

Neuter/release proves cost-effective

City fixing to fix feral cats

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SAN JOSE, California—"Are you feeding stray cats?" the fliers ask. "The City of San Jose will give you FREE spay/neuter vouchers to alter either your own cats or the strays you are feeding. Simply take the voucher with the cat to a participating veterinarian. Your owned or stray cat will be altered for free."

Initially printed and distributed in December by the San Jose-based National Pet Alliance, the fliers drew the attention of reporter Linda Goldston, who amplified word of the free neutering offer in the February 21 edition of the *San Jose Mercury-News*. More than 1,000 vouchers were distributed during the next three weeks, while voucher redemptions shot up from 575 during the first two months of the program to 1,032 by March 13. The vouchers were used to neuter 631 female cats and 401 toms.

"At least half of the cats were strays, according to the questionnaires attached to the vouchers in the last month," NPA board member Karen Johnson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Almost a third of respondents claim to be feeding stray cats in their neighborhood. Not everyone fills out the questionnaire. There is still some suspicion about getting something free, and those who are feeding multiple cats are understandably nervous, since there is a two-cat limit in San Jose and the program is run out of the dog licensing office," which enforces the pet limit.

—*Kim Bartlett*

Johnson's goal is to emulate the success of the San Diego-

POB 205, SHUSHAN, NY 12873
[ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.]

based Feral Cat Coalition in lowering the local euthanasia rate by fixing feral cats. City of San Jose animal control records indicate, as the neutering program announcement explains, that "More than 37% of the cats euthanized at the shelter are either wild, or their unweaned offspring." And the numbers could go up, for while NPA survey data indicates 86% of the owned cats in the San Jose area have already been neutered, about 10% of the households also feed unowned cats—an average of 3.4 cats apiece, of whom 97% have

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

LEMSIP'S LAST STAND

MOOR-JANKOWSKI FIGHTS FOR CHIMPS

STERLING FOREST, New York—One would think New York University wouldn't want to fight with Jan Moor-Jankowski. As a youth, he fought the Nazis in occupied Poland. As a researcher, he's battled disease for 30 years at his Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP), widely considered the world's most advanced in primate care—and the most accessible to people who care about primates. As a humanitarian, he was among the first researchers to adopt the principles of "reduction, refinement, and replacement" as his laboratory policy toward animals. As editor of the prestigious *International Journal of Primatology*, Moor-Jankowski from 1983 until 1991 battled a libel suit filed by the Austrian pharmaceutical firm Immuno AG, in response to a letter-to-the-editor authored by Shirley McGreal of the International Primate Protection League. Paying expenses largely from his own pocket, Moor-Jankowski won landmark victories for press freedom in the Supreme Court and New York Court of Appeals.

Yet despite Moor-Jankowski's formidable reputation, NYU has moved to dismantle LEMSIP in apparent retaliation for his criticism of drug addiction experiments conducted by fellow NYU primate researcher Ronald Wood. Moor-Jankowski in turn has delayed his scheduled retirement for at least a year to fight for the lives of the 225 chimpanzees in LEMSIP custody.

Smouldering for months, the conflict erupted on August 16, 1994, when Moor-Jankowski resigned from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee that oversees Wood's work, in protest of what he terms "highly reprehensible" conduct that "must be stopped." Moor-Jankowski isn't allowed to discuss details, under IACUC rules of confidentiality, but according to the fall 1994 edition of the American SPCA magazine *Animal Watch*, "NYU sources claim Wood's studies involve extreme negligence and animal cruelty, and have prompted temporary suspension of Wood's experiments last spring, the resignation of former NYU head veterinarian Dr. Wendell Niemann, the firing of several people with direct knowledge of wrongdoing possibly because of their 'whistleblower' status, and two federal investigations."

Weeks later, Moor-Jankowski recalls, "I was shocked to learn that NYU intended to dispose of LEMSIP," which he founded in 1965 and had run under NYU aus-

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the animal rights
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SFSPCA opposes
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PUT ESA ON HOLD**

*STEINHART DOLPHINS
TO GET NEW HOME*

**Big heart, small town:
Adirondack
Save-A-Stray**

Harp seal pup. (Courtesy of the Animal Protection Institute.)

Sealer mob tries to lynch Watson

ILES-DE-LA-MADELEINE, Quebec--"It was easily the most life-threatening situation I've ever been in," said Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society soon afterward, his voice uncharacteristically shaky. In the Magdalen Islands on March 16 to offer out-of-work fishers hard cash for brushing the molting wool from baby harp seals instead of killing them, Watson was nearly lynched instead of thanked.

"We were waiting for German garment manufacturer Tobias Kirchoff, who has already offered to buy all the seal wool anyone can humanely harvest, to arrive from Germany to make his presentation," Watson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** from Monckton, New Brunswick, where he was flown by the

Quebec Provincial Police following the mob attack on his room at Auberge Madeli hotel. "The Sealers' Association meanwhile held a meeting and rejected seal-brushing because, 'Seals are meant for clubbing, not coddling. A man doesn't go around brushing a seal.' That's exactly what they said. The local radio station, CMFI, kept telling the sealers to come down to the hotel and tell us what they think, so all afternoon more and more of them came, and a lot of them were drinking while they waited for something to happen.

The Quebec Provincial Police assigned six officers to guard the Sea Shepherd contingent. When the violence began, after a three-to-four-hour siege, Watson and two policemen were in one room while actor Martin

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Editorial

Remembering the aim

"Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it," George Santyana observed of would-be world-changers circa 1905. "Fanaticism," he added, "consists in redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim."

He was half right. As sociologist Bill Moyer illustrates, reform movements follow a certain cyclical course, willy-nilly. The three great movements for animals have each closely followed Moyer's Movement Action Plan trajectory, beginning in the U.S. just after the Civil War, when the humanitarian focus shifted from abolishing slavery. After Henry Bergh founded the American SPCA in 1869, the first U.S. humane group with an explicit mandate to defend animals, other animal-focused humane societies and antivivisection societies formed in every major city, until humane momentum shifted again, toward abolishing child labor, instituting orphanages, and introducing temperance.

Most of the animal issues that still concern us were put forward in the 19th century, though the times permitted few reforms. Renewed effort came post-World War II, when humane groups were relieved of the need to provide basic human services. Called the animal welfare movement, this second push roughly dates from Christine Stevens' formation of the Animal Welfare Institute in 1952 to the passage of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966. The epoch began with just one national animal advocacy group of note, the American Humane Association, but ended with a constellation, including the Humane Society of the U.S. (1954) and the National Catholic Humane Society (1959, now known as the International Society for Animal Rights). The animal welfare movement also brought the first groups formed explicitly to solve problems—notably the North Shore Animal League (1954), which introduced high-volume adoption marketing in lieu of euthanasia, and Friends of Animals (1957), responsible for popularizing neutering surgery.

The animal rights movement exploded out of a brief lull coinciding with the peak of the Vietnam War. During that lull the baby-boomers came of age, schooled in sympathy for animals by Walt Disney and the National Geographic Society and in protest tactics by the antiwar movement. As outlined at right, **failures of institutions** to prevent cruelty led to **ripening conditions** for protest. Early victories won through strategic alliances empowered further activism. The **movement takeoff** coincided with the early 1980s, as groups multiplied and showed increasing strength. By 1986 the movement entered the parallel phases of frustrated feelings of **powerlessness** and **transition**, the process by which groups either permanently exclude themselves from assuming power through what Moyer calls "negative rebel behavior," or mature into effective change-making through civic leadership. These phases can be mutually destructive. Feelings of powerlessness come when goals of protest are accepted by the public but denied by the powerholders—as when poll after poll in the late 1980s showed most Americans including farmers and hunters agreed that animals should have basic rights, even as the USDA continued to exclude rats, mice, and birds from the Animal Welfare Act definition of "animal," and therefore from even minimal protection. Tactics of the powerless typically include recourse to violence, antagonizing powerholders (and majority public opinion), just as transitional leaders—who may be charged with "selling out"—manage to make their case that the argument for reform has moral force.

Familiar with Moyer's MAP, Kim Bartlett, now publisher of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and Priscilla Feral, president of Friends of Animals, in September 1989 arranged

aside further confrontation and take a place at the bargaining table, opposite the biomedical research establishment, with the NIH as broker for negotiation of a new deal for laboratory animals based upon the principles of the December 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act. The price would have been helping NIH save face with its uneasy scientific constituency. NIH could take praise for making the system work, albeit under duress; it could not afford appearing to have capitulated to a group that declared the Taub and Gennarelli cases were just the prelude to closing all laboratories. By attacking the NIH itself, instead of seizing the moment to cut a mutually advantageous deal, PETA in effect alienated the umpire, perhaps permanently excluding itself and the animal rights movement from the opportunity to make negotiated gains. Precious little has been achieved on the biomedical research front in the decade since.

Likewise, *after* Henry Spira through a five-year campaign persuaded Procter & Gamble to phase out animal testing, and to spend nearly \$3 million a year in an ongoing push to find alternatives, PETA, In Defense of Animals, and HSUS initiated boycotts, still in effect, seeking to force cessation of *all* animal testing, *now*. Former P&G president John Smale responded by proposing a \$17 million campaign to discredit the animal rights movement. Cooler heads within P&G leaked the proposal to Spira and the editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, after which it was dropped, but the gist of it was later implemented by another longtime target of animal rights hostility, U.S. Surgical Corporation.

Subsequent egregious examples of snatching defeat from victory include the 1990 March for the Animals in Washington D.C.; the decade-long campaign to challenge hunter harassment laws; and the push for pet breeding bans.

Moyer warned that as movements gain majority favor, marches and rallies begin turning off more potential supporters than they attract, while sapping resources from more productive work. The March drew 24,000 people, a third as many as the organizers predicted, making the cause look small. It drew minimal publicity, on a slow news day. Yet it cost about \$7.2 million, more than the budget at the time of any animal rights group.

Moyer also warned against negatively directed tactics. The hunter harassment campaign challenged hunters to organize in response to animal rights protest, rather than seriously trying to persuade anyone not to hunt; and the objective, even if won, could only be measured by the non-existence of hunter harassment laws, which at the outset of the campaign already didn't exist in 44 states. They now exist in every state but Hawaii.

The push for pet breeding bans, meanwhile, violated both the first and second rules of successful politics: never make enemies needlessly, and never make a foe of a friend. Founded on the erroneous contention that animal shelter euthanasias were up, when they were down almost everywhere, it negated a dramatic positive achievement. It also targeted a group, pet fancy-breeders, who were not only not significantly contributing to pet overpopulation, but also had long actively fought pet overpopulation through parallel support of breed rescue groups, low-cost neutering clinics, and humane societies. The breeding ban campaigns had some positive effects, as many fanciers and registries increased their efforts against pet overpopulation. Pro-breeding ban groups including HSUS, PETA, and the Fund for Animals, however, still pay a high price for intemperate rhetoric. Most notably, they passed the role of leadership on pet issues to NSAL, the San Francisco

for Moyer to explain to more than 60 animal rights movement leaders how to make the essential transitions successfully, upholding principle while avoiding self-limiting and self-defeating fanaticism, which could and would stoke an inevitable backlash.

As Douglas Helvarg put it in *The War Against The Greens*, his recently published history of the so-called wise-use movement, "Power concedes nothing without a demand." The demand begins as a plea for moderation from powerholders who feel driven to change faster and more radically than they want to—even though they may acknowledge the need. Typically, movement leaders, scenting blood, press in for the kill, forgetting the political maxim that winners are wise enough not to create humiliated and disenfranchised losers. The long PETA campaign against the National Institutes of Health provides a pivotal example. Between October 1981 and July 1985, PETA shut down the laboratories of prominent primate researchers Edward Taub and Thomas Gennarelli, through a combination of legal actions and public protest. Clout proven, PETA was in position, as signaled by NIH hints of willingness to give the monkeys taken from Taub to a PETA-approved sanctuary, to set

SPCA, and one group begun to fight breeding bans, the National Pet Alliance, now distinguished for doing much long overdue demographic research on the dog-and-cat surplus. This passage is in keeping with the maturation of the animal rights cause, but also marks an abdication of moral authority by the core of the movement. Yielding moral authority on pets is especially damaging to the cause, since pets are the chief source of direct human interaction with animals, and empathy for a pet is most often where empathy for all animals begins. Groups whose positions on pets lack appeal and credibility aren't likely to draw the support they might on other issues, where they may speak with more authority.

Significantly, neither NSAL, the SFSPCA, nor NPA has ever even pretended to be an animal rights group. They just work to help animals, independent of self-encumbering ideology; and that, not strident rhetoric, is what plays in Peoria.

The future of the movement

The animal rights movement is now old, but still has momentum, which could be used, together with friction raised by the newly empowered wise use movement, to win the reduction of meat to condiment status, if it is eaten at all; the abandonment of sport hunting; the end of the fur trade; more popular and effective means of protecting wildlife habitat; and perhaps much else. We are at the outset of a new growth phase for pro-animal activism, *if* leadership can leave the rhetorical shell of past growth phases, making use of new understanding. Politicized polemic is obsolete; animal concerns are both backed and opposed from both right and left. Nor have animal people anything to gain by mass alignment under one banner with any other cause. Limited alliances with environmentalists and conservationists are often productive, yet cruelty in the name of ecological goals equally often warrants opposition—and some such goals, especially of so-called hunter/conservationists, are actually anti-ecological, despite general acceptance by the eco-establishment. Concern over human population growth, a rising cause related to environmentalism, likewise has some application to reforming animal agriculture, preserving habitat and protecting species, but when coupled with "rat-is-a-pig-is-a-dog-is-a-boy" rhetoric, easily comes across as mere misanthropy, to the detriment of both causes.

And then there is the abortion issue, where the rights-based posture of a Carol Adams, a distinguished anti-meat crusader, directly opposes the ethical teachings of many of our great religions—including strong factions within each religion which are equally anti-meat and equally respectful of animal life.

Certainly concerned animal people can and should advance the other causes they feel to be just; but as citizens, not as animal people per se. The very strength of this cause is the degree to which it cuts across all other social divisions.

Avoiding misanthropy is paramount, as individuals and as a cause. "Love your enemy," Jesus said, because others have good reason to mistrust those who hate them. We must earn the trust of those we would teach by convincing them that we care about people, too. If dog and boy are equal in their capacity to feel pain, it is as senseless to rhetorically bludgeon the boy to teach him kindness as it is to beat the dog to teach him not to bite.

Finally, if animal advocates are to maintain moral standing, it is essential to maintain high moral standards, not to be confused with neurotic obsession. A society still unaware that eating fish and chicken involves even more cruelty and ecological harm than eating red meat certainly doesn't care much, if at all, that one activist is a vegan while another is "only" vegetarian. Most people do care, however, if they find out their tears for animals have been jerked by lies; if they find out their donations to help animals have been spent mainly on further fundraising; and if they discover charity heads are paying themselves six-figure salaries. Compromise was never among the seven deadly sins, but six of them equate with venality, and can be the undoing of both leaders and movements.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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ANIMAL PEOPLE does not publish fiction or poetry.

Movement Action Plan Trajectory of animal rights movement

Normal Times

Lull from Animal Welfare Act (1966) to end of Vietnam War.

Failure of Institutions

Shown by film *Bless The Beasts And The Children* (1971), book *Man Kind?* (1974) by Cleveland Amory; book *Animal Liberation* (1974) by Peter Singer.

Ripening Conditions

Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972); Endangered Species Act (1973); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (1973). First publicly funded low-cost neutering clinic (1973). Debuts of United Action for Animals (1972); Fund for Animals (1972); Mobilization for Animals (1976); PETA (1980); *Animals' Agenda* (1981); Trans-Species Unlimited (1981); In Defense of Animals (1982).

Movement Take-Off

Henry Spira forces American Museum of Natural History to halt cat experiments (1976); first U.S. Animal Liberation Front action (1979); Paul Watson sinks pirate whaler *Sierra* (1979); Revlon agrees to quit animal testing (1980); Researcher Edward Taub prosecuted (1981); ALF removes videotapes from University of Pennsylvania head injury lab, leading to closure (1984); Canada halts offshore hunt for baby harp seals (1984); Procter & Gamble agrees to phase out animal testing

Letters

Distortion

Your headline "FARM campaign backfires" does great injustice to a highly successful campaign and represents a gross distortion of the facts. Over the past six months, Farm Animal Reform Movement activists have placed nearly 250 letters in 100 of the nation's largest newspapers. The letters denounced various aspects of animal agriculture and advocated a non-violent, wholesome plant-based diet. Your story reports the problem that one of the 100 editors had with our letter placement practices, after publishing two of our letters. That is hardly a sign that "FARM campaign backfires."

We don't expect any special consideration in your reports of our actions, but a little journalistic objectivity and fairness would do nicely.

—Alex Hershafft, President
Farm Animal Reform Movement
Bethesda, Maryland

Objectivity and fairness dictate pointing out that Hershafft and FARM distributed many of their letters using bogus names and addresses; were editorially exposed by the Akron Beacon-Journal; and were then further exposed by Editor and Publisher, the leading trade journal in the news business. In consequence, not only Hershafft but everyone writing letters on behalf of animals and vegetarians will face closer scrutiny before getting letters published in hundreds of papers, for some time to come.

Friends of Animals

Will tap states

Contrary to your report in the March "Watchdog," Elect! For Animals was not "set up by the Doris Day Animal League and Humane Society of the U.S." Elect! For Animals was established by individuals acting on a strictly voluntary basis, working entirely on our own time, having no affiliation to any organization. Obviously then, we do not begin with "ample budgets for relentless direct mail" campaigns (*to siphon funds away from state-based political advocacy groups, as Eileen Liska of HEALPAC charged*). All money thus far raised has been by contacting friends, family, and individuals committed to animal protection, with whom we on the Board of Directors have come into contact, in addition to reaching into our own pockets. If our aim is to ensure that candidates are elected nationwide who will best protect animals, then such efforts know no state boundaries and all potential funding sources should be tapped.

—Adam M. Roberts, Treasurer
Elect! For Animals
Washington, D.C.

The directors of Elect! For Animals include president Sara Amundson, of DDAL; vice president Bill Long, of HSUS; Roberts; DDAL executive director Holly Hazard; Valerie Stanley of the Animal Legal Defense Fund; Brigid Dunne of the Fund for Animals; and Debbie Wiener of HSUS.

The only holders of political office elected by a national constituency are the President and Vice President.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

*thanks you for your
generous support:*

Honoring the parable of the widow's mite, we do not list our donors by how much they give—but we do appreciate generous gifts that help us do more.

Dorothy Bauer,
Ruth Beebe,
Chris & Mary Byrne,
Chris Delevoryas,
Rae Domingues,
James Fersch,
Elena Flanagan,
Friends of Animals,
Jayne Gordon,
Humane Society of Charlotte,
Colleen Hustead,
Charles Lablanc,
Sandra Miller,
Mrs. John Mitchell,
New York Community Trust,
G.F. Paskusz,
Kathleen Spain,
Judith Traite,
Irving Yablon.

(1986); nine states ban pound seizure (1981-1989).

Powerlessness

ALF arson at Davis, Calif. (1986); fur sales peak (1987); shelter euthanasia peaks (1987); ALF raids peak (1987-1988); "breeding ban" campaigns begin (1990); 49 states and Congress pass hunter harassment laws (1986-1994); March for the Animals (1990).

Transition

Priscilla Feral takes helm at Friends of Animals (1986); PETA drops affiliates (1986); PETA and Fund take over New England Anti-Vivisection Society (1988); San Francisco SPCA gives up pound contract (1989); North Shore Animal League extends market approach to pet surplus (1990-present); TSU becomes Animal Rights Mobilization (1991); Merritt Clifton, Kim Bartlett depart *Animals' Agenda*, form **ANIMAL PEOPLE** (1992).

Public Success

Fur sales in free fall; shelter euthanasias fall by two-thirds; number of hunters falls by one third; lab use of animals falling.

Backlash

U.S. Surgical agents set up bombing of own parking lot (1988); grand jury probes ALF (1989-present); formation of anti-animal rights groups, e.g. Putting People First (1989) and Americans for Medical Progress (1992); John Kullberg ousted at ASPCA (1991); rise of Wise Use movement.

Continuing Struggle

More attention to pets, farm animals, marine mammals, endangered predators, vegetarianism, link of violence to animals with violence to people.

Friends of Animals

Letters

Veggie dogs

I became a vegetarian because of animal rights and later learned of the health benefits of being a vegetarian. I wanted those benefits for my two dogs, Blacki and Sheba, so in 1989 I began feeding them a vegetarian diet. In 1991 I adopted Tyler and started him on a vegetarian diet too. All three—mongrels, of completely different backgrounds—did extremely well as vegetarians. They were healthy, energetic, with wonderful coats. However, in 1991 Blacki died of heart failure, believed to be but not properly diagnosed as dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). In 1994 Tyler was diagnosed with DCM, and six months later he died, along with a part of me. Before Tyler died I called my vegetarian dog food supplier to check on the potassium and salt content of the diet. He told me Tyler probably wouldn't have lived as long as he did if he hadn't been on the vegetarian diet. I was surprised to learn that he was aware of taurine and carnitine deficiencies in the diet, which have been known to cause DCM in dogs. He also told me that employees of an animal rights group that advocates a vegetarian diet for companion animals give their dogs carnitine supplements. How could these people suspect this and not even tell the owners of vegetarian dogs? After learning this, I suspected my other two dogs might also have DCM, although they showed no clinical signs. In December my fear was confirmed: I not only caused Tyler's death and possibly Blacki's, but also caused Sheba and my newest dog, Molli, to develop DCM by placing them on a vegetarian diet. The disease may have progressed too far to be reversed. My veterinarian placed them on taurine supplements and changed their diets. Molli is now fine. Sheba has improved, but she's not out of the woods yet. I urge everyone who has a vegetarian dog to get an ultrasound. Don't rely on clinical signs or X-rays and EKGs alone to detect this condition.

—Laura Williams
Milan, Illinois

Incredible

It seems incredible, but the animal rights issues of the past two decades are coming back. At a recent protest, a fur dealer was talking of humane traps. There is no such thing, as has been proven by millions of dollars spent in futile efforts to develop one. Both young protesters and the furrier are probably unaware of the years and money that have gone into this boondoggle.

The final insult was Romeo LeBlanc, whose house we picketed when he promoted seal hunting in the 1970s and 1980s. Now he is Governor General of Canada, and Newfoundlanders are

Big cats

Nine out of 10 readers of mainstream newspaper features about wildcats take in sensational headlines and snarling cat photos, developing irrational fear of these timid creatures, which have more common sense than most humans. Way back when, about my fifth grade elementary year, a classmate died a horrible death by being disemboweled by a wildcat. It didn't cause much fuss among the country people there because it was known the kid had climbed a pine tree, stupidly thinking he could carry down what he thought was a youngster.

