

# Hogwash



(Photo by Kim Bartlett.)

*Pork barrel politics* came into the American lexicon through the political campaigns of North Carolina-born lawyer and war hero Andrew Jackson, U.S. President 1829-1837, who helped Tennessee break off from North Carolina and then built a political empire by allegedly passing out salt pork at the polls.

*Off the pig!* popped up in the 1960s. In inner city slang, it meant "kill the police," but when ANIMAL PEOPLE asked activists at the recent Midwest Animal Liberation Conference if they recognized it, none under age 35 did. They guessed, instead, that it had something to do with living downwind or downstream of a hog farm.

In the old days, before antibiotics, almost every farm kept a hog or two, who ate slops—a mixture of kitchen wastes and barnyard offal—and wallowed at will in a mucky outdoor pen. Hardly anyone imagined that hybrid corn, motor vehicles, and penicillin might make possible the use of standardized methods in rearing the creatures who inspired the expression, "Independent as a hog on ice."

"As recently as 1959," Marty Strange and Liz Krupicka wrote in their pioneering expose of factory farming *It's Not All Sunshine And Fresh Air* (1984), "hogs were produced on more than half the farms in America. At the same time, large-scale hog production was not practical, partly because the animal is susceptible to communicable diseases when crowded in close facilities. The

introduction of antibiotics helped control these diseases, while other powerful factors, especially rising land values, made it desirable to move the hog indoors."

The only independent hogs in the U.S. these days are the ferals running amok in parts of the rural south, California, and Hawaii, whose ancestors bolted to freedom decades ago. At that, independent hogs may soon outnumber independent hog farmers. Contract growers accounted for a full fourth of U.S. hog production in 1994, up from 16% in 1991. Many of the remaining independents are longtimers, apt to sell out and retire soon. Soaring feed

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# ANIMAL PEOPLE

*News For People Who*



*Care About Animals*

April 1996

Volume V, #3

## *Artful Dodge gets Agudo family out of Venezuela*

**GLENCOE, Missouri**—Wanted for treason by Venezuela, because in February 1993 he and colleague Aldemaro Romero videotaped fishers in the act of killing a dolphin, Professor Ignacio Agudo is safe in Brazil, after two years on the run. His daughters Esther, seven, and Lina, 15 months, are with him.

Romero too is alive and well, having escaped to Miami in February 1994. His wife followed soon after. But Agudo's wife Saida, Esther and Lina's mother, died in hiding on April 26, 1995, at age 36, because she couldn't get medication she needed for a chronic heart condition. Their grandfather, Agudo's father, repeatedly interrogated by Venezuelan police, shot himself in December 1994, to avoid giving away their location.

Alice and Ken Dodge, who in February escorted Agudo to safety, are heaving sighs of relief back home in the St. Louis suburbs, where Alice heads the Pet Search no-kill adoption center. Alice has been bringing kittens and puppies to safety from points around the

Caribbean and adopting them out through Pet Search for more than a decade, but the Agudo rescue, which she undertook on request from ANIMAL PEOPLE, was her first on behalf of a human being. It required the Dodges to travel to Caracas, an unfamiliar city, by cruise ship, on short notice, at their own expense; make contact with Agudo, whom neither had ever met, who speaks no English; provide Agudo with identification as Alice's husband; smuggle Agudo aboard the ship, past suspicious guards with automatic rifles and machetes; keep him hidden for 24 hours; and get him safely back off the ship in Aruba, where she delivered him to a Latin American journalist, who as part of a second operation coordinated by Romero and Brazilian marine mammologist Jose Palazzo Truda arranged to relay Agudo and his daughters on to Brazil.

Ken meanwhile had to follow Alice aboard the ship and to Aruba without giving away his identity as her actual husband.

Advised at the last minute by Truda that international animal protection organizations including one with an annual budget of \$2.7 million were pleading poverty when asked to help, ANIMAL PEOPLE contributed \$700 to cover the flight of the family from Aruba to Brazil.

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—Kim Bartlett

## **Missouri to trap otters**

### **New icon for antifur drive with European ban pending**

**BRUSSELS**—If Europe banned the import of seal pelts because of the cuteness of harp seals, just wait until they meet river otters—not only cute, but playfully active and insatiably gregarious.

The Missouri Department of Conservation quietly approved the resumption of trapping river otters in May 1995, but word didn't reach the public until Valentine's Day, when the world learned from an article by Mead Gruver in the *St. Louis River Front Times* that the Missouri Trappers aim to give Miss Missouri an otter coat this year.

Thus alerted, the Fur Bearer Defenders and the Sea Wolf Alliance warmed up their fax machines. Within hours bigger organizations including the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Fund for Animals, and the Humane Society of the U.S. were on the case. Trapping lobbyists, including Missouri DoC

wildlife research biologist David Hamilton probably developed migraine headaches.

British environment minister John Gummer announced March 4 that the European Union will proceed with a 15-nation ban on the import of trapped furs from 13 species commonly caught in leghold traps, if international standards for humane fur trapping—considered a contradiction in terms by most humane authorities—are not adopted by December 31, 1996.

According to the Reuter news service, "European Union Environment Commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard gave no clear answer to repeated questions at a news conference on whether the proposed ban would take effect from next year if no framework deal was reached. However, asked after the conference about Gummer's remarks she told

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## **INSIDE**

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**Who's taken over Toronto Humane Society now?**

**MAD COW PANIC HITS BEEF-EATERS**

**Paul Watson on sealing and the man from Dildo**

## Editorial

# *Animal rights, Republicans, and Original Sin*

"Four new trends will greatly affect the course of environmental politics in the 1990s," writes Competitive Enterprise Institute director of environmental studies Jonathan Adler in his recently published opus, *Environmentalism at the Crossroads*. "They are: the growing influence of deep ecology and its radical preservationist policy prescriptions; the environmental 'backlash,' as represented by the *property rights* and *wise use* movements; the emergence of the *environmental justice* movement and the tensions it has created within organized environmentalism (as members of racial and ethnic minorities demand representation); [and] the challenge to conventional environmental policies by *free market environmentalism*."

Adler omits the animal rights movement—either a major failure of vision or a symptom of the failure of animal rights activists to politically capitalize on major gains in public opinion and shifts in the norms of socially accepted behavior. Animal rights advocates should care about Adler's perspective because, like it or not, the Competitive Enterprise Institute is among the major think-tanks influencing the Republican Congress, and Adler's errors, whatever they are, are likely to be echoed in Republican policy-making.

Notably, although the words "animal rights" don't appear in Adler's index, he is aware of the major animal rights organizations and issues, along with the major organizations representing other animal protection perspectives—and evidently cares not a bit about the differences in the "rights," "welfarist," and "conservationist" positions, which seem self-evident and important to many people within animal causes. Discussing the ivory trade and whaling with a bias toward consumption, Adler lumps Friends of Animals, the Fund for Animals, and the Animal Welfare Institute together with the pro-hunting World Wildlife Fund and National Wildlife Federation. All to him seem to be "radical preservationists," despite the acceptance of "sustainable use" of wildlife, rejected by the former trio, as the guiding philosophy of the latter pair.

Significantly, hunting too is omitted from Adler's index. Adler attacks the global moratoriums on ivory sales and whaling from a purely utilitarian perspective that notes self-interest on the part of organizations using images of elephants and whales in fundraising literature, but overlooks the proportionally much greater self-interest of government officials in nations which still have coveted wildlife: an animal protection group can always find another campaign issue, but the officials of nations lacking the clout and stability to control their own borders have no economic reason to leave animals unpoached when they know that if they don't cash in, someone else will.

Apparently, Adler regards animal protection in general as just one theme within deep ecology—and a fading theme, at that. This would seem at odds with such facts as the growth of vegetarianism, opposition to wearing fur, and the decline of sport hunting so that today, for the first time ever, more Americans are vegetarians than kill animals for fun.

But Adler's book reached **ANIMAL PEOPLE** the same week as a study by subscriber Harold Herzog of animal rights movement media coverage as measured by citations in *The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, 1975-1994, and *Newspaper Abstracts*, 1989-1994. Herzog discovered a pattern in the *Reader's Guide* citations closely following the grievance/takeoff/transition/growth-or-stasis phases of mass movements as outlined by sociologist Bill Moyer of the Social Movement Empowerment Project and discussed in detail in the April 1995 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial. The number of citations more than tripled, from four to 13, in 1976, coinciding with the U.S. publication of Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*, but tapered off again until 1981, when a surge in citations followed the formation of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the first heavily publicized actions of the Animal Liberation Front, exposing the abuse of primates at the University of Pennsylvania's Head Injury Lab. The movement rated 32 citations in 1983, 32 more in 1984, then lost momentum fast as PETA became quagmired in confrontation with the National Institutes of Health over the Silver Spring monkey case, while the ALF squandered public sympathy by turning from exposure of abuse to arson and vandalism. Animal rights causes rated just 20 citations in 1986; 23 in 1987. When antifur activism and the tuna/dolphin controversy rose to fore, the movement rebounded, claiming 45 citations each in 1988 and 1989; 60 in 1990. The numbers since have fluctuated: 40, 33, 39, 25.

The shorter survey of *Newspaper Abstracts* citations showed a similar pattern: 163 in 1989, more than doubling to 338 in 1990, then tapering off: 245, 208, 191, 142.

As Andrew Rowan of the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy points out in the just-published *Animal Policy Report* 9(3/4), "There are many reasons to be cautious about taking the trend in magazine and newspaper articles as a sign that the hold of the animal rights movement on the interests of the American public is declining. For example, donations to animal rights and animal welfare groups continued to climb through 1994."

But too much easy money may be the problem. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** often points out, animal protection groups have learned how to raise funds by endlessly recycling old issues, old campaigns, old photographs, and old statistics, consistently ignoring major victories—and opportunities—because gains and opportunities don't bring in as much loot as familiar horror stories. Unrecognized by most of the participants, the 1990 March for the Animals was the funeral march of a movement whose leadership failed to mature with the cause. That March was a political and economic fiasco—and is now to be emulated by another such March this summer, led and promoted by the same people. This year's March has generated so much excitement among animal rights partisans that except for press releases from the organizers themselves and open letters from Rutgers Animal Rights Law Clinic cofounder Gary Francione, who urges that it be boycotted for being "welfarist," **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has received exactly four pieces of mail to date making any mention of it—and only one from anyone outside the Washington D.C. region who plans to attend.

Adler, in short, may be right about the influence of the organized animal rights movement while grossly underestimating the breadth of pro-animal public opinion, especially among the young. Lifestyle indications such as the trend toward vegetarianism suggest that the animal rights movement has already had more influence on environmental outlook than deep ecology *per se*, whose Malthusian aspect has more in common than partisans admit with the paranoia of wise-use survivalism. Opinion surveys meanwhile indicate that the public is quite able to incorporate such animal rights precepts as not eating animals and not wearing fur into daily life, without accepting the misanthropy and self-indictment inherent in deep ecologic animal rights doctrine, as espoused by PETA and other groups taking a fundamentalist perspective.

One could argue that deep ecology was an outgrowth of animal rights philosophy, not the converse, and that the notion that animals have a right to decent treatment has gained acceptance even as the central notion of deep ecology, that humans are an abhorrent aberration in the natural process, has been rejected, along with most other dogmas rooted (consciously or not) in the medieval religious construct of Original Sin.

## *Where have all the confabs gone?*

Non-leather shoe distributor Frank Zigrang, of Heartland Products Ltd., probably holds both the lifetime and single-year records for animal rights conferences attended. Since 1986, Zigrang has criss-crossed the U.S., marketing his wares to every conference he can get to. Thus, when Zigrang says the number of such conferences is markedly down, he knows whereof he speaks.

"Minnesota hasn't had an animal rights conference since the 1980s, I believe," says Zigrang. "Illinois last hosted one at least four years ago. Chicago used to have some, but not in recent years. There might have been one or two in St. Louis, but that's been it for Missouri. Wisconsin had one last year, but they won't be holding one this year. Iowa hasn't had one for four or five years. I've never heard of any, at least not lately, in Michigan, Indiana, Nebraska, or the Dakotas."

Instead of broad-based conferences attracting participation by multiple groups, the conference schedule these days, though busy as ever, seems to be dominated by the annual conferences of single groups, which tend to be held in the biggest population centers—and tend to be hard for people living in other areas to attend. These people, points out Zigrang, are usually the activists and humanitarians most in need of the sort of social contact and face-to-face exchange that good regional conferences provide.

Zigrang also notes that in contrast to the highly popular conferences of the American Humane Association, National Animal Control Association, and Doing Things for Animals, oriented toward people with professional involvement in animal protection, the best animal rights conferences of years past were oriented toward students and other people just beginning to become involved. They had low registration fees, or none. They offered lots of different things for concerned individuals to do. And, claims Zigrang, "At least half the people I met at those conferences had never been to an animal rights event before."

Zigrang doesn't buy arguments that conferences are just temporarily down because of the emphasis national groups are putting on the World Animal Awareness Week and March For Animals events scheduled for this June in Washington D.C.

Rather, says Zigrang, "The number of conferences began dropping off after the first March for the Animals, in 1990, and I think it was because the nationals were sucking all the money out of the state and local groups and not sending enough back." Direct-mail fundraising replaced face-to-face contact as the focus of animal rights group recruitment; direct-mailers more and more recycled lists of people already known to be donating to animal rights groups; recruitment of new participants, in Zigrang's view, sharply fell off, even though residual sympathy for animal rights as a cause has only continued to increase, according to public opinion polls, especially among the young.

"You have students and other people who want to get involved in animal rights but are not being given any activities at the grassroots level," Zigrang complains. "The nationals have abandoned the locals, including the college campuses. Maybe they weren't making enough money from holding conferences, but if you don't hold the conferences now, you're going to suffer erosion of your donor base in the long run."

Zigrang, as a successful entrepreneur, knows both the difficulty and the necessity of establishing a positive image for his company. He knows he has to start creating the Heartland image in a potential customer's mind long before he can expect to make sales. That's why he advertises in **ANIMAL PEOPLE**—and attends conferences. He makes most of his actual sales from catalog mailings and from his World Wide Web catalog edition. But people usually write for the catalog, or look for it on the Web, because they've seen Zigrang's ads, or have met him in person.

Zigrang thinks the decline of conferences is no way to run either a business or a movement. "Heartland will do fine," he told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "If I can't find customers one way, I'll try another. It's the animal rights movement I'm worried about. Regional conferences were one of the best ways the movement had of recruitment. Not holding them is just committing suicide."

## **ANIMAL PEOPLE**

News for People Who Care About Animals

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P.O. Box 205

Shushan, N.Y. 12873

ISSN 1071-0035

Telephone: 518-854-9436.

Fax: 518-854-9601.

E-mail: ANMLPEOPLE@aol.com

World Wide Web: <http://www.envirolink.org/arrs/ap/home.html>

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Reprint inquiries are welcome.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE: News for People Who Care About Animals** is published 10 times annually by Animal People, Inc., a nonprofit, charitable corporation dedicated to exposing the existence of cruelty to animals and to inform and educate the public of the need to prevent and eliminate such cruelty.

Subscriptions are \$22.00 per year; \$36.00/two years; \$50/three years. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is mailed under Bulk Rate Permit #7 from Shushan, New York. Executive subscriptions, mailed first class, are \$30.00 per year or \$55/two years.

The base rate for display advertising is \$6.50 per square inch of page space. Please inquire about our substantial multiple insertion discounts.

The editors prefer to receive queries in advance of article submissions; unsolicited manuscripts will be considered for use, but will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of suitable size.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** does not publish fiction or poetry.



# Letters

## Enough!

Since there is no sign that any of the national groups intend to make changes sufficient to fix what is so obviously wrong, I am only supporting the grassroots groups in my own area. I have called/written telling the nationals the reasons for my decision: the horrible custom of chaining or confining dogs and cats in small pens or cages is a national problem, which should be recognized and addressed by these large groups. Many animals so mistreated freeze or starve to death in the winter, and die from the heat and lack of water in the summer. Two dogs have starved or frozen here in Centerville, Iowa, just this winter. I contacted several of the largest groups for help, and only got the runaround. The animal cruelty laws are seldom enforced here in Iowa, and the national groups do nothing to press for enforcement.

For information on current cases, and what you can do to help, please contact me.

—Vivian Lindley  
Route 3, Box 234  
Centerville, IA 52544

## Burnout

Please consider doing articles on these topics:

1) Longterm activist burnout. I've been doing animal rights stuff for about 12 years. Most of the people I've worked with have become inactive after a few years. How can we avoid this happening? How can we continue year after year without getting discouraged and burned out from continued exposure to animal cruelty? How can we keep activists active when people often feel their efforts are futile?

2) How to deal with personal relationships with those who don't agree with us? It is especially difficult when wives, husbands, lovers, children, and best friends do not share our viewpoint. On the other hand, if we limit ourselves to close relationships with those who agree with us, aren't we ghettoizing ourselves and avoiding opportunities for making converts?

3) How to deal with the pain, depression, and sadness of continually dealing with animal suffering. I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel almost immobilized by the overwhelming changes in the world which are needed.

