from its 92nd Street office, which currently places about 10,000 animals a year.

Reaction from the humane community was mixed. "No one wants to kill animals," said Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral. "The ASPCA has had this miserable job for years, and can hardly be blamed for wanting to ditch it." However, Feral continued, "New York City is ill-equipped to operate a shelter system," with perennial budget and labor problems, "and the thought of the city taking on animal control work is nightmarish, given the way it has performed the job of dog licensing."

FoA simultaneously announced that it would seek sponsors on the New York City Council for mandatory dog and cat sterilization.

Several other major humane societies have relinquished animal control to city governments in recent years, most notably the San Francisco SPCA in 1989. In 1991 the SFSPCA euthanized just 24 animals, while placing 4,611. The four-year-old San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control meanwhile placed about 6,000 animals, euthanizing 10,000. The combined record—roughly 50% placement—is one of the best in the U.S., and is notably better than the SFSPCA achieved alone in the mid-1980s.

ANIMAL CONTROL & RESCUE

Legislation In Support of Animals has awarded the St. Tammany Humane Society a "platinum" star for being the top shelter in Louisiana three years in a row. The Louisiana SPCA won LISA's gold star this year; Ouachita Animal Control of West Monroe and the no-kill Morehouse

shelter inspections and awards program, the state has established a Shelter Standards Committee, to bring shelters under effective regulation. The committee met for the first time in January.

The Colorado Senate recently killed a bill requiring parental permission

ward said Brightwell had "bullied" her into letting him shoot them rather than transport them for euthanasia elsewhere. The action was protested March 1 by 150 of New Matamoras' 700 residents, led by Ken Schmidt, a police officer for another town who saw the killing but couldn't stop it.

WSPA battles bear-baiting

The World Society for the Protection of Animals asks that letters protesting bear-baiting be sent to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

Humane Society each earned a silver star; and Slidell Animal Control received a bronze star. The award winners include both public and private facilities, with some of the biggest and smallest budgets in the state. A golden heart award went to two anonymous sheriff's deputies who arrested a pair of men they caught torturing a mouse by dunking her repeatedly in a beer glass, and threw the book at them. The black star for worst shelter of the year went to the Leesville Animal Shelter. "The shelter is actually clean and by most appearances, well run," LISA executive director Jeff Dorson said. "However, the city administration has failed to produce statistics or records to back up their claim of a 100% adoption rate. We have seen evidence to the contrary. Animals have been destroyed, but the city won't disclose how or by whom." Three years after LISA begin its

before anyone under age 18 could buy a pet, after Denver pet store owner John Rutherford testified that if it became law, "an estimated 75% of pet retailers will go out of business almost immediately."

Sixty three-toed box turtles

recovered in a Michigan police raid last year have been returned to their Texas habitat through the combined efforts of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Texas Wildlife Rescue, and United Airlines.

The Asociacion para la Defensa de los Derechos del Animal, the largest Argentinian animal protection group, now offers low-cost neutering of female animals in Buenos Aires and surrounding suburbs. Fees of \$25 for dogs and \$15 for cats are waived for low-income pet keepers. Neutering of male dogs and cats, apparently not subsidized, is reportedly up 50%, to 20 a day, since the well-publicized ADDA campaign started.

Mission Viejo, California, is

building a \$2 million no-kill shelter to be run by the city animal control department. The nearby cities of San Clemente, Irvine, Dana Point, and Laguna Beach also have municipal no-kill shelters, while Seal Beach and Huntington Beach have private no-kill shelters. The area has one of the highest rates of neutering—reportedly over 80%—in the U.S.

Town officials in New

Mata-moras, Ohio, have agreed to review the conduct of police chief Bill Brightwell, who tied 21 dogs to trees and shot them one by one on February 23, reportedly using as many as 11 bullets each to do the job. The dogs and about nine cats—who fled—were the pets of reputed animal collector Plontas Newman, age unknown, who died the day before. They were recommended for euthanasia by Washington County humane officer Linda Moore, who after-

Retired police officer Bernie Goetz of Simcoe, Ontario, has been shooting up to 400 pigeons a year since 1982 for a bounty of \$1.00 each, paid by the town. Simcoe constable Leighton Peach professes puzzlement over criticism by the Ontario Humane Society. "He usually does it on Sunday mornings," says Peach, "when people are in church and that sort of thing."

The Animal Rescue League of Iowa is trying to raise \$132,000 with which to build a crematorium. The Des Moines Metropolitan Area Waste Agency notified clients late last year that it will stop accepting animal corpses this month, leaving ARLI with 4,000 corpses a year to dispose of, Des Moines animal control with 5,000 corpses a year, and local veterinarians with another several thousand.

Alley Cat Allies would like anyone who has tried to relocate feral cats to complete a questionnaire. Request a copy of the form from P.O. Box 397, Mt. Rainier, Maryland 20712.

Latham Foundation ad

2315 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008-2802. Videotapes recently obtained by WSPCA staff show how, as a WSPCA press release explains, "the trained bear is led to the center of a field and tied by a 15-foot-rope to a peg in the ground. At the judge's signal, two dogs are unleashed to attack. If the dogs can grasp the bear's nose in their teeth and flatten the bear in three minutes, the dogs win." Otherwise, "the bear is the winner. Bears generally win two out of three fights. There are about 80 significant bear-baiting events per season. On average, 10 bears fight in one event, and each bear fights thrice with different pairs of dogs. There are about 2,400 bear/dog fights per year in these major events. The incidence of bear-baiting on a smaller scale is unknown."

Introduced by the British along with pit bull terriers 200 years ago, bear-baiting was banned in 1890, but enforcement is nil, and the events are actually licensed and taxed by various levels of local government.

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Wildlife

Babbitt moves on endangered species

Newly appointed Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt lost no time demonstrating a new approach to endangered species protection. As President Bill Clinton scheduled a Forest Summit for April 2, in hopes of resolving the long *impasse* over northern spotted owl habitat and old growth logging in the Pacific Northwest, Babbitt on March 13 appointed noted conservation biologists Thomas Lovejoy of the Smithsonian Institution and Peter Raven of the Missouri Botanical Garden to set up a national biological survey, which will map animal and plant habitat much as the U.S. Geological Survey maps topographical features. The habitat map will be the first step toward reorienting Endangered Species Act enforcement to focus upon critical ecosystems, instead of trying to save species on a slow, costly case-by-case basis.