Many a night, my wife May and I have laid in a canvas tent and *enjoyed* the occasional, dramatic screams of the wild cougar. All but one sighting was the backside of a silent, departing cat. The only time I was frightened was an accident for both me and the cat. We were traveling down a narrow mountain back road on a motorcycle. To our left was sheer granite; to the right, a near-vertical drop. When I came around a curve and saw the cat, calmly traveling up the unused road, it was a dilemma. No turn-around; doubt about the wisdom of stopping. On instinct, not knowledge at that time, I stood up and throttled the engine as I coasted slowly toward it. The cat went over the edge. We stopped and saw that the sharp drop was actually a very steep incline of earth, not rock, and the agile cat had slid on her rear, 500 feet down to safety, uninjured.

Once in Arizona, we chanced on a large wildcat—beautiful, with the classic tufted ears. He was little more than a yard away, and had been sleeping in the sun. We stood very still and took in every detail of this handsome creature, not even reaching for our camera. He was as still, watching us. Arriving at a conclusion, and to show his disdain, he slowly arose, stretched, yawned, and retreated with unhurried dignity.

We've also met bears, in Montana, Alaska, and Idaho, and they always retreated—but slowly enough to let you know they recognize no threat. This behavior makes the hunter who pulls the trigger for sport one

—Kim Bartlett

Tough territory

It's about time I wrote to thank you for your newspaper. I know the hard work that goes into it, and I commend you for all your endeavors on behalf of all animals.

I came home to Missouri in 1991, having grown up in Kansas City, to retire, after collapsing in California from overwork, and living in poorly ventilated barns and warehouses with many, many animals. But I am working harder than ever, considering my age and state of health. The day I moved in, I found about 18 emaciated feral cats in the vicinity of my

again being encouraged to kill seals. The CBC now promotes CODCO, which I believe is the group formed to push pro-sealing "entertainment" in Toronto. Ridiculing Brigitte Bardot and Greenpeace is alienating many of their faithful listeners.

Elmer Buchanan, who got headlines proclaiming that he was going to ban the Draize test and all animal testing of cosmetics, hasn't even submitted the bill to the Ontario Parliament, after two years of keeping us busy giving him publicity. This is the same as when the No Pound Seizure bill was to go through. We had assembled to thank our Member of the Provincial Parliament when he came out to tell us the clause had been withdrawn.

The local animal news is dog poisoning, hunting, trapping schools for children, and a seminar on predator poisoning.

For about the 40th year, we appealed to the city of Toronto to introduce a municipally operated neutering clinic, and ended up with yet another gimmick: put ID chips in animals' ears, so the humane societies can continue to impound-and-kill.

Do you wonder that we get discouraged? But the wolves are back in Yellowstone, and I'm still collecting signatures on petitions to ban vivisection, an effort started about a century ago by several brave American women going up and down the streets with a banner on a horsedrawn wagon.

—Helen Rainnie
Marmora, Ontario

That's per month

In my letter "Service dogs are not pets," published in your March issue, I mentioned the "more than 1,300 calls and letters the Delta Society handles each year." That was a typo; we handle more than 1,300 calls and letters each month.

—Linda Hines
The Delta Society
Renton, Washington

Corrections

In our March feature "Moral relativism and Marine World," we attributed to Jim Bonde of Marine World Africa USA the claim that in more than 20 years of keeping dolphins and orcas, the facility has never had a death. Bonde called to clarify. "We have had some cetaceans die," he said, "but we have not had any deaths since we moved to Vallejo 10 years ago, and we haven't lost any animals that we took from the wild."

On page 20 of our March edition, we referred to the California humane group Mercy Crusade as having been "founded circa 1957." According to Edward Newman of the California Humane Council, "Mercy Crusade was not founded circa 1957, but even earlier. It was taken over by Mrs. Betty Cardoni in 1957, who organized and operated it until her recent death."

A letter by Steve Hindi of CHARC in our January edition referred to Gerry Vella as president of the Kalamazoo Animal Liberation Front; he's actually president of the Kalamazoo Animal Liberation League.

old barn, yard, and house.

I never gave a thought to Missouri when I lived in California, so I had no idea I would be so badly needed here. I call this place "Orphans of the Storm," and I must limit how many, as I don't have the room I had when I was young, beautiful, and healthy (ha ha). I run ads in the local paper, and I never ever use the word "free," but these Ozark folks are, well, thrifty, or shall I just say most of them are tightwads. I didn't need the one yard sale I had to find that out. Wow! But I am about all the animals around here have. There are several big dogs who are wildish or who won't let me touch them. Many just stop for food and fresh water. Many come through on cold nights, and my heart aches for them.

—Virginia Gillas
Hermitage, Missouri

Finding money

Hello, folks. We've been getting **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in the mail. I've just taken on the job of town manager, inheriting a very primitive situation. We're in an extremely poor county, Appalachia of the west, with an 80% Hispanic population. The town has a barbaric (non)system of dog control we must fix. We're asking K-Mart and Safeway, 50 miles away, to donate broken bags of dog food; are making arrangements with a veterinarian 40 miles away for rabies shots; approaching Bob Barker's DJ&T Foundation (thanks to your newspaper) for help in setting up a free neutering clinic if possible. We have zero budget. Our maintenance man will double as dogcatcher. We desperately need pens, fences, and the other things that go into having a proper holding facility. We must pay one salary. Do you have benefactors able to act quickly to prevent cruelty? Do you have sources for grants? How can we get help as soon as possible? We so appreciate your newspaper.

—Nicole V. Langley
San Luis, Colorado

We've compiled a list of foundations that fund animal protection projects. To receive it, send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope; or send your e-mail address to ANMLPEOPLE@aol.com.

SFSPCA

Thank you for telling us about Richard Avanzino; he gives us hope. I've been trying to get the Massachusetts SPCA to copy the SFSPCA's programs, but to no avail. Last year I filed legislation asking for a small percent of the state tax on the sale of pet food and pet products to subsidize a statewide low-cost spaying program. The MSPCA did not support this bill because according to president Gus Thornton, their "Spay/neuter assistance program is an overwhelming success and so the diversion of taxes to establish this program is unneeded." Without their support, the bill died in committee.

Also, although you listed MSPCA vice president Carter Luke's salary as \$61,719, it is actually (as of 1993), \$75,772. In a July 1994 letter to the editor, Luke wrote that he "was the one who dreamed up the Year of the Cat campaign," and said that since they didn't have meetings and buy glitzy things in connection with it, "we were forced to spend our money helping cats." How? Free spaying was not offered, which would have helped the most. And when the MSPCA celebrated their 125th anniversary, along with celebrating the Year of the Cat, their logo depicted a dog.

—Dorothy Checchi-O'Brien
Plymouth, Massachusetts

sleazy, depraved, brain-corrupted @#%.

—Bill Robinson
Bandon, Oregon

Congrats

Congratulations to the San Francisco SPCA for its revolutionary no-kill animal control, and to you for your fantastic job of reporting the news. Here's hoping all pounds and shelters will use the SFSPCA as an example.

—Marilyn June Barkhofer
Pueblo, Colorado

Frank Zigrang ad--
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Against mandatory cat licensing

by Richard Avanzino and Pamela Rockwell

Can licensing wipe out homelessness, raise the status of the underprivileged, eliminate the budget crisis, and make people more caring and responsible? Few would believe these claims, if made about a program to license people. Yet, when it comes to cats, we are asked to believe all these claims are true: according to proponents, mandatory cat licensing will put an end to the problem of stray and abandoned cats, raise the status of felines, increase funding for budget-strapped animal control agencies, and make cat owners more responsible. Unfortunately, licensing cats, like licensing people, won't do any of these things.

The San Francisco SPCA has considered the various claims made for mandatory cat licensing, and has found neither evidence nor common sense to support them. In our view, the primary effects of mandatory cat licensing would be to:

- Put the lives and well-being of cats at risk, and rationalize round-up-and-kill campaigns;
- Penalize responsible cat owners, and force many compassionate caretakers to stop providing for homeless cats;
- Cost taxpayers money; and
- Inappropriately expand the power of government.

Indeed the most vocal proponents of cat licensing have been animal control agencies and humane organizations that hold contracts to do animal control—the very agencies and organizations that stand to gain the most in terms of more staff, larger budgets, and expanded enforcement power. Since none of this expanded power will help either cats, their caretakers, or taxpayers, we cannot escape the conclusion that the call for cat licensing has more to do with

the most to help cats, will force many to stop caring for these animals, or at least force them to care for fewer cats, with the net result being more cats left to fend for themselves and fewer people to help them.

Responding to these concerns, some cat licensing proponents have said that enforcement won't be stressed, or will only be "complaint driven." In our view, passing laws that aren't enforced or are enforced sporadically is just as unfair and counterproductive: few people are likely to comply with a cat licensing mandate that isn't enforced. In Los Angeles, for instance, compliance rates of less than 1% were reported, despite a canvassing program. And people who voluntarily comply can probably be counted among the *most* responsible—and affluent—pet owners. We see neither equity nor sense in enacting a law that only penalizes through taxation the very people whose behavior is already exemplary.

Needless to say, truly irresponsible cat owners won't be affected. If the law isn't enforced, they are free to ignore it. If it is enforced against them, they are likely to surrender or abandon their animals, which will only add to the number of cats killed.

Claim: Cat licensing will help raise the status of cats.

In our view, this claim is on a par with suggesting that licensing poor people or the homeless will help raise their status. Of course cat licensing proponents aren't making a comparison to people, but to dogs: if cats are licensed like dogs, they say, cats will enjoy the same "status" as dogs. Unfortunately, dog licensing didn't confer any beneficial "status" on canines: it was and is a tool for protecting livestock, enforce-

Proponents tend to ignore such evidence like this, instead pointing out that dogs, who have been subject to licensing for years, enjoy higher redemption rates than cats. But dogs differ from cats in many ways, and there is no reason to think licensing is the factor that results in the higher redemption rate for dogs. Indeed, 63% of the stray dogs at the San Francisco Animal Care and Control Department shelter were redeemed by their owners during the 1993-1994 fiscal year, even though just 4% of the dogs impounded were licensed.

Clearly, factors other than licensing are responsible for the high dog redemption rate.

Claim: Cat licensing will help decrease shelter euthanasia.

Since cat licensing will likely result in more cats being abandoned and/or surrendered to shelters, since it will not appreciably affect redemptions, and since it may very well become an impetus to round-up-and-kill campaigns, it is difficult for us to see how it would result in a decrease in shelter euthanasias.

Claim: Cat licensing will raise money for animal control.

Cat licensing will *cost* local governments and taxpayers money, not raise it, resulting in a net loss to animal control and/or other vital government services. Indeed, proposals to set a license fee at from \$5.00 to \$10.00 probably couldn't even cover basic administrative expenses. Dog licensing has been a net loser in many communities at these fee levels; indeed, it was a net loser for the American SPCA in New York City

—K.B.

zations who dispute our analysis and offer projections to show that cat licensing will make money for animal control service in their communities. We believe these agencies should be willing to stand behind their projections by having their direct subsidies cut by the amount they expect cat licensing to raise. Without this or a similar mechanism for accountability, we fear cat licensing will become yet another expensive government program that only works to inappropriately expand bureaucracy at the expense of taxpayers, responsible cat caretakers, and the animals themselves.

Claim: Regulating cat owners through licensing and other mandates is the only way to solve cat problems.

In our view, the way to teach people to be responsible pet owners and help the cats in a community is through voluntary incentive-based measures that enable people to do the right thing. Government mandates that seek to blame and punish pet owners are likely to be costly and counterproductive. Moreover, it seems to us grossly unfair to

entrenching bureaucracy than with compassion, saving lives, and providing a helping hand to those who care.

Claim: licensing will make cat owners more responsible.

Caring can't be mandated, and a licensing mandate will only punish those who care. Millions of compassionate people provide abandoned cats with food, love, and shelter in their own homes. Others put aside their own needs in order to care for a beloved pet or make sure a shy and reclusive neighborhood cat has daily sustenance and medical attention. Still others work tirelessly to feed, foster, and rehabilitate feral cats and kittens, all at their personal expense. Mandatory cat licensing will exact a heavy toll from every one of these caregivers. They will either have to pay the license fees—in essence, a “cat tax” on each of the cats they care for—or face citations, fines, penalties, and possible confiscation of the animals they love. These new burdens, imposed on the very people who are doing

ing rabies laws, and ridding the public of other threats posed by unowned, free-roaming dogs. Indeed, since 1933 California dog licensing laws have explicitly authorized the impoundment and killing of millions of unlicensed dogs, just for being unlicensed.

This is the precedent to which cat licensing proponents appeal when they claim that licensing will raise the “status” of cats. We doubt that cats would choose such a status for themselves. They might prefer to retain the unlicensed status they now share with humans. Dogs might want to join them.

Claim: Cat licensing will result in more cat redemptions.

Unfortunately, the evidence suggests that cat redemptions are as likely, if not more likely, to decline once voluntary cat identification is replaced with coerced licensing. In Los Angeles County, for instance, the number of stray cats redeemed by their owners was reportedly down 32% after implementation of mandatory licensing.

even at a higher fee structure. There is no reason to believe cat licensing could be any more cost-efficient. High fee levels, meanwhile, discourage compliance—and enforcement via door-to-door canvassing is extremely expensive in terms of the personnel time that must be assigned to the task.

Claim: Dog owners help pay animal control costs; it's time cat owners paid their fair share.

As noted above, the usually higher licensing fees now paid by dog owners often cover little more than the basic costs of administering the licensing programs, if that much. From a fiscal standpoint, therefore, local governments and taxpayers, not to mention dog owners, might be better off if mandatory dog licensing were simply abolished. In any event, enacting another costly government program that won't pay for itself isn't the way to give dog owners equity.

No doubt there will be animal control agencies and contracting humane organi-

penalize the community at large through coercive mandates, when it is the local shelters who are the primary source of animals, and whose policies and practices have the greatest impact, for better or worse, on local animal welfare issues.

We realize that in some cases local shelter policies may have failed, and animal problems may be worsening in a community. In such cases, government intervention might be warranted, providing it is carefully focused to have the greatest impact. For instance, requiring shelters to alter animals before adoption and to devote a substantial proportion of their annual animal control and shelter budgets (e.g. 10-20%) to offering free neutering services would do far more to help cats and reduce pet overpopulation than cat licensing and other punitive mandates.

Pamela Rockwell is Ethical Studies Coordinator for the San Francisco SPCA; Richard Avanzino is president. This guest column is adapted from the official SFSPCA position paper on cat licensing.

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Neuter/release saves \$3 over two years for every dollar spent

(from page one)

not been neutered. In the rural district south of San Jose, including Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy, 17.8% of households feed an average of 5.25 unowned cats apiece, amounting to 62% of the known cat population. In all, unowned cats are 41% of the known cat population of the Santa Clara Valley, in which San Jose is the principal city.

"Handling these wild cats and kittens costs tax money," the neutering program fliers continue. "Altering one pair of stray cats now will save the cost of handling thousands of their offspring over the next 10 years."

Indeed, Johnson's cost/benefit analysis shows that neuter/release not only cuts the numbers of homeless cats faster than conventional trap-and-kill, but is also more cost-effective. Setting the cost of testing cats for common contagious diseases, vaccinating them against rabies, and neutering them at \$52 apiece, substantially more than the \$21.11 average cost per cat in the San Jose program (which covers only neutering), Johnson discovers savings of \$18 per cat over the cost of keeping a cat for the mandatory three days in a shelter prior to euthanasia.

Will pay for itself

"Looking at the figures from San Diego," she says, "one can readily see that for a cost of \$163,956, they have reduced the expenses at their shelter by at least 6,500 cats, or \$455,000 over a two-year timespan." Thus the San Jose program "will pay for itself through less shelter costs."

As Johnson recounts in the current edition of the *Cat Fanciers Association Almanac*, "The nonprofit Feral Cat Coalition has trapped, altered, and released in excess of 3,100 cats over the past two years. Prior to this project, the San Diego County Animal Management Information System reported an increase of roughly 10% per year in the number of cats handled by San Diego Animal Control shelters from 1988 to 1992. The increase peaked at 13% from fiscal year 1991 to fiscal year 1992, with a total of 19,077 cats handled. After just two years, with no other explanation for the drop, only 12,446 cats were handled—a drop of 35%. Instead of another 10% annual increase, euthanasias plunged 40% from 1991-1992 to 1993-1994. Clearly, the project to trap, alter, and release cats in San Diego County has had a dramatic

effect on the number of cats handled and euthanized at their shelters, which even historical or nationwide downward trends cannot explain."

Closer to home, Johnson and San Jose officials are impressed at the accomplishments of the Stanford Cat Network, formed in 1989 in response to a Stanford University plan to exterminate an estimated 500 feral cats living on campus. Among the first organizations to openly administrate a neuter/release program in the U.S., SCN picked up, socialized, and adopted out 60 kittens in its first year. "By 1994," Johnson reports, "only four kittens were found." The total Stanford cat population is down to 300.

The San Jose policy has also been influenced by the example of the San Francisco SPCA, which since giving up the city animal control contract in 1989 has promoted neutering so successfully, including neutering thousands of feral cats for free, that a year ago San Francisco became the first city in the U.S. to embrace a no-kill animal control policy. Under the Adoption Pact, more fully described in the March 1995 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the SFSPCA accepts and guarantees placement of all dogs and cats not placed by S.F. Animal Care and Control, including the aged and the recoverable sick and injured. Only the unrecoverable, the vicious, and animals requiring rabies testing are euthanized.

Precedent

But the San Jose program differs from those of San Diego, Stanford, and San Francisco, whose neuter/release activity has been wholly funded and managed under private auspices. Although other cities have funded no-questions-asked low-cost neutering, including Los Angeles city and county for more than 15 years, San Jose is the first major city in the U.S. to actively endorse and promote neuter/release as part of official animal control policy. The initial budget of \$100,000 came from a surplus in animal license division revenue. "There is expected to be another surplus for the next fiscal year," Johnson says, "so the program can be continued. At this point it is estimated at over \$60,000. There has been some discussion re vouchers for dogs and allocating a portion of the funding in that direction," Johnson adds. But it probably won't happen. "Costs

—Kim Bartlett

for dogs would run approximately \$40 each, so two cats could be done for each dog," she explains. In addition, records kept by Chris Arnold, executive director of the Humane Society of the Santa Clara Valley, show that only 5% of dogs received are puppies under four months of age, while kittens under four months of age account for over half of all incoming felines. "There is not a problem with too many puppies," Johnson concludes, "so the need for altering more dogs is not as urgent."

The San Jose initiative is apt to draw fire from the Humane Society of the U.S., People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and the Fund for Animals, which favor regulatory approaches to pet overpopulation; hold that outdoor life is inherently cruel to cats; hold that euthanasia is more humane than allowing unowned cats to remain outdoors; and are already aggressively critical of both private neuter/release programs and the Adoption Pact.

But San Jose isn't alone in its position, even in the Santa Clara Valley. The Palo Alto Humane Society is also actively encouraging neuter/release, likewise influenced by NPA and the SFSPCA. Providing free neutering to the needy for 15 years, PAHS recently formed CatWorks, to expand the service throughout the San Francisco Bay area. "We want to make sure people don't feel as if they're working alone," president Carole Hyde told Goldston, "and we want to provide a way to help those who would prefer to make donations" to a neuter/release program, rather than a humane society practicing trap-and-kill.

Other Bay area agencies practicing and/or assisting neuter/release include Animal Birth Control Assistance Inc., Companion Animal Rescue, the Nike Animal Resource Foundation, Friends of the Feral Cats, the Ohlone Humane Society, the Oakland SPCA, and the Santa Cruz SPCA.

[NPA memberships fund pet overpopulation research. Write to POB 53385, San Jose, CA 95153.]

California, Nevada humane enforcement under attack

SACRAMENTO, RENO—Humane societies in California and Nevada are battling state bills that could cripple humane enforcement. California AB 1571 would strip humane societies of all law enforcement authority. Nevada SB 45 would impose a “Livestock Owners’ Bill of Rights.”

Introduced by Assemblyman Louis Caldera of San Mateo, AB 1571 was “authored” by aide Dan Reeves at request of Pat Moran, lobbyist for the Police Officers Research Association—apparently, by the expedient of doing a computerized search of state laws and striking out every reference to “humane society” and “humane officer,” regardless of context.

According to Moran, the intent was to respond to “outlaws who are harassing people all over California.” He cited the examples of Barbara Fabricant of the Humane Task Force and James McCourt of Mercy Crusade, who were targets of recent exposes by Josh Meyer of the *Los Angeles Times*. Fabricant recently touched off a statewide furor for holding a blind man's dog for five months during a cruelty investigation. The charges were eventually dismissed. Fabricant has also by her own admission had difficulty controlling deputies, some of whom, she believes, applied to be deputized just to carry guns. She eventually barred her deputies from carrying guns, and called for legislation to take the right to carry guns away from all humane officers.

McCourt, meanwhile, is under continuing investigation for having bought \$100,000 worth of semi-automatic weapons last summer with Mercy Crusade funds.

Both Fabricant and McCourt, along with other California humane societies, derive limited police powers and ability to deputize from an antiquated statute that until January 1 of this year didn't even require humane officers to have law enforcement training. A 40-hour training requirement was adopted last year at the initiative of the State Humane Association of California; but training still isn't required for officers appointed

before 1977, or who live more than 100 miles from a training site.

Despite the deficiencies of the law, it remains the backbone of humane enforcement in the state. As California Animal Control Directors Association northern vice president Pat Miller pointed out in a March 14 letter to Caldera, “Although the majority of our 70 member agencies do not employ humane officers, we do work closely with humane societies and rely heavily on their officers to share the burden of animal protection and enforcement of animal-related laws. Without the services that humane officers perform, frequently at no cost to local government, municipal animal control agencies would require significant additional funding.” Loss of the ability to get warrants and make arrests would keep humane officers from pursuing cases except in company of regular police forces—who have other priorities.

Calling Moran, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found he didn't know the difference between a humane officer and an animal control officer; was unaware that municipal and county governments often rely on private humane societies to do animal-related enforcement; was unaware that there apparently isn't a case on record of a California humane officer ever injuring anyone with a firearm; and two weeks after AB 1571 was added to the legislative calendar, had yet to consult with humane representatives.

“We assume your failure to consult with related organizations and agencies that would be seriously impacted by this legislation was simply an unfortunate oversight,” Miller told Caldera.

“It will be amended,” Moran promised. Probable amendments, in his view, would restore some enforcement powers to humane officers working for agencies under public contract, exclusive of the right to carry a gun, and providing that mandatory training is increased to at least 100 hours.

Rick Johnson, president of SHAC, said Caldera's office was apologetic for the way in which AB 1571 was written and intro-

duced, and was agreeable to amendments “to quickly produce more acceptable wording, to address shared concerns about accountability and training.” One important concern is that any increased training requirement be phased in, to avoid abruptly disenfranchising humane officers.

The right to carry guns may become contentious—and could actually put some humane organizations on the same side as the National Rifle Association, which supports bills to allow all citizens to carry concealed weapons. Observes Madeline Bernstein, executive director of the Los Angeles SPCA, “We have a north/south split. Most humane officers in the northern part of the state don't carry guns and don't perceive a need to. Here, we're dealing more often with the druggies who have the pit bulls, and we do need guns.”