—Nancy C. Draper  
Richmond Hill, New York

*We're open to readers' ideas on these points, noting that incompatible mates and relatives are a problem as old as Adam and Lilith, Cain and Abel.*

*Some comfort may be had from noting that the average marriage lasts just seven years, the average job lasts 6.5 years, and the average duration of intense involvement in other non-work pursuits is three to five years. Expecting more of activists may be unrealistic.*

*In animal protection, much burnout may result from failing to recognize victories—a tendency exacerbated by the habit of many national organizations of remailing the same appeals and holding the same protests, year after year, because they have proved to be successful fundraisers, whether or not situations have changed, and regardless of actual tactical value.*

*The leading cause of burnout may indeed be the attitude of many leading national groups that local activists matter only as a source of income, also alluded to by Vivian Lindley, above.*

## Was consultant to DFO, not staff

Re your identification of me as "former Department of Fisheries and Oceans biologist Peter Meisenheimer," in your January/February cover article, "Out of cod, Canada tells fishers 'Kill more seals,'" although I have worked under contract as a consultant to a number of federal and provincial agencies in Canada, and my name appears on reports issued on government letterhead as a result, I am not a former employee of DFO. The only government agency for which I have worked directly, i.e. on permanent staff, as a fisheries biologist, is the Republic of Botswana. My most extensive experience of fisheries industry issues has been as an advisor to various commercial fishing companies and organizations in Canada, the U.S., and Africa.

—Peter Meisenheimer  
pmeisenh@imma.org

## The war goes on —v.s.wildlife

Greetings from Cyprus. The Minister of the Interior here is issuing licenses to shoot the mouflon—our national emblem, a most beautiful, shy and graceful creature.

This decision is very unpopular, and perhaps if your readers could write to the head of the Flora and Fauna Department, c/o Ministry of the Interior, Nicosia, Cyprus, he would learn that this ignorant action is known worldwide.

The 40,000 shooters on this tiny island have already stripped it of most of its bird life, and now need to kill something else.

Our other bad news is that the first performing dolphin and sea lion show opened here last year. It operates without a license. Now other businessmen are making applications to copy this venture. Please write to Mr. Economides, Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Nicosia, Cyprus, urging him to enforce the 1994 Animal Welfare Law and not allow this plague to spread.

—Pat Kyraou  
Animal Responsibility Cyprus  
Limassol, Cyprus

## 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—  
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# More letters

## Defenders of Wildlife

Ever since I saw your December 1995 "Who Gets the Money?" feature, and the note that Defenders of Wildlife supports hunting, I have been frustrated and confused. As a longtime member and supporter of Defenders, my multiple inquiries to them asking for explanation have gone unanswered. Since I declined to renew my membership, they have repeatedly sent literature and their magazine to me, but no answer to my burning question. So, I put it to you: is it true that Defenders supports hunting, and if so, why? As an incredulous contributor to seemingly worthwhile organizations, I can only say, "Say it ain't so!"

—Patricia Guarneri  
Millersburg, Pennsylvania

## Marilyn Baker, reporting

Thank you for lauding the San Francisco SPCA for the wonderful work accomplished there. I thought you might be interested in just how it all came about.

In 1970-1971, KQED, the public television station in San Francisco, did a series on the SF/SPCA, which then operated as the county pound. This series showed it was a Dachau for dogs and cats, spending millions on perks for its executive director while the voiceless victims went without proper care.

At that time Quentin Kopp was a San Francisco supervisor—and the only politician who spoke out, right on TV, about the mess at the SF/SPCA.

The public outcry from this TV news series coupled with Kopp's determined efforts finally resulted in changes in the board of directors and the search that found Richard Avanzino to take over as executive director. Today Kopp is a state legislator.

In 1975 Jeffrey Baker, a news producer at another San Francisco TV station, did a 15-part series on animal welfare and shelters in all five San Francisco Bay area counties. His series was key in having the state ban the use of the decompression chamber for animal killing.

This is proof positive that the news media can bring about change—one more reason **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is so important and should be required reading for anyone who cares about animals.

—Marilyn Baker  
Executive Director  
Orphan Pet Oasis  
North Palm Springs, California

*Marilyn Baker's investigative reporting for KQED was an early inspiration to the ANIMAL PEOPLE editor, who broke into journalism within her broadcast radius.*

## The following, shared verbatim, came as an e-mail bundle from our friends at >>bennetcountyhigh@sioux.sodak.net <<:

If you're going to talk about rodeo and horses then maybe you should know what you are talking about. I have lived in South Dakota all my life and I have been involved in Rodeo and so has the rest of my family. Rodeo has been around forever and animals don't get hurt that much. Every once in awhile an animal will get hurt but it doesn't happen that often. And as for all you vegetarians. Red meat is the best tasting thing ever. It's not bad for you. Everyone I know ate it and I've never seen anyone die from it. My family and I are ranchers and you people are ruining the way we make our living. You should not produce magazines like this when you don't know what you are talking about.

—Dean Sigman & Coy Sasse

We, the students at Bennett County High School would like to write about your add on "There's a world of misery in every mouthful of meat." Beef cattle were put on this earth for our use. They feed millions of people around the world everyday. This article says that beef creates unending misery for people. Beef creates jobs, money and food across the United States. Cutting down would cause a loss of jobs and a lot of angry ranchers. I think that research is necessary before creating an article of such content.

—Sybil Cook and Hilary Farley

Where kids that are under 12 is a bunch of bull—the lunatic kids will end up shootin them self because they would just think it was like cops and robbers. If you think you want it, think again because hunting is the safest sport all over the world. I should know because I have taken hunter safety for about 5 years and I have passed it everytime. The dad of mine would completely agree with me because he is the conservation officer for 3 counties.

—Jon Beck

*Founded as an anti-trapping organization, Defenders of Wildlife according to policy statements "opposes any trapping that inflicts pain or causes injury, damages ecological systems, is nonselective, or is conducted for profit or for recreational purposes." Re hunting, however, "Defenders advocates policies which are in the best interest of all wildlife, by analyzing wildlife management programs to determine the appropriate response. Hunting is evaluated by this standard on a case-by-case basis."*

*In other words, cutting out the doubletalk, yes, although Defenders opposes hunting at National Wildlife Refuges, it does support hunting in principle.*

## SF/SPCA

I enjoyed your article about the San Francisco SPCA, published a year ago in your March 1995 issue. It gave me a lot of ideas and goals for our shelter in Little Rock, Arkansas, although our board doesn't believe we can ever achieve their success in our rural state. I disagree!

—Pam E. Nixon  
Humane Education Committee Chair  
Humane Society of Pulaski County  
Little Rock, Arkansas

## From Taiwan

Along with this letter I send the book *Animals and Law* published in Taiwan not long ago. I gave this book to the Animal Protection Association in Taiwan so they could publish it for public education. In the fly leaf I wrote, "For those animals who have suffered or are suffering because of the unwisdom of human beings."

Many parts of this book are either inspirations or data or illustrations from you and many other friends. Without your contribution, people in Taiwan would not have the chance to get the whole picture of animals' status in the world. In addition, there are updates on animal conditions in Taiwan. I hope it won't be very hard for you to find someone who can read the Chinese text.

Thank you again for your great support.  
—Jason L.S. Yeh  
Department of Veterinary Medicine  
National Taiwan University  
Taipei, Taiwan

*We donated our copy of Animals and Law to the humane education department of the San Francisco SPCA, whose Chinese-speaking staff work with Chinese immigrants on a regular basis, and, we understand, are available to assist other humane societies when an assist with language is needed.*

## Not Alice's Wonderland

I recently finished installing a 130-foot, state-of-the-art computerized watershow in Chengdu, China, for Wonderland of Southwest China, the first theme park in central China. It may also be known as Panda Land. The park is a "cultural center," offering a number of very interesting dance and musical events nightly, and has nice local arts for sale at reasonable prices.

However, they also set up a 45-foot-diameter circular cage for the purpose of abusing animals to entertain visitors.

I personally witnessed the following, to which I strongly objected, expressing my feelings in writing to the management. I was nonetheless forced to work in order to finish my contract while the following was going on right next to me:

- A defanged lioness slowly mauled cows, sheep, goats, chickens, and other farm animals to death—a gruesome, earthshaking, noisy torture, in which cows often took over an hour to stop shrieking and struggling.
- Two or more dogs were brought into the cage on leashes, taunted by trainers until they were furious, and then unleashed to destroy each other.
- Cockfights to the death.
- Large dogs such as Alsatians and Labradors were put into the cage with a cow, whose tail was ripped off, legs grossly maimed, and ears ripped off and shredded.
- Large dogs were similarly used to kill small goats and chickens.

On several occasions I stomped away from the work site because I was so shaken. It was the worst thing I've seen in my 45 years of life.

This park is owned by Huaxin Corporation, a multinational based in Singapore. I expressed grave objections to this, yet they continued the barnyard brawls, and absolutely couldn't understand why I couldn't deal with it.

I was told it was a local custom, albeit only to a small group.

I am aware that this park is trying to get on the tour lists of agencies. I urge that travel agencies not include this theme park in tours of Chendu.

—David Usher  
Webster Groves, Missouri

## Premarin problem

Re your coverage of Premarin, this is an area of some concern and ethical problems for me. I am a registered nurse in a longterm care facility. At least one of our residents receives Premarin therapy.

As an animal rights person, I can't condone the blatant abuse of horses in the production of pregnant's mare's urine (PMU), from which Premarin is made. As an RN, however, I am obliged to give medication to my patients unless there are medical reasons not to—not just my disagreement with the production methods.

One problem with the alternatives to Premarin is their presentation. Premarin is available as tablets, the most common presentation; as an IV solution for treatment of severe cases of menopausal problems; and as a vaginal cream, used mainly for the treatment of vaginal dryness.

Premarin is one of three available products known as conjugated estrogens. According to the Canadian Pharmaceutical Society's drug reference book, Premarin is the only one available in either IV or cream form.

There are, of course, similar estrogen products available. Delestrogen and Estrace are both estriadiols, and Ogen is an estriopipate. These are similar in their effects to conjugated estrogens.

The other problem with the alternatives is that they are more expensive, and in an industry which is looking at cutting costs, especially where there is some form of universal medical coverage like in Canada and the United Kingdom, this can be a problem. There are already cases where some drugs are not covered under medical plans because there are cheaper medicines available. I think some lobbying of health ministries may be appropriate to make sure this does not happen with the alternatives to Premarin.

As to dietary treatment, the resident in my facility is 85 years old, is not vegetarian, has other medical problems, and probably won't survive longer than a year or two.

In my professional capacity, I have to put the interests of my patients first.

—David J. Knowles  
>>dknowles@dowco.com

## SF/SPCA

I am a student at Bennett County High School at Martin South Dakota. I would like to say that I think the bill of trapping and dam-dynamiting is wrong. The reason I don't like it is because harmless animals get caught in them. They then no longer have a way of defending themselves if their legs or any other part of their body gets cut off, from the traps that people like you put out.

—Melita Johnson

*We noted on page 8 of our January/February edition that, "The New York Department of Environmental Conservation is trying again to pass a bill to allow beaver-snaring and dam-dynamiting, without public oversight." We're not sure how Johnson, a sensitive person, deduced from this that we in any way have anything to do with such practices, beyond denouncing them at every opportunity.*

HUMANE FARMING ASSOCIATION (paid through 1/97)

**More letters**

# Vouching for it

by Karen Johnson

San Jose, California, is on the verge of proving either that the fastest, most cost-effective means of reducing the homeless cat population is through providing free neutering vouchers—or that meddlers will dismantle any program, no matter how well it works, to advance bureaucracy.

As described in the April 1995 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, San Jose enacted the free voucher program in October 1994. After a slow start, it took off in February, 1995, following favorable coverage by the *San Jose Mercury-News*. For 16 months it enabled hundreds of people who feed outdoor cats, often people of limited means, to get the cats “fixed.”

A similar program for dogs was begun on May 1, 1995.

The vouchers were issued by volunteers in the City Manager’s office. The only requirement was that participants were San Jose residents. Vouchers were distributed both over the counter and by mail. Fifteen participating veterinarians took them as payment in full. There was no limit to the number of cat vouchers a resident could use.

Dog vouchers were limited to two per household, and did not seem to be in high demand except by rescue groups.

The city reimbursed the veterinarians at the rate of \$25 per female cat, \$15 per male. For pregnant females, the rate was adjusted upward, to a maximum of \$50 for a full-term pregnancy. Prices were also adjusted upward if cats were in heat, had infections, or had other conditions complicating the neutering. For males with anatomical abnormalities, the fee could go as high as \$150, depending on the extent of surgery necessary to accomplish the neutering.

Dogs were altered at a higher rate, depending on weight and sex. Costs averaged \$23.77 per cat; \$41.46 per dog. The total cost of cat altering done during the first 16 months of the program came to \$134,735.

Of the cat surgeries, 60% were done on females, of whom 4% were pregnant. Another 4% were in heat. Since not all participating vets charged extra for spaying females in heat, the latter figure was underreported.

Veterinarians were asked to check boxes on the voucher forms to indicate whether each cat was owned or feral, but the boxes actually were checked only 37% of the time. Of this 37% of cats handled, only 19.5% were identified as feral.

The vouchers facilitated neutering 647 dogs, of whom 54% were female. Over 80 dog vouchers were used by one rescue group, which then adopted the dogs out. The cost to alter the dogs totaled \$26,980.

The veterinarians had control over their degree of participation. Several didn’t handle feral cats. If an animal was too sick to be neutered, or had other problems, a veterinarian could decline to do the surgery.

The program was kept under review through a short, anonymous questionnaire provided with each voucher. Despite criticism from other quarters, reports from San Jose were all positive. The veterinarians had no problems, the people redeeming the vouchers liked the program, and volunteers have kept the program working smoothly. Veterinarians who were not on the list of participants clamored to become a part of it.

Best of all, city costs to handle stray cats appeared certain to be reduced dramatically, due to the reduced number of homeless cats picked up by animal control.

In the 16 months of the program, over 5,600 cats were altered—but as of February 6, 1996, the general funds allocated to it for the 1995-1996 fiscal year were already all used or committed. A record 2,000 vouchers were handed out in December 1995 and January 1996. As a result, San Jose has temporarily suspended issuing of new vouchers until all the vouchers currently issued have either been redeemed or have reached their 60-day expiration date. The program is expected to resume, with modifi-

cations, by the July 1 start of the next fiscal year. Unfortunately, the proposed modifications may amount to dismantling the very elements that made it work.

Among the proposals under consideration are eliminating the dog vouchers, which are less in demand and less evidently effective in lowering animal control intakes; and/or requiring a co-payment of \$5.00 per cat and \$10.00 per dog from voucher holders.

More problematic revisions offered in mid-March would require a voucher application; require that dogs and cats be licensed to receive a neutering voucher; and require that the sites of feral cat colonies be specified, along with the names of the colony caretaker and his/her rescue group affiliation.

These requirements would inhibit people from doing what is needed most: neutering animals, owned or not. The task force that wrote the original guidelines adamantly opposed coupling licensing with the vouchers. Anonymity made the program work: people could fix homeless cats without fear of penalty for their altruism. Grasping for \$5.00 per cat in licensing revenue, plus the \$5.00 co-payment, will make many would-be rescuers think twice about scooping up that litter of four kittens they find under a dumpster. The kittens will instead go to the shelter, at total cost for pickup, caging, and euthanasia of about \$70.00 apiece; or will be ignored, and along with their mother, soon produce a dozen more kittens.

People who donate time and money to save the city tens of thousands of dollars in animal control costs, each and every month, should be rewarded with help, not red tape.

## Monitoring

Survey forms have been returned by 2,733 voucher recipients so far during the 1995-1996 fiscal year, which began on July 1, 1995. About a third of the survey forms have been left blank, leaving 1,845 tabulated responses. Among them, 70% said cost was a factor in their decision to neuter cats through the voucher program. Of the cats neutered, 49% were stray or feral, but 73% of the voucher users intended to keep the cats they neutered as pets. Twelve percent did not intend to keep the cats; 15% were uncertain whether they would or not.

Just over half of the cats—52%—were from six months to one year old, with 22% under six months old and 26% over one year old. This indicates that most of the cats are being neutered in time to prevent litters. Just 21% of the females had already had a litter, of whom 45% had given birth to only one litter, 40% had given birth to two litters, and the litter history of 15% was unknown.

Cat ownership per voucher user often exceeds the little enforced San Jose pet limit of two per household, dogs and cats combined. Obeying the limit were the 2.7%



—K.B.

who owned no pets, the 29% with one pet, and the 37% with two pets. However, 32% admitted owning three or more pets. Non-response to this question was also high, with 168 people seemingly taking the Fifth Amendment. If these 168 all own three or more pets, 38% of voucher users are in violation of the pet limit, which according to a *Mercury-News* survey of California municipalities is the strictest in the state, and may be the strictest of any U.S. city. A motion to raise the limit to five pets was shelved by the San Jose city council in August 1994.

National Pet Alliance research earlier found that one Santa Clara Valley household in ten includes someone who feeds homeless cats. Among San Jose voucher users, a full third are cat-feeders.

The most common user suggestion was that the voucher program should be expanded to cover vaccinations against rabies and feline leukemia.

Among the 15 participating veterinary clinics, just three have done 37% of the surgery. They have little else in common. Clinic A, in a well-established central area, performed 544 surgeries. Clinic B, 15 miles from Clinic A, in an area of expensive new homes and residential growth, neutered 289 cats. Clinic C, located in the poorer part of San Jose, although there are many new and expensive homes being built on nearby hillsides, neutered 174 cats. Each clinic is large and popular enough to draw clientele from all over the county, but zip code information on the vouchers indicate the bulk of their patients come from adjacent areas.