March 25, Babbitt showed how the new approach would work by declaring the California gnatcatcher an endangered species, but exempting developers whose projects have been held up by the presence of the tiny bird from prosecution for damage-

ing gnatcatcher habitat—if they cooperate in a plan advanced by the California government to set aside an ecosystem reserve that would not only save the gnatcatcher but also protect about 50 other potentially threatened or endangered species who occupy similar habitat. Babbitt had already authorized adding three other controversial species to the Endangered Species list—the western snowy plover, a beach-nesting shorebird native to coastal Oregon, the Mexican spotted owl, and the Delta smelt, whose presence in the San Joaquin delta of California could potentially cause economic catastrophe by disrupting water allocations. Babbitt is expected to seek settlements involving each species similar to the one negotiated to save the gnatcatcher. So demonstrating that species protection and economic development can be done together is likely to be the key to getting a strong Endangered Species Act through the present Congress. The ESA came up for renewal last year, but action was deferred because members facing the fall election were reluctant to take it on.

War on wolves continues

A helicopter attack team dispatched by the Yukon government February 5 to strafe 150 of the estimated 200 wolves in the Ashihik Lake region could find and kill only 70 in three weeks, confirming the suspicion of independent observers that the size of the wolf population and its influence on moose and caribou herds has been greatly exaggerated. The Yukon now estimates only 40 to 50 wolves remain in the area, meaning the original estimate was nearly double the actuality. Yukon residents still favor the wolf mas-

state Senate, which on March 12 passed Bill 77, setting the maintenance of high game populations as the first priority of the Board of Game, and mandating the destruction of predators before any action can be taken to reduce hunting. Bill 77 is now before the House, where a Republican majority also prevails. If ratified into law, it will reportedly be challenged on Constitutional grounds by the Anchorage-based conservation group Trustees for Alaska.

Alaska governor Walter Hickel

Zoos & Aquariums

The World Society for the Protection of Animals recently liberated Flipper, the last captive dolphin in Brazil, near where he was captured in 1982. Before the release, Flipper was reacquainted with life in the ocean under the supervision of Ric O'Barry of the Dolphin Project—who also trained his namesake, the star of the *Flipper* TV program. Brazil banned keeping marine mammals in captivity in 1991. The Brazilian Flipper spent the past two years in solitude at an abandoned amusement park near Sao Paulo, and was kept alive by the local fire department, who used their pumper truck to change his water after the filtration system in his tank deteriorated beyond repair.

Colorado's Ocean Journey, the proposed aquarium to be built in Denver, recently tried to head off protest by claiming it would include "only third generation captive-born dolphins." Pointed out David Brower, president of Earth Island Institute, "There are no third-generation captive-born dolphins anywhere." The Coors Brewing Company recently retreated from the dolphin controversy. According to a prepared statement issued February 15, "Contrary to rumors and recent advertisements, Coors does not 'want to bring dolphins to Denver.' Our support of this project is not focused on, nor dependent on, cetaceans."

The Kuwait Zoo reopened February 18 with 805 animals, including 35 survivors of the seven-month Iraqi occupation of 1990-1991, during which more than 700 animals starved to death.

The Shedd Aquarium, of Chicago, has a federal permit to capture three white-sided dolphins in either Monterey Bay or the Santa Catalina Channel, along the California coast. But the Los Angeles-based Whale Rescue Team has "a flotilla of boats, kayaks, surfboards, airplanes, and helicopters" ready to interfere with the effort, according to founder Peter Wallerstein. One of five white-sided dolphins the Shedd took from Monterey Bay in 1989 died soon after capture.

The 150 animals at the Slater Park Zoo in Pawtucket will be relocated when the zoo closes July 1, including Fanny, a 48-year-old elephant who has lived alone at the zoo with a chain around her ankle for most of the past 35 years. Mayor Robert Metivier had tried to keep the animals in Pawtucket in hopes of finding funds to renovate and reopen the zoo.

The financially struggling London Zoo announced February 18 that it will become a captive breeding center for endangered species, including Asian elephants, Sumatran tigers, and lowland gorillas. Zoo director Jo Gipps said the zoo had already raised \$3.6 million for the breeding project. The world's oldest zoo, founded in 1827, it narrowly escaped permanent closure several times during the past two years.

A mob of about 100 men stormed the zoo at Kannur in Kerala state, India, on February 12, poured kerosine over 30 animal cages, and burned alive more than 100 rare snakes, 30 rabbits, 30 white rats, seven turtles, two peacocks, six unidentified migratory birds, several porcupines, two vultures, and an eagle. The incident apparently began with an unrelated political dispute. Indian political organizations commonly adopt animal mascots; killing the animals identified with opposing parties is a common form of protest.

The Tennessee Aquarium announced March 17 that its first-year attendance of 1.3 million had more than doubled the initial projections. The aquarium houses 7,000 animals of 300 species, including the biggest collection of turtles in North America.

sacre, according to one newspaper poll, by a 60-40 margin, but support for continuing the wolf-killing next year is only 50-50, even before the effects of a tourism boycott called by wolf defenders have been felt. While the Yukon wolf-killing is scheduled to go on for five years, the \$200,000-a-year program may soon be suspended—if only to save money.

Forced by an international tourism boycott to cancel any wolf-strafing for "game management" purposes this year, trophy hunters and the Alaskan officials who serve them meanwhile continue to seek a way to kill wolves. In late February a group of hunters asked the state Department of Fish and Game to declare an emergency wolf hunt, to protect supposedly diminishing moose and caribou. Turned down, they took their case to the Republican-controlled

strengthened the influence of trophy hunters on the Board of Game by appointing another trophy hunter to it on March 4. The new member, Sue Entsminger, is an outspoken advocate of killing wolves; a furrier by trade; and posed for a popular poster captioned, "Alaskans wear fur bikinis." The board is to meet June 26-July 1 to map a new strategy for "wolf control," in place of the plan it was obliged to withdraw in January.