ACROSS THE SIERRAS

The Nevada bill, an overt “wise use” measure, declares that, “Except where otherwise prohibited or authorized by a specific statute or regulation,” a qualifier apparently meant to apply only to state laws, owners may raise livestock for human or animal consumption, or for “fur, hide, or other byproduct”; use “livestock for sporting events, entertainment, education, teaching, lecturing, scientific investigation, or public display”; sell the livestock “pursuant to any lawful commercial or private transaction”; “euthanize expeditiously or otherwise dispose of” livestock “as deemed necessary”; “maintain the reproductive system of any livestock in its natural or unaltered state”; and train livestock “for use in a show or an act for performing animals or for any other activity which benefits such a person.”

Livestock is defined to include all bovines, equines, swine, goats, domesticated birds, and “All dogs, cats or other animals domesticated or under the restraint or control of man.”

Superficially, the bill codifies current practice. But as Pete Bachstadt of the

Carson-Eagle Valley Humane Society points out, it actually goes a great deal farther.

“SB 45 will mandate the right for anyone to kill anything nonhuman in any manner, by any means, at any time,” says Bachstadt. “It could eliminate spay/neuter [encouraged or required by local ordinance, such as differential licensing] as a control of unwanted excess animals. Nevada could become the nation's capitol for charro rodeo; ritual and cult sacrifice; animal fighting; bear-baiting; coondogging; hog/dog contests; puppy mills; pigeon shoots; pulling contests; live lure training; aphrodisiac makers; and sex deviates of the kind who put

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Fur

Fur sales skidded—again—this past winter. “This was the single worst season since the 1930s,” said Robert Meltzer of Evans Inc. Sales at the 12 Evans stores fell by \$6.2 million during the third quarter of 1994. At the Danish Fur Sales auction of December 15, an industry barometer, the average mink pelt price fell from \$29.91 in 1993—the highest in years—to \$20.15. Yet clearance dropped to 78%. At the retail level, the average advertised price of a basic mink coat in the New York City area plunged to \$2,282 by Valentine’s Day, close to last winter’s all-time low in inflation-adjusted dollars of \$2,174.

Cruelty charges filed in August 1994 against chinchilla breeder Jose LaCalle of Freestone, California, were dropped on February 10 when LaCalle agreed to cease killing chinchillas by genital electrocution—at least within California—and announced he’d moved his firm, Bella Chinchilla International, “to an undisclosed country south of the U.S. border.” Filed by the Sonoma County Humane Society based on evidence obtained by PETA, the case was reportedly PETA’s fifth attempt to win a precedent-setting cruelty conviction against a chinchilla breeder, based on the American Veterinary Medical Association’s determination that genital electrocution is inhumane. So far, none of the cases have gone to trial. Chinchilla ranching has been a bit more profitable lately than mink and fox ranching. The average pelt price fell from \$31.08 in 1990 to \$26.61 in 1994, but profits rose because the price drop increased demand. Fur-trimmed cloth and leather garments are the only growth sector of the industry and furriers find that chinchilla trim brings a higher markup than mink, fox, or most trapped furs.

A sexual harassment suit filed by former Flemington Fur Co. employee Rosemary Phillips, of New Hope, Pennsylvania, made headlines March 1 around Newark, New Jersey, where the multi-store firm is based. Phillips alleged that from June 1991 through July 1994, Flemington Fur board chairman S. Rogers Benjamin and president Robert E. Benjamin ignored her complaints that her supervisor, Lawrence Hilzer, “rubbed against her, put his arms around her, and made lewd references to the female anatomy...discussed his sex life while at work and on several occasions used his middle finger to signal Mrs. Phillips to follow him,” as *Hunterdon County Democrat* reporter Christine Sokoloski summarized. Added Jean Brandes of the *Newark Star-Ledger*, “In another instance, Phillips contends that Hilzer told her she would be fired if she ever told anyone that the firm accepted a special order to make a jacket from dog pelts.” She further alleged that she was twice assaulted by another male employee, once in a fur vault and once in front of a customer. Hilzer is son of Joseph Hilzer, co-chair of the firm. Robert Benjamin in a prepared statement said, “We shall vigor-

Religion & Animals

The 83-member Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of Limestone County, Georgia, raised \$2,500 by hosting the February 18 Bigfoot Hollow Coonhunt. “It’s reaching the young people with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus,” said the Reverend Charles Hood, oblivious that Jesus never in any way endorsed killing for sport.

Losing popularity to the Catholic Church, the only major nongovernmental institution in Cuba, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro has reportedly encouraged a revival of Santeria, because, as *Newsweek* recently put it, “It has no institutions to rival the state.” However, livestock for Santerian sacrifice are in short supply.

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 16 ruled that contrary to previous teaching, Moslems may eat shark meat, which had been forbidden because sharks don’t have scales. Khamenei declared, contrary to biology, that they do. His predecessor, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini similarly lifted bans on eating sturgeon and caviar.

—Robert Harrison

Utica Observer-Dispatch hunting writer John Pitarresi on March 8 reported that the Mid-Valley Beagle Club would host an American Kennel Club-sanctioned "large pack trial on hare," i.e. set dogs on caged rabbits inside a 90-acre fenced tract, on April 1-2. The AKC has made plain that it is not sanctioned and not an approved form of event. At deadline humane authorities hoped to stop it, as an apparent violation of the New York state law against animal fighting.

Hunting

Caught in a crossfire of conflicting duties, California Department of Fish and Wildlife director Boyd Gibbons resigned on February 23 under pressure from governor Pete Wilson. Gibbons, on the job for three years, was embarrassed February 14 when 1994 warden-of-the-year Will Bishop testified to the state Senate that political favoritism had sabotaged his efforts to protect endangered salmon stocks.

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission on February 24 tentatively approved opening the state park system to hunts to reduce animal populations, if the state Department of Natural Resources can prove the alleged overpopulation has done ecological harm.

California assemblyman David Knowles has introduced a bill to repeal Proposition 117, the 1990 referendum measure that banned puma hunting.

The Connecticut legislature is to vote before April 7 on HB 5856 and SB 745, two bills to allow Sunday bowhunting.

A coalition of trappers, fox hunters, the Maryland Farm Bureau, and the Professional Animal Workers Society on March 9 won passage of a bill to open coyote hunting and trapping in Maryland, whose coyotes formerly had no legal status.

Oregon house majority leader Ray Baum (R-La Grande) has introduced a bill to delay for two years implementation of the ban on use of hounds and bait to hunt pumas and bears, approved by voters last fall,

Pennsylvania state rep Lita Cohen (R-Montgomery County) and 32 co-signers on February 14 reintroduced a bill to ban pigeon shoots that was approved by a vote of 99-93 last year but didn’t go to the state senate because it fell three votes short of winning a majority.

Texas HB 239, a bill to regulate canned hunts, has reportedly been amended to, in effect, merely authorize the status quo, at the behest of hunting lobbyist Gib Lewis, a former speaker of the Texas house and convicted violator of hunting laws.

The Virginia legislature has approved SB 1040, a bill to ban canned hunts, which must be signed or vetoed by Governor George Allen before April 15. Letters of support for the bill may be addressed to Allen c/o State Capitol, Richmond, VA 23219.

A bill to ban fox, deer, and rabbit hunting in Britain won approval in the House of Commons on March 3, 253-0, but failed to gain a majority in the 650-member body, and is expected to be killed because it does not have the support of the Conservative government.

After the Chamber of Commerce in Gillette, Wyoming, announced it wouldn’t hold a coyote-killing contest this year, a local hunting ranch held one in secret on February 11-12, sending invitations to last year’s participants. About two dozen coyotes were slain.

A bullet apparently fired by a deer poacher hit Lynn Davison, 39, in the head the night of February 26 as she lay in bed in her home in Charlestown Township, Pennsylvania. The shot did extensive damage to the bones on the right side of her face, but she is recovering. Her husband, who was beside her, and their three children, ages 2, 4, and 7, were shaken but not physically injured.

ously fight to retain our unblemished reputation and disprove the spurious charges."

On March 3, hours before the scheduled start of a day of protest against the sale of coyote fur garments by the 300-store Eddie Bauer chain was to begin, the firm announced that, "Due to declining customer interest in this style, we will no longer carry it. We have no further plans at this time to carry fur-trimmed garments." The demonstrations were to be coordinated by PETA and the Sea Wolf Alliance.

Model Claudia Schiffer, who wore Fendi furs in the 1994 and 1995 Milan fall and winter fashion shows, on March 8 joined fellow supermodels Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford, Linda Evangelista, and Kate Moss in signing the PETA "Models for Compassion" pledge not to wear fur.

Concerned that Friends of Animals' video of wolves suffering in snares set by state trappers may harm the \$5-million-a-year Alaskan fur traffic as well as forcing a halt to wolf control, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is reportedly spending \$200,000 on a pro-trapping video to be shown to school children. The project is to be supervised by David "Machine Gun" Kelleyhouse—the architect of the wolf control program.

Warned Nova Scotia environmentalist David Orton in the February/March edition of the journal *Canadian Dimension*, "Just as there is government and corporate 'green-speak' or 'greenwash,' there is 'Native-speak,' using seemingly progressive or spiritual rhetoric as a cover to advance a narrow self-interest which is anti-Earth." For example, Orton cited "support for the fur industry and commercial trapping," which were "imposed on First Nations by European colonial powers, and rest on a 'resourcist' human-centered view of our relationship to wildlife and the natural world."

A newly released "Furbearer Management Analysis" prepared for the Colorado Division of Wildlife by University of Northern Colorado biologist Dr. James P. Fitzgerald recommends a shorter muskrat season, restrictions on coyote killing, and closing the swift fox and hog-nosed skunk seasons. Fitzgerald also indicates that Colorado has insufficient biological data to support trapping seasons on 11 of the 12 native furbearers; beavers are the sole exception. "Although recreational trappers may reduce some agricultural losses," Fitzgerald adds, "it is questionable whether control efforts are biologically effective vs. psychologically effective." He also suggests that coyotes and foxes have more economic value alive than dead. "It does pose an interesting dilemma," Fitzgerald muses in passing, "to explain to scientific groups why sportsmen are allowed to use traps and techniques which are less humane than methods the scientific community must use to work with the same species."

Both houses of the Russian Parliament on December 23 approved a wildlife conservation bill that included a ban on use of any trap that doesn't kill outright—but under pressure from both the Russian fur industry and the Canadian government, prime minister Boris Yeltsin vetoed the bill on January 19, expressly because of the anti-trapping language.

Upcoming

April 5: Debut of *Hotline 21*, call-in talk show sponsored by Illinois Animal Action on Channel 21, Chicago, 6:00 p.m.

April 6-8: "In The Company of Animals," conference on animals in myth and literature, New School for Social Research, New York City. Info: 212-229-5378.

April 8-9: "Operation Education," training conference for humane educators at the Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Penn. Some participants will be hired for part-time assignments by Animalearn, a project of the American Anti-Vivisection Society. Registration is \$140, closing March 24. Info: 215-887-0816.

April 18-19: "Living With Beavers," conference presented by Tufts Center for Animals & Public Policy, to be held in Worcester, Mass. Info: 508-839-7991.

April 22: "Protect Our Future: Stop the Cycle of Child and Animal Abuse," conference presented by Orchards Children's Services and the Michigan Humane Society at MSU, Troy, Michigan. Info: 810-433-8600.

April 22: "Focus on Animals," conference hosted by Animal Protection Institute and the Ark Trust, Holiday Inn BayView Plaza, Santa Monica. \$45. Info: 800-348-PETS.

April 22-23: "The Earth, the Animals, and You," conference hosted by the Alliance for Animals, American AV, and NAVS, University of Wisconsin Memorial Union, Madison, Wisconsin. \$15/students; \$25/others. Info: 608-257-6333.

April 28-29: "Teaching not Preaching," humane education workshop hosted by the American Humane Assn., in Denver. Info: 303-792-9900.

April 28-29: Northeast Regional Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Network Conference, in Riverhead, New York. Info: 516-728-4522.

April 29: World Lab Animal Liberation Week party at Halmich Park, Warren, Michigan, hosted by Animals Have Rights Too. \$5.00 entry. Info: 810-268-5956.

May 6-25: Vegetarian Art Show, Sunnen Gallery, Soho, New York.

May 6 and May 8: United Animal Nations Emergency Animal Rescue Service training seminars in Manchester, Connecticut. Info: 203-646-5033 or 916-429-2457.

May 7-13: 80th annual American Humane Assn. "Be Kind to Animals Week." Info: 303-792-9900.

May 16: Heal-Pac Lobby Day, Lansing, Michigan. Info: 810-887-2184.

May 20: "Animal-Kind 1995," humane education workshops hosted by United Federation of Teachers Humane Ed. Committee, New York City. Info: 718-797-2925.

Animal health

Rabies roundup

A four-year-old girl from Centralia, Washington, on March 16 became the first person to die of rabies in that state since 1939. Relatives found and killed a bat in her bedroom in February, but did not report the incident to anyone until after she was hospitalized with depression, constant drooling, and seizures. She lapsed into a terminal coma on March 9.

Texas during the second week in February began airdropping 850,000 dog biscuits laden with the new oral rabies vaccine over an area the size of Maryland, Delaware, and Rhode Island combined, to stop an outbreak of canine rabies in coyotes and foxes before it spreads from the southern end of the state to San Antonio. The \$1.9 million project is the biggest test of the oral vaccine on wildlife yet. Since 1988, 530 cases of rabies have been reported in Texas, including two human fatalities. The most recent victim, Rolando Bazan, 14, slipped into a coma on November 14 after telling his mother he felt "sad all over." How he was exposed is unknown. Also to halt the spread of rabies, the Texas Board of Health recently imposed a statewide quarantine on the export of "potentially infected" animals. "We know that South Texas coyotes have been shipped out-of-state to stock hunting clubs," said Health Commissioner Dr. David Smith. "And just this week we learned that two of four foxes shipped from Texas to Montana," an officially rabies-free state, "have been confirmed with rabies." Under fire from irate hunters, Smith pointed out that similar translocations of rabid raccoons from Florida to West Virginia in 1977 resulted in a raccoon rabies epizootic still raging from North Carolina to Vermont, and as far west as Ohio.

Cumberland County, North Carolina, declared a rabies emergency on March 9, authorizing sheriff's deputies to begin a house-to-house search for unvaccinated animals. Eight rabid animals had been found in the preceding week. The county already had a third of the 150 rabies cases reported in the state last year.

Other zoonotic diseases

The Ontario public health ministry has discovered deadly hantaviruses in mice trapped last summer in Algonquin Park, 120 miles northeast of Toronto. Hantaviruses have already caused two human fatalities in Canada—one in British Columbia and one in Alberta—as well as about 40 fatalities in the U.S. since 1993, when they were first identified in North America. They have now appeared in virtually all parts of the U.S. and Canada, though the majority of cases are still in the Southwest.

Alarmed by the discovery that about 25% of the pigeon population in Venice, Italy, carry diseases transmissible to humans, the city council is considering either a ban on birdseed sales or the use of contraceptive-laced birdseed.

WORLD WILDLIFE REPORT

Asia

About 30,000 orangutans remain in Borneo, say Indonesian officials, but only about 300 survive in East Kalimantan province, due to rainforest logging and poaching—plus 165 orangs kept at a rehabilitation centre in Samboja, near the Sungai Wein jungle preserve. Rescued from smugglers, most suffer from hepatitis and/or tuberculosis contracted in captivity.

Thai authorities circa January 20 confiscated 21 endangered Burmese bear cubs from a smuggler who boasted of having already shipped 70 cubs to South Korean restaurants this year alone—and got off with an on-the-spot fine. The cubs were taken to a captive breeding center, where three died within a day.

Australia

Stadium and Olympic village construction for the 2000 Olympics, to be held in Sydney, Australia, under the theme “The Green Games,” may jeopardize habitat for four endangered species—the green and golden bell frog and three birds, the Lathan’s snipe, Pacific plover, and green shank. The frog, once commonly used for dissection, is near extinction due to predation by mosquito fish, introduced from North America to control mosquitos.

Craig Harwood, director of the Overseas Game Meat Export Company, based in Sydney, Australia, complained recently that up to 200,000 of the million kangaroos killed each year in New South Wales are left to rot because the Australian government hasn’t adequately promoted kangaroo-eating abroad. Across Australia, about three million kangaroos per year are killed, from a population estimated at 20 million, chiefly because they compete with sheep and cattle for scarce water and forage. The kangaroo meat market may soon expand to the U.S.: on March 7 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the red kangaroo, western gray kangaroo, and eastern gray kangaroo from the endangered species list, opening the door to kangaroo product imports. Such imports were banned in 1974, but the ban was lifted in 1981. The USFWS said that while urbanization and competition for grazing land had hurt the kangaroos, they had benefited from dingo massacres and the construction of water holes undertaken to help the livestock industry.

The oil firm Oil Japan Esso-Kai on January 23 donated \$700,000 to the Australian Koala Foundation. The wild koala population has plunged from 400,000 to 80,000 in a decade, due to drought and habitat loss. “In two of the three koala states, New South Wales and Queensland, bushfires have caused massive destruction of habitat,” reports Sue Arnold of Australians for Animals. “Most of the fires have been deliberately lit. In southeast Queensland, the last large aggregation of koalas left on the entire continent will almost certainly be wiped out,” by freeway construction, while the NSW government has authorized accelerated woodchipping in koala country. Endemic chlamydia, causing sterility, additionally pressures koalas. NSW on February 13 implemented a new development policy—announced January 4—that prevents municipalities from approving construction until after determining if the site includes koalas. “Any move toward protecting koala habitat

A year after flying to the aid of a tiger named Masiya and other starving animals at the Tbilisi Zoo in Tbilisi, Georgia, part of the former Soviet Union, the World Society for the Protection of Animals is still helping to feed the menagerie. “Despite civil unrest and severe economic problems throughout the country,” said WSPCA director of field services Neil Trent, “many people are tirelessly working to improve the conditions.” WSPA opposes captivity, Trent added, but “it became clear that these animals could not be released or relocated,” and “to allow them to suffer an agonizing death was simply not an option.” Masiya, above, is still underweight, but has mostly recovered. (WSPA photo.)

Tiger beat

Tigers could decline past the point of viability in the wild within 10 years and be extinct in the wild with 20 years, International Union for the Conservation of Nature cat specialist group chair Peter Jackson warned on March 12, while lauding a March 2 agreement between China and India to protect tigers along their disputed frontier, and a similar deal reached on March 6 among Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, which share circa 500 wild tigers. China reportedly has about 80 wild tigers left, divided among three different species.

Fifty-seven Siberian tigers have been born since 1986 at the Hengdaozi Breeding Centre in northeastern Heilongjiang province, China, of whom 53 have survived, the Xinhua news agency reported on February 21. No more than 300 Siberian tigers remain in the wild.

The World Wildlife Fund, itself not known for close accounting, has formed a special fund in India to prevent misuse of donations to save tigers. Formerly, aid for tigers went to the Indian government—which was caught last year significantly inflating estimates of the surviving wild tiger population. Officially, India still has 3,750 tigers, 600 fewer than in 1989; unofficially, it may have no more than 2,000 tigers.

Fourteen out of 100 Australian practitioners of Oriental medicine surveyed undercover by the World Wildlife Fund illegally sell tiger parts, WWF reported on March 7.

Belgium is the world's second-largest importer of poached tiger products, says the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency, while the European Union is collectively the leading market for threatened plants, parrots, tortoises, reptile skins, and snakes, despite

is welcome,” responded Wilderness Society spokesperson Kevin Parker, “but we need long uninterrupted stretches of wilderness, rather just little bits.” The Fund for Animals meanwhile petitioned to add koalas to the U.S. endangered species list. “It should embarrass Australia, and we’re hoping that results in significantly more protection for koalas and their habitat,” said Fund director of investigations D.J. Schubert.

Africa

Kenya on February 9 burned its entire stock of confiscated ivory, rhino horns, and hippo teeth, worth an estimated \$1 million, to dramatize a plea to other nations to destroy their own stocks. It was Kenya’s third such bonfire since 1989. Other African nations, with mounting stockpiles of such materials, are pressing for resumption of legal traffic in wildlife parts—which would provide cover for traffic in poached parts. So-called sustainable use advocates, including the World Wildlife Fund and agencies of the United Nations and U.S. government, recently warned in a joint report that because African nations are restricted in their ability to profit by elephants, spending to protect them is sharply down. About 600,000 elephants survive in Africa, half as many as in 1985. WWF elephant expert Ginette Hemley predicts the species will never recover due to human encroachments on vacated habitat. But Kenyan minister of tourism and wildlife Katana Ngala said reopening the ivory trade is no solution. “The ivory ban, combined with stepped-up security, has led to a dramatic decrease in poaching and a slow recovery of Kenya’s elephant population,” he said. Zimbabwe, perhaps the nation that has most cut back on elephant conservation spending, meanwhile claims an urgent need to kill or sell at least 5,000 elephants due to drought and alleged overpopulation. As of 1988, Zimbabwe had only 43,000 elephants, but as the known levels of both poaching and culling have risen, so have official estimates of elephant numbers, placed at 70,000 last year and 80,000 now. For an elephant population to grow that quickly would be biologically unparalleled.

South Africa, another leading proponent of reopening legal trade in both ivory and rhino horn, was recently embarrassed when the *Sunday Telegraph*, of London, revealed that it withheld data from the November CITES triennial meeting showing that the rhino population of its most important rhino reserve, the Umfolozi-Hiuhluwe Park, is only 1,210, not the 2,000 it claimed. The finding amounts to a 10% decrease in the total estimated wild rhino population. Because of claimed success at rhino conservation, South Africa won a relaxation of international rhino trafficking rules at the triennial, enabling it to sell live rhinos abroad. Red faces grew even redder with the further disclosure that poachers killed four rhinos in the Umfolozi reserve in December, plus another at the nearby Mkuzi reserve in late February. In between, ivory thieves hacked the tusks off of a 13-year-old tame elephant at a supposedly secure game park—without otherwise hurting her.

Tanzanian wildlife project manager Louis Nzali warned on February 5 that despite the arrest of 85 poachers in recent months, refugees from ethnic strife in Rwanda and Burundi have overrun the Burigi game reserve, killing thousands of animals. He urged the government to move two major refugee camps away from the area of the reserve.

Taiwan rhino horn stocks are down from 2,332 pounds to 1,420 since imports were banned 1985, according to the Taiwanese Council of Agriculture, billing the decline as evidence of increased concern for conservation rather than as the result of consumption and illegal exports.