Differences in the sociology of the clientele are evident in the statistical record:

	Obtained as stray	Had a litter	Feed stray cats
Overall, voucher participants:			
	49%	21%	33%
Clinic A	44%	16%	31%
Clinic B	53%	18%	26%
Clinic C	62%	22%	51%
General population, NPA 1993:			
	33%	16%	10%

People using free vouchers to neuter cats are feeding homeless cats at triple the rate of other residents. Clearly, cat feeders have used access to free neutering to stop reproduction among the populations they attend. In addition, it appears that the voucher program has encouraged more people to adopt homeless cats.

Note that Clinic C, serving the

poorest area, draws proportionately the most people who are neutering homeless cats, the most whose cats have had litters, and the most who feed homeless cats. If the program was to be intensively advertised in target areas, this area would get top priority.

In late 1995 the cat voucher survey forms were amended by adding a question about where cats were obtained. The table below contrasts the first 710 responses with the norms obtained by the 1993 NPA random survey of Santa Clara County households:

	NPA	Voucher
Found	33%	46%
Born at home	6%	9%
Friend/relative	33%	30%
Pet Store	6%	2%
Breeder	4%	1%
Rescue	1%	4%
Shelter	11%	4%
Newspaper ad	1%	2%
Front of store	1%	1%
Vets/other	4%	2%

The data confirms the value of the vouchers in aiding adoptions of homeless cats.

But the real bottom line is the impact on the homeless cat population—and the San Jose program has already had marked impact on Humane Society of the Santa Clara Valley cat intakes. The shelter impounds animals for four cities in all: San Jose, Milpitas, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara. Only San Jose has the neutering voucher program.

The 1995 human population of San Jose was 888,000. For the 12-month period ending on Feb. 29, 1996, 9,459 stray cats entered the shelter from San Jose, a ratio of one stray cat for every 94 people.

The combined population of Milpitas, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara is 283,400. Over the same time period, 6,036 cats from those cities entered the shelter, a ratio of one homeless cat for every 47 people, or exactly twice the San Jose ratio.

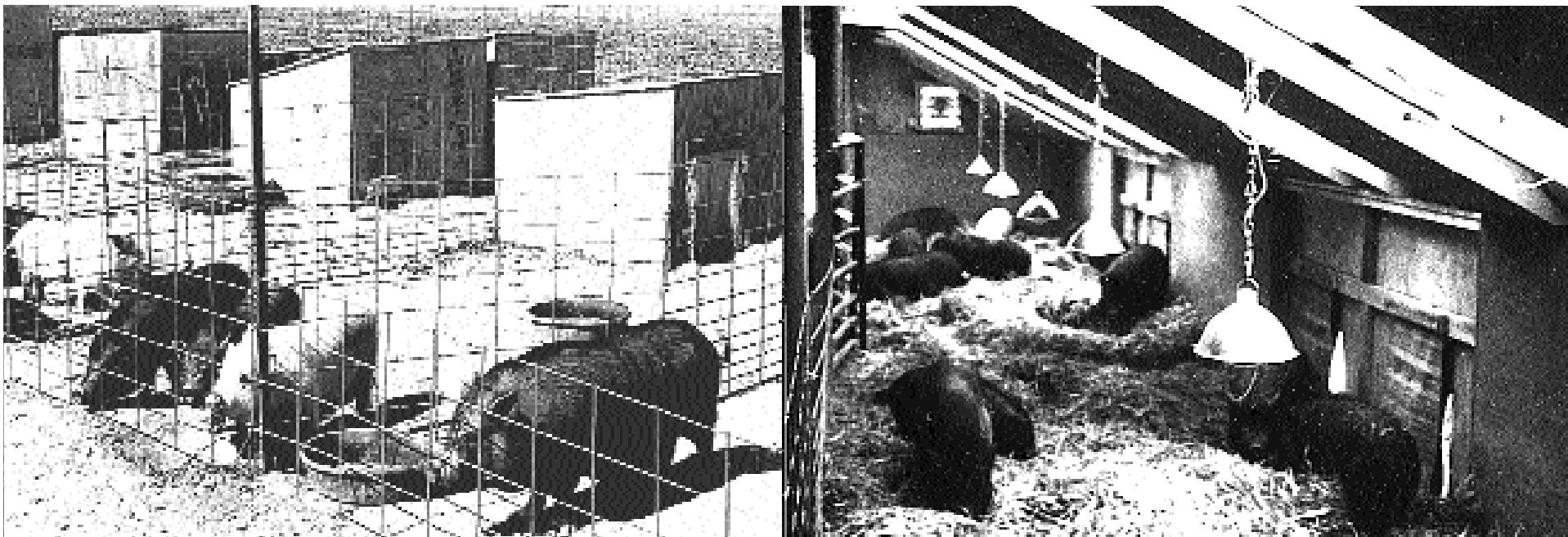
Cat intakes from all four cities were up over the 12-month period—but the cumulative increase in cats from San Jose, reckoned at the end of each month, fluctuated between 9% and 12%, while intakes from the other cities increased by 20% to 25%.

We anticipate a very light kitten season in San Jose this year. We only hope the decision-makers notice—and understand why it came about.

(Karen Johnson is treasurer of the National Pet Alliance. She may be contacted at POB 53385, San Jose, CA 95153; 408-363-0700.)

Feral Press, April/May/June

ALLEY CAT ALLIES through May



**BEFORE** photo taken by Rocky Mountain Animal Defense and **AFTER** photo taken by the staff of PIGS: A Sanctuary show the difference in winter accommodations experienced by 89 potbellied pigs who were recently evacuated from the defunct Clemenswine Memorial Pot-bellied Pig Sanctuary, of Sedalia, Colorado, to PIGS, located in Charles Town, West Virginia. Clemenswine cofounder Rhoda Slogar, who managed the three-year-old facility alone after her partner Sylvia Francisco left in July 1994, apparently just walked away from it all in mid-October 1995. Receiving an emergency call from a volunteer, PIGS arranged for Jan Hamilton of the Wilderness Ranch Sanctuary for Farm Animals in Loveland, Colorado, to assess the situation. Hamilton found 123 pigs in distress, 45 of them slated for euthanasia by local authorities. "The sanctuary was located near the intersection of two major highways, and there were no trees, water, or electricity on the property," said PIGS cofounder Jim Brewer. Hamilton took 26 pigs in immediate need of medical attention to the Boulder Valley Humane Society, while PIGS set up the

evacuation. Recounts Brewer, "The first group of 64 pigs left Wilderness Ranch on Thanksgiving, and arrived the following Saturday." Another 25 pigs "remained at Wilderness Ranch to be neutered, with the hope that we could place some of them in Colorado." However, "None of the potential homes met our requirements," Brewer continued, "so the 25 pigs were transported to us. They arrived on January 19. Organizations which helped financially include United Animal Nations, Animal Rights America, and the Doris Day Animal League. The Ahimsa Foundation awarded us an emergency grant to cover the cost of truck rental. The Max Fund awarded a grant to cover costs of spaying/neutering and medical supplies. The Denver Dumb Friends League provided food for the pigs while they were at Wilderness Ranch. Two Mauds Inc. also awarded us a grant. Part of it was used to provide the pigs with a new barn." Where in Colorado the pigs lived on bare dirt and plywood sheds for protection against the elements, at PIGS they enjoy deep straw bedding beneath heat lamps.

## Poultry

**U.S. frozen chicken exports to Russia soared from marginal significance in 1992 to \$500 million worth last year, making Russia the biggest export market for the American chicken industry, and infuriating Russian poultry producers, who are contending with soaring grain prices in the wake of the worst harvest in 1995 since 1965. On February 7, Russia warned the U.S. that the traffic might be halted on March 16. Said Russian Agriculture Department chief veterinarian Vyacheslav Avilov, "We need guarantees that these birds are disease-free—that there is no salmonella, no bad chemical additives, or the like." Reported Lynnley Browning for Reuter, "The U.S. birds are on the same market as Russian ones, which are scrawny, grey, and unappealing. Chickens from both countries are often sold from barely refrigerated containers or on the street in cardboard boxes." Browning described a salesgirl separating frozen chicken parts by stomping on them. The Clinton administration, with reputed close ties to the Tyson chicken empire, applied diplomatic muscle, and on March 6 announced that Russia would not interfere with the chicken sales. Related negotiations began March 22.**

**Foie gras consumption reportedly dropped 70% in France during the 1995-1996 holiday season—but due to a trucking strike, not to a great awakening to the cruelty inherent in force-feeding fowl to produce it.**

**Promotional flyers from D'Artagnan Foie Gras, in upstate New York, boast that, "The farm creates a comfortable and clean environment to allow the ducks to partake in this ASPCA approved feeding." The November 1995 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE described the American SPCA's refusal to prosecute D'Artagnan for cruelty, despite the opinion of some critics that it should.**

**Former French labor minister Martine Aubrey** on February 8 announced that her Action Against Poverty Foundation would open a string of fast food chicken restaurants to create jobs in areas of high unemployment.

## STANDARDS OF CARE

**The European Commission on January 24 proposed a veal crate ban** with a 12-year phase-in. Starting from January 1, 1998, minimum space allowances would apply to all new or renovated veal barns, sufficient that each calf "should be able to groom itself properly, turn around, stand up, lie down normally, and lie with its legs stretched out," as a European Commission advisory committee recommended last December. All veal operations would have to be in compliance with the EC standards by 2008. The EC member nations currently raise about 5.8 million veal calves per year. *Per capita* consumption has fallen from about 2.8 kilograms *per capita* in 1987, two years before the first of two previous attempts to ban veal crating failed, to 2.3 kilograms *per capita* now—still twice the U.S. *per capita* consumption.

**Of the three million lambs who die prematurely in Britain each year, two thirds are killed by inadequate care, charges the British Veterinary Association—including poor care of pregnant and nursing ewes.** "In 1980," says Phil Lymbery, campaign director for Compassion in World Farming, "the ratio was one shepherd for 350 sheep, on average. By 1992 it was one shepherd for 700 sheep."

## Vegetarian lifestyle

**Maxwell Lee of the International Vegetarian Union reports that Britain has two vegetarian retirement homes, one at Hastings and the other at Rhos-on-Sea, with a third, giving preference to raw food eaters and vegans, being developed by a German millionaire.** The Vegan Society, adds Lee, is collecting funds to start such a home. The growth of interest comes after two other vegetarian retirement homes failed from lack of support. "A problem encountered here," Lee explains, "is that many people do not wish to move away from their community, and now vegetarianism is so common in the U.K. that many ordinary retirement homes will cater to special diets. Another aspect is that many people gave money to help develop vegetarian retirement homes and this seemed to reduce support for the vegetarian societies—and also probably led to less in legacies."

**Ralph Nader, seeking the Green Party presidential nomination in the March 25 California primary, is the second high-profile vegetarian presidential contender of the decade.** Former California governor Jerry Brown, a sometime vegetarian, ran for the Democratic nomination in 1988 and 1992.

**The Vegetarian Resource Center offers online bulletin boards for vegetarians in each major region of North America and for vegetarian parents and vegetarian teens.** Info: >>vrc@tiac.net<<, or >>[<<](http://www.tiac.net/users/vrc/vrc.html)

**Fifteen health insurers reportedly now allow heart patients to opt for the Preventive Medicine Research Institute program of vegetarian diet, meditation, group support, and exercise developed by Dr. Dean Ornish,** in lieu of \$15,000 angioplasties or \$40,000 bypass surgeries. Ornish sold them on the program with a two-year study sponsored by Mutual of Omaha, during which 190 of 200 volunteers stuck with it and only one required surgery. Mutual of Omaha saved \$6.50 per dollar spent during the first three years after the study started, and expects to save at least three times as much in the long run.

**Vegetarian Travelers**, a new magazine published by Kate Ryan and J. Rubino, promises to "take the worry out of eating on the road," and invites article submissions about what various locales have to offer veggies. Info: POB 2202, New Orleans, LA 70176; 504-866-1255.

**Consumers for Healthy Options in Children's Education**, a.k.a. CHOICE, has formed to promote "the use of accredited plant-based nutrition education programs and availability of wholesome plant-based foods in school cafeterias." For info, call 1-800-470-3276, or write POB 30654, Bethesda, MD 20824.

**Tony's Restaurant** of St. Louis in January lost a rare Mobil Travel Guide five-star rating it had held for 22 years because it doesn't list vegetarian menu options.

PIGS - April, May, June



Photo by Arnold Rubin

# Hogwash

(from page one)

prices caused by a fodder corn shortage, the result of adverse weather last year, is accelerating the exodus.

The contractors taking over the market tend to be fast expanding conglomerates: 54 of the 66 producers, each turning out 50,000-plus hogs per year. The amazing part is that 12 independents have raised enough ante to stay in the game.

Increasing profits drive the growth. Contracting enables business people to manage the business of hogs while farmers farm, a division of labor that helped bring Missouri hog farmers an average 18% return on investment during the 1980s; the most successful third earned 29%. Back when farmers generally did their own management, struggling to outguess the weather and the banks, it was said that the way to make a small fortune farming was to start with a large fortune. You don't hear that now about Boss Hog.

Traditional hog farming moved closer toward extinction at the end of 1995, when Philadelphia ended a half century of paying farmers to truck away food waste. The 18 farmers in the program collected \$246 a ton, nearly twice the \$132 a ton paid to regular garbage haulers. Hogs reputedly once ate half the Philadelphia trash. Recently, their contribution was seen as just eating \$1.6 million a year from the city treasury.

## Manure summit

The end of slop-collecting in Philadelphia came as Republican presidential candidates proclaimed their hog-related concerns at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation's annual conference. *Time* put pigs on the cover of the March 18 edition, just two months after *U.S. News & World Report* gave it a four-page spread. Even Hollywood got into the act, as the film *Babe*, about a sheep-herding pig who tries not to be slaughtered, was nominated for an Academy Award.

Economic issues including that each mega-farm job replaces three small-farm jobs are all-important to people actually in the hog business. The cruelty with which hogs are raised appalls people who care about animals, including *Babe* viewers unaware as yet that pigs are castrated and have their teeth clipped without anesthetic, two details the film omitted. But it's manure really hitting the fan. The June 20, 1995 spill of 900,000 gallons of slurry in Sampson County, North Carolina, followed a day later by a 25 million-gallon spill into the New River in nearby Onslow County stunk out America. Reportedly killing all aquatic life from Richlands to Jacksonville, 17 miles apart, the New River spill could have filled two oil tankers the size of the *Exxon Valdez*, killed 10 million fish, closed 364,000 acres of wetlands to shellfish collecting, and shut down whole sectors of the sport fishing and tourism trades. The New River spill came from just one 10,000-hog site, Oceanview Farms.

Dramatic as the New River spill was, it was not a first. The North Carolina Division of Environmental Management had cited 250 hog operations for polluting in the previous 10 years. Even disaster on the New River scale was presaged in Quebec shortly after the separatist Parti Quebecois government took office for the first time in 1976, planning to promote economic independence by taking over the global markets for hydroelectric and nuclear energy, asbestos, and pork. By 1980, the nuclear and asbestos industries had collapsed, while rivers choked with hog slurry from a series of small spills, deliberate dumping, and runoff from manure-saturated fodder corn fields forced the diversion of hydroelectric revenues from further economic development to the belated construction of water treatment plants. Parts of the Yamaska River, a major tributary to the St. Lawrence providing drinking water to several cities, at times contained more slurry than water.

On August 28, 1995, disaster hit again in Green Castle, Missouri. Over the next 34 days, six leaks from manure storage lagoons serving an 8,800-hog facility owned by Premium Standard Farms, the state's largest producer, and two more leaks from a

farm owned by Continental Grain killed an estimated 267,000 fish in tributaries of the Grand and Chariton rivers.

"The number nearly equalled the total of fish killed from animal-waste runoff in all Missouri streams between 1983 and 1993," reported Terry Ganey of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*.

That brought talk of action, including an unprecedented "manure summit" in Kansas City, at which 13 hog industry critics talked slurry with 45 hog farmers and other industry representatives.

"It's encouraging," observed Henry Spira of the Coalition for Non-Violent Food, "that more environmental groups are now protesting the damage caused by mega hog factories. Many environmentalists have spent too much time trying to save the world from plastic plates while ignoring the meat served on them. An ounce of vegetarianism may be worth a pound of environmental clean-up."

The "manure summit" was followed by a similar "hog summit" in New Bern, North Carolina, at the end of February, at which public officials acknowledged their impotence against Boss Hog and critics of the industry proposed regulations with slim chance of ever being enacted.

It was small consolation to neighbors of foul-smelling streams and ditches that similar regulatory failures occur in other states and other branches of agribusiness, too. For instance, a third of the 508 dairy farms in the Florida Parishes district of Louisiana are reportedly in violation of manure handling regulations—and after 30 farms ceased producing in 1995 rather than clean up their mess, politically savvy office holders are reluctant to push other farmers who threaten to go out of business, taking jobs with them.

## Pork barrel politics

The Quebec hog industry collapsed as quickly as it was created, because Americans not only adopted the same factory-based model of production, but did it on grander scale. As far back as 1969, 6,600 mega-farms, marketing more than 1,000 hogs each, visibly cut into the U.S. pork market. But there were still 597,600 farms marketing fewer than 1,000 hogs apiece, the official USDA cutoff point between "small" and "big."

Today, there are four times as many mega-farms, but only 160,400 farms still marketing under 1,000 hogs apiece. And today's mega-farmers have mega-clout with pork barrel politicians. Exemplifying the trend is first-term U.S. Senator Lauch Faircloth of North Carolina, who on November 8, 1994 became chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee on clean air, wetlands, private property, and nuclear safety. What senior North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms owes to tobacco industry support, Faircloth owes to bigtime hog farming, holding a majority interest in nine corporate hog operations, selling about 140,000 hogs per year.