The best hope for Alaskan wolves at the moment may be amendments to the federal Airborne Hunting Act introduced in Congress on March 17 by Representative Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), which would clarify the intent of the original act by more explicitly barring use of aircraft to kill predators in order to boost game animal populations.

Wildlife Refuges impact statement issued

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on January 15 issued the latest edition of a draft plan for future management of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The plan has been continuously in revision and consultation stages since 1976, due to conflict among interest groups—hunters, loggers, miners, and ranchers on the one hand, who wish to continue using refuges for their own purposes, and conservationists and animal advocates on the other, who hope to see the refuge system restored to its original purpose of protecting wild animals. Of the seven possible scenarios outlined in the present draft, the Sanctuary Alternative and the Wildlife Observation Alternative would ban hunting except in Alaska, where Native American treaty rights would continue, while the Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Alternative, heavily supported by the gun lobby, would reinforce the use of the refuge system as a shooting gallery. The plan may be obtained from: Chief, Division of Refuges, USFWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 670, Arlington, VA 22203. Comments may be addressed both there and to Congress.

ANIMAL RUBBER STAMPS AD

Eastern cougar lives!

FREDERICTON, New Brunswick—Natural Resources minister Alan Graham announced March 1 that droppings and paw prints found near the village of Juniper are those of an eastern cougar. The cougar was tracked by provincial biologists who had been taught to recognize the elusive signs of a big cat's presence by members of Friends of Eastern Panther, led by Sue Morse of Jericho, Vermont.

The eastern cougar, or catamount, is closely related to the puma, the Texas cougar, and the Florida panther, but may be either tawny or jet black. Once present throughout the east, the cougar was officially extirpated from its last known habitat in Quebec in 1863, from Vermont in 1881, and from Ontario in 1884—but then one last specimen was shot in Vermont in 1907. After that, there were no more cougars until a New Brunswick hunter shot one in 1938.

Rumors of their presence persisted, however. The Canadian Wildlife Service recorded 204 sightings between 1977 and 1988, including 24 in New Brunswick and 20 in Nova Scotia. U.S. sightings were even more plentiful. Setting up a cougar hotline in 1983, Baltimore enthusiast John Lutz had recorded 770 sightings in 23 eastern states by January 1991, including 149 sightings in 13 states in 1990. But despite intensive hunting and trapping in most of the supposed cougar habitat during the 1980s, none were killed until June 1992, when a hunter claimed he shot one in self-defense near Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec. That account remains disputed, as does the identity of the animal.

There were two cougar sightings by reliable witnesses near the **ANIMAL PEO-PLE** offices two years before we came to this location. There has been one possible sighting since, by Wolf, age 30 months, who took two weeks to describe a few halting words at a time how he was frightened by a lion he saw out the window at dawn one morning, who was chased away by our very large German shepherd.

Evolution ad

Global Vision ad

Fur

state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologist Greg Linscombe recently told *Newsweek* that damage to bayous caused by Hurricane Andrew was actually the fault of allegedly overpopulating nutria. Nutria are muskrat-like South American aquatic mammals brought to Louisiana by fur farmers about 70 years ago—and are a favorite food of alligators. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, removes 75,000 alligator eggs a year from the bayous to stock alligator farms.

The USA Weekend Kidscall poll for March 5-7 found that of 5,000 children who responded, 68% oppose wearing fur.

The Camp Fire Club of America is hiring 40 game wardens to fight fur poachers in eastern Russia, who have reduced the wild Siberian tiger population to circa 300. The Russian fine for poaching is only \$10.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has formed the Wisconsin Mink and Fur Council, Inc., to try to revive fur ranching and trapping, at least partially at public expense.

Preliminary data indicates U.S. trapping license sales fell to 147,000 during the winter of 1992-1993, down from 191,000 in 1991-1992; 230,000 in 1990-1991; and 338,000 in 1987-1988, when U.S. trappers sold 19 million pelts. This past winter they sold just 2.5 million.

Trapping was a \$10 million a year industry in Louisiana during the early 1980s, but is now earning only \$1 million a year. Trying to revive the boom,

COURT CALENDAR

Humane Enforcement

Miami primate trafficker Matthew Block abruptly withdrew his guilty plea March 16 in connection with arranging the 1990 Bangkok Six orangutan smuggling incident, in which three orangutans of a shipment of six died en route from Borneo to Yugoslavia. The shipment was intercepted in Thailand. Block pulled out, apparently, because of the likelihood he would draw jail time. Still trying to plea-bargain, he demanded

Activism

Myer Taksel of the Coalition to Ban Pigeon Shoots was fined \$340 on March 7, half the maximum, for dumping six dead pigeons on the floor of the Pikeville Sportsman's Association gun club restaurant in Pikeville, Pennsylvania, earlier that day. According to Pennsylvania state police, the club had scheduled a pigeon shoot that morning, but cancelled it upon finding out protesters and news media would be

HUNTING

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists reports that 95% of spring bear hunters in the province are Americans, from states that ban spring bear hunting. In 1991, Ontario spring bear hunters killed 6,760 bears, 9% of the estimated provincial population. A third of the bears were females. Only 30% of cubs who lose their mothers live to age one.

"All too many Alaska hunters are lazy, ill-mannered, beer-guzzling, belly-scratching fat boys, or girls," *Anchorage Daily News* outdoors editor Craig Medred opined recently, "who want nothing more than to ride around on their favorite piece of high-powered machinery until they find something to shoot full of holes with their high-powered rifle." Medred also attacked the claim by native subsistence hunters that they don't endanger species because they only kill animals they intend to eat: "If you manage wildlife populations on the basis of what people *need*, instead of on the basis of what the wildlife population is capable of reproducing, you quickly have no animals left to manage."