Madras and Rani, two tiger cubs rescued along with their parents from a dilapidated farm in Ireland on December 11, completed quarantine on February 17 and moved into new quarters at their current home, the Wildlife Waystation sanctuary, at the Angeles National Forest in southern California. “Also recovered from deplorable conditions at the same farm near Dublin were a black bear and two baboons,” said Wildlife Waystation spokesperson Jo Hunt. “All were placed in good facilities. The farmer, who faced criminal charges, bought the animals from an English circus, and had no knowledge or experience in caring for exotic creatures. The animals were severely malnourished.” (Wildlife Waystation photo.)

Jim Harris ad (paid for 4/95)

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species bans on traffic in many of the species involved. Italy, Spain, and Greece, says the EIA, are lax in enforcing import rules, while the relaxation of border inspections between EU member nations has cut the odds of traffickers getting caught.

Thai Royal Forestry Department advisor Pantap Ratanakom has recommended that the government of Thailand should permit farming tigers for their hides, bones, and genitals. Exports would be banned under CITES, but each tiger could fetch \$10,000 just on the domestic market. One would-be producer, the Siracha Farm in Bangkok, already has 35 tigers, says director Somphong Temsiriphong. Females are bred every six months—about twice as often as they would breed in nature.

Burma forestry minister Lieutenant-General Chit Swe called on the nation February 8 to give priority to protecting endangered species including 45 mammals, tigers among them; 39 birds; and 36 reptiles. Burma has 17 forest preserves and wildlife sanctuaries, but other members of the ruling dictatorship have been accused of ravaging them with illegal logging.

Bangladesh on February 3 announced a \$1.5 million effort to protect and increase the numbers of tigers in the Sundarbans forest, home of about 450 royal Bengal tigers. There were about 600 before the cyclone of April 1991, which killed up to 138,000 people and seriously damaged the habitat. Protected since 1982, the tigers are often targets of poachers.

The Carson and Barnes Circus on February 10 recaptured a 200-pound tiger named Shawana, who spent 10 days in the wild along the Texas/Oklahoma border after squeezing out of her cage. Although Shawana had never hunted, she apparently didn’t miss many meals. Afraid she might starve, the circus left chunks of meat in the area where she was believed to be, a boon both to the tiger and to local cougars and coyotes.

Veterinarian Luis Aleu, of Pamplona, Spain, nursed a malnourished Bengal tiger cub back to health for the Circo Mundial traveling circus—and was stuck with the tiger plus \$4,700 in food bills when the circus refused to take the tiger back. “I really don’t know what I’m going to do,” Aleu told reporters in mid-February.”

HAVE (full year, paid)

Horses

Feuds among Los Angeles-area horse rescuers exploded into the media with a bankruptcy petition filed on January 18 by the Equus horse sanctuary, of Newhall, California. Begun in 1992 by Sandra Waldrop and Linda Moss, Equus adopts out horses bought from killer-buyers. Friction developed early, as volunteer Sandy Venables of Chatsworth quit to form her own rescue group, and caught fire after Equus expanded to a former mule ranch last June, then couldn't make the \$2,500-a-month rent. In November, Equus got an eviction notice—and was accused of neglecting from 100 to 170 horses by Barbara Goodwin Cross of the L.I.F.E. Foundation, which places wild horses obtained from the Bureau of Land Management. County humane officer Jerry White cleared Equus of the allegations; Goodwin Cross claimed he just didn't want to deal with the horses; Equus blamed Goodwin Cross for worsening financial problems, claiming in its bankruptcy filing that she just wanted to obtain the horses and sell them back to the slaughter trade. Few if any observers credited that charge, but Gretchen Wyler of the Ark Trust, Madeline Bernstein of the Los Angeles SPCA, and Leo Grillo of Dedicated and Everlasting Love To Animals—who rarely agree on anything—all suggested Goodwin Cross had been unnecessarily alarmist. "She was very convincing," Grillo told Laurence Darmiento of the *Los Angeles Daily News*. "I went out there. I asked a lot of questions. They were not the monsters I was led to believe. They simply have no knowledge of fundraising." Grillo took over paying the horses' feed costs temporarily, while teaching Waldrop and Moss the knack of fundraising.

Having lost the lease on their former headquarters in Mt. Airy, Maryland, Kathleen and Allan Schwartz on February 18 relocated Days End Farm Horse Rescue, including 38 horses currently in their care, to a temporary site in nearby Lisbon.

The New Mexico House Consumer

AGRICULTURE, DIET, & HEALTH

Polls of children and teens done by the National Live Stock & Meat Board's "Youth Initiative Task Force" found in 1992 and 1993 that 50% were concerned about the fat and cholesterol in beef, 37% were concerned about the fat and cholesterol in pork, and 16% were concerned about the fat and cholesterol in chicken—but only 4% saw cruelty in beef production, 3% saw cruelty in pork production, and 2% saw cruelty in poultry production. Just 1% saw ecological harm in eating beef; none saw ecological harm in eating pork and poultry. A follow-up survey is scheduled for this year.

"At present," says Campaign for Non-Violent Food coordinator Henry Spira, "25 states exclude 'accepted farming practices' from the reach of cruelty laws. Nineteen states amended their statutes to provide such exemptions in the past 12 years. Eleven of these amended their statutes in the last six years, and two states did so within the past year. The result is that any 'accepted farming practice' is legally permitted, no matter how cruel. Obviously there would be no need to amend state cruelty laws were there not the fear that accepted practices would be judged cruel." Spira's remarks appear in the first installment of a column he is now writing for the Animal Welfare Institute newsletter.

Five southern California counties on March 7 reported rises of egg-carried salmonella infections ranging from 17% to 117% since 1989.

Humane Farming Assn. (paid through 1/96)

Protests over the export of livestock from Britain to the European continent in the absence of humane transport standards continue, as do air shipments by Phoenix Aviation because vigils have closed all cattle shipping ports. After suspected Animal Liberation Front members trashed Phoenix Aviation owner Chris Barrett-Jolly's home in retaliation for the February 1 death of protester Jill Phipps, of Coventry, who was crushed by a cattle truck (*see March edition for details*), goon squads similarly trashed ALF spokesperson John Curtin's home in Liverpool and also attacked two activists' homes in Manchester. A 19-year-old woman, the only activist found at home, reportedly suffered two fractured ribs and facial bruises in one attack, which the goons described as a response to a hunt sabotage. Germany on March 6 unilaterally moved to limit the transport time for slaughter-designated animals to eight hours. The European Union was to try again to reach a uniform standard for animal transport in late March.

USDA food safety chief Michael Taylor warned the Western States Meat Association annual convention in San Francisco on February 15 that the E. coli 0157:H7 bacterium is an "emerging pathogen," the control of which is little understood. "We do not know how broad its ecological niche will become," Taylor said. More than 4,000 Americans die each year and another five million become ill due to contaminated meat, according to USDA statistics.

Research done by the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Oregon Health Sciences University has found that people who lower their intake of animal fat and increase consumption of whole grains and pasta are significantly less hostile and depressed, according to the current edition of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Researchers from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, told the American Heart Association annual meeting on March 10 that hormones derived from soybeans show promise as a potentially safer substitute for pharmaceutical estrogens now used in hormone replacement therapy—including Premarin, the production of which involves breeding more than 75,000 colts per year whose only significant market is slaughter.

When the Czech Republic quit subsidizing meat and dairy products in 1991, the March 20 edition of *Newsweek* reported, prices soared, consumption fell, markets for fruit, vegetables, and tofu developed, and heart disease rates in men dropped 13%; 9% in women.

Distributing coupons redeemable for a free Vegan Burger for 10 days in advance, the Berkeley group Vegan Action planned to give away "a ton of free vegan food" on March 21 at Sather Gate on the University of California at Berkeley campus.

Belgian police and pharmaceutical inspectors on March 10 raided 82 Flanders veterinary facilities in search of clenbuterol and other illegal livestock growth stimulants.

A Center for Science in the Public Interest survey of 96 "healthy" frozen dinners, released March 3, found that only four include as much as a cup of vegetables or fruit. A third have barely half a cup.

and Public Affairs Committee and House Judiciary Committee have both unanimously approved HB 212, a bill to ban horse-tripping—a staple of *charro* rodeo. Letters backing the bill may be sent to Gov. Gary Johnson, State Capitol Bldg., Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Holy Bull, the 1994 Horse of the Year, was retired to stud on February 12, at age 4, after suffering strained tendons in the left foreleg during the Donn Handicap at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, Florida. “If he wasn’t Holy Bull, I’d bring him back next year,” said owner/trainer Jimmy Crull. But after winning 13 races in 16 starts, Holy Bull had become worth too much to risk losing.

Richard Bailey, 65, charged with ordering the murder of candy heiress and animal rights patron Helen Vorhees Brach in 1977 to keep her from exposing his horse-related frauds, pleaded guilty on March 1 to fraud, racketeering, and other charges carrying sentences totaling up to 150 years—but none directly linked to the Brach case.

William Sheets, 57, of Hillsboro, Ohio, was charged February 14 with 10 counts of cruelty after sheriff’s deputies and the Highland County Humane Society relocated 122 allegedly neglected Arabian horses to foster homes, including 79 that HCHS humane officer Anne Tiesnan found to be starving. Five dead horses were found on the property. Convicted five times of horse neglect in Ontario, Canada, between 1978 and 1989, Sheets relocated to the U.S. after eventually serving 30 days in jail and being barred from horse ownership within the province for three years.

Dominique Boeuf, winner of the Golden Whip as the top jockey in France last year, drew three years in prison, two of them suspended, and a fine of \$19,000 on March 3 for using and distributing cocaine and heroin. He will be allowed to continue training for horseracing while serving his sentence. Three other jockeys received suspended sentences in connection with the same case. French racing officials introduced drug testing of jockeys at the beginning of this year.

Race horse trainer Edward Herr Mellinger, 53, of Pleasanton, California, was arraigned February 23 for allegedly selling marijuana from the tack room where he lived at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Humane Farming Assn.

Short Atlantic Canadian ding-dongs don't excite Hong Kong (from page one)

Sheen and Sea Shepherd crew members Lisa DiStefano and Chuck Swift were in another. At approximately 6:00 p.m. EST, when Quebec Provincial Police spokesman Pierre Dufort estimated 300 sealers were inside the hotel and the crowd outside had grown to 1,500, the mob roughed up *London Daily Mirror* photographer Steve Douglas and smashed his camera, then went for Watson in earnest, who had shoved a heavy bed against his door. Refusing to draw their guns, the police stepped aside—and the brawl was on.

"I stood up to them. I was able to hold them off for about 10 minutes," Watson recounted. Using first an electronic stun-gun and then bare knuckles, Watson said, "I decked the first three guys to crash in. The first guy through took a swing at me, but he didn't connect hard, and I connected back. They didn't seem to be expecting that."

Eventually as many as 50 sealers surged into the room, including, Watson noted, "one big guy who kept pushing the others back," until QPP reinforcements arrived.

"The police insisted that I had to leave the building immediately," Watson said. "I asked what if I didn't. 'Then you are a dead man in one minute,'" the officer said."

Sheen, DiStefano, and Swift remained behind as Watson was escorted to a patrol car through a gauntlet of kicks and punches. The mob next smashed the windows of the patrol car, then followed it to the airfield and broke windows there.

Watson was cut by flying glass, suffered cuts and bruises, and had a bruised kidney, but a hospital examination found no serious injuries. At least one reporter besides Douglas was believed to have been briefly hospitalized, from among a group also including representatives of RTL-TV (Germany), CITY-TV (Toronto), *Der Stern* (Germany), and the *Los Angeles Times*. Photojournalist Marc Gaede indicated the

Germans were beaten, according to Carla Robinson at the Sea Shepherd headquarters in Santa Monica, California.

Despite the attacks on reporters and photographers, the riot drew little immediate media notice, partly because the QPP put out a bulletin advising that there had been no trouble. "They were lying, boldfaced lying," fumed Bob Hunter, a journalist since 1960 and a cofounder, with Watson, of Greenpeace, who was present for CITY-TV. "Not only were the police lying, but the lazy establishment media were lying. *The Globe & Mail*," the leading Toronto paper, "went along for the ride. I phoned the city desk with the real story, and they said, 'We're past our deadline, we don't care.'"

The QPP might have thought they'd get away with it. "The police said Sheen and DiStefano couldn't go to the airport until after the sealers searched them for film," Watson explained. "They also said RTL had to turn over their video, but the Germans hid their good tapes in the snow and just turned over several reels of junk." The video that made it out included Douglas' beating, clips of which were soon aired in both Europe and Canada.

Watson the next day filed charges of assault, breaking and entering, destruction of property, theft, and kidnapping against the sealers he could identify. "I laid the charges with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police," he said. "The provincials wouldn't take the complaint."

Limp prospects

Earlier, Sheen told media, "I believe we have found a way to provide full employment for traditional sealers without having to kill a single seal."

Now being made to residents of Prince Edward Island, who are not participating in this year's seal hunt, the offer of cash for seal wool should have interested the Magdalen Islanders. A seal marketing strategy report researched for the Canadian gov-

ernment by RT & Associates, issued last November, confirmed that penises are the only parts of seals now in any demand. Newfoundland sealers sold 10,024 penises last year to Asian aphrodisiac merchants for about \$75,000 U.S.—but that was more than half of the total Canadian return from sealing. And even that market is drooping.

"The market for seal penises is confined almost exclusively to Hong Kong and is limited to approximately 20,000 organs a year," the report said. "Larger organs are preferred, and Norway has captured almost 50% of the market, shipping approximately 8,000 last year. The average price paid to sealers for a seal penis over 10 inches long was \$26; seven to ten inches long was \$20."

The report found no viable market for seal meat, noting that while the Chinese will eat it at 50¢ per pound, it can't be shipped to China for under \$1.00 a pound. Prospects for selling seal meat as animal feed were written off, as was most of the possible seal oil market. Seal fur markets in both Europe and Canada were deemed "poor," while fur demand in Asia was said to be logistically difficult to supply.

Meanwhile, the report noted, "Since 1985, the Canadian government has spent between \$8 and \$10 million on various sealing initiatives in Newfoundland," plus more in other provinces.

The seal kill in recent years has been set at 194,000, but has averaged just 57,000 due to the lack of markets. This year Canada is paying sealers a bounty of 20¢ a pound per seal landed—admittedly in large part to offset the outrage of the Atlantic provinces at the February 3 admission of the Canadian government that northern cod have been fished to commercial extinction in territorial waters.

Fish war

Fishers blame seals and foreign fishing fleets for the collapse of the stocks,

of the Spanish trawler *Estai* off Newfoundland. Related charges brought against Watson by the RCMP are still pending. *Estai* captain Enrique Davila Gonzalez, 38, of Galicia, was charged March 13 with illegal fishing and obstruction of justice. Gonzalez' attorney John Sinnott said he would appeal the seizure to the International Court in the Hague. Spain sent a patrol boat and a frigate to the scene after Canada threatened to seize more trawlers and Newfoundlanders pelted the Spanish ambassador to Canada with garbage. The European Union temporarily suspended formal relations with Canada, pending a decision on possible trade sanctions—which could include accelerated imposition of a ban on the import of furs caught in leghold traps. Canada has won several delays of the ban by arguing that it is developing more humane trapping methods.

"Canada is going to get a boot in the balls for this," said Hunter, "which it richly deserves."

Norway

Sealing resumed more quietly in Norway. Pressured by Rieber & Co., the one seal product buyer in Norway, to resume seal pup hunting, on March 15 the government authorized a "scientific" hunt for 2,600 infant harp seals, who have been off limits since 1989, when videotape showed sealers clubbing the pups and skinning them alive. Rieber & Co. had threatened to get out of the seal business.

Norway also announced it would permit the slaughter of 301 minke whales this year, during a season lasting from May 2 to June 23. Norway is the only nation in the world to hold an acknowledged commercial whale hunt, in defiance of the International Whaling Commission moratorium in effect since 1986.

An Icelandic move toward reopening whaling was delayed for a year, until March 1996, when the Icelandic parliament

Delta Society ad (Anthrozoos)

not expected to recover within this century. However, says University of Guelph marine mammologist Dr. David Lavigne, "Harp seals rarely feed on cod. It's perhaps 1% or less of their diet."

And Watson, ironically, challenged foreign dragnetters on the nose-and-tail of the Grand Banks in August 1993, 18 months before the March 9 Canadian seizure

was unable to move on the necessary motion before adjournment.

—by Merritt Clifton

(The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society may be addressed at 3107-A Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey, CA 90292.)

Mark Matthew Braunstein (paid through May)

Dog logo

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.

ESA ON HOLD UNTIL AMENDED

WASHINGTON D.C.—Both the House and Senate on March 16 approved in principle a proposal to impose a moratorium on adding species to the federal endangered species list, pending amendment of the Endangered Species Act. The measure would also prohibit new critical habitat designations for species already declared endangered. A Senate motion to reject the moratorium failed, 60-38.

Details of the moratorium will have to be worked out in conference committee and ratified by both houses before going to President Bill Clinton for either his signature or veto. Allowing the moratorium to stand could alienate Clinton's remaining supporters, while vetoing it would be seen as disregard for property rights—the central theme of the Republican "Contract with America."

The Republican-controlled Congress has pledged to substantially revise or dismantle the ESA by June. "Number one will be a revision of the ESA," House Resources Committee chair Don Young (R-Alaska) recently affirmed. Young, who threatened U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service head Mollie Beatty with a seal's penis bone during Congressional hearings last spring, is co-chair of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus and a long-time proponent of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration.

Cost-benefit

Already adopted by the House are two

Low AMPs

Americans for Medical Progress, an anti-animal rights group funded by U.S. Surgical, has grudgingly apologized for a February 24 claim that former Olympic diver Greg Louganis betrays fellow AIDS patients by doing ads for a group called PAWS, which AMP misidentified as the Progressive Animal Welfare Society. That PAWS opposes animal use in biomedical research. "It has come to AMP's attention," a February 28 retraction said, "that the group for which Mr. Louganis is a spokesperson is Pets Are Wonderful Support," which assists pet owners with AIDS in the Philadelphia area.

"A common tactic used by animal rights groups to deceive the public," the AMP statement continued, "is to adopt names or acronyms of respectable groups." AMP may owe all concerned another apology: founded in 1967, the Progressive Animal Welfare Society is the older group by 25 years.

Private Property Protection Act, requires the government to compensate landowners if a federal action to protect wetlands or endangered species reduces their property value by at least 20%. This could put the price of protecting species such as spotted owls, endangered salmon and steelhead runs in the Pacific Northwest, and the Delta smelt in California beyond contemplation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service dodged a similar conflict in New England on March 14 by rejecting Restore the North Woods' petition to list the Atlantic salmon as endangered.

Excerpts from the MSPCA financial statement to membership.

Games with graphics

BOSTON—Is the Massachusetts SPCA running huge deficits—or earning enough profit to neuter every homeless dog and cat in the state for free?

The financial statement sent to members indicates the MSPCA lost \$2.5 million in 1992 and 1993, but IRS Form 990 filings show gains of \$2.7 million. Divided among the 150,000 dogs and cats taken in by Massachusetts shelters each year, the \$5.2 million gap could provide a neutering subsidy of \$34.66 per animal.

"The difference between the federal Form 990 and the MSPA's own brochure is of format only," says MSPCA vice president of finance and administration Howard Levy. "The Form 990

gains or losses in the line titled 'Excess (deficiency) of total revenues and support over total expenses.' The MSPCA brochure does, however, report realized gains (or losses) on the sale of securities on the very next line."

In other words, the line the MSPCA statement seemingly represents as "the bottom line" is *not* the bottom line, since it excludes endowment revenue.

The 29 lines of figures above the false bottom are each stated to the last dollar—but below, the endowment figures appear "in thousands of dollars." Thus the total endowment, worth from \$44.5 to \$48.2 million, looks at a glance like a mere \$44,500 to \$48,197.

bills that could significantly weaken enforcement of the ESA, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Animal Welfare Act. The Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act of 1995 requires several additional steps before new regulations can be adopted. During the month of discussion that preceded the consolidation of several draft bills into the one that was passed, International Wildlife Coalition senior scientist David Wiley predicted that imposition of the cost-benefit requirement could, "mean the end of the newly reauthorized MMPA," passed by the previous Congress, "because almost no regulations exist for its implementation. Mandated planning to reduce death and injury to marine mammals in fishing gear can proceed," he said, "but recommendations cannot be implemented unless we can show that the monetary value of the animals saved exceeds the costs to the fishing industry."

The other bill passed by the House, the

Warm Store ad -
paid for April.

Exemptions

Hoping to save key provisions of the ESA during Senate debate, and to keep enough support for the ESA in both houses to enable Clinton to veto unacceptable changes, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on March 1 announced a plan to encourage landowners to maintain habitat for endangered species without obliging them to give up development rights. Landowners would be allowed to opt out with advance notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan is to be tested through an agreement with the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in the Sandhills region of North Carolina, whose golf courses are part of the habitat of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Five days later, Babbitt and Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Dr. D. James Baker presented a set of 10 principles for future ESA enforcement that would include general exemptions for single-home residential tracts and other activities affecting under five acres—which just could encourage developers in sensitive areas to sell lots before building.

CASH (paid for April)

includes realized gains (or losses) on investment securities in Line 18, 'Excess or (deficit) for the year.' The MSPCA financial brochure does not include such

"We feel that the format used by the MSPCA's financial brochure presents a true and clear representation of the Society's financial position," Levy said.

North American Veggie Society

Similar Republican-led attacks on endangered species protection are underway in many state legislatures, including in Vermont, generally believed to have one of the "greenest" electorates. Colchester realtor Charlotte Gardner, outraged that the presence of three rare grasses and a regionally threatened milkweed held up one of her developments in 1990, has reportedly found heavy support in the Vermont senate for restricting state "endangered" listings to species "important to the preservation of the natural heritage" of the state; requiring an economic impact study before any species is listed; requiring financial compensation to landowners who can't get building permits due to the presence of endangered species; adding two developers and the state economic development commissioner to the state endangered species advisory panel; and automatically delisting any protected species after three years unless it is again certified endangered by the state secretary for natural resources.

One source of extra funding for endangered species protection could be a tax on such items as camping gear and bird seed. Arguing that hunters and fishers pay a disproportionate share of conservation costs through license fees and taxes on weapons and equipment, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies resolved in December to ask Congress for such a tax—perhaps the only new tax likely to win Republican support.

Dolphins to leave Steinhart after two decades

SAN FRANCISCO—Amphrite and Thetis are moving. Kept in an admittedly undersized tank at the Steinhart Aquarium since 1975 and 1978, respectively, the two female Pacific whitesided dolphins will join others of their kind at a state-of-the-art oceanarium elsewhere “within three to nine months,” new Steinhart director Robert Jenkins told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in early March. “It’s not a question of if, or when,” Jenkins added. “It’s just a matter of completing the logistics.”

One big unknown is the length of time it will take to re-sling-train the dolphins. “They’ve been sling-trained before, and they’ll remember,” Jenkins said. “But they may need practice before they’re ready to leave.”