In all, Faircloth holds an estimated \$19.8 million worth of hog farming interests, \$100,000 to \$140,000 worth of which were not reported in the financial disclosure statement he signed on becoming a Senator. Among Faircloth's holdings are more than \$1 million invested in the Lundy Packing Company, of Clinton, North Carolina, and another \$1 million plus worth of stock in Coharie Hog Farm, a partnership which in turn owns up to a quarter million dollars of Lundy stock. In May 1993 the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health discovered that 43 of 154 Lundy workers tested, among 900 employees, showed "evidence of significant exposure" to brucellosis, a livestock disease that causes stillbirths, and is normally transmitted to humans so rarely that only 105 human cases were reported nationwide in all the preceding year. North Carolina Department of Public Health veterinarian Lee Hunter traced every human case in the state to Lundy's for three straight years before NIOSH became involved.

Responded Faircloth, "You are dealing with a mean union," the United Food



—K.B.

and Commercial Workers. "They have made ridiculous charges and held a lot of meetings to try to excite the employees."

Faircloth repays his economic debt to hog farming with interest. On October 27, 1994, Faircloth and 15 other U.S. Senators asked then-Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to approve subsidies of up to \$20 million to help facilitate the sale of 20,000 metric tons of U.S.-produced pork to member states of the former Soviet Union. Espy ratified the deal eight days later.

Earlier in 1994, reviewing reauthorization of the Clean Water Act as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Faircloth introduced a bill to reduce the fines levied against farmers who pollute wetlands; tried to cut off federal funding for a wetlands pollution monitoring project; and tried to make it more difficult for citizens to sue alleged agricultural polluters. Faircloth's own holdings include 105 acres of USDA-designated wetlands; another 450 undesignated acres that University of North Carolina-at-Asheville soil scientist Kevin Moorhead has stated are wetlands, based on a topographical assessment; and 61 acres that Moorhead thinks might also be wetlands.

Yet the Senate ethics committee on February 23, 1995 ruled in response to a letter from Faircloth that he was not in violation of conflict of interest standards.

In June 1995, Faircloth and eight other Senators introduced an even more

## Pigtails

**France on March 6 ordered farmers to limit the amount of nitrogen in manure spread on fields to 210 kilograms per hectare per year, to reduce nitrate contamination of drinking water. The rule impacts hog producers most heavily. Farmers were given four years to bring their operations into compliance, after which the limit will be lowered to 170 kilos per hectare, with another phase-in period.**

**Oink-Oink Inc., of Detroit,** has ceased selling Pork Tenderloin dog treats, made from pig penises, because the USDA ordered the supplier, Iowa Packing House, to denature the penises by dying them green, to inhibit human consumption. The USDA became concerned in late 1995 after Robbie Swan of the Eros Foundation, formed to raise the image of the Australian sex industry, made global headlines by objecting to the sale of bull's penises to Asia. "Libido-enhancing claims are fraudulent in the extreme," Swan said. Responded Fred McDonald, manager of the Tenarra Pty Ltd. meat company, "We don't claim they are aphrodisiacs. Our customers just say, 'They are good for the men.'" Tenarra Pty sold 8,000 frozen bull's penises to Asia in 1995, and made about 1,000 scrotums into beer can holders. "They're quite nice to touch," said McDonald.

**Apparent professional pigrustlers** stole 400 piglets valued at \$30,000 from farms in northern England during mid-February. "On this scale, it must be another farmer," speculated Richard Longthorpe, who lost 262 piglets."

graduates and staff members from the school have gone to work for Murphy, and agricultural extension employees from NCSU have traveled from county to county to speak in support of large-scale operations like Murphy's."

Despite Murphy's departure, the influence of the hog industry in the North Carolina legislature has only grown. One week before the New River spill, the *Charlotte Observer* reported, "Senate Democrats, who narrowly control the chamber, were chauffeured to Charlotte for a fundraiser aboard corporate jets owned by three of the nation's leading pork producers and an industry lobbyist."

Then, the very week of the New River spill, the North Carolina House Health and Environment Committee killed a state senate bill that would have increased the buffer zone between homes and new hog farms to one quarter mile. Earlier, the committee killed a bill to allow municipalities to regulate the location of hog farms through zoning laws. The committee has been chaired since January 1995 by Representative John Nichols (R-Craven), who is himself the majority owner of a large hog farm—who claims he had no role in either vote.

After the spill, the North Carolina House quickly approved some restrictions on the siting of new hog farms and slurry lagoons, but killed efforts to limit the expansion of existing hog farms, enlarge buffer

True Nature Network  
April-May-June

# Middle America cries "Off the pig!"

zones around water sources, and tighten anti-pollution enforcement.

"There's an industry out there that we need to help," said Representative Billy Richardson (D-Cumberland).

Similar politics seem to be in effect in Missouri, among other states where Boss Hog prevails. On October 19, 1995, the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club dramatized the frequent appearance of conflicts of interest at the University of Missouri by complaining to the university board of curators that six officials of the university's college of agriculture "stepped way over the line" in the words of chapter director Ken Midkiff, by testifying in public hearings against stronger clean water regulations.

There are now two million fewer hogs in Missouri than the 7.5 million there were 20 years ago. Now, though, the hogs are concentrated at fewer sites. The 1995 spills, for instance, came as Continental Grain was building a four-county, 20,000-sow complex to rival the 35,000-sow complex Murphy runs nearby.

Missouri state representative Phil Tate (D-Gallatin) was quick to argue that the problems at the leaking hog farms could be regulated out of existence—and wouldn't occur at the new Continental Grain facilities, some of which will create jobs in his district.

But compliance with regulations doesn't necessarily mean much. The Oceanview Farms spill occurred from an 18-month-old lagoon that was the first in North Carolina to be certified safe according to federal design specs.

## Strange vision

Along with Jim Mason, who sounded one of the first alarms about intensive confinement husbandry in *Animal Factories* (1980), Marty Strange can say he saw the problems of bigtime hog production coming. His initial concerns, however, were economic. After that came worker health.

Warned Strange in one prescient passage of *It's Not All Fresh Air And Sunshine*, "The confinement system produces an environment which can be hazardous to the health of both animals and workers. Much of the problem lies in the design of the buildings, which have allowed crowding to minimize facility cost per animal, mechanized to move feed without much labor, and built over manure pits to reduce the cost of handling animal waste. All this produces an environment frequently choked with dust, odorous gases, and bacteria."

Kelley Donham and Kim Gustafson were even farther ahead in a pair of 1982 papers on *Human Occupational Hazards From Swine Confinement and Respiratory Disease Hazards of Swine Confinement*. They wrote, "There is sufficient evidence to predict permanent lung damage may develop in a number of confinement workers within the next 10 to 15 years if intervention to improve the work environment is not employed in the relatively near future."

In September 1995 the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine unveiled a \$6,000 swine confinement chamber designed to help investigators study a

rapid rise in respiratory ailments among both hog farm help and hogs themselves.

"At slaughter," explained researcher Rika Jolie, DVM, "we are finding chronic pneumonia lesions in 40% of market hogs as well as atrophic rhinitis lesions—inflammation of the snout—in 70% of the hogs. Our study will investigate whether airborne contaminants, like dust, mold, bacteria, and their toxins predispose pigs for these diseases."

Antibiotics mixed into feed keep disease from keeping hogs off the market, but have had another effect, too—which scarcely anyone saw coming. The potential longterm risk to humans caused by routine prophylactic use of antibiotics on hog, cattle, and poultry farms got just one sentence in the first edition of *Animal Factories*, for instance, though Mason devoted pages to the comparatively minute risks posed by residues of antibiotics and other veterinary drugs getting into meat and milk. The 1990 updated edition said little more about the matter.

One of the first strong alerts came from Dr. Stuart Levy of Tufts University, who warned in his 1992 book *The Antibiotic Paradox* that, "Antibiotic usage has stimulated evolutionary changes unparalleled in recorded biologic history." Even within 100 miles of Tufts, however, Levy's alarm drew less note than the attempt of a nearby school board to forbid the teaching of evolution.

Yet less than two years later, microbiologist Alexander Tomasz of Rockefeller University warned the 1994 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that the longterm effects of prophylactic antibiotic applications appear to be "nothing short of a medical disaster."

The staph research staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention quickly backed him up, as did researchers around the world—but especially in the U.S., where farm use of antibiotics is all-pervasive. Explained the March 7, 1994 edition of *Newsweek*, "Antibiotics in farm animals leave behind drug-resistant microbes in meat and milk," much more deadly than the antibiotic residues if they manage to reproduce. "With every burger and shake, super-microbes pour into your gut. There, they can transfer drug resistance to bacteria in the body, making you vulnerable to previously treatable infections."

Said CDC researcher Mitchell Cohen, "Many of the diseases we thought we had under control are coming back."

Three weeks later, *Newsweek* described in depth how medical science isn't developing new antibiotics and alternative treatments fast enough to deal with the fast-emerging resistant bacterial strains. Fourteen of the 15 major types of antibiotics no longer work against the microbes that cause staph infections, causing doctors to fear a return to the pre-antibiotic mortality rate of up to 80% for diseases which with effective antibiotics were usually cured.

Seven types of antibiotic no longer help against pneumonia, once a common



—K.B.

killer, now relatively rarely life-threatening.

"For sheer overprescription," said *Newsweek*, "no doctor can touch the American farmer. Farm animals receive 30 times more antibiotics, mostly penicillins and tetracyclines, than people do. The drugs treat and prevent infections. But the main reason farmers like them is that they also make cows, hogs, and chickens grow faster from each pound of feed."

Ironically, even vegetarianism can't totally protect anyone against the super-microbes, once at large. They can attack through the air, the water, the soil, or the most fleeting touch. But a healthier diet may better equip society to resist them.

—Merritt Clifton

## DIET & HEALTH

### More veggies, less fat fights cancer

**WASHINGTON D.C.**— A 20-member National Research Council panel reported February 16 that about a third of the 1.35 million new cancer cases detected in the U.S. each year are attributable to diet; that excess calories and fat are far more likely to contribute to cancer than either natural or synthetic chemicals in food; and that the best way to avoid cancer is to eat more fruits and vegetables, but less fat.

That's a tall order for meat-eaters, as recent studies have found that fat is the part of meat they most crave. The National Cancer Institute reported in January that U.S. children and teenagers eat the right volume of vegetables, but that french fries account for a third of their consumption, while intake of dark green and yellow vegetables with cancer-fighting properties, such as spinach and carrots, tends to be low.

The NRC report was critical of the use of animal studies to predict human health risk from chemical consumption, pointing out that test animals typically ingest far more of a suspect substance in a short time than most humans would ever encounter.

The European Prospective Investigation on Cancer and Nutrition, examining the relationship between diet and cancer in 400,000 volunteers, should clarify matters when completed in 1997. Sponsored by the European Commission, the study began in 1990. Preliminary data from 200,000 people, 1990-1993, indicates that Germans, eating a meat-centered diet low in fiber, have high rates of stomach cancer. Greeks, eating more fruits and vegetables than other Europeans, have little stomach or breast cancer.

The NRC findings were released six weeks after the USDA stated approval of vegetarian diets for the first time in so many words—providing that vegetarians take care to get adequate zinc, iron, calcium, and B vitamins—in the fourth edition of the official USDA Dietary Guidelines.

**Researchers from the French National Public Health Research unit** reported in a recent edition of the *British Medical Journal* that salmonella-tainted cheese apparently caused a 1993 fever outbreak that afflicted 270 people, killing one.

**Children who eat less fat absorb less lead**, according to a study of 296 inner-city preschoolers by Susan Lucas and colleagues at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. The study appeared in the January edition of *Pediatrics*.

**A recent comparison of the diets and growth of 50 matched pairs of vegetarian and meat-eating children** by Indira Nathan of Liverpool John Moores University found that "The vegetarian children grew at least as well as the omnivore children and had a significantly larger mean height increment. They also showed a tendency to be leaner."

**The Center for Science in the Public Interest** on March 13 warned that a USDA-proposed division of microbial testing responsibility with the slaughter industry might threaten human health. "I don't trust Congress to give the USDA the resources they need," said CSPI food safety director Carolyn Smith De Waal. Under the new rules, in negotiation since 1993, the slaughter industry would test for *E. coli* bacteria, a frequent indicator of more harmful contamination, while the USDA would test for salmonella, originally also proposed as an industry duty.

**The Japan Hospital Association** reports that only 18% of a sample of 2.1 million Japanese who had full medical checkups in 1994 got a clean bill of health, down from 30% in 1984—and links the change to rising consumption of animal fat. The number of Japanese with kidney and high cholesterol problems doubled in the past decade.

**Despite a January 27 U.S. protest to the World Trade Organization**, after years of threats, European Union farm ministers voted unanimously two days later to keep an eight-year-old ban on the import of meat produced with the use of growth hormones. Canada, Australia, and New Zealand support the U.S. position that the hormone ban is in effect a "process standard," existing not for health and safety reasons but rather to act as a trade barrier on behalf of EC producers. Britain is the only EC member aligned with the U.S., while Italy is pushing to add to the hormone ban a ban on meat produced with the use of another class of chemical, beta agonists, as well as to strengthen enforcement.

**Millions of Americans unaware that Jell-O is an animal byproduct** were tipped off in February by Associated Press reporter Robin Estrin, who reported on neighborhood objections to the sporadic stench resulting from the process of converting cattle hides to gelatin at the Kraft Jell-O plant in Woburn, Massachusetts.

Wholesome & Hearty Foods, through Jan/Feb 1997.

# Mad cow disease panic hits beef-eaters

**LONDON**—British health secretary Stephen Dorrell touched off global panic on March 20, telling the House of Commons that an advisory scientific committee had advised him that consumption of cattle afflicted with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) a decade or more ago was “the most likely explanation” of the origin of a seemingly new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Both diseases cause the formation of sponge-like holes in the brain.

Within days British government officials seriously discussed the possible costs and consequences of slaughtering the entire national herd of 11 million cattle, in a gamble that this would facilitate the recovery of the British beef industry rather than its demise.

BSE, also known as “mad cow disease,” has killed more than 160,000 cattle in Britain since 1985—some directly, most in government-ordered slaughters intended to keep BSE from spreading. Over the same time, British beef sales have fallen 12%; 40% of Britons say they have cut down on meat consumption; 11% say they don’t eat red meat; and 4.3% are now vegans.

The symptoms of BSE—and CJD—resemble those of rabies. Previously considered a rare disorder of age, irreversible, inevitably fatal, but afflicting literally just one person in a million, CJD hit 55 Britons in 1994, twice as many as in 1992, and an apparent new, slower-acting form of the disease has hit 10 persons under 42 years of age within the past two years, including several teenagers. While the average age of past victims was 63, and the average duration of suffering was six months, the average age of these victims is 27 years, six months, with 13 months of illness preceding death. Eight victims have now died; two are reportedly near death. One victim, Peter Hall, a 20-year-old student, had reportedly become a vegetarian.

The global panic was ironic considering that according to U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, 70% of *all* deaths in the U.S. are from causes medically associated with meat-eating, including heart disease (33%) and strokes (24%), as well as stroke, diabetes, arterial disease, liver disease, and kidney disease. In addition, a 12-year study of 11,000 Britons published in the June 25, 1994 edition of the *British Medical Journal* established that meat-eaters die of cancer 40% more often than vegetarians, while a 1993 study published in *Neuroepidemiology* found that meat-eaters are twice as likely as vegetarians to develop senile dementia.

In all the human cases, the exposure to BSE is believed to have come before 1989, when Britain banned the inclusion of nerve remains from sheep and cattle in feed products, along with the sale of brain and spinal tissues for human consumption.

Dorrell’s announcement to the House of Commons was qualified by the words that there is as yet “no scientific proof.”

Similar caution came from Dr. Lindsay Martinez, head of the World Health Organization’s division of emerging diseases. “The risk doesn’t apply to beef in the sense of muscular tissue,” she said on March 22 in Geneva, Switzerland. “The risk was associated with other tissues, particularly the brain and the spinal cord. Those tissues aren’t used any more. They have been eliminated from the food chain. We may still see more cases in the future,” she added, “so there may still be other individuals who are unfortunately in the incubation period and will go on to develop the disease. But that is from earlier exposure.”

Some independent experts, however, predicted 5,000 to 15,000 people might eventually be afflicted, and pointed toward similarities between the emergence of CJD and the emergence of AIDS in 1980-1981.

## Banned in France

Despite the lack of scientific confirmation, France almost immediately banned all imports of live cattle and beef products from Britain. Threatening to complain to the European Commission, governors of the 15-nation European Union, British officials claimed the action came with insufficient notice, and was therefore illegal.

Previously, the EC had agreed with Britain that unilateral bans on British beef imposed by five German states in February were illegal, and ordered that they be lifted. The EC continued to back the British claim that cattle born after June 1993 were free of BSE, even after a cow born in September 1993 contracted the disease.

British veterinary officials briefed EC officials on BSE and CJD for six hours on March 21, preparing for a conference of veterinary experts the next day. Simultaneously, however, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Portugal, and Sweden joined France in barring imports of British cattle and byproducts. Italy followed a day after. EC president Jacques Santer then called the actions “a completely normal consequence of the revelations which have been made in Britain.”

By March 23, 11 nations banned imports of British cattle and byproducts, including New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore, Egypt, and Cyprus, where a woman died of CJD last June. Similar bans have already been in effect in Australia since 1988, the U.S. since 1989, and Russia, Switzerland, and Qatar since 1990, with a ban on the import of British bovine genetic material in effect in New Zealand since 1989. Earlier bans imposed by Austria, Germany, and Italy were later lifted.