Salt Lake Tribune outdoors editor Tom Wharton recently broke ranks with fellow hunters to deliver a scathing attack on the "cowboy caucus" in the Utah state legislature, which has proposed open seasons with legal jacklighting vs. skunks, raccoons, and red foxes, plus a 20% increase in the sale of puma permits, in hopes killing predators will make more game available.

The Vermont House on February 24 voted 108-35 to ban shooting fish. The ban now requires Senate ratification and the governor's signature. Vermont is the only

state to permit shooting fish, a risky pastime because of bullets ricochetting off the water. Lobbying to protect the "right" of about 200 licensed fish-shooters to massacre spawning northern pike each spring (who are not eaten), hunter Ron Ethier asked, "If you take away shooting fish, what's next? Running rabbits with dogs?"

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, a trophy hunting group, paid the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks to burn 50,000 acres of forest in 1991: bighorn sheep who graze on burn sites grow curlier horns.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife wants an open season on raccoons. Hunters now may kill "only" four raccoons a day.

The most wanted criminal in Japan may be the unknown bowhunter who in February killed three swans near Yamagata and left a duck to wander Tokyo with an arrow in his neck. The rescue of the duck drew nationwide attention.

Ducks Unlimited regional director Bill Haley, 44, accidentally killed himself while hunting March 4 near Athens, Georgia.

For the third year in a row, Princess Caroline of Monaco shot a boar to open the French hunting season, profaning the memory of her mother, Grace Kelly, who outraged shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis by banning captive bird shoots in the principality.

Hunters who believe an aphrodisiac can be made from pelican hearts have nearly wiped out pelicans on Isla de Los Pajaros, off the Mexican Pacific coast, according to the Sinaloa Environmentalist Alliance, which

Vivisection

A page one exposé in *The New York Times* on March 23 reviewed the mounting evidence that animal testing is not a valid means of measuring human risk from exposure to toxins—especially carcinogens. The Clinton administration is believed likely to reduce governmen-

a no-jail deal rejected in December by U.S. District judge James Kehoe as too lenient.

Convicted of pet theft on

February 22, David Stephens, 31, and Brenda Linville, 33, of Lebanon, Oregon, drew 10 months and eight months respectively in federal prison, while Stephens' wife Tracy, 22, got three years on probation as an accessory. Between 1989 and 1992, the three obtained more than 900 dogs via free-to-good-home ads and sold them to research laboratories. They used more than 60 aliases on the dogs' identity papers, obtained through Linville's work as a janitor for the Oregon Motor Vehicles Division. They were nabbed largely due to detective work by a small Portland group called Committed to Animal Protection, Education, and Rescue.

Authorities are investigating

the theft of at least 18 dogs from the vicinity of York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland Line, Maryland, since December. Eight of the dogs were pedigreed Rottweilers and Dobermans. Dogfighters are suspected.

Animal collector Norma J.

Stevenson, 46, of West Salem, Ohio, pleaded innocent March 15 to charges of animal abuse and of threatening sheriff's deputies and humane agents with a gun March 6 as they removed 50 dogs from a feces-filled house, garage, and barn. She is now free on \$1,000 bond.

Animal collector Estell

Weaver, 50, of Knox County, Tennessee, was ordered March 9 to surrender the 48 survivors of 63 dogs rescued from her premises by the Knox County Humane Society, and was barred from acquiring any more animals for one year. Fifteen of the dogs were euthanized due to the effects of starvation and disease.

The Montgomery County

Humane Society, of Montgomery, Alabama, has secured convictions in 41 of the most recent 42 cruelty cases it has taken to court. We hope to detail the MCHS methods in a future issue.

there. The pigeons Taksel dumped in the restaurant were apparently victims of target practice the day before.

Steve Hindi of the Chicago Animal Rights Coalition was fined \$350 and barred from the DuPage County Forest Preserve for one year on February 25, for his part in disrupting a deer cull. Although the preserve authorities had state permission to kill up to 400 deer, they stopped March 22 after killing only 253 and attracting numerous well-publicized protests. Stopping the killing didn't halt the acrimony, however, as two protesters reportedly were harassed by DuPage County rangers—outside their jurisdiction—one day later.

Crimes Against Humans

Thomas Dillon, of Pike Township, Ohio, is scheduled to go to trial April 14 for allegedly murdering two men last spring as they fished. Dillon, who boasted of killing over 1,000 animals just for kicks, is also suspected of murdering from two to five fellow hunters, a jogger, and of committing more than 100 arsons, but authorities said March 10 that they don't have enough evidence to indict him on the additional charges.

Jack Olsen, considered the dean of true crime writers, draws a direct link between serial killer Arthur Shawcross' passion for hunting and fishing and his sadistic murders—two children in 1972, then 11 women after he served nine years in prison. Olsen's biography of Shawcross, *The Misbegotten Son*, is just out from Delacorte Press.

Brazilian rancher Darly Alves da Silva and his son Darcy Alves Pereira, convicted in December 1990 of killing rainforest protection advocate Chico Mendez, are believed to be hiding in Bolivia following a February 15 prison break. The two are the only people ever convicted in Brazil for killing environmental activists, many of whom have been murdered.

tal reliance on animal studies in assessing public health risks.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on March 24 lifted a 16-year-old ban on the use of female volunteers in drug safety testing. Imposed to protect unborn children, the ban had the effect of exposing women to greater risks from new drugs—and increased the number of female animals used in developing some drugs.

U.S. District Court judge Charles Richey ruled February 25 in Washington D.C. that lenient dog and primate care regulations issued by the USDA violate the intent of Congress in passing the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act of 1985. The ruling came in a suit brought by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, the lobbying branch of the Animal Welfare Institute. Barring a successful appeal of Richey's verdict, the regulations now must be rewritten and reissued.

General Motors announced February 27 that it would no longer use live animals in automobile crash tests. G.M. was the last major car-maker that had used animal experimentation.

Washington state senator Scott Barr is pushing a bill (SB5832) to revive the practice of forcing animal shelters to turn dogs and cats over to biomedical researchers. Washington residents may protest to the legislature c/o 1-800-562-2600 between 8 and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Carolina Biological Supply went on trial March 8 in Greensboro, North Carolina, for seven violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including allegedly embalming 10 live cats. CBC, of Burlington, N. C., is one of the largest supplies of animals for classroom dissection in the U.S.