With a background including 13 years at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, following experience at Marineland of Florida and Sea World, Jenkins was at the Steinhart less than two and a half weeks before deciding that Amphrite and Thetis need more space. Not candidates for return to the wild due to their advanced ages and the length of time they have been captive, Amphrite and Thetis are physically healthy, but depressed, spending much of their time with their noses pressed into the corners of the tank, between brief attempts to amuse themselves with floating toys—as if trying to be happy under dismal circumstances. They share the tank, not designed for dolphins, with four harbor seals, who were judged unsuitable for release by local stranding res-

cuers. Amphrite, 26, was captured for the Steinhart in 1975. Thetis, 24, was donated by the U.S. Navy in 1978.

“Amphrite and Thetis received some environmental enrichment through the work of Dr. Hal Markowitz and his graduate students at San Francisco State University,” said San Francisco SPCA ethical studies coordinator Pamela Rockwell, who worked with Jenkins and former Steinhart director John McCosker in developing the relocation strategy. “They experimented with different apparatus that would allow the dolphins to ‘order’ things they want, like fish, toys, and strokes from humans. These programs were, however, discontinued last spring: the students graduated and Dr. Markowitz is battling a serious illness.”

Plans for relocating Amphrite and Thetis were accepted in principle by the California Academy of the Sciences board of directors on March 13, and are to be finalized by a three-member panel. Members include leading marine mammal veterinarian Joseph Girasi; Sam Ridgeway, the dean of dolphin-movers, who once safely relocated 48 dolphins from Florida to Hawaii for the U.S. Navy; and dolphin handler Bruce Stephens, of Sea Ways, a San Diego marine mammal operations consulting firm.

Only two other facilities in the U.S. have Pacific whitesided dolphins, Sea World San Antonio and the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Sea World San Antonio appears to be Amphrite and Thetis’ most likely destination, having exten-

sive outdoor tanks, a large mixed-sex pod, and the only record of successfully breeding Pacific whitesided dolphins in captivity—although one of the Shedd group is now pregnant. Sea World San Antonio curator Glenn Young has long hoped to acquire Amphrite and Thetis, to more naturally diversify the age range of the Sea World group. While they would not be expected to breed, due to age, if they did show interest in breeding they could significantly diversify the limited captive Pacific whitesided dolphin gene pool.

Apparently eliminated from consideration was Marine World Africa USA, which had hoped to acquire Amphrite and Thetis after housing them temporarily several years ago while the Steinhart underwent renovations.

Shedd loses a dolphin

The Shedd Aquarium would appear to be second choice. Peers consider the Shedd the best indoor cetacean facility in the world, but outdoor sites are believed to be preferable. A move to the Shedd might also be politically problematic, after the February 24 death of Quitz, a five-year-old male Pacific whitesided dolphin captured off San Diego along with two females in early December 1993.

Pathology tests released on March 16 indicate Quitz died of erysipelas blood poisoning, probably caused by eating frozen fish contaminated with erysipelas bacteria. According to Shedd chief marine mammal trainer Ken Ramirez, the bacteria is common in fish and rarely harms marine mammals, either in the wild or in captivity—though outbreaks have been associated with some whale strandings. “But if somehow the bacteria gets into an animal’s bloodstream, the animal will die in 12 to 24 hours,” Ramirez said. “In this case we don’t know how it got into the bloodstream. It could have entered through a tiny perforation somewhere in the digestive tract. A bone from the fish could have somehow pierced a tissue in his intestine.”

Quitz had been scheduled for a medical checkup, but was found dead the night before it was to take place.

“We pulled him up to the surface,” Ramirez said, “but he had already passed away. We were in shock. It wasn’t as if we had been dealing with an animal who had been sick. It was like losing a member of our family.”

Ramirez said the Shedd dolphins and belugas are fed only restaurant-grade fish. All of them ate fish from the same batches, but no others were affected. A vaccination exists to prevent erysipelas poisoning, but the Shedd doesn’t use it, Ramirez said, because “The risk of using the inoculation,”

BEFORE AND AFTER?—Left, one of the Steinhart dolphins in January. (Photo by Kim Bartlett.) Right, Pacific whitesided dolphins at Seaworld San Antonio last December. (Photo by Merritt Clifton.)

MARINE MAMMALS

The clock is apparently running out on the sea lion/steelhead conflict in Puget Sound, in favor of sea lions who were caught, caged, and sentenced to death in February under 1994 revisions to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, for menacing the last steelhead from the endangered Lake Washington winter run as they approached Ballard Locks. A variety of nonlethal methods have failed to deter the sea lions, but a Sea Shepherd Conservation Society proposal to relocate them to San Francisco Bay and a publicity-grabbing cage occupation by Ben White of Friends of Animals apparently bought them time until the salmon run was over. Forthcoming amendments to the Endangered Species Act are expected to relieve authorities of the duty to save the last fish of particular runs when the species as a whole is not endangered.

A female orca calf, stillborn at the Vancouver Aquarium on March 8, died from blood loss due to a prematurely ruptured umbilicus. "A calf experiencing this kind of catastrophic event would be doomed whether in an aquarium or in the wild," said consulting veterinarian David Huff. The calf was the third the Vancouver Aquarium has lost, with none surviving longer than 97 days. The death came five days after an infant orca died at the Kamogawa Sea World (no relation to the U.S. Sea World chain) in Japan. The losses, along with that of another infant orca at Sea World San Antonio on December 28, renewed protest against trying to breed orcas in captivity. However, noted MARMAM online bulletin board host Robin Baird, "A large proportion of the killer whale calves who have not survived have been from two particular mothers, both at aquaria which have not had a single surviving calf." Orca calves born at U.S. Sea World facilities by contrast have a better survival rate than wildborn counterparts.

Washington governor Mike Lowry on March 9 endorsed the Center for Whale Research's campaign to return Lolita, kept at the Miami Seaquarium since 1970, to Puget Sound. Lolita is the last survivor of 57 orcas captured in Washington waters, where captures were banned in 1976.

Zooplankton, the foundation of the aquatic food chain, have declined 80% since 1951 off San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography researcher John McGowan reported in the March 3 edition of *Science*. McGowan reviewed findings from 222 scientific cruises over the past 42 years. The loss coincides with a rise of two to three degrees Fahrenheit in the water temperature, and comparably steep declines in numerous fish and bird species.

A 25-foot humpback whale believed to have been killed six days earlier in a collision with the U.S. Navy destroyer *USS Callaghan* washed up at Venice Beach, Los Angeles, on March 5. She was the first humpback to wash up in southern California in more than a decade.

An international study published in the March 16 edition of *Nature* indicates that a third of the algae growing along continental shelves is consumed by commercially caught fish, and that commercial fishing overall uses four times as much of the global algae output as was previously thought, thereby starving other marine life.

Scientific consultants hired by the Group of 100, Mexico's leading environmental organization, warned in February that wastes from a salt mine to be built by a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corp. could imperil the San Ignacio Lagoon, an grey whale nursing area. The warning came three weeks after the unexplained deaths of 300 long-beaked common dolphins, seven whales, and numerous sea birds in the Sea of Cortez, at the upper end of the Gulf of California.

A February aerial recount of the Florida manatee population, following an alarmingly low count of only 1,443 found in late January, discovered 1,822—just 34 shy of the peak count recorded since the Florida Department of Environmental Protection began doing the tallies in January 1992. However, manatees faced a renewed threat from power boaters the same week when Volusia County judge John Roger Smith threw out speed limits set by the state for being insufficiently defined. The verdict will reportedly be appealed.

University of Tasmania Ph.D. candidate Cath Samson on February 28 announced her discovery of the 15-million-year-old fossilized skulls of four beaked whales among dredging muck from a geological probe. They may belong to four separate extinct species—or be ancestors of the 12 species of beaked whale still found in Australian waters.

Marine mammologists are organizing to oppose California bill AB 1737, proposed by Earth Island Institute and introduced by assemblyman Richard Katz, which would ban "any act that penetrates the skin, membrane, or orifice of a cetacean or pinniped if the purpose of that act is to conduct scientific research and is not for the purpose of treating or rehabilitating the animal." The bill, aimed mainly at halting the capture of marine mammals for display, is likely to be amended to avoid inhibiting research beneficial to the survival of species.

New Zealand foreign affairs minister Don McKinnon on February 15 told Japan that his government objects to so-called "scientific" killing of minke whales within the newly created Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. Greenpeace aircraft photographed the Japanese fleet in the act of whaling within the sanctuary earlier that day. On February 21, after the tanker *Oriental Falcon* took oil from New Zealand to the whaling factory ship *Nisshin Maru*, McKinnon added that he would consider legislation similar to that in effect in Australia to keep support vessels for the whalers out.

originally developed for use on pigs, "was more severe than the risk of marine mammals contracting the disease."

The only U.S. aquarium to take cetaceans from the wild since 1990, and one of just two to capture any since 1987, the Shedd has now lost four of the 16 it has acquired—including another male Pacific whitesided dolphin, who died at a holding facility in 1988, 46 days after capture, and two beluga whales, who died within minutes of each other after deworming on September 22, 1992.

More than 40 members of Illinois Animal Action, the Chicago Animal Rights Coalition, and Voice for Wildlife picketed the Shedd on February 26. "Regardless of the final diagnosis," Deb Leahy of Illinois Animal Action said, "we will continue to regard this as a killing by the Shedd, and hold them fully responsible for it."

Delicate negotiations

Jenkins replaces longtime Steinhart director John McCosker, who retired, but is still on the CAS board. Sources within the San Francisco philanthropic community indicate that McCosker became amenable to moving the dolphins when it became apparent that Markowitz would not be able to resume his studies. McCosker and Rockwell had worked together since December on a tentative relocation strategy, but McCosker left the decision to proceed up to his successor.

Rockwell became involved in November 1994 when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** forwarded to the SFSPCA a note from subscriber Janice Garnett, of Venice, Florida, who became concerned about the dolphins after visiting the Steinhart. Rockwell, a specialist in negotiated problem-solving, contacted the Steinhart to see what could be done.

The situation was delicate, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** sources said. Although the Steinhart announced years ago that Amphrite and Thetis would not be replaced upon their deaths, senior CAS officials were said to have become skeptical of relocation as an option when the Humane Society of the U.S. failed to follow through on a pledge to find them a better home. Demonstrations led by local anti-captivity activists meanwhile put McCosker and the Steinhart in a no-win situation. Having kept Amphrite and Thetis healthy for far longer than any other Pacific whitesided dolphins have ever survived in captivity, the Steinhart was accused of abusing them. Reportedly refusing cash offers for them from entertainment facilities, the Steinhart was also charged with commercially exploiting them; their picture appears on many CAS signs and on the shirts of employees. Under the circumstances, CAS didn't figure to please anyone by sending the dolphins to Sea World, then as now the most viable site for relocation, but also focus of intense protest for keeping orcas, led by some of the same activists.

—Merritt Clifton

Zoos

SAN DIEGO GETS PANDAS, LOSES RHINOS

SAN DIEGO—The San Diego Zoo is dusting off plans to exhibit pandas—and struggling to recover from the abrupt extinction of its Sumatran rhino breeding program.

Eighteen months after refusing to give the zoo a panda bear import, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt reversed himself on January 14, after a personal visit to the facility, and granted the permit as the prototype for a new national panda policy to be announced in mid-March. Two pandas, a 13-year-old male named Shi Shi and a three-year-old female named Bai Yun, are expected to arrive in spring on a 12-year loan from China.

As a permit condition, the zoo agreed to put all profits from the panda exhibit, estimated at \$1 million a year, into the creation of three panda reserves. The reserves will be part of a system of 17 under development, to protect about 800 of the estimated 1,000 surviving wild pandas. Eleven already exist, five of which are slated for improvement this year, while another six are to be created. The reserves are to be linked by corridors of bamboo and tree cover. China announced a key breakthrough in the plan on March 7: the discovery of means of adjusting the flowering period of arrow bamboo, a staple of the wild panda diet. After flowering,

which occurs about once a decade, the bamboo dies back before new growth replaces it. More than 100 wild pandas starved during the most recent dieback, in the late 1980s.

Humane Society of the U.S. vice president for wildlife John Grandy said he was “very disappointed and distressed” at Babbitt’s reversal, and suggested HSUS might sue to block the loan.

The Sumatran rhino program meanwhile ended with the deaths of a 13-year-old female, euthanized on February 22 after a five-month decline due to kidney disease, and the sudden death of her mate five days later.

“It’s a disaster,” said Bronx Zoo general curator Jim Doherty, coordinator of the Sumatran rhino species survival plan. Despite spending millions of dollars over the past decade to save the Sumatran rhino, the Bronx, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati zoos now have just three of the rare rhinos left, while poaching and rain forest logging threaten them with extinction in their native habitat.

The dead rhinos are not to be confused with the northern white rhinos at the San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park. Keepers dehorned the two white rhino females in December, to encourage them to mate with two somewhat smaller males.

Ivan goes out

ATLANTA—Ivan, kept in a cage at a defunct shopping mall in Tacoma, Washington, for 29 of his 32 years, took his first steps outdoors on March 16 at his new home, a mock rain forest at Zoo Atlanta. Venturing out several times to grab food, he retreated quickly, but keepers said they were satisfied. Ivan was introduced to a female gorilla for the first time—through bars—in January. Eventually, the zoo hopes, he’ll become the dominant silverback of a small tribe, one of several at Zoo Atlanta.

Projects

A \$30 million expansion is underway at the Mystic

Tales from the cryptozoo-

Freelance writer Peter Zahler and math teacher Chantal Dietemann, of Watertown, New York, recently rediscovered the woolly flying squirrel in the Sai Valley of northern Pakistan. Presumed extinct, the two-foot-long squirrel, with a two-foot tail, was last seen in 1924. Although Zahler and Dietemann actually recovered partial specimens of the squirrel from around the nests of eagle owls last summer, they delayed the announcement until March, to obtain scientific confirmation of their findings.

Australian zoology student Elizabeth Sinclair recently captured a pair of Gilbert’s rabbit kangaroos in a live trap set for short-tailed kangaroos, according to the March edition of *Geo* magazine. Considered extinct for more than a century, Gilbert’s rabbit kangaroos were last seen alive in 1869. A radio transmitter was strapped to the male, who was then released. The female, who had young in her pouch, remains in captivity.

The last known Tasmanian tiger, a.k.a. the thylacine wolf, died at the Hobart Zoo in 1936, but a team appointed by Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife director Max Laughlin is combing the hills of the northeastern part of the island in hopes of finding another, after a veteran forest ranger claimed a sighting in January. Unconfirmed sightings, mostly at dusk, have been reported occasionally for decades. “I would love it to be true,” said Laughlin, “but chances are we won’t find anything. Even if we found a pair, the numbers would be so slim that it’s unlikely the species could survive for long.”

Ornithologist David Oren of the Emilio Goeldi Natural History Museum in Belem, Brazil, thinks he may have found footprints, claw marks, hair and feces from living examples of the giant ground sloth, supposedly extinct for 8,500 years. DNA tests are underway at U.S. and German laboratories on the hair and feces to see if he’s right. If so, the six-foot-tall, 600-pound sloth would be the biggest land animal in South America, and the biggest newly reported anywhere since the discovery of the gorilla nearly a century ago. Oren spent much of 1994 searching for the sloth in the Amazon rainforest, after collecting stories about a huge sloth-like creature from natives for a decade.

Villagers recently captured a specimen of the third newly identified hooved mammal to be found in central Vietnam in under a year—a young horned bovid, about the size of a small goat. Early last year, fresh remains were found of a new kind of deer, the giant muntjac, while two examples of another bovid, called the sao loa, were captured but soon died, possibly from stress. The latest find lives in Thua Thien-Hue province, about 186 miles southeast of the Vu Quang Natural Reserve, where the others were found.

Trouble

Margaret Davis King, 36, of Little Rock, Arkansas, was killed circa 5 a.m. on March 3, after climbing into the lion exhibit at the National Zoo in Washington D.C. King, whose death was ruled a suicide, had a history of mental problems. The only other fatal mauling at the National Zoo was in 1958, when a lion killed a Canadian toddler who darted into the cage to try to feed her.

High winds and a foot of wet snow combined on February 4 to collapse the 1899-vintage Bronx Zoo aviary. No birds were killed, and only one was hurt, but eight grey gulls, 12 Andean gulls, 12 Inca terns, and a band-tail gull belonging to an exhibit of Latin American sea birds escaped from the wreckage. One grey gull was recaptured nearby two days later. An Inca tern was found in Wayne, New Jersey, on

Marinelife Aquarium, in Mystic, Connecticut, including a \$12 million building to house Dr. Robert D. Ballard's Institute of Exploration. Ballard, who led the expeditions that found the wrecks of the *Titanic*, the *Lusitania*, and the *Bismarck*, was recruited in November from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, his employer since 1967. Already Connecticut's second-leading tourist attraction, pulling 750,000 visitors a year, the Mystic Aquarium hopes to top a million in attendance when the expansion is completed.

The Lincoln Park Zoological Society has assumed management of the Lincoln Park Zoo from the financially strained Chicago Park District, which laid off more than 1,000 people between June 1993 and December 1994. The LPZS will receive \$5.5 million a year from the Park District for the next 30 years, on condition that admission must remain free.

Hoping to found a community zoo to serve Shreveport, Louisiana, the nonprofit Caddo & Bossier Zoological Association is reportedly negotiating to buy or lease a 60-acre site in adjacent Caddo Parish.

Zoo medicine

Chicory, the nine-year-old dominant silverback gorilla at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, made a quick recovery after Loyola University Medical Center neurosurgeons removed a lime-sized brain tumor from him on February 21, in a precedent-setting 13-hour operation. But experts are uncertain whether the growth was benign, or was a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which may have spread. Zoo staff decided to risk the operation in light of their experience with Samson, formerly the dominant silverback in the colony, who died of a similar brain tumor in 1988. In the chaos that ensued, a young female sustained brain damage from a battering by another gorilla, and a baby gorilla suffered a broken arm in a tug-of-war during an attempted baby-snatching by a childless female.

The Kansas City Zoo, the St. Louis Zoo, and three others have purchased a restraint rack for elephants—up to \$100,000 apiece—that inventor Tod Ricketts of Springfield, Missouri, claims will revolutionize elephant foot care. Foot infections are a leading cause of death among captive elephants. Preventive care, including cleaning and toenail trimming, is the most dangerous routine job of elephant keepers. The rack makes the job safer and easier by enabling the keepers to restrain an elephant in an upright position, then tip rack and elephant sideways.

Trying to stop stereotypical pacing, the Calgary Zoo put a 25-year-old polar bear named Snowball on the antidepressant drug Prozac last fall, and began giving her a more challenging daily routine, including fish frozen into ice blocks. Results, after six months, are reportedly inconclusive.

Drug treatments for cardiomyopathy have restored the libido of a 32-year-old Jersey Zoo orangutan named Gambar, who recently impregnated a pair of females after a six-year lapse in fertility.

Blackfooted penguins. (Kim Bartlett)

L.A. Zoo gets overhaul

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Zoo director Mark Goldstein, 42, resigned February 16, coincidental with the release of a report by a blue-ribbon panel of consultants, presented to management late last year, that warned the city-run zoo could lose American Zoo Association accreditation due to dilapidated facilities, vermin infestation, and the loss to disease of 44 blackfooted penguins during the past 11 years, reducing a population that peaked at 27 to just four. Causes of death included heat stress, competition of excessive numbers of males for scarce females, raids by an unknown predator, and poor nutrition. On February 3, animal curator Les Schobert recommended that the L.A. Zoo relocate the survivors and cease displaying penguins, who tend to either do very well or very badly at particular facilities. Schobert also criticized the polar bear, orangutan, and bear exhibits.

"The zoo has not performed well by any standards," consulting panel member Terry Maple said. Maple, as director of Zoo Atlanta, is credited with transforming that zoo from one of the worst in the U.S. into one of the world's best. The panel argued that the L.A. Zoo administration should be separated from the city government, and urged that \$50 million in improvements be made during the next five years, including \$1 million worth of emergency repairs. \$23 million is to come from a bond issue already approved by voters, but held up for a year by Los Angeles mayor Richard Riordan during a dispute over priorities, while \$27 million would come from the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association—which has not yet shown the ability to raise that kind of capital.

The improvements, beginning with building a "Great Ape Forest" for the chimpanzees and orangutans, were authorized by the City of Los Angeles on March 1.

Goldstein's resignation and the upgrading were applauded by the LASPCA and The Ark Trust. Goldstein, a veterinarian and former director of the MetroParks Zoos in Boston, took over the top job at the L.A. Zoo in early 1992, amid heated controversy over the policies of his predecessor, Warren Thomas. Goldstein got into hot water himself about three months later when an elephant named Hannibal collapsed and subsequently died from a suspected overdose of tranquilizer—which Goldstein himself administered—while being crated for an already unpopular transfer to a zoo in Mexico. Goldstein will remain with the zoo for another six to nine months as a special consultant, chiefly on fundraising.

February 9, but died a week later of a fungal infection acquired while on the loose. The rest remained unaccounted for. Built just three years after the founding of the New York Zoological Society, the aviary was extensively renovated about 15 years ago, but corrosion within the metal support pipes somehow escaped detection.

More than 100 swans, guinea fowl, and peacocks were killed in a fire on February 6 at the zoo in Perm, Siberia, while their keepers were on a drinking binge to celebrate receiving their wages.

Assen Naidenov, 70, of Sofia, Bulgaria, in early February donated his lions, llamas, and other animals to a variety of zoos and circuses, and permanently closed his own zoo. Earlier this year, meat poachers stole and killed four deer, four sheep, six mountain goats, 10 golden pheasants, and 13 peacocks.

Staff of the Kolmarden animal park in Sweden February 20 reluctantly euthanized a 10-day-old white rhinoceros, the first born in Scandinavia. Born with an apparent brain infection, the rhino received treatment including MRI scanning and acupuncture, but was only briefly able to stand; rhinos normally stand within two hours of birth. As a last treat, he was given a bath. "He really loved it," said veterinarian Bengt Roken.

A one-year-old female red kangaroo, crated for transport from the Milwaukee County Zoo to the Kansas City Zoo to prevent inbreeding, died February 1 of a broken neck apparently suffered when she tried to jump. The padded crate was intended to prevent jumping. Milwaukee County Zoo curator of large mammals Elizabeth Frank said it was the first death she could remember in 15 years of moving kangaroos.

Thirteen exotic birds including two kingfishers belonging to a Species Survival Plan were killed at the St. Louis Zoo on January 6 when a broken water gauge caused a boiler to run dry, filling the aviary with toxic fumes.

The Shenzhen zoo in southern China sells live chickens to visitors, says Rosanna Lai of the Hong Kong SPCA, who "just throw them into the pits to the tigers, and the tigers catch them whether they are hungry or not. Their cages are strewn with chicken carcasses. The half-eaten carcasses are left to rot."

Canadian zoo attendance dropped 7.9% in 1994, from the 1993 high of 6.2 million, according to Statistics Canada—but most of the decline was accounted for by the temporary closure of the Parc Safari zoo in Hemmingford, Quebec, due to an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis. Of the approximately 800 animals at the zoo when the disease was detected, 630 were killed under orders from Agriculture Canada to keep it from spreading.