Seemingly well-positioned to grab some of the vacated British beef market share, U.S. and New Zealand producer groups issued statements disclaiming interest in exploiting other producers’ misfortune, but Ireland advertised itself as a source of BSE-free beef.

However, Ireland, Denmark, France, Oman, Portugal, and Switzerland have all had isolated BSE outbreaks.

The BSE/CJD hypothesis has been voiced by various authorities since March 1993, when it was tentatively suggested in *The Lancet*, a leading British medical journal. Asked for comment by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, after the BSE/CJD hypothesis was advanced by Farm Sanctuary, the American Veterinary Medical Association issued a rebuttal, while Franklin Loew, then dean of the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine and now dean of the Cornell University veterinary program, said, “It bears watching.”

BSE is believed to be transmitted by prions, described by Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee member Mike Painter as “a small glycoprotein devoid of nucleic acid, which can somehow invoke the production of a special protein in the central nervous systems of susceptible individuals.”

Key to the BSE/CJD hypothesis is that the prions causing the two diseases might be ingested with animal remains, and might then mutate from the BSE form to the CJD form. A precedent would be the apparent evolution of the sheep disease scrapie, also transmitted by prions, into BSE, via bone meal rendered into calcium supplements for cattle. These prions, according to Painter, are “resistant to all the usual measures” of neutralizing pathogens, “including hypochlorite, normal cooking temperatures, ultraviolet light, and weak acids.”

As the AVMA rebuttal explained, “A change in the chemical process of rendering during the 1970s may have permitted a prion transfer from sheep to cattle ‘in circumstances that somehow broke a species barrier that apparently had resisted less severe natural challenges for more than 200 years.’”

A little-studied feline form of BSE appeared in 1990. Also reportedly afflicted at times have been mink, cheetahs, pigs, mice, a variety of ungulates (deer), and ostriches, the only known non-mammalian victims.

# Farm bills

**A joint House/Senate committee** was working to reconcile differences in their respective editions of the new Farm Bill as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press. Of perhaps most importance to animal protection, the final version is likely to phase out all dairy subsidies by 2000, which may accelerate the demise of the small dairy farm—and the reduction of the national dairy herd, as genetically engineered “supercows” take over from those of simple selective breeding. This in turn would reduce the number of calves available to the veal industry, already declining for 50 years. Controversial parallel actions include a Farm Bill rider introduced by Senator Hank Brown (R-Colorado), which would eliminate Forest Service authority over stream flow below either public or private lands, and S. 1459, the “Public Rangelands Management Act” introduced by Senator Pete Domenici (R-Utah), to make grazing the primary purpose of leased public lands. The latter was approved by the Senate, 51-47, and is expected to clear the House, but may be vetoed by President Bill Clinton because it would end the long-standing doctrine of multiple use. Implications include more predator control, less protection of endangered species habitat, less access by hunters and hikers, and mixed but probably mostly negative results for wildlife. The Domenici bill would also increase grazing fees by 30%. Federal grazing fees have fallen 31% in the past year, responding to a 35% drop in western beef prices. “The federal government pays more to administer the grazing program than it receives in fees from ranchers,” the *Washington Post* noted.

**Paralleling the U.S. momentum,** Canadian finance minister Paul Martin on March 8 announced a phase-out of Canadian subsidies to the dairy industry, to be totally eliminated by 2001.

DELTA SOCIETY - March, April, September.

## Wolves

### More Yellowstone releases

**Yellowstone**—Following the release of 28 Canadian-captured grey wolves in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho last spring, 38 wolves are to be released in the Yellowstone region this spring.

The second round of the high-profile reintroduction of wolves—extirpated by the forerunner of the Animal Damage Control program in 1922—began in January with the apprehension of the wolves by British Columbia bounty trappers. The B.C. wildlife branch has contracted to supply up to 180 grey wolves to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the next four years. The wolves will be taken out of a region overlapping the area where B.C. wildlife branch officers killed more than 700 wolves during the mid-1980s, to make more ungulates available to trophy hunters. The present wolf population of the region is estimated at 300.

Friends of the Wolf president Dennis Alvey charged that the transfers “may be another form of wolf kill,” and offered a reward of \$5,000 to anyone who could release the captured wolves from their holding pens prior to removal to the U.S. Alvey suggested that the wolves could have been taken from the Yukon instead, where government snipers have killed about 100 wolves over the past three years, also to enhance human hunting opportunities.

The wolves were flown out on schedule, however, in late January. The only reported hitch came on January 24, when a wolf who bit a biologist as she tried to give him ice to lick was killed by lethal injection to permit rabies testing.

### Wolf notes

**Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt** is to announce soon if the scheduled restoration of Mexican wolves to the southwest is to proceed. USFWS Mexican wolf project director David Parsons said in January that the long awaited reintroduction may be scrapped due to opposition from hunters and ranchers—though polls show that 70% to 90% of southwestern residents, like the rest of the public, favor wolf reintroduction. Texas has flatly refused to cooperate with the reintroduction, while New Mexico and Arizona each favor releasing wolves only in the other state.

**A five-year-old ban on wolf-killing in Kazakhstan** gave way to wolf massacres this winter, after local authorities allocated \$46,000 to reinstate the bounties of up to \$75 a head formerly paid by the Soviet government. The Kazakhstan Institute of Zoology claims there are now 60,000 wolves in the central Asian republic. The slaughter accelerated following reports that wolves had attacked five people, including one man said to have lost his nose and an eye to a wolf bite.

**An estimated 100 wolves and jackals, 50 lynxes, and 10 to 20 leopards** are among “more than 20 kinds of rare animals under state protection” which “have re-emerged in the Beijing area since 1987,” the Xinhua news agency said on March 12, dating the beginning of the recovery to two years before the 1989 passage of an endangered species protection law.

**The wolf population of Isle Royale National Park**, in Lake Superior, has recovered from just 13 individuals including only three females, all elderly, to 22, including seven pups from last year’s litters, according to wildlife ecologist Rolf Peterson of Michigan Technical University in Houghton, who took over surveillance of the pack from Durward Allen of Purdue. Allen began studying the Isle Royale wolf/moose relationship in 1958. No wolves have been studied longer. Moose moved to the island circa 1900; wolves in 1949. Each population has fluctuated ever since; moose numbers, up in the early 1990s, are now down through the combination of increased predation and disease. The ongoing observation has established that the Isle Royale wolves prey almost exclusively on moose of more than 10 years of age.

**The state of Alaska is no longer killing wolves** to make more caribou and moose available to trophy hunters, but trapping regulations encouraging private wolf slaughter remain in place, while Fairbanks fur buyers Joe Mattie of Alaska Raw Fur Inc. and Dean Wilson, owner of Klondike Alaska Furs, are reportedly paying a bounty of \$400—twice the current market value—for any wolf pelt taken from the Fortymile area, the target zone for the wolf massacres promoted by former governor Walter Hickel.

**Seeking a definitive identification**, staff of the Ulster Museum in Northern Ireland have shipped the head of a wolf-like animal who was recently shot in the act of attacking sheep near Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forensic laboratory in Oregon. Wolves have officially been extinct in Ireland for hundreds of years, but may have been “reintroduced” by the escape of wolf hybrid pets.

**Convicted in October of illegally killing one of the wolves** released in Yellowstone in early 1995, Chad McKittrick, 42, of Red Lodge, Montana, on February 27 drew a six-month jail term. McKittrick was brought to justice by a reward posted by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

## Can cloned sheep, Select-A-Bull save the Empire?

**LONDON**—Uncertainty over the future of the British cattle herd erupted just six days after the Holstein Friesian Society of Great Britain and Ireland introduced Select-A-Bull, billed as the most advanced system in the British Isles for managing herd reproduction. About five million of the 11 million cattle in Britain are Holstein Friesians. If the British herd is slaughtered and rebuilt from breeding stock, the Select-A-Bull genetic repository could be invaluable.

Meanwhile, many farmers are likely to postpone decisions to breed.

The BSE scare stole the farm press spotlight from a series of scientific breakthroughs in livestock breeding, beginning last December when a Colorado State University research team announced it had invented a way to preselect the sex of calves. Likely to be commercially available in three to four years, the method requires the use of only 200,000 sperm per

insemination, instead of the 20 million typically used now, which in turn multiplies the reproductive capabilities of top bulls. It also permits farmers to preselect for males, who gain weight faster, if breeding for meat; daughters, if breeding to replace milking cattle.

In February, a team in Kyodo, Japan, reported conceiving hogs from frozen fertilized eggs, a potential quantum leap in further standardizing hog breeding.

On March 6, embryologist Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland, reported that he and colleagues had cloned five female Welsh mountain lambs, of whom two survived—the first-ever success at cloning a mammal. Wilmut said he started with 250 embryos, of which 34 were transplanted into Scotts mothers. However, he predicted, “It may be up to 20 years before this could be used to produce large numbers of identical animals.”

### Breeding & biotech notes

**The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization** warns that about 30% of the world’s 3,882 known breeds of domesticated animal species are in effect endangered or threatened species, as factory farming with standardized breeds takes over husbandry. The greatest loss of diversity looms in Asia, where 68 domesticated mammals and 37 domesticated birds are at imminent risk of extinction, while 865 mammals and 131 birds are represented by fewer than 1,000 females or fewer than 20 breeding males. “In Europe,” FAO geneticist Keith Hammond says, “half of the breeds that existed at the turn of the century have become extinct; 41% of the remaining 1,500 breeds are in danger of disappearing over the next 20 years. In North America, over a third of the livestock and poultry breeds are rare or in decline.”

**The market research firm Frost & Sullivan** predicts that the combination of biotechnology and corporate ownership will double the amount the farm industry spends on “food animal health products” by the turn of the century. “Pharmaceuticals will rise as a share of overall market revenues,” Frost & Sullivan says, “from 36% in 1994 to 50% in 2001, while feed additives dip in share from 53% to 42% and that of biologicals also declines, from 11% to 8% in the same period.”

**The Michigan State University Board of Trustees** has approved the expenditure of \$3.5 million for a new swine teaching and research center; \$557,000 for a facility in which to do nutritional research on turkeys; \$422,000 for a facility in which to do metabolic research on cattle; and \$686,500 for renovation of a beef cattle research center.

NORTH AMERICAN VEGETARIAN SOCIETY 1-time

## BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

# FEAR AND LOATHING IN TORONTO THE GOOD

**TORONTO**—A Divisional Court ruling by Justice Edward Saunders is expected soon as to whether the Toronto Humane Society must release to the public copies of the pound contract it holds with the City of Toronto.

Claiming a need to protect the security of animals and staff, THS has appealed a December 29, 1995 order from Tom Mutchinson, assistant commissioner of the Information and Privacy Commission of Ontario, to release both the current contract, signed in 1995, and the contract that preceded it, signed in 1985, with an automatic annual renewal clause that will expire on July 31.

The Toronto City Council on March 5 authorized the negotiation of another one-year renewal, over the objection of Councillor Pamela McConnell, who held the THS board seat reserved for the City Council from November 30, 1994 to February 7 of this year.

"I cannot continue to serve a board that operates under a veil of secrecy," McConnell said in her resignation statement. "All documents pertaining to the society, of whatever significance, are marked 'confidential.'"

McConnell alleged specifically that, "In requesting information about a law suit in which the society was engaged," against former staffer Holly Penfound, now on the staff of fellow Toronto councillor John Tabuns, "my questions were met with hostility and the closure of discussion."

Further, McConnell charged, "My items have failed to appear on agendas; minutes I corrected never appeared in corrected form; letters I have tabled were not circulated to board members, and my request in December for a list of the addresses of my fellow board members was not provided. Perhaps of most consequence," McConnell concluded, "Financial reports have been vague. When I have requested more financial detail, I was refused the information and was censured for requesting the information at all."

McConnell also received two letters dated September 15, 1995, from attorney Howard Levitt on behalf of THS. According to Levitt, "various of your fellow board members" were "extremely disturbed" that McConnell in their view "appeared to threaten them to the effect that if they did not withdraw the society's lawsuit" against Penfound, "they would lose the support of Councillor Tabuns and other Councillors both at the next round of contract negotiations," and "in other dealings between the society and Toronto city council."

Added Levitt, "We trust you will raise Councillor Tabuns' apparent conflict of interest in the event that he attempts to participate in future debates or voting regarding the Toronto Humane Society."

The suit against Penfound was filed two weeks after the Toronto city council defeated Tabuns' July 24 motion, "That the City establish a process to ensure that the Toronto Humane Society is publicly accountable to City residents who use their services, and to establish a complaint process as a mechanism to address those concerns as they arise."

Councillor Tom Jacobek was appointed to the THS board to replace McConnell.

"In arguing before the privacy commission against the release of its city contract," Toronto *Globe and Mail* columnist John Barber reported February 1, "THS invoked no less an authority than John Thompson, director of the Mackenzie Institute, an antiterrorism think tank located in Toronto. 'The threat to the Toronto Humane Society is real,' Mr. Thompson wrote in a letter to the society. 'Animal welfare facilities in Europe have been attacked, and there is no reason to believe that Canadian shelters are immune.'"

Added Barber, "If a reporter phones THS spokesman Jack Slibar to ask what's happening, the prime information they receive is a fax entitled 'Mackenzie Intelligence Advisory: The Animal Rights Movement in Canada.' Mr. Slibar is a research fellow of the Mackenzie Institute," begun in 1986 by 1978 British immigrant Maurice Tugwell.

## The IRA?

"In most every other city," wrote Barber on February 22, "the pound is pretty basic stuff. In Toronto, it's as political as the Irish Republican Army," a startling charge in a city so quiet as to be nicknamed 'Toronto the Good.'

Tugwell, after a stint training security forces for the late Shah of Iran, "was an active propagandist of considerable notoriety during his stint with the British army in Ireland," reported Edward S. Herman and Gerry O'Sullivan in their 1989 volume *The Terrorism Industry*, subtitled *The Experts and Institutions That Shape Our View of Terror*. Herman and O'Sullivan cite media accounts crediting Tugwell with concocting a 1972 tabloid story about IRA members using dogs for target practice. The story covered for British troops in Belfast who killed barking dogs to facilitate quiet patrols of Catholic neighborhoods.

The Mackenzie Institute "intelligence advisory" purports to identify "hard leftists" and "a large anarchist faction" within animal rights groups. Few purported anarchists and hard leftists are named; those who are have little or no association with the named groups. Copies obtained by ANIMAL PEOPLE, dated October 1991 and January 1993, faxed from THS, differ little from one another. Their most remarkable aspect is that THS is distributing them.

The political history of THS may explain that. Four supporters of a more aggressive approach to animal protection won election to the 16-member THS board in June 1986, enabling president Vicki Miller and newly named vice president Steve Best to proceed with majority support. A month later, headlines in the *Toronto Star* announced their alleged "radical coup."

Miller, already on the THS board for some time, was also national coordinator of Ark II, an animal rights advocacy group she founded in 1984. Later that year she made headlines with a 30-day hunger strike against Heart and Stroke Foundation funding of animal research. The strike ended with her collapse.

Best was an architect of International Fund for Animal Welfare and International Wildlife Coalition opposition to sealing.

"The fundamental change is that we no longer see ourselves as a pest control agency," Miller told the *Star*. "We have the beginnings, the seed, of what could be an incredibly effective animal protection organization."

The Miller and Best team included *Toronto Star* nature columnist Barry Kent MacKay, now program director for the Animal Protection Institute, and many other noted Ontario animal advocates. They fought greyhound racing, factory farming, the proposed opening of a dolphinarium in Toronto, sealing, and the fur trade. They also tried to secure themselves against a counter-takeover by reducing the board from 16 members to five.

Objected Jake McLoughlin, Miller's predecessor as president, "I don't believe it was ever the intention of the people who founded the society to fund the more radical animal protectionists and to get involved in concerns, however legitimate, such as the fur trade or the seal hunt."

McLoughlin and Bob Hambley, Best's predecessor as vice president, successfully challenged the board reduction in court. They held in part that activists had packed the THS voting membership with nonresidents of the Toronto area.

Miller, meanwhile, was handicapped by chronic fatigue syndrome and the Toronto animal sheltering contract, signed by the McLoughlin/Hambley administration, which took effect on November 30, 1985. Underbidding to avoid losing the contract to laboratory animal suppliers, THS has received \$726,000 per year since 1985 to handle animals impounded by Toronto Animal Control, but has operated at a cumulative loss through 1994 of \$9.2 million.

Miller hoped to avoid the losses by introducing a vigorous low-cost neutering campaign. Indeed, Toronto Animal Control impoundments, counting dogs, cats, and wildlife, fell from 13,757 in 1986 to 8,210 in 1992. But the reductions were not enough to offset rising costs. THS expenditure per animal jumped from \$53 in 1986 to \$83 a year later, leveled off during the rest of Miller's administration, and after her departure due to failing health, averaged \$105 in 1991-1992.

## The Toronto Massacre

The new programs were supposed to become self-sustaining, but start-up costs contributed to a 1987 THS deficit of \$2 million, triple the 1986 deficit, followed by a deficit of \$1.5 million in 1988. For 1989, the deficit was below the 1986 level—but the balance of power shifted at the June 1990 board meeting, at which one heated topic of discussion was apparently a program staff effort to unionize, motivated in part by friction with executive director Kathleen Hunter, the sole management survivor of the Miller era.