The Animal Alliance of Canada recently discovered that the University of Toronto had been doing research on some dogs obtained from pounds for as long as eight years each.

U.S. Surgical Corporation reportedly got permission on February 18 from the University of South Florida animal care and use committee to kill up to 180 dogs in laparoscopy demonstrations at the USF College of Medicine during the next three years.

According to the German newspaper Berliner Morgenpost, researcher Wolfgang Scharmann is torturing animals to construct a "pain scale" that will permit fellow researchers to more accurately report the amount of animal suffering involved in their experiments.

Mobilization for Animals Pennsylvania held a press conference and demonstration March 5 at the University of Pittsburgh to protest cat mutilation experiments by researchers Robert Schor and David Duke, which have cost over \$1 million, but have yet to produce useful discoveries.

The first World Congress on Animal Use and Alternatives in the Life Sciences will be held November 14-19 in Baltimore, hosted by the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing. More than 38,000 scientists from around the world have been invited to attend. Get details c/o World Congress, 1101 14th St. NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005; 202-371-2200.

Walkathon for the
Animals ad

CHILDREN AND ANIMALS

1,000 selected elementary schools are now evaluating Best Friends, a curriculum guide developed by the American Kennel Club. The guide "introduces elementary school students to the world of purebred dogs and teaches responsible dog ownership," according to a press release. Included are lesson plans in the areas of reading, writing, math, art, and oral presentation. After the trial period, the guide will be offered--free--to all schools. For details, call 212-696-8336.

The Polaris Animal Production and Care program at the Polaris Career Center in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, trains high school students to work with live animals in the pet industry. The unique two-year, three-hour-a-day program was founded in 1975. The Polaris Career Center is an option offered to juniors and seniors in five regional school districts.

Protests against donkey basketball in upstate New York had mixed results as February turned into March. West High School in Corning cancelled a scheduled game, but a game at Spencer-Van Etten High drew a record crowd. Spencer police ticketed the bus hauling the donkeys for a variety of violations of state animal transport laws.

An interactive exhibit called *The Good, the Bad, and the Cuddly: Attitudes Toward Animals* is on display at the Museum of Science in Boston,

Above:
Jan Matthews makes extensive use of role-playing. This lad is trying to understand what it's like to belong to a school —a fish school.

Right:
a stuffed pet show.

Energetic humane educator

"*Bow to the cat!*" (Or she'll change you into a mouse?)

PORT JERVIS, N.Y. — Jan Matthews is overworked, and that's the way she likes it. A classroom elementary school teacher for 17 years, she now visits 72 classrooms a month at four different schools, as humane educator for the Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, New York. Her dedication is such that when her husband took a temporary job in Alaska, she commuted between New York and Alaska for seven months to keep her program going.

"Three of those months were during the summer," she explains, "when we were only visiting summer classes."

Oh.

Matthews' program is not just your basic pet care how-to. "We've gone well beyond pet care," she says, though that's covered too. Her packet on rabies, for instance, opened many classroom doors two years ago when the mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic moved through the Port Jervis/Deerpark area.

More often, Matthews shows children how their own lives are involved with animals in less direct ways. "Our activities all show a relationship of some kind between humans and animals," she elaborates. "We're in the schedule right along with gym, music, and art, and we try to connect with whatever else is going on at the school. For example, in October, around Halloween, we talk about animals in superstition and myth. In November, we look at the importance of animals to native Americans."

Lessons are grade-adjusted, kindergarten through grade six, with follow-up materials provided to teachers, who often make use of the themes Matthews has introduced in their subsequent work.

Although some animal protection organizations criticize any use of live animals in classrooms, Matthews makes a point of bringing friendly and outgoing animals from the humane society with her. "I always take an animal in," she emphasizes.

The animals not only get the children's attention; they help with discipline. Several years ago, Matthews remembers, she told an unruly class that the cat she had with her was in fact an enchanted princess, and that they'd all have to bow to the cat, who might otherwise become annoyed. The legend of the cat princess spread. Now sixth graders, those children still bow to

NABT president moves against dissection alternatives

RESTON, Virginia — National Association of Biology Teachers members' comments were due April 1 on proposed major revisions to the organization's 1989 *Position Statements on Animal Use*. If adopted, the revisions would effectively overturn NABT's policy of encouraging teachers to seek alternatives to dissection and vivisection. The 1989 statement begins, "NABT believes that all biology teachers should foster a respect for life," and continues to state in the second paragraph that, "NABT supports alternatives to dissection and vivisection

Massachusetts, until May 23. Assembled by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, it previously appeared at the Austin Nature Center, where Laurie Nichols of the Austin Natural Science Association described it as "an effective way of helping many people, adults and children alike, begin to examine their attitudes toward animals as well as their actions."

Marine Mammal Bills

WASHINGTON D.C. --
Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-Fla.) and 19 co-sponsors have introduced a bill to restrict dolphin exports, institute an identification and tracking system, limit lethal research on marine mammals, and impose a moratorium on captures pending a review and revision of care standards. If the bill, H.R. 656, wins sufficient Congressional support, language from it may be incorporated into the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which is up for renewal this year.

Richard Martin ad

wherever possible in the biology curricula. These alternatives must satisfy the objectives of teaching scientific methodology and fundamental biological concepts."

The proposed new statement would open, "NABT believes that the study of whole organisms, including nonhuman animals, is essential to understanding life on earth," adding that, "NABT acknowledges that no alternative can substitute for the actual experience of dissection, and urges teachers to be aware of the limitations of alternatives."

The proposed new statement was drafted by NABT president Joe McInerney, who was elected shortly after the current statement was adopted, and has worked to overturn it ever since. In 1991 McInerney influenced NABT to adopt a *Clarification of the Current Position Statement*, including a passage explaining that "the policy does not advocate the abolition of dissection."

McInerney recently spent nine months as Science Education Office Director for the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, working directly under arch-foe of animal protection Frederick Goodwin (who was demoted last year after making a speech likening inner city youths to monkeys).