Hatched at the Dallas Zoo on December 17, the first saddle-billed stork born in captivity died just 26 days later of septicemia, a blood-carried bacterial disease that infected it from an unknown source.

Wildlife & People

The California Academy of the Sciences is trying to persuade University of California at Santa Cruz students to quit releasing ex-pet goldfish into streams. Tadpole-eating goldfish threaten a CAS-led attempt to restore the local population of redlegged frogs—the species Mark Twain wrote about in *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras Family*. Hunted to extinction in Calaveras County by 1900, the frogs now occupy only 25% of their former range, including 12 streams in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Responding to the March ANIMAL PEOPLE item about a New York Department of Environmental Conservation proposal to relax beaver trapping rules in two upstate counties, DEC bureau of wildlife chief Gordon Batcheller said on February 28 that, “At this time, the DEC has no specific proposals to change beaver management laws or regulations.” He didn’t say what had been done with the proposal in question.

As of mid-March, only 375 deer had been killed during the winter cull in the 11 DuPage County Forest Preserves, down markedly from the 642 killed last winter. County officials said the drop was due to the midwinter cessation of rocket-netting, after video surreptitiously obtained by the Chicago Animal Rights Coalition showed deer suffering in the nets. Nearby Highland Park, Illinois, on February 17 extended a 60-day moratorium on deer-culling until September 1. A task force is meanwhile to develop a deer management plan, possibly including a test of a surgical sterilization, in cooperation with the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Migrating toward the sea instead of inland, for reasons unknown, 15,000 caribou on February 15 overran the coastal village of Hopedale, Labrador, population 550, whose residents massacred an unknown number for meat.

The discovery of a roadkilled female coyote in the Bronx on February 8 touched off a citywide search for her mate. Eight days later another female was found, shot dead, beside a softball diamond. The City Parks Foundation posted a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the shooter. Five days after that, John and Donna Dudar of Yonkers acknowledged feeding a starving, mangy coyote since November at the Woodlawn Cemetery. The Bronx Zoo took over the feeding, adding medication to fight the mange.

Predator Friendly Inc., a wool brokerage in Bozeman, Montana, pays extra for wool from ranchers who don’t kill coyotes.

Canada and Sweden are testing the use of wolf urine to make scent barriers that might keep moose and elk off of busy roads.

After killing 37,000 laughing gulls over the past four years, the New York Port Authority is testing non-lethal means of keeping gulls away from Kennedy International Airport this spring—because the federal agencies that grant the killing permits are withholding them pending resolution of a lawsuit against the killing brought by the Fund for Animals.

Animal control & rescue

Sara Lohnes, 11, and Necia Crucetti, 10, of Hoosick Falls, New York, dashed down an overgrown railway embankment the morning of February 20 to free Sport, a husky/shepherd mix belonging to neighbor Tim Stratton, 10, whom vandals had tied to the tracks in front of an oncoming train. Police chief Royal Howard said suspects would be questioned. The dog was reported missing 20 minutes before the girls found him. Another dog was killed the same way in the same vicinity several months earlier.

The Animal Regulation Department in Sonoma County, California, received a record 202 reports of neglected and starving animals in January, three times as many as in January 1994, supervising officer Bob Garcia reported on February 26. Most of the cases involved harsh weather, including flooding.

“Zero Tolerance for Cruelty,” a program announced on February 22 by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, is to provide pro bono assistance to local prosecutors of cruelty cases, anywhere in California. Call 415-459-0885 for details.

Oregon animal shelter intakes fell from 116,490 in 1991 to 88,898 in 1993, according to the Oregon Animal Welfare Alliance’s just published third annual survey of all shelters in the state. Euthanasias dropped from 79,713 to 53,577, while adoptions were up from 19,105 to 25,866.

Workers removing debris from the January 17 earthquake that devastated Kobe, Japan, on March 4 found a 10-year-old dog alive in the buried remains of her doghouse. Owners Kazuko and Yutaka Inui, both 63, had failed several times to find her. The 44-day survival eclipsed the record of a dog found alive on February 6, 19 days after the quake. With temperatures below freezing, no human survived in the rubble more than two days.

At deadline the Pets Alive no-kill shelter in Middletown, New York, had raised \$80,000 of the \$300,000 it needed by March 28 to avoid foreclosure. Founded by Sara Whalen in 1986, with proceeds from a divorce settlement, the shelter has been financially struggling since 1989. It houses 80 dogs, 30 cats, and a variety of livestock.

Senior animal control officer Robert Cure, of Guilderland, New York, retired rather than face a February 22 hearing on charges of improperly ordering a dog destroyed. In New York, only a judge can issue such an order. Already on probation for allegedly neglecting animals in his custody, Cure was reportedly also accused of harassing Debbie Ciufu, his assistant since early 1993, who became his successor. Cure was honored by the state Department of Environmental Conservation last year for outstanding rabies control work during 1993, when he submitted 298 animal heads for testing, of which 146 proved rabid. Ciufu submitted 154 heads, of which 96 proved rabid. No other officer in Albany County submitted more than 102 heads.

Innovation

“By the end of 1995, the Progressive Animal Welfare Society shelter will stop killing healthy, adoptable dogs and cats,” executive director Craig Brestrup announced on February 24. He pledged to accomplish this through increasing adoption promotion, beginning to offer free and low-cost neutering to the public, expanding use of foster care, and introducing an “outplacement” program to assist people who must for some reason give up a pet. “Animals deserve better from us than a painless death,” Brestrup continued. Other changes at PAWS include “a mostly new shelter staff,” and a promise that, “While the PAWS phone system will continue to offer voice mail and recorded messages, your calls will be answered by a knowledgeable, friendly, honest-to-goodness real person.” Founded in 1967, the PAWS shelter serves King County, Washington.

ARK Online: News of Animal Rescue and Adoption at Home and Abroad, a multimedia electronic magazine, was to debut March 15 via World Wide Web, edited by Paige Powell, longtime associate of the late artist Andy Warhol and former editor of *Interview* magazine. *ARK Online* is an outgrowth of Powell’s *Ark* cable-access TV show, broadcast from Portland, Oregon. Powell began the program to help place dogs taken from animal collector Vikki Kittles [see *Court Calendar*, page 17], after spending \$9,000 in ultimately successful attempts to get them released from custody.

The Luv-A-Pet Clinic, a high-volume, low-cost neutering clinic underwritten by PetsSmart and operated by the Animal Foundation International, debuted February 14 in Phoenix. Free surgeries were offered to the first 500 clients. Regular prices range from \$15 for male cats to \$30 for female dogs. The original AFI clinic, in Las Vegas, has performed more than 50,000 neutering operations since 1989, cutting the city euthanasia toll from 22,000 per year to 15,000. The toll in Maricopa County, Arizona, where Phoenix is located, has fallen from 80,000 to 57,652 during the past five years, but Luv-A-Pet aims to bring it down even faster.

Identification

Schering-Plough Corp. and the American Kennel Club on March 8 announced they will jointly develop an AKC Companion Animal Recovery Database as part of the Schering-Plough animal health

Research biologist **Mary Meagher**, who has studied the **Yellowstone bison herd since 1965**, says snowmobilers have reduced winter deaths by keeping trails open. Yellowstone now draws 140,000 winter visitors a year—and the bison herd of 4,000 is 1,500 over what Meagher believes to be the park's natural carrying capacity. About 400 bison were shot this past winter for wandering beyond the park boundary into Montana.

A **25-member team of state and federal wildlife staff** and volunteers on February 14 evacuated 15 tule elk from the San Luis National Wildlife Reserve to prevent overgrazing. Eleven pregnant females were taken to the Cache Creek Wildlife Area near Sacramento; three bulls were taken to the Grizzly Island wildlife area; and one bull was sent to the Oakland Zoo.

The **Anne Arundel County Fire Department** in Maryland on February 9 fought its third housefire begun by pet iguanas in three years. Four days later and an ocean away, two women and a three-year-old boy were killed while two men were injured in a gas explosion caused by a pet iguana at the Vlakovie game farm, north of Johannesburg, South Africa. Iguanas tend to start fires by knocking over, clawing, or chewing the heat source they need to stay alive in captivity.

Ryan Broddrick, Placer County regional manager for the California Department of Fish and Game, told a recent workshop on mountain lion nuisance control that he'll apply for state funding with which to begin an "aversion therapy" program, hiring trappers and hounds to chase the lions away from settled areas.

HUMANE LEGISLATION

Billy Clemons, a Democratic representative from east Texas, is pushing a bill in the Texas legislature that would amend state cruelty law to allow aggressive animals to be housed together—and redefine "shelter" to include cockpits and dogfighting arenas. Cockfighting, a felony in 16 states, is illegal in 45. Dogfighting is illegal in all 50 states.

Following the recommendation of the **PIGS sanctuary** in West Virginia, the largest U.S. refuge for cast-off potbellied pigs, the Illinois legislature on March 7 killed a bill approved February 8 by the state house agriculture committee which would have barred communities from regulating pet pig ownership more strictly than they regulate dog ownership.

SB 5779 and HB 1836, now before the Washington legislature, would create a statewide neutering fund, modeled after the 12-year-old New Jersey Pet Population Control Fund.

Oklahoma state representative Laura Boyd got a strengthened anti-cruelty bill through the state house on March 6, 51-49, after an earlier version was rejected on February 27 by 17 votes—but at deadline the bill still had to run a gauntlet of state senate committees before becoming law.

Maryland and Connecticut are reportedly considering more stringent pet store regulation. The Maryland bill would set up a "lemon law." The Connecticut bill would bar pet stores from selling puppies and kittens.

division's new HomeAgain Companion Animal Retrieval System—the latest and best-financed yet of many attempts to promote a national pet identification registry via collars, tattoos, or as in this case, microchip implants. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** survey data compiled for the North Shore Animal League indicates that while 26% of pet owners license their animals, only 8.4% join registries, and no more than 1.4% join ID registries.

The **Royal SPCA pet ID program** got a boost on March 7 when Queen Elizabeth had her two cocker spaniels microchipped. The RSPCA has micro-chipped over 125,000 animals since 1992.

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A feel-good story in the Adirondacks

CORINTH, N.Y.—Adopting out 1,500 to 1,700 animals a year, or roughly one for every 10 year-round residents of Saratoga County, Adirondack Save-A-Stray is easily the best-known enterprise in Corinth, New York, population 2,700. Founder Meredith Fiel, perhaps the best-known person in town, makes sure of that, spending \$500 a month to advertise in every paper from Schenectady to Ticondaroga, and Rutland, Vermont, to Lake Luzerne.

“If you don’t get out word about what you have,” she states, “people aren’t going to know.”

Since 1991, Fiel has also contributed a popular biweekly pet care column to the Glens Falls *Post-Star*—and just this year she commenced a weekly half-hour interview program, “Hot Topics,” on the Corinth country music radio station, WZZM 93.5. “It doesn’t have anything to do with animals,” she insists. “The focus is local current affairs.” But Adirondack Save-A-Stray gets frequent mentions.

Busy at all hours

The Adirondack Save-A-Stray shelter occupies one of the busiest storefronts at the busiest corner in Corinth. Fiel acquired the building along with a farm near town in 1981, when she moved to the Adirondacks from New York City, seeking a quieter life.

“Don’t believe that,” says a volunteer handling the cash register. “I was here alone all morning and it was dead. I cleaned the cages and read half a book. Then Meredith walked in and there were 12 people here within five minutes.”

At six p.m. on a midweek night, when most shelters would be long since closed, Adirondack Save-A-Stray is packed with at least four helpers, Fiel’s two children, a couple of people trying to pick out a puppy, veterinarian Steven Lascher, radio program guests, and a harried young producer who’s trying to drag her over to the station to go on the air. The telephone rings constantly. Some of the cats are running around the office for



Above: Adirondack Save-A-Stray looks more like a store than a shelter. **Below:** founder Meredith Fiel and veterinarian Steven Lascher. (Photos by Kim Bartlett.)

Birds

The National Audubon Society plans to use the alleged mid-February poisoning of more than 40,000 waterfowl at Silva Reservoir, Mexico, as a test of the strength of the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, set up as part of the North American Free Trade Agreement to monitor international pollution problems but not yet asked to rule on a case. The Mexican National Water Commission blames the deaths on pesticide runoff. Other sources blame chromium escaping from tanneries nearby, set up to take advantage of the U.S. market opened by NAFTA.

Eagle deaths since November 1994 due to an unknown toxin now total 27 in Arkansas, where the toxin causes brain damage, and nine in Wisconsin, where liver damage is more common. Fifteen eagles found dead in Wisconsin circa April, 1994, are believed to have been deliberately poisoned, possibly by feather merchants.

Declaring the techniques of breeding sandhill cranes in captivity to be perfected, the Pautuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland has ended its crane project, sending 28 Mississippi sandhills to the Audubon Species Survival Center in New Orleans, and 18 more to the White Oak Conservation Center, in northern Florida.

Pressure to expand Canada goose hunting is growing in Oregon, as goose numbers in the Willamette Valley are up to 120,000—enough that farmers consider them a nuisance—while the season length and bag limits remain restricted to protect the dusky goose, a subspecies almost indistinguishable on the wing from other Canadas. Once the most numerous variety, dusky numbers fell after the 1964 Alaskan earthquake altered their breeding habitat to allow more predator access. There are now about 13,000 duskies.

Le Cirque, an elite New York restaurant, served 20 roasted ortolans on February 27. Migrating between Africa and France, the hummingbird-sized ortolans are devoured whole, as the eaters hold their napkins over their heads. Said chef Roger Verge, “We eat it under the veil of the napkin so that God cannot see us.” Though still hunted, ortolans receive limited legal protection in France. They have no legal status in the U.S.

Zoologist Walter Boles, of the Australian Museum of Science in Sydney, claimed March 2 to have found the oldest songbird on record. The bird lived about 55 million years ago, 30 million years before the oldest songbird previously known.

The Guam Division of Agriculture and Resources has bred a captive group of Guam rails up to 105 specimens, and will soon attempt to restore the rail to the wild on nearby Rota Island, in batches of 30 to 50. Once common, the Guam rail has been extinct in the wild since 1986—wiped out by the nest-robbing brown treesnake.

Poachers use grain laced with pesticides to kill 300,000 waterfowl a year at the Poyang Lake sanctuary on the Yangtse River in China, the Shanghai-based *Liberation Daily* reported on February

exercise. Fiel is talking to everyone at once while taking off the smock she wore as Lascher's technician on opening day for Adirondack Save-A-Stray's own in-house neutering clinic, Planned Pets. In addition to low-cost neutering, the clinic provides discount vaccinations and other basic animal care. For those who don't care to drive all the way to Corinth, Adirondack Save-A-Stray also maintains a network of 35 veterinarians in outlying areas who neuter animals at reduced rates.

No newsletter

As amazing as what Fiel accomplishes amid the uproar is what she doesn't do. Founded in 1988, Adirondack Save-A-Stray still doesn't have any brochures about itself, or much of a mailing list. A one-page list of adoption hints appears to be the extent of Adirondack Save-A-Stray literature, apart from photocopies of Fiel's columns, which focus on veterinary advice. Because she has little patience for the requisite record-keeping, Fiel also doesn't take advantage of her location to sell pet supplies, a potentially very lucrative sideline that is in fact advertised on the storefront sign.

Nor does Fiel ever sit still or stop talking. Radio show guests sometimes wonder why they're invited: Fiel, in effect, interviews herself, turning to the guests much as a sportscaster turns occasionally to a "color man." But she makes guests and audience alike crack a smile with her unquenchable effervescence. It's hard to imagine such a personality thriving in the Adirondacks, characterized by men of few words and women who rarely speak unguardedly among mixed company—but it's hard to imagine, too, that anyone of less energy could make humane headway in an area choked by poverty for most of this century, with some of the highest rates of hunting participation, child abuse, and failure to finish school in the whole U.S.

"It's changed, really changed," Fiel insists. "Fourteen years ago you heard that neutering makes an animal fat, lazy, and stupid. We've really educated a lot of people," to the point that the neutering clinic is now booked for a solid month ahead. Fiel made it happen by visiting every school, summer camp, youth group, and public gathering of any other kind that she could talk into letting her speak. Humane education hasn't changed the Adirondacks, yet, but a generation has grown up better informed than their forebears.

Ironically, Fiel never intended to get into humane work at all. "When I bought my farm," she explains, I didn't realize it would become a dump for unwanted animals. Of course when I found the animals, I took them in. I got up to 56 before I realized something had to be done. I hooked up with a veterinarian who was

willing to do low-cost neutering and began to do adoptions from a basket in my storefront window. I got to be known as the cat-and-dog lady, and other people began bringing me strays. Finally, at Christmas in 1987, I looked around and saw I had a line of customers going out into the street while I was trying to adopt out a puppy. I realized I had to choose between my businesses, and I followed my heart. In February 1988, we held an auction, sold all the antiques, and became a fulltime shelter," open seven days a week.

No killing

Everything Fiel knows about humane work, she's picked up since, mostly through intuition. She insists on remaining a no-kill shelter, to encourage public trust and enthusiasm. "We're not 100% against euthanasia," Fiel says, "because we will euthanize an animal who's suffering and just has no chance. But we're not here to kill animals, and for that reason we don't accept animals that don't have a chance of adoption. We tell people with those kind of cases to go to animal control. That's why they exist. They do an important job, and we have a good relationship with animal control, but we do a different job. We're here to help the animals we can help, by finding them homes."

Fiel equally emphatically opposes warehousing animals for life. Two other no-kill shelters within a 25-mile radius furnish her ultimate examples of how not to operate. Both are located well outside of town, do little or no adoption promotion, have resultantly low adoption rates, and have reputedly kept some animals in small holding facilities for many years. One of the two has been frequently criticized and occasionally prosecuted for maintaining squalorous conditions and keeping dogs outdoors right through bitterly cold winters. The other has generally stayed out of trouble, but keeps a low profile, with little visible effect on the community.

Fiel's only other hard-and-fast rule is to change anything that doesn't work. It's a philosophy that makes Adirondack Save-A-Stray living proof that "impossible" is only a degree of difficulty.

—Merritt Clifton

Country Connections (swap)

23. The birds' gizzards are cut out upon retrieval to insure safety for human consumption, and the remains are sold in Guangdong province, at Hainan Island, and in Hong Kong, the Communist Party paper said. More than 98% of the world's remaining Siberian cranes winter at Poyang Lake, but they're more often shot than poisoned, as they don't take the bait. Raptors have already been eradicated from the area. Designated a sanctuary in 1983, Poyang Lake is protected by four forestry police officers and 40 rangers, who among them have caught about 40 poachers involved in an estimated 200 incidents.

An impact report filed February 23 by the Walt Disney Co. in connection with a 76-acre resort to be built between Laguna Beach and Newport Beach, California, calls for trapping and killing red foxes and cowbirds to protect a 15-acre reserve for the endangered California gnatcatcher. Red foxes are not now on the property.

Mobil Oil agreed February 24 to cap all stacks at company refineries by May 1, to prevent accidental bird deaths, ending a campaign by PETA. PETA spokesperson Tracy Reiman said the group would next demand stack-capping of Exxon, Chevron, and Shell Oil.

PETA has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to penalize NASA for not removing a protected great horned owl and three hatchlings from the launching pad of the space shuttle Endeavor, which blasted off from Cape Canaveral on March 2. All four were killed, the owl from an apparent collision with part of the structure after taking wing, and the hatchlings from exposure, apparently after being soaked by the sprinker system that cools the pad

Moore & Ahlers - paid through 9/95.

Animal entertainment

Known for wounding bulls rather than killing them outright, then dragging them about the ring before kneeling in front of them preliminary to the final sword thrust, Jesuslin de Ubrique, 20, is the latest star of Spanish bullfighting. Pelted with bras and panties by female admirers when he enters the ring, de Ubrique says, "Having fought with thousands of animals, I have learned that the woman is the best of all. I love bullfighting," he adds, "but if I decided upon this profession, it was only to make money."

At deadline, pending authorization from Congress, the Ringling Brothers Circus was booked to perform an 18-elephant "Salute to Congress" outside the U.S. Capitol on April 5, to which Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich proposed to bus school children. Friends of Animals, the Fund for Animals, and the Washington Humane Society planned to protest. Ringling has otherwise ceased holding circus parades and other outdoor performances—and even asks reporters not to disclose the hour at which animals will be marched from railway station to arena. Once held in mid-day with great fanfare to drum up interest in the show, the processions now take place at night.

Police in Chonburi province, Thailand, on March 16 shot a circus elephant who killed two handlers during a performance. Fearing such an incident, the city of Bangkok, 60 miles west, on February 11 banned elephants from the city streets. Thousands of former logging elephants, thrown out of their old jobs by forest conservation measures imposed in 1989, have been brought to Thai urban areas, where they perform to earn their keep.

The Columbus, Ohio city council on February 7 voted 7-0 to bar novelty animal acts, exempting zoos, rodeos, horse shows, and circuses. The object is to keep out wrestling bears, boxing kangaroos, and diving mules. The ordinance also increased the penalty for cruelty from \$750 to \$1,000, and made it a first rather than third-degree misdemeanor.

ESCAPE!

Gerry Richardson pledged last fall to free Mokolo, a four-year-old chimp he found in Yaounde, Cameroun. Mokolo was chained by the neck to a wall so tightly that he couldn't lie down. In February Richardson did it. "I cut his chains, and he jumped into my arms, eager to start a new life," Richardson said. Three days earlier, World Society for the Protection of Animals staff and four armed forest rangers rescued another chained chimp found in Yaounde, Jackie, who had lost most of her hair due to malnutrition—whose owner threatened to shoot them. Both chimps were taken to the Limbe Primate Sanctuary. "When we left, Mokolo was hugging one of the baby chimps at the sanctuary," Richardson added. Unfortunately, he estimates, 50 young apes kept in such conditions die for every one rescued. As WSPA director for Central and Eastern Africa, Richardson is trying to stop the hunting of apes and the sale of their babies in the Cameroun and the Congo, where logging is fast razing their habitat. (WSPA photo.)

Guests of honor at the Genesis Awards presentation on March 12 included wildlife biologist Gordon Haber and Weela, a pit bull terrier. Hired by Friends of Animals to monitor the wolf massacre authorized by former Alaskan governor Walter Hickel, Haber in November took dramatic video of the deaths of four snared wolves that led new governor Tony Knowles to announce the killing would be halted as his first act after inauguration. Weela, a trained rescue dog, "rescued 30 people, 29 dogs, 13 horses, and one cat during the floods that plagued southern California during the winter of 1993," according to the Ark Trust, the awards sponsor. The awards honor media for outstanding contributions to awareness of animal issues. Winners this year included *Black Beauty* (feature film); *Dr. Dolittle* (film classic); *Time* magazine; the ABC news program *20/20*; and *The Simpsons* TV show.