Penfound, MacKay, Liz White, and Tita Zeirer were dismissed the next day. Fellow staffers Bonnie Walker and Anne Livingston resigned in protest. Miriam Hawkins was fired the next week. Cruelty investigators Rob Laidlaw and Donna Wilson and program staffer Joan Henry were dismissed in July. Antifur campaign coordinator Ainslee Willock resigned.

Losing "program people" cut the 1990 THS deficit to \$251,215, less than half the next lowest deficit of the past 10 years.

White, Zeirer, and many of the others promptly formed the Animal Alliance of Canada, now the leading animal rights advocacy organization in Canada. Willock organized the Canadian Alliance for Furbearing Animals under the Animal Alliance umbrella. Penfound and Laidlaw founded ZooCheck Canada—and Penfound sued THS for wrongful dismissal. Her case was settled out of court in May 1994—but essentially the same allegations THS made against her in 1990 were apparently raised again in the case THS filed last summer. The central issue seems to be alleged unauthorized disclosure of information about THS. Pending is Penfound's motion for dismissal of the current case, on grounds the substance of it was already decided.

The 1990 Toronto Massacre, as it came to be known, didn't in itself change the THS philosophy. In 1987 THS barred from board membership anyone working in the fur, animal research, meat, pet, and animal entertainment industries, along with people who hunt, trap, or fish, and also barred their spouses. In March 1991, with Hambley's support, THS extended the bar to exclude such persons and their spouses from general membership—and excluded, too, anyone living more than 37 miles from Toronto.

"If you want to be involved in the humane movement," said Hambley, "you have to take a stand."

Indigenous Survival International, formed with Canadian government support to defend the fur trade, immediately protested to the Toronto mayor's committee on community and race relations.

"Members of the native trapping community will be ineligible to become members of THS," charged ISI executive director David Monture, backed by briefs from the Fur Institute of Canada and the Fur Trade Association of Canada.

The mayor's committee found in ISI's favor, recommending revocation of the Toronto pound contract if THS failed to recant the restrictions.

## Aftermath

Information on THS board proceedings has been scarce ever since, loosely coinciding with Slibar's arrival. What is known is that the THS annual deficit doubled to \$513,137 in 1991, rose to \$1.6 million by 1993, and tapered off in 1994 at nearly \$1.4 million. Animal intakes rose by nearly 2,000 from the 1991 low through 1994, but the average cost per animal fell from \$110 to \$85—about the same level as in 1987, despite a marked decrease in the buying power of the Canadian dollar.

Meanwhile, in June 1992, Slibar persuaded the Toronto city council to abandon an effort to enforce a virtual ban on the use of leghold traps within city limits. Slibar argued, against the view of the Animal Alliance of Canada, that new Ontario provincial regulations were "sufficiently strong to deal with the matter."

THS has subsequently opposed most other proposed measures to strengthen Ontario and Canadian animal protective legislation, and is accused of circulating rumors that AAC and ZooCheck are attempting a takeover of the Ontario Humane Society, whose antifur activism was target of a 1990 "analysis" and "counter communications strategy" prepared by the Fur Institute of Canada.

Calling for an approach to silencing OHS similar to the approach taken against THS, the FIC strategy document boasted in conclusion, "Negative publicity surrounding THS is now self-sustaining...This achievement has resulted from the cooperation and actions of FIC, the Aboriginal Trappers Federation of Canada, the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, the Fur Trade Association of Ontario, Project North, Indigenous Survival International, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Ontario Trappers Association, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Trappers International Marketing Service, the Chiefs of Ontario, the University of Toronto, and Citizens for Medical Research along with many other individuals and organizations."

—Merritt Clifton

TUFTS AD



# The Watchdog

## *The hunting lobby at work*

**British Field Sports Society deputy chair Lord Mancroft** and the Duchess of Devonshire in early March

asked the reputed 80,000 BFSS members to join the 28,000-member Royal SPCA so as to influence policy away from opposition to fox hunting and other blood sports. The RSPCA has formally opposed hunting since 1976. New members had to join the RSPCA by March 22 to be eligible to vote at the organization's June annual meeting—and as many as 1,500 hunters reportedly did, as RSPCA board members and staff scrambled to find a way to legally bar them.

"The biennial conference of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species is due to be held in Zimbabwe in 1997," reminds Shirley McGreal of the International Primate Protection League. "Problems are developing, as the government of Zimbabwe wants to hold the meeting in Victoria Falls. Hotel rooms for government officials are available in the town, which has a total of 900 beds, but usually 1,500 or more people attend CITES conferences. Because of the room shortage, representatives of non-governmental organizations would be lodged far away, in Zambia and Botswana, out of the action." This would give Zimbabwe more opportunity to lobby officials in favor of abolishing the international ban on ivory trafficking. "The U.S. government should be concerned at the problems non-governmental organizations will face," charged McGreal, "but will not be. I heard some of the Fish and Wildlife types," she added, "may be keen to go to Zimbabwe, in part to blast away at animals afterward, as some reportedly did" after a previous CITES conference in Botswana.

Among the 25 U.S. public charities—as opposed to private foundations—that contribute the most grant funding to other charities are the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, giving \$24 million in 1994; Ducks Unlimited, giving \$20 million; and the World Wildlife Fund, giving \$14.8 million. All three support hunting.

*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.*

## WOOFS & GROWLS

**Adopt-A-Pet**, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, quiet for several years, recently issued a bulletin "introducing our statewide service," a purported mobile adoption-and-rescue program, and soliciting donations. Adopt-A-Pet in 1986-1992 raised \$6,840,756 via the Watson and Hughey direct mailing empire, which renamed itself Direct Response Consulting Services after paying \$2.4 million in 1991 in out-of-court settlement of charges pertaining to alleged use of misleading sweepstakes appeals. Adopt-A-Pet was among the W&H/DRCS codefendants in a series of cases brought by 22 states. In 1987-1989, Adopt-A-Pet reportedly spent 97% of revenues on further fundraising. Overall, according to incomplete IRS Form 990 filings obtained and abstracted by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* in September 1993, Adopt-A-Pet spent at least 55% of revenues on fundraising, with 6% spent on other documented activities and 39% apparently unaccounted for. W&H/DRCS also represented the Cancer Fund of America, which sought donations by claiming it didn't fund animal-based research. It apparently funded—and funds—little or no research of any kind.

**German freelance TV producer Michael Born** faces up to 10 years in prison for allegedly defrauding customers of more than \$203,000 by faking at least 22 documentaries between 1991 and December 1994. In one episode he purportedly paid an actor to pose as a hunter shooting a housecat. Born defends his creations as "docu-drama," in which players act out real events.

**National Audubon Society** president John Flicker says he cancelled publication of an article for the *Audubon* magazine by former *New York Times* columnist Tom Wicker as part of "a relatively minor adjustment we're making" to policy. Wicker had charged that the Clinton administration has not demonstrated a clear commitment to environmental protection.

The British Advertising Standards Authority censured the **International Fund for Animal Welfare** on Valentine's Day for the fourth time in a year, holding that ads urging Tesco supermarket chain chair Sir Ian MacLaurin to cease selling Canadian canned salmon "unfairly discredited Tesco by its false implication about the supermarket's involvement in seal killing." IFAW was previously rapped for likening hunters to serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer (who serially torture-killed wildlife before turning to human victims); using a photo allegedly depicting John Wayne Bobbitt's severed penis in an anti-sealing ad, which pointed out that the major profitable market for seal products is Asian aphrodisiac demand for dried penises; and suggesting that South Koreans kill 400,000 cats a year for use in soup. Cat-eating is technically banned in South Korea, but is reportedly still commonplace.

## Parody

**Students United to Protest Research on Sentient Subjects**, now doing business as **The Nature of Wellness**, startled *Washington Post* readers on February 25 with a parody of **Americans for Medical Progress** ads attacking antivivisectionists. Surrounding a photo of a bonneted baby was the headline, "Most people see a beautiful, healthy child...We see a cure for Feline Leukemia." Continued the text below, "Outrageous, isn't it? How can anyone possibly believe that a cat disease can be cured by conducting research on healthy human beings? Ridiculous. But, unfortunately, millions of Americans have been led to believe that it is possible to cure human diseases by conducting research on healthy animals."

Henry Spira (April only)

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## Marching orders

**Last Chance for Animals** has pledged to "take advantage of the tens of thousands of supporters" it expects to attend the June "March for the Animals" in Washington D.C. to "blockade the USDA" if it fails to announce pending regulatory amendments to change the Class B dealer system before then. Currently, the "B" dealer classification covers anyone who buys or sells animals across interstate lines—including more than a thousand pet dealers along with from 50 to 75 sellers of random-source dogs and cats to laboratories, many of whom have been accused of trafficking in stolen pets. USDA spokesperson Stephen Smith told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** almost a year ago that the agency wants to split the "B" category into nine subcategories, to enable closer tracking of activity. Congress, however, appears reluctant to increase either the law enforcement budget or the regulatory authority of the USDA.

**Inspired by the Freedom Riders**, whose lunch-counter sit-ins helped desegregate southern institutions in the early 1960s, In Defense of Animals has announced that its chartered buses taking marchers to Washington D.C. from California will stop along the way to hold demonstrations.

**Animal Rights America, not a year old but already split by a dispute** between cofounders Gary Francione of the Rutgers Animal Rights Law Center and Tom Regan, author of *The Case for Animal Rights*, split again in January when a purported ARA call for a boycott of the "March for the Animals," on grounds it will promote "animal welfare" rather than "animal rights," was posted to the Internet. On February 15, Francione endorsed the boycott but objected to the boycott statement, which he said had been amended without his approval since his November 1995 resignation from the ARA. The boycott call was repudiated in a February 26 joint statement signed by remaining ARA cofounders Lawrence Carter-Long, Anne and Ben Crimando, Angi Metler, and Janine Motta. According to their statement, Tom and Nancy Regan followed Francione out in December 1995; James Corrigan and Elizabeth Colville resigned on February 2; Stuart Chaifetz resigned "for personal reasons" on February 16, shortly after Francione threatened to sue him for libel; and Anna Charlton, Shelton Walden, and Johnny Fernandez all resigned over the decision to rescind the boycott.

**Continuing to object to the style and character of the March**, Francione on March 23 noted the acceptance of Frederick's of Hollywood as a sponsor. "Perhaps those who attend will be able to obtain Special Edition Frederick's of Hollywood Leather Crotchless Panties with animal rights slogans," he posted to the >>AR-news@cygnus.com<< online bulletin board.

Ketch-All  
(paid through 10/96)

## Organizations

### People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

After announcing a move to Seattle last year, then indicating it might go to Hampton Beach, Virginia, or Atlanta instead, has reportedly now purchased a building in Norfolk, Virginia, with a dock on the Elizabeth River. PETA is experiencing online address confusion, too: someone set up a World Wide Web page at >>[>>http://www.peta.org](http://www.peta.org)<< for "People Eating Tasty Animals," with links to the Americans for Medical Progress home page.

**The Illinois Audubon Society** on February 28 moved from the 31-acre estate in Wayne that it inherited from Barbara Dunham Dole in 1978 to a smaller headquarters in Danville. "We learned a terrific lesson," said executive director Marilyn Campbell. "Do not take a gift horse without an endowment."

**The Student Abolitionist League**, says founder Adam Weissman, "is a newly formed network of students of all ages and youth in New York City and suburbs, working for total animal liberation." Get info at 914-255-4227.

## Who was that masked man?

### WEYAUWEGA, Wisc.—

Evacuated along with 1,700 other human residents of Weyauwega on March 3, after a Wisconsin Central freight train derailed, igniting 14 ruptured propane tankers, Susan Weiss got the birthday gift she most wanted 12 days later: her 10-year-old cat Kynda, the disabled woman's sole companion, delivered from freezing and dehydration by a stranger in a ski cap. The unknown rescuer called two nights earlier, on her birthday, to get directions to Weiss' home and a set of keys, after learning from news reports that she hadn't been allowed to retrieve Kynda on March 8, when the National Guard let 132 residents go back in armored cars to get their pets, because Weiss' home was too close to the derailment. Weiss had left a bag of catfood open when she fled, but with all gas and electricity in the village off to avoid accidental sparks, the cat had neither heat nor a source of water other than licking ice in the frozen toilet bowl.

The 132 residents were allowed to pick up pets after the Chicago Animal Rights Coalition and PETA separately notified authorities that if the estimated 400 pets in Weyauwega were not recovered by authorized means, an unauthorized rescue would be organized.

The evacuees were allowed to return home three weeks after the disaster, after the propane tankers were emptied.

Frank Zigrang ad--  
paid through 1996

## More "Who gets the money?"

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** continues to receive IRS Form 990 filings and/or group financial statements for fiscal year 1994, four months after the deadline for inclusion in our annual December financial abstract of animal and habitat protection groups:

### • The American Bird Conservancy

formed by the 1993 merger of the International Council for Bird Protection-U.S., the ICBP-Pan American Section, and the ICBP Inc., when the original ICBP became BirdLife International, spent \$237,067; claimed to spend \$142,517 on programs, against \$94,550 (40%) on fundraising and overhead; did not claim program costs associated with fundraising; and had assets of \$638,541, including \$11,484 in fixed property and \$629,024 in cash. It took in \$841,482 for the year, \$603,158 as grants from affiliates. Both the revenues and the assets are quite high relative to the level of reported activity, and may reflect preparation to buy land or other facilities. Acting administrative director George Schillinger was paid \$36,250. George Fenwick, paid \$9,000 for service "as required," was the only other staffer listed.

• **Earth Island Institute** in 1994 spent \$3,341,465; claimed to spend \$2,824,825 on programs, against \$516,560 (16%) on fundraising and overhead; attributed to programs \$626,606 in costs associated with fundraising, for adjusted fundraising and overhead cost of 34%; and had assets of \$957,308, including \$75,788 in fixed property and \$1,144,740 in cash, vs. liabilities of \$659,753. Co-executive directors John Knox and David Phillips were each paid \$33,564.

• **The International Society for Animal Rights** spent \$398,808; claimed to spend \$317,485 on programs, against \$81,323 (20%) on fundraising and overhead; appears to have attributed to programs \$120,205 in costs associated with fundraising, for adjusted fundraising and overhead expense of 51%; and had assets of \$486,017, including \$120,028 in fixed assets and \$241,230 in cash and securities. Then-president Helen Jones' compensation was not listed.

## Winter of snow and drought

Severe swings in winter weather, believed to be symptomatic of global warming, hit animals hard around the world.

Near Bascones del Agua, in northern Spain, more than 4,000 pigs drowned two days after Christmas when a river overflowing with snowmelt from the Pyrenees mountains trapped them in their barn.

At the same time, tropical fish farmers in Hillsborough County, Florida, lost fish by the ton to a sudden cold snap. The U.S. tropical fish industry centers on Florida, and about 150 of Florida's 184 tropical fish farms are in Hillsborough County, previously noted for climatic stability.

February brought flooding along the Olifants River, in northern South Africa, near Kruger National Park, obliging the helicopter evacuation of baboons, warthogs, jackals, civets, and monkeys from the Animal Rehabilitation Center. Lions, rescue coordinator Jenny Lodge on Valentine's Day, had already made their own way to high ground.

Flooding also hit the Pacific Northwest in early February, for the second year in a row. Northern California, bearing the brunt last year, had only mild flooding this time, but at least 1,200 cattle reportedly drowned near Tillamook, Oregon, while the Greenhill Humane Society rescued more than 30 horses from flooded areas around Eugene.

Outgoing Multnomah County animal control director Dave Flagler, recently named animal control director for Fairfax County, Virginia, left on a high note, having prepared in advance for natural disaster.

"It gave us a chance to show our stuff," Flagler told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "During the first 24 hours I was at the Emergency Communications Center coordinating our response with that of other disaster teams. We were working primarily with the Red Cross in organizing relief shelters for people and their pets. The American Humane Association and the Humane Society of the U.S. sent teams to assist. During the flurry of activity we lost our telephone

service. Thanks to our close cooperative relationship with the Oregon Humane society, we moved our dispatch operations to their shelter."

The rain turned to snow farther north, where the British Columbia Ministry of the Environment reported that deer and bison, just entering their calving season after a harsh midwinter, were at risk of starving. Some newborn animals were said to be suffocating in drifts. The Ministry of Transportation and Highways teamed with the Wildlife Protection Branch to clear roads and convoy hay into feeding stations in some of the hardest hit areas.

### Deer starve

A bill to appropriate \$1.25 million for deer-feeding stalled in the Minnesota legislature when the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association argued that the money should come from general funds rather than a surcharge on hunting permits.

In Wisconsin, where the deer population has reportedly grown 50% in two years, winter losses of 20% to 30% were expected.

Deer also starved in the overpopulated Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. The Ohio Department of Wildlife has heavily pushed hunting in surrounding areas, but the 18,000-acre park is off limits. Critics charge that the cull hunts have only encouraged deer reproduction, by failing to rectify a herd balance skewed toward adult females and by making more forage available to them through the winter, encouraging them to bear twins. Of the 17 deer known to have starved to death, 16 were yearlings.

But the worst weather hit China during the last week in February. Temperatures as cold as 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit killed more than 700,000 cattle and yak, according to the British Broadcasting Corporation, leaving about 80,000 people without their livelihood.

Five states of northern Mexico on March 22 marked their thousandth consecutive day without rain. The drought killed an estimated 300,000 cattle in 1995, from a herd of 6.3 million at the beginning of 1994, now numbering only 3.2 million.