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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her animals in fun.

There's a benefit for the animals, too: exposure to prospective adopters. People who want animals Matthews brings to class still have to go to the humane society and go through the conventional screening, but so far, she says, "We've had a 100% adoption rate of the animals I've taken in," most of whom are adult dogs and cats. On one rare occasion Matthews took a puppy, who was soon adopted by the principal.

In some ways the Port Jervis/Deerpark area would seem to be tough territory for a humane educator. "It's a heavy hunting area," Matthews admits. "I have to temper my own feelings when kids come in talking about their dads killing raccoons and shooting deer. I do tell them about how these animals live, explain that they exist with us, and ask them to think about it. But I can't say too much, because the schools don't want propaganda. I'm a vegetarian, but they don't know it."

Matthews is used to tough territory, having begun her career as a humane educator with the Michigan Humane Society, which serves both the Detroit inner city and some of Michigan's most heavily hunted areas. Matthews also conducted a pet therapy program at various Michigan nursing homes. "One of the most gratifying teaching experiences I have had," she notes, "was my work with the Living Science Foundation of Novi, Michigan. In this program I traveled around the state working with live animals and children in order to teach biology, ecology, and respect for living things." Later Matthews founded her own program, called In Touch With Nature.

[*Do you know an outstanding humane educator? Send us details—who, what, where, when, why, and how, along with a photo. We hope to profile a number of humane educators and their methods in our fall back-to-school issue. Please don't put off making contact: we need time to do our homework.*]

Have ad

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Making a home for magical migrating monarchs

—by Nicole Kraft

There once was a time when millions of monarch butterflies dotted the skies each fall, the eastern band migrating south to Mexico and the western population flying to the coastal regions of central California. That was a time before development ruined much monarch habitat, leaving them struggling to find the safe haven of a milkweed field in which to lay the eggs of their next generation.

Judith Levicoff, a habitat educator in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, has worked for the past two years in classrooms throughout the Delaware Valley to help children restore monarch numbers, by creating their own butterfly gardens, and by raising and releasing their own butterflies.

"Too often children are asked to save the rainforests and the earth," Levicoff says. "That is just too overwhelming for children to fully comprehend. We give them a hands-on approach to fixing just a portion of nature's problems. If they start here, they may gain respect for living creatures that will last a lifetime."

According to Levicoff, butterfly gardens should be created in mid-May, containing primarily milkweed—which provides young monarchs with their sole food source—but also filled with nectar flowers such as budlia (butterfly bush), zinnia, marigold, lavender, and cosmos. A butterfly garden can be started inside for a wonderful late winter project, but must not be transplanted outside until all risk of frost has passed. It must be planted in a sunny location, protected from strong winds, but it can be of any size, from a window box to a wildflower meadow.

Monarch butterflies may be collected in the wild on milkweed plants, their exclusive habitat, or may be bought. Often a milkweed collection will reveal a surprise guest, a caterpillar egg glued to the underneath of a leaf, or a tiny wormlike figure yet to develop its trademark black, white, and yellow stripes.

Levicoff suggests raising young caterpillars inside a screened enclosure, ensuring they always have an adequate supply of milkweed to eat. They need a constant temperature of 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and must be misted with a light spray of purified water (not tap water) daily. Two weeks after hatching, the caterpillar will attach itself to the side of the habitat or to a small branch, and hang in a J-shape to enter the chrysalis stage. It is important not to disturb the caterpillar at any point during its metamorphosis or deformities will occur.

According to Levicoff, the chrysalis will darken

Robert Harrison photo.

The Albert Schweitzer Activity Book: curriculum guide for grades 1-6. Albert Schweitzer Center (50 Hurlburt Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230). 1992, 40 pages, \$5.00 paper; \$10 with 28-minute video, *The Spirit of Albert Schweitzer*.

Albert Schweitzer's life and philosophy of service are presented as a teaching tool to instill in children a sense of responsibility to the earth and to life, through simple, almost cost-free activities which lead into community involvement. Schweitzer's biography is linked to ways children can act to deal with and thus be less frightened by some of the major problems of today: AIDS, the homeless, pollution, dwindling resources, animal suffering, and the quest for meaning and purpose to life in a cynical time. Included are versions of the Golden Rule as taught by nine major religions.

Public schools find themselves with too many "must-use" items, so for them *The Albert Schweitzer Activity Book* is probably something to put on the "enrichment" table, for use by student teachers, volunteers, etcetera, with the rapid finishers, gifted, or however else

Wildlife Protectors Handbook: How You Can Help Stop The Destruction of Wild Animals and Their Habitat, by Donald Heintzelman, Capra Press (P.O. Box 2068, Santa Barbara, CA 93120), 1992, 160 pages, \$9.95 paper.

This handy guide to wildlife issues is the most concise and practical review of this complex topic to date. Donald Heintzelman, president of the Wildlife Information Center, pulls no punches, whether he's describing human influences on wildlife population or the efficacy of efforts to protect wild animals.

Heintzelman states his purpose clearly: to protect wildlife from any human interference, be it hunting, habitat destruction, or simple carelessness. His techniques are refreshingly free of ideology and pretense. Rather, he offers basic guidelines for a wide range of practical action. "Instead of wasting time, money, and energy on actions that don't produce results," he writes, "we must learn to identify what works, and then do it!"

The book abounds with proven examples of workable actions undertaken by the Wildlife Information Center. While the WIC work focuses on raptors, the guiding principles are easily adapted to work on behalf of other species in other situations. Perhaps Heintzelman's most practical advice concerns opportunities for public education. Included are detailed instructions for dealing with the media, developing personal contacts with various agencies, and influencing legislation.

Heintzelman also stresses the importance of preparation, since successful actions require both information and quality presentation. He offers some background on most major wildlife issues, with sources for obtaining more details. Especially informative are his myth-busting chapters on hunting and trapping. Examples of useful presentations range from designs for public information displays to scripts for publicity releases.