Questionnaires received from 619 of the 2,301 active members of Circus Fans of America listed elephants and big cats as the favorite circus acts among 40 possibilities. Horses ranked ninth, exotic animals 12th, domestic animals 14th, and elephant rides 23rd. Acts involving chimpanzees, bears, and sea lions were barely mentioned. Ninety-five percent of the respondents were males, average age 62; just 6% were under 40.

Three dogs died in the mid-February running of the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest sled race, as seven of the 22 teams dropped out. Two died of "sled dog myopathy," a genetic disorder; one suffered severe internal injuries after being hit by a sled.

Doug Swingley, 41, of Simms, Montana, on March 14 became the first non-Alaskan to win the 1,161-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, in a record time of nine days, two hours, and 22 minutes. Despite the loss of \$450,000 worth of national sponsorship,

Greyhound racing

Cleveland car dealer Ed Mullinax is reportedly trying to talk a city task force into adding \$20 million worth of accommodations for greyhound racing to the estimated \$100 million cost of bringing 63-year-old Cleveland Stadium up to date for football.

A Massachusetts bill to ban dog racing and dog racing simulcasts, introduced by Rep. Shaun Kelly, is reportedly stuck in the legislature's joint committee on government regulations. State residents may ask that the bill, HB 899, be favorably reported out, c/o representatives Steven Angelo and Vincent Ciampa, and senators Michael Creedon and Robert Travaglini, at the State House, Boston, MA 02133.

Vermont senator Jean Ankeney has introduced a bill to ban dog racing in that state. The only dog track in Vermont, the ex-horseracing circuit in Pownal, has been closed since 1992, but could yet be reopened.

The Texas Greyhound Assn. on January 15 opened a \$675,000 training and research center near Lorena. About 300 dogs at a time are to be trained there, in sessions open to the public.

the race—the first in which no dogs died—featured a record purse of \$350,000, of which Swingley got \$52,000.

The American Humane Association has amended its guidelines for the use of animals in TV and film productions to bar sedation for non-medical reasons. In April 1994, a drug overdose killed a vulture who was sedated to appear dead in the film *In The Army Now*.

AmAV ad

Moor-Jankowski fights for LEMSIP chimps (from page one)

pices since 1967. On August 23, 1994, NYU had without Moor-Jankowski's knowledge informed the USDA, which enforces the Animal Welfare Act, that LEMSIP was no longer a "site of the NYU Medical Center."

The import of that, Moor-Jankowski explains, is that while he personally raises LEMSIP's annual budget of \$4 million, mostly from industry, "The money goes through NYU. As soon as I started exposing Wood's experiments, the money was withheld, jeopardizing our ability to meet USDA standards."

Elaborates Suzanne Roy of In Defense of Animals, "Moor-Jankowski had arranged for over \$450,000 in funds from the U.S. Army to underwrite the establishment of a chimpanzee retirement facility in South Texas." Also to house retired LEMSIP chimps, the facility was to be run by the Buckshire Corporation, whose president, Glen Wrigley, rattled the research establishment by filing a brief in support of Moor-Jankowski and McGreal during the Immuno case. The contract was to cover lifetime care for 12 chimps, all over 30 years old, formerly used in military experiments at the Delta Regional Primate Center in Louisiana. Those projects ceased in 1991. Three of the chimps are now at the Buckshire headquarters in Pennsylvania, while LEMSIP has five; four remain at Delta.

"But NYU wouldn't sign the deal," Moor-Jankowski continues. "They wanted to keep the money. And they wanted to fire me, but they couldn't, so they fired the lab."

While Moor-Jankowski pursued the transfer of LEMSIP to the Aaron Diamond Foundation, a longtime sponsor, preparatory to

his own retirement, NYU associate dean David Scotch "appears to have actively courted the participation of Fred Coulston in a takeover plan," Wisconsin Regional Primate Center librarian Larry Jacobsen charged in a February 9 posting on Primate-talk, an Internet bulletin board for primatologists. University of California at San Diego anthropologist Jim Moore backed the posting on February 14 with an extensive bibliography of sources.

Neither NYU representatives nor Coulston have been willing to discuss the situation in detail with media.

Coulston

Coulston, 80, is owner of the White Sands Research Center in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and founder of the Coulston Foundation, sited at nearby Holloman Air Force Base, which keeps 140 chimps left over or descended from the NASA "space monkey" program of the 1950s and early 1960s. Since Coulston took over the Holloman facility in June 1993, three chimps died from overheating on October 31, 1993; four macaques died of bloat and vomiting on June 14, 1994, their first day in outdoor housing; two chimps died in July 1994, one of apparent untreated pneumonia and meningitis, the other of apparent oversedation for a routine physical; and in December 1994, according to Jacobsen, "An as yet unrevealed number of monkeys died of thirst and dehydration in a room where the water was shut off."

A staffing ratio of one person per 33 primates, criticized by the National Institutes of Health in a June 1994 site visit report, may have contributed to the deaths. "The report also

notes that the Coulston Foundation veterinary staff is too small, largely undertrained and inexperienced," Jacobsen said.

Between his two facilities, Coulston already has about 540 chimps and 800 macaques. He reportedly offered NYU \$1 million for LEMSIP, the acquisition of which would give

him more than half the lab chimps in the U.S. "This," observed Jacobsen, "despite the fact the Coulston's enterprises in New Mexico are marginal financially."

At deadline, Moor-Jankowski hoped criticism of a possible deal with Coulston from other scientists might make NYU back off.

PETA

Meanwhile, according to Roy, "a PETA undercover investigation has shown Buckshire is in serious violation of the Animal Welfare Act in both its chimpanzee housing area, where conditions are at best bleak, and its cat colony." In February, the USDA cited Buckshire for housing chimps in undersized cages and failing to provide adequate medical care—situations Moor-Jankowski attributes to the NYU hold on the funding.

In mid-March, Army Medical Research Acquisition Department director Gregory Doyle ordered NYU to remove the chimps from Buckshire.

In between, on February 24, Wrigley offered to sell PETA all the chimps to which Buckshire holds title. PETA refused the offer on February 27. However, wrote PETA director of research, investigations, and rescue Mary Beth Sweetland, "We are always willing, in conjunction with the Great Ape Project and the Chimpanzee Rescue Centre [*an English sanctuary*], to talk about a donative transfer. Perhaps a condition under which Buckshire is released from providing for the chimpanzees' lifetime care would make such a transfer more attractive to you."

"We have 40 adult chimps," Buckshire spokesperson Sharon Hersh told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "ranging from 13 to 35 years of age, who would be able to leave their current situation for residence outside of the research community. We have assigned costs ranging from \$12,000 to \$18,000, depending upon their breeding status. Many are ex-performing chimps who had worked with trainers. Some were part of a large group imported from Africa for breeding in the late 1960s. Others were born within the research community. We would entertain selling specific animals."

—Merritt Clifton

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COURT CALENDAR

Humane Enforcement

Gamecock breeder John Brown, of Corbin, Kentucky, on March 17 sued the Knox County Humane Society, executive director Vicky Crosetti, and operations manager Debbie Clark for \$2.1 million because they euthanized five cocks seized from him on June 30, 1993, by the Knox County Animal Control Unit, while a Tennessee Highway Patrol trooper was citing him for drunk driving and speeding. Those charges were reduced to one count of reckless driving, for which Brown paid a fine. KCHS records indicate the cocks were badly dehydrated. Cockfighting is legal in Kentucky, but not in Tennessee. Brown had just purchased the cocks in North Carolina.

Animal collector Vikki Kittles, 47, on February 3 drew six months in jail and five years on probation, during which time she may not keep animals, after being convicted of all 42 cruelty and neglect counts brought against her in Clatsop County, Oregon. She also forfeited 39 dogs, was given 30 days in which to place 61 more, and was ordered to undergo psychological evaluation and counseling. Arrested in April 1993, Kittles served as her own attorney during a two-week trial, after going through eight court-appointed attorneys and six judges in nearly two years of preliminary motions. The case cost Clatsop County \$100,000; citizens also donated \$40,000 in cash and supplies to the county animal shelter, to provide for the dogs. Kittles was previously in trouble for animal collecting in Broward County, Florida, from 1985 into 1988, and in Mississippi and Washington later in 1988. Kittles is also suspected in the disappearance of her mother, who was last seen in 1988, living in a van guarded by Kittles' dogs.

Poodle breeder Charlotte Speegel, 56, dodging cruelty charges in various northern California jurisdictions since December 1990, was convicted on March 15 of eight felony counts of cruelty and one misdemeanor count of neglect. She faces up to six years in prison and has forfeited claim to 350 dogs seized by the Northwest SPCA in two 1993 raids, of whom 30 remained at the shelter.

The American SPCA on March 1 seized 91 fighting cocks in a raid on a Suffolk County home where 47 people were caught attending a cockfight. "From June to this raid," ASPCA investigator Robert O'Neill told Evelyn Nieves of *The New York Times*, "we've seized 1,450 birds and arrested something like 190 people. We've forced cockfighting out of the city." The maximum penalty for cockfighting is four years in prison, but so far, O'Neill said, no defendant has received more than three months in jail.

Raiding a dogfight held just two blocks from City Hall, San Francisco Animal Care and Control officers on March 16 arrested 75 people and seized seven live dogs along with two dead dogs and \$50,000 in alleged gambling stakes. Two more live dogs were recovered in a follow-up raid on another location.

Activism

Rod Coronado, 28, pleaded guilty on March 3 to aiding and abetting the February 28, 1992 fire at Michigan State University that razed the offices of Richard Auerlich, who does USDA research on behalf of the mink industry, and Karen Chou, who was researching alternatives to animal testing. Coronado also pleaded guilty to the February 1992 theft and destruction of a cavalryman's journal, taken from a museum at the Little Bighorn Battlefield. In exchange for the plea, federal charges against Coronado in connection with a series of alleged Animal Liberation Front actions against mink-related facilities in Oregon, Washington, and Utah during 1991 and 1992 were dropped. Coronado said he took the deal rather than risk impeaching others through testimony presented at a trial. He faces from 41 to 51 months in prison.

The 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act was invoked for apparently the first time on February 15 in Cleveland, as Dr. Gerald Applegate won a preliminary order barring anti-abortion activist Alan M. Smith of Youngstown from speaking to or harassing him or his family. Applegate testified that someone had stabbed his dog to death, leaving the remains on his porch with a note saying, "From your pro-life friends." There has been speculation that the act could set a precedent for ordering animal rights activists away from laboratories and researchers' homes.

Crimes against humans

Thomas William McCluskey, 39, "terrorized friends and family with knives, axes, and guns, and forced them to listen to his bloody, grisly tales of torturing cats and dogs," Donna M. de la Cruz of the *Nashville Sentinel* reported on March 14. On March 12, McCluskey went berserk with a chainsaw, without apparent provocation, and dismembered his cousin, Jason Bowen, on a city sidewalk in Pulaski, Tennessee. He was charged with murder, while undergoing psychiatric evaluation.

British Columbia parole officials in mid-February relocated former Sooke school principal Harold Irving Banks, 59, from Nanaimo to Victoria, after his daughter Bree Smith went public with the charges that sent him to prison, previously concealed to protect her identity. Banks copped a plea in 1988 after being accused of more

Animal Welfare Act

The feral rhesus monkeys at Silver Springs, Florida, are all to be trapped by June 1 and held for life in one-acre pens inaccessible to visitors, under a plan approved by the USDA, which had threatened to charge the town of Silver Springs with violating the Animal Welfare Act for keeping the monkeys as a tourist attraction while failing to keep them properly caged. The monkeys were apparently released on an island in the Silver Spring river circa 1937 by one Captain Colonel Tooeey, promoter of a "jungle cruise" boat ride. In 1984 the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission ordered Silver Springs to curb colony growth, but 25,000 citizens petitioned to have the monkeys left alone after 217 were captured and sold for laboratory use. A sterilization program followed, but was stopped when the monkeys were found to be carrying the simian herpes B virus, usually fatal to human victims. The Florida Department of Natural Resources, Centers for Disease Control, Humane Society of the U.S., and Florida Audubon Society all urged that the monkeys be euthanized, but that plan also met prolonged resistance.

Endangered species act

The Sierra Club on February 16 sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento, California, for failing to add the peninsular desert bighorn sheep to the endangered species list. The USFWS determined that the sheep were eligible for listing in 1992. Coveted by hunters and poachers, they numbered circa 1,200 in 1980, but fewer than 400 remain in the mountains of San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties. The listing is opposed by cattle ranchers, who will probably try to claim cash compensation if it goes through.

The USFWS on February 17 declined to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf, an Alaskan subspecies of 600 to 1,000 members, as threatened. Logging on 600,000 acres of the 17-million-acre Tongass National Forest had been held up while the status of the wolf was under review.

The Fund for Animals announced February 15 that the USFWS has now proposed endangered species listings for 154 of the 443 species for which listing decisions are to be made by 1996, according to the 1992 settlement of a suit filed against former Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan by the Fund and Defenders of Wildlife.

The Biodiversity Legal Foundation has asked the USFWS to list the fisher as a threatened species in the western U.S., "due to isolated, low population levels, direct and accidental trapping pressures, loss of habitat through destructive timber practices, restricted range, and inadequate govern-

The Los Angeles SPCA on February 27 seized 39 allegedly neglected animals from the Elias Pet Shop in East Los Angeles. "We hope this will send a message to all pet shop owners that every animal in their care must be provided for properly," said LASPCA executive director Madeline Bernstein.

After Eric Kiernan, 19, of Belfast, Maine, was jailed on January 12 for alleged burglary and theft, acquaintances revealed how he severely abused a kitten—who lived, with 24-hour-a-day care from Sonja Berenyl and Corine Fitzjurls of the Claude Clement Animal Shelter. On February 17, Kiernan was charged with cruelty, too.

Ingrid Leonovs and John Diehl, each 24, of Bucks County, Pa., were fined \$300 apiece on February 15 for starving their 18-month-old Dalmatian to death. Just a month earlier, three Bucks County men were convicted of the torture-killing and mutilation of a Dalmatian named Duke. **Jason Tapper, 21** drew 18 to 36 months in jail for the deed; **Jan Pyatt, 23,** got six to 23 months; and **Roy Elliott, 21,** got nine to 23 months. The number of Dalmatians involved in cruelty cases and received by shelters has soared since the 1991 re-release of the Disney video *101 Dalmatians* touched off a Dalmatian breeding boom.

Washington D.C. postal worker Robert Boggs on March 6 copped a plea on a single count of postal theft. Boggs was arrested last fall after investigators found thousands of pieces of undelivered mail, 20 dead turtles, 10 dead birds, a severely neglected dog, 43 neglected turtles, and 15 neglected birds in his Maclean, Virginia apartment. The Washington Humane Society laid no charges, believing Boggs to be mentally ill and therefore not culpable for intentional cruelty.

A court in Munich, West Germany, on February 27 ruled that use of remote-controlled electric shock collars in dog training isn't cruel. The case is believed to be the first of its kind to go to trial.

Prosecutors on February 8 filed stiffer charges against Alameda Naval Air Station personnel Christopher Bishop, 24, Kevin Johnson, 23, and Stephen LeBlanc, 27, for the October 3 videotaped torture-killing of a cat named Boots, whom LeBlanc's wife abandoned when she left LeBlanc earlier in the day. LeBlanc and Bishop have been held in lieu of \$50,000 bail since their October arrest, while Johnson is out on bond.

Bill Nooter

than 1,000 sexual assaults against children, which he logged on a calendar, including acts of buggery and attempted bestiality. Smith testified that she was sexually assaulted from age 18 months, when Banks broke her jaw, until age 16, when she ran away from home. Most traumatic, she said, was being forced to eat her pet rabbits.

As ANIMAL PEOPLE went to press, a verdict was due in the Roseburg, Oregon trial of avid hunter and former deputy sheriff Larry Gibson for allegedly murdering his two-and-a-half-year-old son Timothy by abuse on March 18, 1991. After his wife Judy fled frequent beatings last year, daughter Karen, now 8, came forward to testify that she saw Gibson beat Timothy, stuff him into a plastic bag, and drive away. No body has ever been found. Police believe Gibson dispatched Timothy with a pistol; Gibson admits firing the shot that neighbors heard, but claims he was killing a cat.

Abdalah Benhajra, 28, of Casablanca, Morocco, on March 7 drew eight years in prison and a fine of \$349 for selling dog meat sausages. Benhajra butchered about three stray dogs per week. That was legal; selling the meat to humans wasn't.

Wildwear (paid through May)

ment protection," according to petitioner Jasper Carlton. Carlton has also pledged to sue the USFWS and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt for refusing to protect the lynx. "This case is of particular concern to conservationists," he said, "since it is one of the few times the Washington office of the USFWS has reversed recommendations from biologists in both its Montana field office and its regional office in Denver, both of which recommended the listing of the lynx."

U.S. District Judge Louis Bechtel on February 26 issued a permanent injunction under the Endangered Species act to keep the Pacific Lumber company from logging a 237-acre portion of the Owl Creek Forest in Humboldt County, California, which may host the rare marbled murrelet.

Judge Yoichi Ono of the Kagoshima District Court in Japan on March 8 threw out a suit filed by the Environment Network Amami on behalf of the Amami hare, Lidth's Jay, White's ground thrush, and Amami woodcock, on grounds the four endangered species have no legal names and addresses. "We knew the court would do something like this," said ENA leader Hiroaki Sono. "We just wanted to point out the huge gaps in the law." The four are among 100 species Japan protects as "national monuments," forbidding their killing or sale, but not preventing the destruction of their habitat.

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Reflections of Eden:

My Years With the Orangutans of Borneo, by Birute M.F. Galdikas.

Little, Brown & Co. (1271 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 1995.
403 pages; 16 pages of photos. \$24.95; \$29.95 in Canada.

Birute Galdikas is less known than her colleagues Jane Goodall and the late Dian Fossey, but her reminiscences of field research on primates are no less colorful and interesting. Paleoanthropologist Louis Leakey and his handpicked trio of female researchers spent decades documenting the lives of apes in the wild, and campaigning to preserve primates and their natural habitat.

Fossey's specialty was mountain gorillas; Goodall's is chimpanzees. Galdikas studies orangutans, whose solitary habits make them especially difficult to observe. When she began her research in the early 1970s, she and her husband lived in a primitive jungle shack with almost nothing in the way of modern convenience. Malnourished, constantly struggling with malarial fevers and other diseases, plus parasites, Galdikas single-mindedly focused on her research, spending hours every day in the jungle looking for orangutans, tracking them as best she could through the swamps.

In loving detail she describes her many encounters with the apes, admitting that they became her family and her world. She grieves over the deaths of some of them as if they were her own children. In fact, Camp Leakey, where she and her husband Rod Brindamour were stationed, became a haven for infant and juvenile captive orangutans. These young apes had been taken as pets by some of the local people, but when owning orangutans became illegal, they were turned over to Galdikas so she could habituate them to their jungle environment. She became their surrogate mother, and her descriptions of how they clung to her day and night, between turning the camp upside down, inspires more awe than laughter.

Such laserlike focus and commitment carried Galdikas through extreme hardship and privation, but it also destroyed her marriage, the details of which find their way into *Reflections of Eden*. Galdikas makes it clear that she has few regrets about putting husband and children a distant second to the orangutans, displaying that curious fervor and single vision which seems to mark great scientists, no matter what their gender.

Through Galdikas' attachment to the apes, she realizes that Nature is capricious and hostile. "In traveling to the tropical rain forest," Galdikas writes wistfully after three of her subjects die of apparent malnutrition, "Rod and I were fulfilling our generation's dream of 'going back to nature,' returning to the Garden of Eden. But gardens are made by humans, to please human sensibilities. To maintain gardens, one must keep nature at bay: weeding, pruning, spraying, watering, fencing. A garden is Nature tamed, domesticated, civilized. In the beginning there was no garden; there was only Eden. Our original home was not a garden but a wild place, where Nature reigned. I was learning that Nature clean and pure was also nature brutal, ruthless and savage."

It is this argument she puts forth as part of her campaign of human intervention in preserving habitat parks. "Nature had offered humans a way out, through the development of culture," she continues. "We have clothes, shelter, cultivated food, medicine. As I visualized the lone nest swaying somewhere in the green canopy with Carl's bones and another with Cara's maggot-ridden remains, I wept. Nature had not offered them a way out."

—P.J. Kemp

BOOK REVIEWS

The World Beyond The Waves, by Kate Kempton, illustrated by Larry Salk. Portunus Publishing Co. (3435 Ocean Park Blvd. #203, Santa Monica, CA 90405; 1-800-548-3518), 1995; 88 pages. Cloth, \$14.95; paper \$8.95.

Strange things happen even before the recently orphaned Sam, a 12-year-old girl, is swept off the sailboat by storm waves. A trio of dolphins appears just before the hurricane, one of them seriously wounded and needing medical attention. Sam's aunt and uncle, both marine biologists, are able to administer an antibiotic, but can do little else. A tropical bird lands on the life-lines next to Sam, seeming to communicate something of importance to the dolphins. Later, after being washed overboard, Sam wakes up in a dim, dark place, only to be greeted by the bird. Almost drowned, Sam has been rescued by sea creatures and brought to *The World Beyond The Waves*, a sanitarium for sick and injured marine life of all kinds, all suffering from things humans have done—some deliberate cruelties, but mostly careless or unthinking acts.

The bird, Dapper, is her guide, along with Jacob, the ghost of an ancient

coelacanth, and her injured dolphin friend, Francis. They enlighten Sam and then let her go. Back in her world, Sam understands that her purpose in life is now to aid the beleaguered sea world.

In its theme, *The World Beyond The Waves* is much like *The Secret Oceans*, reviewed in the November 1994 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Both are fantasies aimed at older children and adolescents; in both books, humans are taught interspecies compassion by mystical sea creatures. On the whole, however, *The World Beyond The Waves* is more passionate, with a stronger humane message. It invokes sympathy for even the unloveliest denizens of the sea, such as the shark and sturgeon. The crew of *The Secret Oceans* eats fish, provided by their dolphin mentors. Sam, on the other hand, is served only seaweed in *The World Beyond The Waves*, an important difference, since human fish consumption is jeopardizing the survival of all marine life—not "just" the fish, but also the dolphins, whales, seals, sea lions and other creatures whose very lives depend on having enough fish to eat, and who endure the brutality of fishermen who view them as competitors. It must not be overlooked that those who provide fish for the world's markets are the same people responsible for seal massacres, countless "accidental" deaths of birds, turtles, and marine mammals in fishing nets, and even whaling.

The World Beyond The Waves cannot fail to inspire young readers with its message of love and hope. One person can make a difference, Sam is gently told, and she sets out to prove it.

—Kim Bartlett

MEMORIALS

In memory of Jill Phipps, killed by a cattle truck on February 1 in Coventry, England, while protesting the export of veal calves.

—Marion Friedman

In memory of my wife, Philomena, who died March 10. She was devoted to cats and was enormously sympathetic to the plight of all abused animals. We'll miss her intensely.