Phil Arkow  
(through May 1996)

Weisman (paid through July/August)



Parana, February 21, 1996

We are a zoophile education group, Platero, consisting of three members and no adherants, formed in 1978. We try to educate the community in several ways: by giving talks in schools, by writing articles weekly in *El Diario*, by petitioning the authorities to help animals, and by distributing the animal protection law.

In November 1993 we established, with municipal help, a low-cost-or-free neutering program for homeless pets and pets belonging to the humble people and lower middle class. Between September 11, 1993, and

## A letter from Argentina

September 11, 1995, we neutered 3,200 animals, 70% of whom were female dogs. We visited every suburb every other day with a municipal veterinarian and a private veterinarian, Patricia Schmidt, whom our nine volunteers paid. We also paid for surgical supplies and antiparasitics.

Our neutering program stopped on October 11, 1995, for economic reasons: no more municipal veterinarian, no more municipal aid. Some individual veterinarians would like to participate in our program, but the College of

Veterinarians disapproves.

If anyone is interested in helping, please send contributions to:

Grupo Platero  
c/o Lucrecia Margarita Mors  
Nogoya 169  
3.100 Parana (Entre Rios)  
Argentina

P.S.—Many people love animals here—but they don't help.

## Animal health

**Amid the mad cow disease panic,** Britain barely noticed the death of an 11-year-old Moslem girl from anthrax after a two-day stay at the Poitier's University Hospital in London. Anthrax, a disease of known epidemic potential, hits about 100,000 people a year. It can be treated with antibiotics, if recognized early, but otherwise kills through the combination of high fever, pneumonia, and internal hemorrhages. Sixteen days before falling ill, the girl helped her father kill an infected sheep at an unlicensed slaughterhouse during the Ramadan religious holiday. She then ate a lightly cooked piece of the liver. The rest of her family, fasting according to the rules of Ramadan, waited until the end of the holidays before boiling and eating the rest of the meat. None of them became ill.

**Up to 5% of the cattle in the U.S. South may carry the bovine immunodeficiency virus,** some experts estimate. A close cousin of HIV, the so-called AIDS virus, BIV was discovered in 1969. Known cases have clustered in Louisiana and Mississippi, but have also been found in New Zealand, South America, Canada, Europe (including England), and Asia.

**An unidentified pig disease called "wabah babi"** has killed at least 177 natives of Brome and Ndigwa villages in the Jayawijaya region of Irian Jaya, a part of Indonesian New Guinea. Jayawijaya chief J.B. Wenas said the deaths all came early this year. The Indonesian health department claims they came over a three-year period.

**Rabbit calicivirus disease** continues to spread through Australia, killing rabbits by the thousand, six months after insects carried it to the mainland from a quarantined test site on an island off South Australia last October. Nearby New Zealand has increased airport security against the chance that rabbit-hating sheep farmers might try to smuggle infected rabbits into that country, and in February killed two endangered kiwi birds as part of an experiment to see whether the calicivirus might jump the species barrier and attack wildlife.

**Seventeen residents of Mayibout II,** a Gabon village of about 150 people, died in mid-February from Ebola virus after 12 of them ate a chimpanzee that a pair of children claimed to have found lying dead in the forest. Three gorillas, an antelope, and a wild cat were reportedly found dead in the same area. The final fatality was the six-month-old child of one of the other victims. Seven people were afflicted but survived.

**Ecuadorian authorities poisoned and/or shot 11,000 wandering dogs and cats in mid-March, after 12 people died of rabies** in an outbreak centering on the city of Guayaquil. Ecuadorian director of health Efran Pacheco estimated that even among owned dogs and cats, only 35% were vaccinated against rabies, partly because the shots cost more than twice the average resident's monthly income—and partly, points out Ecuadorian native Abelardo Moncayo, now at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, because animal control by poisoning is as likely to kill animals who have been vaccinated as those who haven't.

## AMC rift goes public

**NEW YORK, N.Y.**—A two-year clash between senior staff and management at the nonprofit Animal Medical Center in Manhattan exploded into the *New York Times* and *New York Post* in early February. Eight veterinarians from a permanent AMC staff of 25 quit between March 1994 and March 1995, after which the remaining vets split into factions of 11 opposing chief-of-staff William Kay, DVM, and 10 supporting him, six of whom were said to be related by marriage.

Documents received by ANIMAL PEOPLE from the dissident faction indicate Kay, a 30-year employee with strong board support, was soon afterward kicked upstairs and replaced on an interim basis by Michael Garvey, DVM, whose policies are no more popular and who is reportedly soon to be replaced by a new permanent chief of staff.

On May 12, 1995, 10 AMC vets with 82 years of combined service charged in a statement to the AMC board that, "Garvey's administrative leadership has been marked, among other things, by insistence on absolute loyalty, to the point where any dissent is offered at the risk of harassment and/or dismissal," and asserted that, "We have reason to believe that a significant expenditure was made from AMC operating funds to defray settlement of a sexual harassment charge brought against Dr. Kay," who was paid \$207,000 in 1994, after getting raises totalling \$73,000 over the preceding five years. "We have reason to believe that the sum expended on this matter exceeded \$40,000," the letter said. *The Post* said AMC board members were told the actual settlement was \$26,000.

The letter-signers, two of whom were fired later in 1995, and have filed claims with the National Labor Relations Board, also argued that AMC treatment standards had declined, "in part due to the improvident focus on the numbers of clients we see and the dollars per case we generate," and complained that the AMC hired a horse surgeon, a purported personal friend of Kay, to supervise the care of small animals and the training of small animal veterinarians.

But the problem dominating the headlines involved the handling or non-handling of charity cases—by an institution formed in 1910 to help the animals of the poor. *The Post* cited numerous cases of animals being held for ransom, in some cases apparently in violation of New York state law, or being refused treatment because clients in distressed circumstances, e.g. in the wake of a fire that destroyed all their possessions, were unable to make a sufficient advance deposit against treatment costs.

## People

**Running for the Green Party,** seeking a senate seat in Victoria, Australia, *Animal Liberation* author Peter Singer won 3% of the vote on March 2.

**Antonio Shaw has replaced former American SPCA executive vice president John Foran,** who left after a November clash with law enforcement chief Robert O'Neill. O'Neill reportedly departed on March 4. Longtime ASPCA *Animal Watch* editor Cindy Adams meanwhile resigned in January to attend nursing school.

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**national conference**

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NACA through 3/97

# Artful dodge gets Agudos out of Venezuela

(from page one)

## Stamped

It all worked perfectly but for one hitch: as Alice and Ken left their cruise ship to fetch Agudo, their hands were stamped with fluorescent ink. No one would be allowed back aboard without not only paper identification, which they had for Agudo, but also the stamp—which they had no way to replicate.

"I almost had a heart attack," Dodge told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "I'd planned for everything but that. I was so afraid of letting everyone down, especially Ignacio and the little girls."

But necessity is the mother of invention, and Alice thinks fast on her feet. As she approached the checkpoint, returning with Agudo, even people already aboard the ship could hear her tell the world that her "husband" was a dunce, who would end up with the rats in a Venezuelan jail because he'd mosied off the ship with his hands in his pockets, and would be lucky if some trigger-happy guard didn't stand him up against a wall and shoot him.

The guards didn't like that implication, what they understood of it. They didn't like Alice, a large woman whose rage can terrify even people who are heavily armed. They saw Agudo's discomfort. With a glance of sympathy, they waved him past.

Safely aboard ship, Ken Dodge and Agudo, neither normally drinkers, quelled their nerves by quickly killing a bottle of rum. Alice went back ashore. She'd seen a scrawny kitten on the dock.

"You're crazy," Ken warned her. "They'll throw you in jail."

"I'm going to get that kitten," said Alice, and did, naming her Vinnie.

It was a point of honor. Just a month earlier, on January 22, Alice tried to take a mother cat, nine kittens, and three puppies from Barbados to Puerto Rico, aboard the Carnival Cruise Lines vessel *Festival*—a run she had made many times. The puppies and three kittens came from the Royal SPCA in Barbados. Unadoptable there, due to low demand, they could easily be placed by Pet Search.

This time, however, an RSPCA

employee acting independently of management informed the cruise line that Dodge might be transporting the animals illegally. The puppies and three kittens adopted from the RSPCA were confiscated and euthanized, along with a fourth kitten acquired as a stray, purportedly because the stray had not been vaccinated against rabies or quarantined, even though there is no known rabies in Barbados and Dodge guaranteed the costs of a quarantine. *Festival* security staff then searched Dodge's stateroom, after putting to sea, confiscating the five kittens and the mother cat. Three of those kittens died, too, apparently of neglect, before Dodge convinced the crew to return the rest or else.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** inquiries into the incident have been met by stonewalling and evasion. To Dodge, who called **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in tears from Puerto Rico, after learning of the animals' deaths, the Agudo mission wouldn't be complete without rescuing at least one animal, too, in their memory. And so it was done.

## Treason

Agudo in February 1993 was president of *Fundacetacea* (The Whale Fund), a leading Venezuelan marine mammal protection organization. Romero, author of more than 300 scientific papers, was executive director of the Venezuelan Foundation for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (BIOMA). Venezuela, then and now, was campaigning to weaken the U.S. law barring the import of tuna netted "on dolphin," which has effectively kept Venezuelan tuna off the U.S. market.

The Agudo/Romero video, showing Venezuelan fishers deliberately killing a dolphin for use as bait, with the remains of 13 other dolphins on the beach behind them, was intended to help persuade Venezuela to create a coastal cetacean sanctuary and adopt a national marine mammal protection act. Agudo and Romero didn't release the video to media until May 1993, after the Venezuelan attorney general refused to halt the dolphin killing they had documented. It reached U.S. media in November 1993, when Russ Rector of the Dolphin Freedom Foundation obtained a copy from Romero,

made duplicates, and sent them out to TV stations.

Reportedly receiving 20,000 letters of protest from American viewers, Venezuela retaliated. "Since most environmental organizations in Venezuela received money from the government," Romero told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in early 1995, "they were compelled to sign a communiqué in which they stated that dolphins are not killed in Venezuela. Our telephones were tapped. In early January 1994, the two fishermen who killed the dolphins were arrested seven times in five days, once with their small children, and were made to sign a confession in which they claimed we tricked them."

Within days Agudo and Romero were indicted for allegedly bribing the fishers to kill the dolphins—with \$4.95 worth of rum and gasoline. The treason charges followed. Life on the run began. Asked for help, major international animal protection and conservation groups did nothing.

Explained Neil Trent of the World Society for the Protection of Animals, which has an office in Bogota, when approached by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** about the possibility of setting up a diversionary event on Agudo's behalf, to help cover the Dodges, "We can do nothing that would jeopardize our international position by violating the laws of Venezuela or Colombia." WSPA, Trent said, might be willing to facilitate negotiations, if Agudo wanted to arrange his surrender to Venezuela.

"I think the only possibility for him is to create such a public uproar that Venezuela will not have any choice but to drop the charges," Romero decided in April 1995. *Science* had just made the Agudo/Romero story public. The *Wall Street Journal* picked it up from there and put it on page one of their March 15, 1995 edition.

Thus alerted, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** made contact with Romero through Steven Green of the University of Miami, where Romero holds an unpaid honorary position. We put Agudo and Romero on page one of our May 1995 edition, and followed up as often as new information became available. *Earth Island Journal*, published by Earth Island Institute, picked up the story from

## ANIMAL PEOPLE

All the while, Romero kept saying, he was working on one possibility after another of somehow rescuing the Agudo family. On Christmas Eve he said he finally had a plan in place. He just needed a few more contacts. We offered our help. Romero deliberated, then called the morning of January 5. "It's set up," he said. "We just have to get Ignacio to Aruba."

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** called Alice.

Also in our May 1995 edition, with the Agudo/Romero story, we profiled Alice and Pet Search, founded in memory of her son, Kenny, the youngest of her five children, an animal lover who was killed, at age five, in a 1984 car crash. Grief had made her fearless. Alice knows the Caribbean. And as her friend Judith Messimer says, "If I was a lost, sick, hungry stray cat or dog, Alice Dodge is the face I'd most want to see."

"This one's for Kenny," Alice said.

And she did the job, with Messimer securely relaying sensitive communications. Alice said she didn't need public credit, which various groups claimed a piece of once Agudo and daughters were in Brazil, but donations are still welcome at Pet Search, 1553 Pond Road, Glencoe, MO 63038.

A press conference to tell the Agudo/Romero story to Brazilian media was scheduled for March 24. The International Wildlife Coalition and Cetacean Society International issued online appeals asking that "a flood of faxes" on Agudo's behalf be sent to Christian Koch, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, ACNUR/Brasil, 011-55-61-2226781.

Faxes will help Agudo to secure the refugee status he needs in order to earn a living. He's already at work. "In Aruba he wrote a plan to save the coastal cetaceans there," Truda told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on March 23. "He has not been able to write for a long time, and now I cannot get him to stop writing."

Romero also needs a job, to secure his U.S. status; a temporary consulting post ended earlier this year. He may be reached c/o >>AROMERO@umiami.ir.miami.edu<<, or via **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

—Merritt Clifton

## Mystery deaths

Theories are many but proof lacking concerning the causes of recent multiple mysterious mass deaths of marine mammals in different parts of the Atlantic. First, from mid-January to February 22, five or six northern right whales—the count was disputed—were found dead in their wintering and calving area off Georgia and Florida. On March 11 yet another right whale washed up at Wellfleet, Massachusetts. The current northern right whale population is believed to be no more than 300, and the deaths equal the total known number of calves from 1995. Fourteen calves are known to have been born this year, but three were among the dead.

On March 13, International Wildlife Coalition staff scientist David Wiley and Humane Society of the U.S. marine mammal advocate Sharon Young argued in a joint statement that, "The deaths coincide in time and space with naval maneuvers that involve gunnery practice and bombs." One whale was clearly rammed by a ship. Concussion from explosions, according to Wiley and Young, could account for several of the other deaths.

Biologist Jose Manuel Azevedo of the University of the Azores reported 21 dead cetaceans of eight species washing up in the Azores between February 7 and March 10, where usually no more than one or two wash up per year. The only evident explanation was a run of unusually cold weather.

Finally, at least 61 manatees died during February and early March near Fort Myers, Florida, including 33 within 10 days, March 5 through March 15, rapidly depleting a record statewide count of 2,639, posted just before the first deaths were noted. All were well-fed; all had a form of bacterial pneumonia, but investigators were inclined to believe the infection was a symptom rather than a cause of the underlying problem.

**As expected, U.S. President Bill Clinton** announced February 9 that the U.S. would "vigorously pursue high-level efforts to persuade Japan to reduce the number of whales killed in its research program," but stopped short of imposing trade sanctions, as he is authorized to do in response to a Commerce Department advisory issued in December that Japan is violating the intent of the International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whaling by setting "research" quotas for minke whales so high—now more than 400—that the "research" amounts to commercial whaling.

**Representatives of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the U.S.** met on March 21 at Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada, to form a new body called the Arctic Council to address Arctic environmental issues. Carole St. Laurent, representing the World Wildlife Fund as an observer, called for action to protect polar bears and bowhead whales—but the recent political history of most of the nations involved and the WWF emphasis on "sustainable development" suggests any "protection" measures will be along the lines of killing animals to finance finding out how many can be killed without wiping out the species.

**Norway on February 29 for the first time penalized a whaler for overkilling.** The whaler, not named in wire service reports, had already killed his 1994 quota of seven whales when he shot another. He reportedly also killed a whale illegally in 1991, but was not penalized. This time he drew 30 days in jail, a fine of 10,000 kroner, and was barred from whaling for four years.

## Marine life

**Norwegian Fishing Vessel Owners Association** spokesperson Tor Are Vasskinn announced on March 1 that, "There will be no seal hunt in 1996," because state subsidies were too low to insure profitable sealing, with increased competition for the limited international markets likely to come from Canada. But the announcement was just a ploy to get more money, and when the deal was struck, four vessels sailed to kill approximately 20,000 seals. Norwegian sealers killed 14,800 seals in 1995, including from 800 to 1,000 babies, out of an infant quota of 2,600.

**The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans** on March 7 announced it would charge sealers Jim Walsh and brothers Michael, John, and William Hearn, all of Petty Harbor, Newfoundland, with using illegal weapons, illegal use of a gun, and illegal bleeding of a marine mammal. The charges carry a maximum penalty of \$73,000 in fines plus up to a year in prison. A home video they apparently made for their personal amusement was apparently given to the International Fund for Animal Welfare by a shocked acquaintance, and shown as lead item on the February 6 CTV national newscast. *Vancouver Sun* TV columnist Barbara Righton described it as "footage of babies, gutted and screeching as they were kicked across the ice alive."

Bina Robinson through May

**On February 14, the Canadian DFO** joined with the World Wildlife Fund in announcing a 56-point recovery plan for the estimated 525 beluga whales remaining in the St. Lawrence and Saguenay rivers. Priorities are the reduction of toxic discharges into the St. Lawrence, protection of beluga habitat, and reduction of disturbances to belugas.

**Also on February 15, the National Marine Fisheries Service** formally proposed a ban on "chumming" within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, off the California coast from the Golden Gate Bridge to Hearst's Castle near San Simeon. "Chumming" is the practice of dumping bloody offal overboard to attract great white sharks toward tour boats. The ban has been pursued for several years by the Santa Cruz-based Pelagic Shark Research Foundation and the Surfers Environmental Alliance.

**Four giant squid were caught off New Zealand during the first two months of this year**, encouraging Clyde Roper of the National Museum of Natural History, a division of the Smithsonian Institution, to organize a \$5 million effort to use a miniature submarine to locate, pursue, and film the squid for the first time in his/her native habitat.