Other chapters describe actions that individuals can take to help their local wild species. In everyday situations, Heintzelman notes, we can reduce our dependence on lawn chemicals, and we can avoid causing roadkills. Included also is a comprehensive list of strategies for preventing human/wildlife conflicts in urban areas.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the **Wildlife Protectors Handbook** is Heintzelman's cogent argument that wildlife must have economic value to be

from its jade green color after ten days to two weeks, and will become clear 24 hours before the butterfly is born. From the time a tiny black foot emerges from the chrysalis, it will take an hour for the butterfly to fully emerge, and six hours before it is ready to fly.

When the butterfly is ready to spread its wings, it is imperative that it be released into the garden immediately, to begin feeding on the blooming nectar plants. If it is not a warm, sunny day, the release may be postponed, although the butterfly must be nourished either with flowers from the garden or a sugar water substitute (1:2), dipped in a cotton ball.

"Butterflies have a great deal to teach us," Levicoff says. "Through our interactions with them, we learn about ourselves, as well as our environment. Here we can help put back the balance of nature, by providing not only a habitat for these beautiful creatures, but by increasing their numbers as well."

All flowers except milkweed can be purchased either as seeds or through local plant growers. Milkweed, the mainstay of the caterpillar life cycle, can be found and collected from local fields, especially during the fall months, and grown inside.

[Levicoff may be contacted at P.O. Box 212, Jenkintown, PA 19046.]

Heroic Dogs

A six-year-old German shepherd brought home a lightly dressed three-year-old boy she found wandering alone in sub-freezing weather on February 17 near Midland, Ontario—and just in time. The boy was trying to visit his mother, who gave birth the night before in a hospital 25 miles away, and slipped out while his father slept.

The Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society on February 17 rescued a mongrel named Brownie, who survived a Detroit housefire that killed seven children in front of a barred window. Though suffering from smoke inhalation, Brownie hadn't allowed firefighters to separate him from the victims.

A survey of convicted burglars published by *Special Reports* found that 59% consider a dog in the home the most effective deterrent to break-ins.

(*Mary Bloom photo.*)

(reduce to 50% of original)

the more advanced students may be designated. But it could be more effectively used if someone could read aloud to older educationally disadvantaged children this story of a man who would surely have become their friend. Then the educationally disadvantaged students could choose from the book satisfying ways for them to address issues which cause them as much concern as anyone, but which they do not often get to help remedy.

Private schools have less rigid programming, and should welcome *The Albert Schweitzer Activity Book* as a neat way to promote values. The format makes it ideal for religious education classes, which are often very heterogeneous; or for the provider of summer daycare, or volunteers who lead dens, packs, etcetera, and must with little training come up with projects that are meaningful, productive, noncontroversial, and ready to use without hours of leader preparation. Finally, *The Albert Schweitzer Activity Book* would fit well into the emergency kit every substitute teacher has for days when no lesson plans are provided for a class of unknown abilities and interests.

—Phyllis S. Clifton

[Phyllis Clifton taught during parts of six decades, in a variety of urban, suburban, rural, well-to-do, middle-class, and impoverished environments.]

saved from eventual extinction. He gives examples of the effects of ecotourism on local economies that would otherwise survive by trapping, logging, or other destructive practices. Bluntly, he states, "Wildlife must pay its way, or it will be destroyed and replaced with other commercial ventures." Nonetheless, while Heintzelman strongly recommends patronizing alternative wildlife programs, he insists that whenever they conflict with the needs of wild creatures, "Wildlife protection always comes first." He further notes that boycotting wildlife-derived products can be effective in giving wildlife the equivalent of economic value, even if it is not actually used to generate revenue.

Appendices of protection organizations and reference sources offer the means to obtain much more information than Heintzelman could pack into this one pocket-sized volume. Even so, the amount of information included here would be overwhelming but for the grace and clarity with which he presents it. Indeed, it's nearly impossible to read the Wildlife Protectors Handbook without being inspired to act upon at least a few of its suggestions.

—Cathy Young Czapla

Latham video ad

Dolphins and Their Power to Heal, by Amanda Cochrane and Karena Callen, Healing Arts Press (1 Park St., Rochester, VT 05767), 1992. 182 pages. \$17.95 paperback.

The title of *Dolphins and Their Power to Heal* is a little misleading. Yes, the authors, who practice alternative healing in London, explore reports of dolphins' influence on our physical and emotional well-being. But they move quickly beyond these anecdotes to consider the wider implications of the mutual attraction between two such dissimilar species.

For the most part, Cochrane and Callen attribute to dolphins no more than an ability to inspire us "to explore our own healing potential." In much the same way that pet therapy works for many people, dolphins seem to soothe us with their unconditional love and acceptance. Other possibilities are mentioned: some theories hold that dolphins diagnose by echolocation, others that dolphins heal by telepathy. The evidence ranges from stories of chance encounters with wild dolphins to experiments at various research centers.

Realizing the potential for exploitation inherent in the latter scenarios, the authors insist "the last thing that we want to encourage is captive dolphins in every institution and hospital, or an increase in the number of dolphins taken

BOOK REVIEWS

from the wild." They cite several "quite ridiculous" and pathetic situations in which captive dolphins are regularly forced to interact with ailing humans. While the book does include information on commercial dolphin programs (for healing and entertainment), its evaluations are always based on the dolphins' welfare. They note that, "Even in the right hands, such programs serve to perpetuate a domineering and manipulative attitude toward nature."

Herein lies an interesting paradox: why do modern humans, otherwise almost completely cut off from the natural world, still share an ancient bond with these marine mammals? Cochrane and Callen delve into natural history, ancient texts, and the frontiers of archeology for possible explanations. They survey the ongoing debate over the "aquatic ape" theories of Alistair Hardy and Elaine Morgan, who postulate that humans may have evolved in parallel circumstances with dolphins. They also reexamine aboriginal and classical myths of human/dolphin interactions in the light of modern discoveries.