—Frank Smith

I do not know how long she had lived in my yard with her husband. She was a beautiful longhaired blonde cat, who was

Resources for humane education

Simmons College, of Boston, has encourages students to think—and to find their

opened up a new avenue for animal-related education, the interactive electronic curriculum. Two such curriculums have already been up and running for a couple of years now, used by dozens of teachers all over the country as an aid to teaching computer use, science, English, math, and research skills—and the cumulative efforts of the student participants are also usefully expanding what we know about roadkills and whales.

The **Dr. Splatt** roadkill project, already described in **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on multiple occasions, involves students mostly in grades 6-9 counting roadkills along specified stretches of road for nine weeks each April and May, logging the results of each day's count. The **Dr. Splatt** project is by far the biggest and longest-running attempt ever to assemble data on roadkills. Important findings to date include the discovery of peak periods of vulnerability for many species, and the apparent tendency for roadkills to cluster at full moons. We've been pleased to publish the Dr. Splatt findings for the past two years, and eagerly anticipate the findings for this year. For further information, e-mail to **BBartlett@vmsvax.simmons.edu**.

Michael Williamson's **WhaleNet** curriculum is quite a bit more difficult, oriented toward high schoolers with advanced knowledge of math and science. To make maximum use of it, participants should be able to do some first-person whale-watching. Those who live well inland can still follow the lessons in navigation, data analysis, etc., but it may be much less fun for students who don't get the chance to see or at least look for whales in person. Get details at **Mwilliamson@vmsvax.simmons.edu**.

Perhaps the most ambitious multi-disciplinary humane education manual to date is **Introduction to Animals and Ethics**, a 253-page complete curriculum for secondary students, edited by Lynn Spivak for the San Francisco SPCA, with input from a 26-member development team including 13 working schoolteachers. Four major sections examine current issues associated with pets, endangered wildlife, animal research, and the animal rights/human rights interface. No mere propaganda piece, **Introduction to Animals and Ethics** will undoubtedly make the doctrine from all sides quite uncomfortable. It

own solutions to real-life problems. The factual briefs provided on some of the discussion topics are already outdated, but the looseleaf format allows for quick, easy updating. Send \$25 to the attention of Lynn Spivak, SFSPCA, 2500 16th St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

Kind News, from the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education, a Humane Society of the U.S. subsidiary, is a single-sheet newspaper published in four editions keyed to grade level, plus a Spanish/English edition, issued monthly from September through May. To be accepted in just about any classroom, anywhere, **Kind News** stays bland. It also makes the mistake of nickel-and-diming teachers and sponsors of gift subscriptions to classrooms. The price isn't bad, as 50 copies will be delivered to a school for just \$4.00 per year, but charging anything at all is counterproductive when animal agribusiness, hunters, trappers, the fur trade, and even the Iditarod Trail Committee flood classrooms with free material. Sending a free bundle to every classroom in the U.S. could be done for about as much as HSUS pays one senior vice president. [POB 362, East Haddam, CT 06423-0362.]

How On Earth!, a trendy new rival, encourages early-teen readers to make their own contributions—but it's steep, at \$18/year for just four issues. The winter 1995 edition is largely occupied with a multi-part tribute to the late River Phoenix. There's also a full page urging readers to oppose the Great Whale hydroelectric development in northern Quebec, which the current Quebec government already cancelled. [POB 339, Oxford, PA 19363.]

Our advice: skip both **Kind News** and **How On Earth!**, if your program can only afford only one subscription, and go right to the original. Oriented toward individual children of preschool and lower grade levels, rather than whole classrooms, the **Kindness Club** has no big sponsor, gives members much more for their money, albeit in a more modest format, and is distinguished for having introduced the young Paul Watson to humane concerns, circa 1959. Members pledge, "I promise to be kind to animals, as well as people, and to speak and act in defense of all helpless living creatures." Membership is \$6/year U.S., to 66 Brunswick Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 1G5.

—M.C.

very devoted to her husband. I would talk to her and feed her every day, but she would look at me through narrow golden eyes as if she wanted to kill me, as she killed birds and squirrels. She and her husband had three kittens last summer. I trapped the kittens and brought them safely into our shelter, but I was reluctant to trap the mother and father, since they were so wild. I was afraid they would not adjust to the shelter.

On January 24, 1995, I touched my friend for the first time: I lifted her shattered body from the street where she had just been killed. I buried her in the flower garden at the foot of the cross, where she loved to play in the summer, jumping into the air, batting at unseen, imaginary foes. She was so full of life, I could not believe she had lost that life in a split second. My heart felt broken.

A few minutes ago I looked out the window and a bright red cardinal was sitting on a limb. I said, "Honey, you have a better chance at life now. Your staunch enemy is sleeping in the shadow of the cross.

—Her friend, Marie Bridgeman

Abide-A-While Home

In memory of Stubby, our little lambchop. This little 15-year-old stray with both FELV and FIV joined our family of 100 tropical fish, Fang (dog) and Claw (cat), on March 5, 1994. He made his home on our front porch, where he sensed all the tender loving care he would be given in his custom-made shelter. He rallied several times before dying peacefully in his sleep inside his house on January 18, 1995.

—Joanne Fleming

OBITUARIES

Veterinarian James Alfred Wright, 78, known to the world as author James Herriot, died of prostate cancer on February 23 in Thirsk, Yorkshire. Deciding to become a vet at age 13, Wright studied small animal medicine, but under financial duress became junior partner in an agricultural practice in Thirsk, where he continued to treat animals until 1990. Adopting as pseudonym the name of a Scots soccer goalie, Wright wrote unsuccessfully, as a hobby, for many years before producing two successful volumes of reminiscences of his veterinary career at age 53. Sales were initially slow, but they inspired a hit BBC television series, even more popular in the U.S. than in Britain, and combined into a single volume, retitled *All Creatures Great And Small*, became a best-seller. Wright went on to produce six more books, including *Every Living Thing*, which at his death had been on *The New York Times* bestseller list for 22 weeks.

Homer Pickens, 91, died February 19 in Albuquerque. As assistant director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Pickens in 1950 nursed back to health a bear cub called Hot Foot Teddy by the firefighters who rescued him from a blaze in the Lincoln National Forest. Pickens eventually flew the bear to the National Zoo, where, renamed Smokey, he lived until 1976 and is remembered still as emblem of the U.S. Forest Service firefighting effort.

Bambi, 31, the oldest deer on record—since 1989—died January 23. Adopted as a fawn by Nancy Fraser of Inverness, Scotland, she was kept in a guest house and fed a diet of sugar beets, corn, and chocolate biscuits.

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How to save the Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act: *Time for a Change*, by Thomas Lambert and Robert J. Smith. Center for the Study of American Business (Washington University, Campus Box 1208, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130-4899), 1994. 63 pages. Free on request.

Thomas Lambert and Robert J. Smith evidently subscribe to the theory that the Endangered Species Act "is being used for little more than the achievement of de facto national land use control and the regulation of economic development." Though they avoid saying so themselves, they quote and paraphrase others to this effect so often that one is inclined to start looking under the bed for the "out-of-work Soviet economists" that they suggest through another quotation might be influencing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data analysis. Either that, or bolt the door against the National Biological Survey, which is—again through unrefuted quotations—equated with an "eco-Gestapo."

If one can get past the paranoia, however, Lambert and Smith do offer a useful critique of the ESA, and a suggestion for restructuring it that should achieve more habitat protection at less cost to taxpayers and property owners. As they point out, the invocation of the ESA to freeze all economic use of property has produced the "shoot, shovel, and shut up" syndrome, whereby land owners destroy wildlife and habitat rather than risk losing their investment because of the discovery of an endangered species. This increases the likelihood of losing species, increases the cost of species recovery, and leads to much costly litigation.

Instead of fining property owners for harming endangered species and habitat, Lambert and Smith argue, the government should reward those who practice conservation. They cite with approval Defenders of Wildlife's recent offer of \$5,000 to any rancher near Yellowstone National Park who can prove that wolves have produced a litter on his or her land. "Instead of penalizing property owners for having listed species on their land," Lambert and Smith continue, "why not pay them? Starting with a base date, the Fish and Wildlife Service could announce for each species that at the end of X years, every land owner or manager will be paid an appropriate fee for each additional pair of organisms. Reward amounts could be adjusted for each different species in order to reflect the costs of harboring specimens of that species...The basic strategy is to turn endangered species into valuable assets. The result of rewarding property owners for preserving endangered species would be more saved species, and, as landowners would now have an incentive to report sighting of listed species, better information on the location

and extent of endangerment. There would be less need to fear attempts to catalog species, such as the National Biological Survey. Some might object," they continue, "that a preservation bounty system would be too costly and that the federal government does not have the money to pay landowners to raise endangered species." Yet, "For the amount spent by the government on the Florida scrub jay in 1991, the FWS could have paid bounties of \$5,000 per pair of birds on 7,800 birds. Between 1989 and 1991, government expenditures on the Stephens' kangaroo rat totaled \$23 million. At \$5,000 per pair of rats, this money could have saved 9,200 rats. There are approximately 10,000 northern spotted owls known to exist today. At \$5,000 a pair, it would cost the government \$25 million to double the owl's population. Because saving owl habitat is expensive, the government might have to offer bounties greater than \$5,000 per pair. The bounties could be increased significantly, however, before the system would cost anywhere near the \$21 billion to \$46 billion that the present recovery plan is expected to cost."

Backlog

ESA administration is also notoriously inefficient. As Lambert and Smith point out, "The backlog of species lacking recovery plans is quite severe and is essentially a bottleneck slowing down the process of evaluating candidate species." They suggest that this could be rectified by introducing a system whereby "individuals and private wildlife management organizations could bid for wildlife recovery jobs." In effect, land conservancies could fund their own operations by acquiring contracts to protect and propagate the endangered species residing on the land in question.

The Lambert and Smith case is familiar to me because I argued for exactly the same approaches in 1975-1976, as ghostwriter for the late Tobias Grether's privately published philosophical tome *Homocronos*. Unfortunately, while Grether later advised former president Ronald Reagan on German-American affairs, he apparently never got a word in edgewise about conservation, his true passion. I meanwhile made my own parallel case for incentive-based conservation in the natural history journal *Snowy Egret* (1978), and in my 1980 book *Freedom Comes From Human*

Photo

—Kim Bartlett

Beings. Nobody listened. The environmental establishment then as now held that any amendment to the ESA on behalf of landowners would weaken species protection. Most ESA critics contributed to that stance by making plain that their object was indeed dismantling the ESA. Incentive-based conservation was left to land conservancies, modeled after The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited, the prototypes, which have enjoyed exponential growth all this while.

Years of experience have now demonstrated in practice the points Grether and I tried to make then in theory. Lambert and Smith have meanwhile grabbed the attention of policymakers including Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. In so doing, they have created a window of opportunity for those of us who care about endangered species to restructure the ESA so as to more effectively protect rare animals and plants while disarming the wise-use wiseguys who use conflicts with property rights as a pretext for doing away with species protection.

Conclude Lambert and Smith, "The purpose of this report has not been to deny the importance or worthiness of protecting endangered species." However, "the worst enemy of federal species protection is a disenchanted public. Fortunately, Americans seem to be genuinely concerned about the plight of threatened and endangered species." At the same time, "Increasingly, citizens feel a sense of betrayal and outrage that the government is violating their constitutional rights and taking their private property without *any* compensation, let alone just compensation. The erosion of popular support for endangered and threatened species could prove fatal to the Endangered Species Act. To avoid this tragedy, Congress must acknowledge the difficulties with the present ESA and amend the Act," to introduce "provisions and structures that will actually preserve wildlife and habitat, while protecting private property rights."

—Merritt Clifton

Love, Miracles, and Animal Healing: A Veterinarian's Journey from Physical Medicine to Spiritual Understanding, by Allen M. Schoen, DVM, and Pam Proctor. Simon & Schuster (1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 1995. 236 pages, \$22.00.

I didn't know what to expect when I saw a testimonial by Henry Kissinger on the cover of *Love, Miracles, and Animal Healing*. It was so bizarre as to pique by interest immediately. When did Henry Kissinger begin to concern himself with the "emotional as well as the physical needs" of animals? Allen Schoen, the New England veterinarian who authored the book with Pam Proctor, sounded like the Norman Vincent Peale of the finned and fuzzy. In fact, I suspected Dr. Schoen himself was a bit fuzzy.

Chapter one, "Megan's Miracles," opens with Albert Schweitzer's prayer for the animals. Nice, but I try to avoid sentimental goo at this stage of the game. Fortunately the sweetness soon gave way to a straightforward account of battling a seriously bad case of heartworm that threatened the life of a homeless and pathetic golden retriever, whom he would name Megan and promise to keep if only she would live. Schoen goes on to describe a boyhood spent studying and caring for animals, and a transformational experience in a western wilderness involving a death battle between a snake and a wild ferret. He tells of his years studying to be a veterinarian, first working on a graduate degree at the University of Illinois, where he

announces to his advisor that, "I will not do any research that hurts animals." Later he attends Cornell vet school, and spends much time on "alternative" projects.

Schoen is obviously sincere in his love for animals, and clearly believes in a higher ethic. Still, there are lapses in his consciousness. Some of his most meaningful encounters with animals take place on fishing trips. It is unclear also if all his emoting over cows and pigs has led him to forswear eating them. Language betrays some other possible inconsistencies, such as a jarring comparison of the luxurious coat of a once sickly cat with "ranch mink." Perhaps these are just the words of Schoen's collaborator.

Like a new-age James Herriott, Dr. Schoen uses anecdotal accounts of animals he has known and healed to illustrate concepts of interspecies communion, empathy, and devotion. He also makes a convincing case, as a scientifically well-trained veterinarian, for including alternative therapies such as acupuncture and homeopathy along with the traditional modalities of veterinary practice.

This is a book most animal people will enjoy, and it would make a great gift for one's own veterinarian.

—Kim Bartlett

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Life Song: *In Harmony With All Creation*, by Bill Schul, Ph.D. Stillpoint Publishing (Box 640, Walpole, NH 03608), 1994. 204 pages, with bibliography. \$12.95.

Veggie-wear--
paid through Jan/Feb.

The arrival of humans in Polynesia, Micronesia, the Hawaiian Islands, the Galapagos Islands, New Zealand, and on Easter Island, bringing with them pigs, rats, and dogs, caused the extinction of as many as 1,600 bird species, New York State Museum paleontologist David Steadman reported recently in *Science*. Just three bird species died out in the Galapagos before humans came, but two dozen went extinct in 460 years since, Steadman said. Deforestation caused by humans wiped out 29 of the 30 bird species native to Easter Island, along with 44 species in New Zealand.

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Bill Schul endorses the idea of a universal life spirit, a spirit not the private domain of homo sapiens, but shared by every organic entity on the globe. It is a spirit of communication and intelligence, having its essence at the very cellular core of each living thing. This is an idea of mythic and somewhat contentious proportions, yet Schul glides easily across this semi-mystic plane where many others before him have been blown to bits by the land mines of the Scientific Method.

In order to accept the idea of a universal life spirit, we are “required to adopt a shift in consciousness,” somewhat an understatement when we are asked to consider our spiritual and even intellectual kinship with bats, gazelles, paramecium, toadstools, snakes, and the like. But it is this “shift in consciousness” which makes or breaks his argument, and like any other epiphany, it occurs seldom and is little understood.

In anecdotal style, Schul discusses many human/animal communion experiences alleged to have occurred over the centuries. There are the perennial favorites, such as Fido saving his human family from certain death by waking them before fire overcomes them, and how Puff and Rover traverse thousands of unfamiliar miles to be reunited with their owners. Or, switching from Disney to a more “In Search of..” mode, stories of Muffy and Bowser returning from the grave for one last goodbye lick or lifesaving feat. Thrown in for good New Age measure is the inevitable retelling of the miracles of gardening performed by the Findhorn devas, plant spirits receptive to human intervention and communication.

But between and throughout these chestnuts, Schul includes more subtle and infinitely more troubling examples; troubling because in every instance mankind comes across as the blind, deaf and dumb poor cousin. Schul describes a world where there is a constant exchange and flow of language, ideas, and communication going on all around us, even through us, but seldom conscious accessed by us. The anecdotes he cites are the instances where, for one reason or another, people a little more sensitively attuned were able to pick up bits and pieces of this flow, being largely baffled by it. Not fitting in with known scientific data, these experiences get shunted to the potboiling catch-all of ‘occult’ or ‘new age’ phenomena.

Schul sidesteps scientific land mines by simply not paying them any quarter. This is not necessarily as heretical or, worse, sloppy, as it may sound: there is a growing sense, voiced by popular author Michael Crichton, that “we are witnessing the end of the scientific era,” citing science as an increasingly outmoded system. Science was supposed to eventually answer every question; instead it has only uncovered millions more. Worse, “the lucrative attraction for inappropriate technology has led to a life estranged from Nature,” as Schul quotes psychologist John Ocean. In other words, we are not only deaf, dumb, and blind, but damned proud of it, proud to death.

The vague spiritual notion underpinning much of the present life age is that life is a stage upon which we are to act out our individual salvation, with all the rest of organic nature mere props and arty background. Not so, schul argues; rather, the life force—or “Life Song”—of all nature is in constant and concerted forward motion. Not our constellated human egos aspiring toward some otherworldly goal, but each living cell in every organism propelling all of creation toward something we can’t even begin to envision.

—P.J. Kemp

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SANTA ROSA, California—"In a former life," says Larry Weiss, "I practiced criminal law for 18 years. Eventually I grew tired of making the streets safe for drug dealers. Then, in 1985, I providentially encountered a book, Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*, which convinced me that I could remain a lawyer and be proud of my work."

Ten years later, Weiss grins, "I mostly defend dog criminals. Or dogs who are accused of criminal behavior," he corrects himself. "Especially those of whom it is suspected they might eventually commit a crime because someone thinks they resemble a dog that might have a criminal disposition under some other circumstance."

As one of the few practicing lawyers to make animal rights law a fulltime specialty, Weiss earns a fraction of typical lawyers' wages in an animal-friendly office that looks like a den. He answers his own telephone, does his own typing, raised three daughters as a single parent, and at age 52 still plays hardball for fun and exercise.

"Second base," he says. "I'm a glove man. But I'm thinking about switching to softball this year. The reflexes are going."

Swings the bat

Weiss hits a bit, too, on behalf of organizations including Sonoma People for Animal Rights, as an active member since 1987; the Marin Humane Society, a client since 1990; and the Sea Wolf Alliance. He has represented national groups at times, including In Defense of Animals and Last Chance for Animals, but his enthusiasm is for work at the local level. "I like being part of a small grassroots group," he explains, "and I recommend it to everyone, especially those who have only seen animal rights as filtered through the large national groups and their mailers. Small, local groups exemplify democracy in action, and to watch people become vegetarian or go out on the picket line for the first time is truly inspirational."

One of SPAR's most successful projects is monitoring local cruelty cases. "We attend, *en masse*, all cruelty cases that go to court," Weiss says. "One case we lobbied concerned a person who had intentionally split his dog's head open with an ax. This case resulted in a felony conviction; an eight-month jail sentence actually served, not suspended; plus 250 hours of community service and a three-year probation. That's the kind of sentence all animal abusers should get, and an example of the kind of impact a local group can have."

For Marin Humane, Weiss coordinates the California Animal Legal Library. "This program assists in cruelty prosecutions," he states, "by maintaining a pleadings file and list of competent forensic experts, including veterinarians and humane officers. We have acquired specialized information about how to prosecute animal collectors, which we make available to prosecutors throughout the country upon request."

Weiss takes an advisory role with the Sea Wolf Alliance, a one-person organization run by Jeanne McVey from a boat in Sausalito, California—or out of her knapsack, anywhere from Anchorage, Alaska, to Cairo, Egypt.

"Jeanne is doing an incredible job," Weiss testifies, "trying to protect wolves, coyotes, foxes, and other predators who are the subjects of continuous extermination campaigns. The Animal Damage Control program is still alive and well, folks, with an annual budget of \$31 million. Anyone interested should call Jeanne at 415-331-5606. I guarantee she will put you to work."

Berkeley grad

Born in Chicago, Weiss earned his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966. Classmates included Mario Savio, whose 1964 speech in defense of civil liberties from the top of a patrol car in Sproul Plaza touched off a decade of campus protest. "The moral persuasiveness of any movement depends upon people who are willing to put their lives on the line," Weiss observes. "I firmly believe we must not lose our connection to the streets."

Defending activists is accordingly another big part of his practice. One favorite case came in 1989, when "I was one of two attorneys representing activists who went to Grizzly Island in Solano County to protest the tule elk hunt. They scrambled through swamps in the middle of the night to get there, since the sole bridge had been closed to everyone but hunters. Twenty-eight people were arrested. Twenty-four were convicted, and four were acquitted in the course of a six-day trial. I went to see Doll Stanley, Lise Giraud, and Brian Boury while they were serving their sentence. We touched hands on opposite sides of the glass and all of us laughed. I knew then that we had won. The animal abusers and their agents can arrest you and put you in jail, but they can't defeat you unless you let them."

Also in 1989, Weiss represented several activists who were threatened with jail for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury that was looking into the 1986 arson that leveled an almost-finished laboratory building at the U.C. Davis.

"If you take the number of people who have been jailed for refusing to testify before federal grand juries, six, and compare it to the number of indictments, one, and convictions, none to date, the conclusion is inescapable," Weiss insists, "that jailing witnesses, rather than investigation for the purpose of indictment, is a major goal of such bodies. Many well-intentioned people have been intimidated by the grand juries," at least eight of which have been empaneled to look into alleged Animal Liberation Front activity during the past six years. "They become afraid to be involved with people who were subpoenaed, since it might lead to their own subpoena, or to give money to a subpoenaed organization, because their names might appear on a list somewhere."

In 1991 Weiss asked for half an hour to address the annual Summit for the Animals, a gathering of national animal rights group leaders, "about grand juries and their imminent use against the movement. I was told that there was no time on the agenda, and that I couldn't speak anyway because I was not the head of an organization that had existed for a sufficient number of years. But I noticed that at least two hours at that conference were dedicated to detailing how to raise funds. This was discouraging to me because it indicated the priorities of the leadership."

Weiss may have overestimated the influence of the grand juries in everything but their apparent effect in slowing down the ALF, which struck more often in 1987 and 1988 than in all the years since combined. But representing activists who refuse to testify continues to keep him busy in courtrooms from Spokane to Phoenix.

Meanwhile, with wise-use wiseguys running amok in legislative bodies, Weiss sees hope in the courtroom. "Laws are shaped by courts as well as by legislation," he reminds. "Often the courts will intervene when an issue is too hot for legislators. I feel the future of animal law lies both with legislation and court victories. When you have a *simpatico* legislature, then legis-

lation is the easier path. However, the current legislative tenor tells me that we will be lucky to hold on to what we already have in the way of humane and environmental legislation. Judges, being appointed for longer terms or for life, are less responsive to the politics of the moment. In political climates such as exists at present, that is an advantage. Consequently, I predict more emphasis on court decisions during the next two years of Republican hegemony.”

—*Merritt Clifton*