While ancient civilizations and primitive cultures shared deep (if occasionally tragic) relationships with dolphins, our culture's fascination with these beings is a fairly recent occurrence. In a few all too brief chapters, the book

traces this redeveloping bond through two distinct trends. The first is the commercial success of captive performing dolphins as epitomized in the television series *Flipper*. The other is the publicity surrounding unforced if often romanticized friendships between wild dolphins and humans. Many of the accounts here, however, are firsthand, including interviews with nearly everyone who has been closely involved with dolphins, from John Lilly to Richard O'Barry, whose Dolphin Project is to receive a portion of the profits from the book.

Inevitably, the story of dolphins and humanity leads to the numerous ways in which dolphins suffer from our activities. Whether investigating the military abuse of these harmless creatures or describing the horrors of drift-nets, the authors treat the issues with a minimum of rhetoric and sensationalism. Indeed, they demonstrate an unusual reluctance to place indiscriminate blame or to indulge in gory details.

Readers who have studied the plight of marine mammals will find little new here. While the book mentions various conservation efforts, they are considered in context and with recognition of their limited effect. Nor is the book an argument for a New Age human/dolphin spiritual reunion. It is remarkable more for its well-balanced ethical and historical perspective, achieved through the careful compilation of exhaustive research.

—Cathy Young Czapla

The Newfoundland Pony, by Andrew F. Fraser. Creative Publishers (St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada), 1992. 213 pages. \$14.95.

The Newfoundland pony is on the cusp of extinction, no match for progress in the form of tractors and snowmobiles. Numbers of Newfoundland ponies have dwindled from more than 10,000 in 1976 to barely 400, as the greater part of its population has been sacrificed to the insatiable Moloch of the slaughter trade—in particular, to the killing plants of Quebec, which supply the French appetite for horseflesh. Newfoundland ponies are in fact now rarer than their earliest progenitors, the Przewalskis of Asia, which were the last truly wild horses.

The Anglo-Celt settlers of

Newfoundland brought their ponies with them from England, Scotland, and Ireland, crossing stock to reinforce enduring primitive characteristics. Back in the Old Country, their ancestral stock was refined for slenderness, higher tail sets, and narrower faces and jaws. Bred out was the deep-jawed dentition that enabled ponies to forage on coarse grasses and brush. The Newfoundland settlers, however, were interested in performance, not papers. They encouraged strength, longevity, and ability to live on scant forage, along with deep chests, close elbows, hairy fetlocks, and recessed eyes that protect the ponies against the worst the Atlantic north coast can deliver.

Without the primitive characteristics retained in the Newfoundland pony, Fraser demonstrates, the Newfoundland

society and economy could not have developed. This pony was the perfect answer to working the smallholdings of wood, field, beach, garden, and sea. Having worked with ponies all his life, Fraser is well-qualified to observe the fragile but rich interaction among man, land, and beast.

Illustrations offer the only glimpse we will have of one Newfoundland pony type now believed extinct. Plentiful 30 years ago, the pacing Galloway was known to cover distances of 25 miles or more with an ease that left some passengers unwilling to trust the pony's speed. The Galloway gait was unknown in other pony breeds.

Fraser and the members of the Newfoundland Pony Society have scoured the Avalon Peninsula and Newfoundland for stallions to carry on the pony tradition. A search of years has located one promising

stallion just weeks from castration. "The bulk of the remainder," reports Fraser, "are mares and geldings." A tiny few of these have been rescued from the slaughterhouse trucks. May their progeny survive to add many more years to their noble history.

—Sharon Cregier

Bunny Huggers' Gazette ad

OBITUARIES

Boonlerd Angsirijinda, Thai chief of wildlife law enforcement until his death in September 1992, is remembered in the spring 1993 issue of Friends of Animals' *ActionLine* for his "indomitable spirit and great reservoir of personal courage." Boonlerd suffered a fatal stroke while studying U.S. law enforcement methods in Washington D.C.—after surviving numerous attempts on his life by animal traffickers, many of whom he jailed despite weak wildlife laws and flagrant corruption under the former Thai military dictatorship. In 1991 Boonlerd obtained an international boycott of trade with Thailand under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which led to the 1992 closure of the notorious Bangkok animal market.

Ornithologist Humphrey Olsen is memorialized in the current edition of *Snowy Egret*, a literary magazine dedicated to "the cultural aspects of natural history," which he founded with his elder brother Richard in 1922, under the title *Bird World*, and edited until 1987, when he transferred the publication to current editor Karl Barnebey. Born in 1909, Olsen died December 31, 1991. Only 13 when *Snowy Egret* commenced, Olsen was already a fluent writer and astute amateur naturalist. Early editions of *Snowy Egret* accurately noted the loss of native birds from the midwest, including interviews with men who remembered the squab hunts and captive bird shoots that exterminated the passenger pigeon. After a seven-year hiatus brought on by World War II and family duties, *Snowy Egret* helped to discover and give voice to the generation of nature writers who in turn helped to create the contemporary environmental and animal

protection movements. Circulation never rose above a few hundred, perhaps due to Olsen's low-key style, which included hand-mimeographing every issue because he believed this was the most ecological means of publishing. Olsen also made a lifelong habit of dropping everything to watch birds, and spent years compiling an unpublished biography of pioneer ornithologist Alexander Wilson, a longtime rival of John J. Aububon whom Olsen considered unfairly treated by historians. Despite the low circulation and Olsen's myriad other interests, Edward Abbey and Barry Commoner were just two of many now well-known environmentalists to whom *Snowy Egret* provided vital early exposure. Others Olsen encouraged include **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton and reviewers Cathy Young Czapla and P.J. Kemp (who served as staff artist 1976-1985). Under Barnebey, *Snowy Egret* switched to offset printing and has become a distinguished vehicle for graphic artists, as well as continuing Olsen's literary tradition. Subscriptions are \$12/year (2 issues), c/o Barnebey, English Dept., Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.

Humphrey A. Olsen, wood engraving by David H. Erickson, from Snowy Egret vol. 55, #1.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Logo

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Did you know that during the decade prior to 1990, between 7% and 7.4% of all captive dolphins died every year in North America, and that these were the good years?

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from the wild to replace those who died had only a 53% chance of surviving their first year in captivity?

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