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# The politics of seal slaughter

by Captain Paul Watson

It isn't easy being a Canadian. We don't get a hell of a lot of respect. To most of the world, especially the U.S., we're a quiet people with an unremarkable history, occupying a considerable amount of frozen geography.

They've heard of maple syrup, Canadian Club—and that we host the largest single slaughter of a wildlife species anywhere on Earth.

Our annual massacre of harp and hooded seals is infamous internationally both for scale and for gruesome cruelty. The seal club is better known than the rye whisky kind.

Not that it makes economic sense. It doesn't make money and hasn't for decades. The sealers are glorified welfare bums, living high on subsidies and being paid more for who they are than what they do.

Sealing in Atlantic Canada, especially Newfoundland, is a cultural icon. More Newfoundlanders have died on the ice floes than in wars, never mind that it was because of the arrogant folly of ignorant merchants and sealing captains who prized seal pelts over human life. To criticize sealing is to criticize the very soul of Newfoundland.

The long and short of it is that the price of their piece of rock in the Atlantic was tarnishing of all Canadians in the eyes of the world as club-wielding killers of baby seals.

There once was a market for seal pelts and seal fat. Today, with a million seal pelts stored in Norwegian warehouses at government expense, there is no market. Seal pelts are as illegal in Europe and the U.S. as heroin and cocaine.

But the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, after spending a few million dollars, created a new market by convincing Asian impotents that powdered harp seal penises mixed with powdered tiger bone will get them up and running again.

So now we have Canadian government snake oil salesmen peddling Mr. Stiffy to the Chinese voodoo medicine market. Ask a reputable Chinese medical doctor, Dr. Mao-Shing Ni of Santa Monica, about the seal cure for impotence, and he just rolls his eyes: "Quack medicine."

But a market for penises was enough of an excuse to lend legitimacy to reviving the commercial seal hunt.

It must be remembered that killing seals in Canada never stopped. From 1984 through 1995, the average kill was about 60,000. This was called the noncommercial hunt, conducted by thousands of landsmen who spread out over thousands of miles of coast. Each took a few seals for personal use. In recent years they targeted males.

Not satisfied with the quiet reactions to the noncommercial hunt, Admiral Brian Tobin, fresh from his smoke-and-mirrors "triumph" over the Spanish drag-fishing Armada last spring, decided to pull out the stops. In December 1995, Tobin called for a quota of a quarter million seals.

He couldn't care less if the rest of the planet looks on him as Lorena Bobbit to nature. He had a good solid reason for concocting the penis trade and escalating the numbers.

Brian wanted to be Premier of Newfoundland. Like

any good little Newfoundland boy with aspirations of being top dog, he would say what Newfoundlanders want to hear.

Now, one thing Newfoundlanders do not want to hear is that they were responsible for the destruction of the cod. No, not the Spanish, not the seals, but their very own fleet of home-built monster druggers. Aye, that's the b'yes who done it for sure. But they don't want to be reminded of that fact, no sirree George.

They needed a scapegoat, and Brian gave them one. "The culprit's first name," said Tobin, "is Harp, and his last name is Seal."

## The man from Dildo

How convenient coming from a man who said in July 1994, six months before former Newfoundland premier Clyde Wells announced his retirement, that the seal hunt was dead. His exact words, as published by the *Toronto Star* and *Ottawa Citizen* were that, "Canada will not consider a return to seal culling despite fishermen's claims that the seals threaten Newfoundland's endangered northern cod. Evidence of the impact of the seals in the destruction of cod was not clear," he said. "There is no doubt in my mind that man has been a far greater predator."

Politics is the art of the possible. What Brian wanted to make possible was his election as Premier of Newfoundland. Announcing that killing seals would bring back the cod, Tobin began selling snake oil to his own province.

Peddling the Big Lie that seals are the reason the cod are not recovering, Tobin conveniently forgot that the harp seal is not a big cod gourmet. The seal actually preys on other fish that prey on cod, and there is evidence that rather than harming cod, seals are beneficial to them. Following government logic, cod should be killed to protect cod, because the biggest predator of young cod are older cod.

Oh, the b'yes were cheering in Dildo, Newfoundland, a fitting name for the home of the seal penis processing plant. Brian's promise to bring back the seal hunt translated into the fantasy that Newfoundland will be glorious again.

I remember debating former Newfoundland prime minister Brian Peckford at Memorial University in 1989. I did not have a single member of the crowd on my side, and most wanted to cut my throat.

Mark Small, president of the Canadian Sealing Association, wearing his signature sealskin jacket, asked me what would happen if the commercial seal hunt started again.

I answered him truthfully: "You are a rock in the North Atlantic advocating something the rest of the world finds abhorrent. You will be crushed with an economic sledgehammer like you won't believe."

And now the economic sledgehammers are swinging. The International Fund for Animal Welfare has called a boycott of canned Pacific salmon, one of the most visible of Canadian exports, in Europe. A debate has already taken place in the British Parliament, whose members represent a

**Seal-brushing.** (*Sea Shepherd Conservation Society*)  
nation of animal lovers. The boys on the west coast are now wondering just what is Newfoundland good for? Certainly their fixation on seal-bashing isn't going to do British Columbia much good.

But Brian doesn't care. He doesn't have to. With Jean Chretien of Quebec around for a while as Prime Minister of Canada, he can only move up by moving back home and grabbing the highest office on the rock. He can always return to Ottawa after a few terms to snatch Chretien's crown when it's ready to drop.

Tobin is smart enough to know that the seal hunt can't survive economic realities such as the fact that it yields a pornographic product with limited prestige for Canada.

Oh, there will be economic benefits, but not for Newfoundland. Greenpeace and IFAW will be carting the greenbacks, pounds, marks, and francs to the bank in wheelbarrows. When the public gets angry, the donations flow.

Since 1970, there has been more money to be made from saving seals than from killing them. This is economic reality. The money follows demand, and the international public is demanding the end to the seal slaughter.

This month, the seals are being slaughtered on the ice. Canadian taxpayers are shelling out huge subsidies to underwrite this grisly welfare program. British Columbian fishers are being hurt by the salmon boycott. Meanwhile, seal protection is a thriving business, churning out millions of pieces of mail that return millions of dollars.

Brian Tobin is the only man in Canada who has benefited. Having used his office as federal Minister of Fisheries to enhance his political stature in Newfoundland, he is now premier.

That's what it is all about.  
*Captain Paul Watson has led seven campaigns to the ice to protect seals, and is now completing a book on the history of the anti-sealing protests. As ANIMAL PEOPLE goes to press, he is on the ice off Prince Edward Island, along with German investor and manufacturer Tobias Kirschner, demonstrating the potential of harmlessly brushing molting seals to gather their wool for manufacture into clothing.]*

## Marine life, continued

**Transmitters attached to the backs of a female leatherback sea turtle and six loggerhead sea turtles** by Natal Parks Board staff on January 16, monitored by satellite, had by March 7 tracked the leatherback for 1,500 miles on an apparent journey from the northern coast of South Africa to the South Pole. The loggerheads were meanwhile moving up the coast of Mozambique. The African findings were announced the same week that Kenneth and Catherine Lohmann of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill announced their discovery via wading-pool experiments that even two-to-three-day-old sea turtles seem to be able to navigate by sensing the earth's magnetic field.

**Baton Rouge District Judge Janice Clark** ruled on February 17 that a suit filed by commercial fishers against the state ban on gill netting can become a class action, with as many as 1,000 plaintiffs. Earlier, Clark refused to suspend the ban pending resolution of the case, and was backed by the Louisiana

Supreme Court.

**The National Marine Fisheries Service on March 18 authorized the state of Washington to kill any California sea lion** who "can be individually identified and has been observed killing steelhead" at Ballard Locks, near Seattle; "has been observed foraging for steelhead at the locks any time after January 1, 1994, when underwater noisemaking devices were installed" to warn sea lions away; and "is observed foraging at the locks during this year's steelhead season," which began January 1 and will continue through May 31. Three sea lions, including the notorious Hondo, currently meet the standard, as could two more if they are seen eating even one steelhead this year or next. The NMFS authorization means nonlethal alternatives need no longer be tried before Washington officials open fire.

**Swordfish resisting capture** reportedly killed both a Japanese fisher and a Fijian fisher in separate incidents on March 14.

**Sea World of Orlando, Florida,** lost both a stillborn orca calf on February 21 and, four days later, her 21-year-old mother, Gudrun, who was captured from the wild in Icelandic waters in 1977. The calf apparently died in her womb several weeks earlier, at which point Gudrun stopped eating. She seemed to visit occasionally through a gate with Nyar, her youngest of two surviving calves, on the day of her death.

**The U.S. Court of International Trade** ruled in February that the U.S. Secretary of Commerce must finger Italy for violating the international agreement on drift-netting, and halt imports of fish from Italy if the violations continue.

**A March 15 sea turtle feast** on the island of Pemba off Tanzania in the Indian Ocean brought the deaths of 24 people, as more than 200 fell ill from an unidentified toxin in the meat. Tanzania responded by banning

**PRIMARILY PRIMATES (through 7/96)**

## Mobster lobsters?

**MEXICO CITY**—Homero Aridjis, president of the influential Mexican environmental organization Grupo de los Cien Internacionales, on March 10 hinted in an article published in the Mexico City newspaper Reforma that politically well-connected drug dealers may be a "mysterious 'third partner,'" along with the Japanese firm Mitsubishi and the Mexican government, in the Salitreras de San Ignacio salt mining project. The project is widely seen as a threat to the gray whale calving lagoons at the northern end of the Gulf of California. Aridjis attributed the theory to Francisco Guzman Lazo, who for nine years was general director of the Exportadora de Sal, S.A. salt exporting firm jointly owned by Mitsubishi and Mexico, and for seven years was president of Baja Bulk Carriers, "the Liberian-flagged company which does all the deep-sea shipping to Japan, the U.S., and Canada of salt produced in Guerrero Negro."

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Bill Nooter (expires 3/97)

# Otters in peril (from page one)

Reuters: 'What John said is correct.'

Britain was instrumental in helping Canada, Russia, and the U.S. secure a second extension of the ban, which was to take effect first on January 1, 1995. Britain joined the three major exporters of trapped fur at the urging of Canadian indigenous trappers, whose exaggerations of their economic dependence on trapping backfired when they sought a special exemption from the ban. While the actual number of native trappers in Canada is from 5,000 to 9,000, according to research by the Fur Bearer Defenders and **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, pro-trapping fronts and the Canadian government claim there are as many as 40,000—which would be half of all the trappers in Canada.

Said Gummer, "People felt that to give an exclusion to indigenous people that would add up to 50% of the imports concerned would not be satisfactory. There was general agreement that we could not make such a distinction, particularly as Greenland and Finland had found ways to meet the needs of their indigenous people without use of leghold traps."

Added Gummer, "I am certainly not one of those who take an antifur position. I take an anti-cruelty position."

In any event, said Bob Stevenson, executive director of the Aboriginal Trappers Federation of Canada, ATFC members resent the fur industry's use of "the token Indian" in defense of leghold traps, introduced by European settlers, and would be happy to switch to different trapping methods if Canada subsidized the transition.

The Cree Nation of Quebec last year called for a ban on leghold trapping, to avoid the EU ban.

The Netherlands has meanwhile unilaterally enforced the fur import ban from

January 1. On March 15, as volunteer ALDF attorney Amy Levin pleaded the case for otters before the Missouri Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Metis Nation of the Northwest Territories, Canada, argued before a Dutch court in Den Hague that the Dutch enforcement is illegal. Metis Nation president Gary Bohner claimed the Dutch approved the ban in the belief that it would protect endangered species, and asserted that no legally trapped furbearers are endangered.

His contention overlooks the Canadian failure to enact endangered species protection, and the failure of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to act on petitions seeking the addition of the lynx and wolverine to the U.S. Endangered Species List. Biological evidence indicates both are eligible. In addition, traps are inherently unselective about which animals they catch: any animal who takes the bait is game—and usually maimed for life, if not killed in prolonged agony.

The verdict was due March 28.

Otters, as diving animals, die hard even in so-called drowning sets. Otters are too big to be crushed in the Conibear traps usually set for muskrat, which work much like a spring-loaded mousetrap, and like beavers, foxes, raccoons, and coyotes, often "wring off" if caught in a leghold trap, leaving a crushed limb behind.

That's what the EU wants to stop. It's an embarrassing situation for Gummer, whose Conservative government killed a bill just last fall that would have stopped the sadistic abuse of British otters and mink by lampers and lurchers, as devotees of the British variant of coonhunting are known. But attacking leghold trapping of otters in the U.S. and Canada would go a far piece toward improving the Gummer image, without domestic political risk.

"Depending on whom you ask," Gruver wrote, "20% to 90% of Missouri trappers use leghold traps." Their otter-trapping technique: "Put the traps where they like to slide."

Otters love to slide down slick clay riverbanks just like children at the playground: first mama otter, then the babies.

## Trappers & rapists

Once ranging throughout North America, otters were so heavily trapped, along with beaver, as to vanish entirely from the central part of their habitat by the mid-19th century. Wherever beaver were, otters were, sharing their ponds, and wherever beaver were extirpated, otters vanished too, until the southern population was completely separated from the northern.

Likewise, otter recovery followed the restoration of beaver. Noting the return of otters to Vermont after beavers were reintroduced from New York in 1921, advocates for the creation of the Missouri DoC mentioned otter recovery as one of the projects it could supervise back in 1936—and from the time it came into being, in 1937, recovering otters was on the agency's "do" list. There was just one problem: no otters were to be had until 1982, when Louisiana trappers agreed to sell some. Between then and February 1992, 825 otters were released in Missouri. The DoC estimates there are now 3,000, still not many for the habitat.

Now comes the argument that since trappers helped bring otters back, they should be allowed to kill them again. It's like arguing that a rapist who makes restitution should be allowed to rape his victim again, since, being paid, she's become a prostitute. But it's an argument that will be heard increasingly loudly from other states with otter restoration programs, also including Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, because at \$45-\$95 a pelt, otters are among the few species whose remains fetch at auction something like the prices they fetched a decade ago. Even the Illinois DoC, without an otter restoration program, has biologists combing the riverbanks leading from states from which otters might wander, hoping to find some, whose presence may revive trapping permit sales.

In Missouri, wildlife programs are funded from general tax revenues, not just the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping



—K.B.

permits, a unique arrangement which supposedly gives "non-consumptive users" a greater say in what happens to animals. In practice, this hasn't happened. Otters may become a high-profile test of the theory.

For now, Missouri is the 28th state to permit otter trapping. Twenty states still protect otters.

Interestingly enough, Missouri trappers didn't kill many otters back in the 1980s, when beaver and coyote pelts often fetched more than otter pelts do now. They killed just 20 "by accident" in 1993, just before Chinese bidders drove the otter pelt price at auction up from circa \$30 to the present level. In 1994, they killed 144.

Said Hamilton to Gruver, "There is a need to use the otters that are being captured. It would be irresponsible if we didn't allow the use of animals caught in these traps."

That might rationalize the introduction of, say, a dispensation permit, like the special tag issued in some states to drivers who hit a deer and want to keep the carcass. But the Missouri DoC approved a season with no bag limit, running from November 20, 1996 to January 20, 1997.

[You may tell the Missouri DoC what you think of otter-killing at POB 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.]

## Beaver-bashing

Apparently believing either that the EU fur import ban can be stalled indefinitely or that "humane" trapping rules can be gerrymandered so as to allow whatever is current practice, other states are also rushing to weaken trapping regulations. New York Assembly majority leader Michael Bragman is reportedly determined to pass A-8034/S-3182, dubbed the "Beaver Butchery Bill" by Friends of Beaversrite.

"This bill," summarizes FoB, "introduced last year to legalize snares, allow an open season on beaver in vast parts of the state, and allow up to three days between trap checks, was stalled last year due to opposition from our leading environmental and animal organizations."

[Letters of protest may be sent to Senator Carl Marcellino, Legislative Office Bldg., Albany, NY 12247, and Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, same address except that the zip is 12248.]

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation claims killing more beavers is essential to protect roads from flooding. Arkansas claimed the same rationale for imposing a bounty of \$5.00 apiece on beavers last summer. Arkansas trappers killed 14,550 beavers this past winter, costing the state treasury almost \$75,000.

"It's reducing the population, but it's not particularly reducing the problem," said Rocky Lynch, bounty coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

A more general move to legalize snaring, by the Ohio Department of Wildlife, met surprising opposition in mid-February when representatives of northeastern Ohio hunting clubs disapproved of it by a 10/1 margin—chiefly because snares might injure coonhunting dogs.

The pushes to expand snaring in New York and Ohio may reflect the positions of New York furbearer management chief

## Wild felines

Reduced to a U.S. population estimated at 350 to 700 by the trapping boom of the early 1980s, the North American lynx may now be the most notable casualty of the Congressionally imposed moratorium on protecting additional species under the Endangered Species Act. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Lori Nordstrom recommended in 1994 that the lynx be given federal protection, beyond the limited protection already extended by 13 of the 20 states it once inhabited. However, with the ESA up for renewal and so-called "takings" of property rights to protect endangered species a hot topic in the 1994 Congressional election campaign, the USFWS denied the listing. The denial is contested in a recent lawsuit filed by Jasper Carlton of the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, with 12 other organizations as co-plaintiffs.

**Genetic testing done by Stephen J. O'Brien of the National Institutes of Health** reportedly established in February that the parents of a panther captured near Waldo, Florida, in April 1995 were two of 19 Texas cougars released in a 1993 study of the feasibility of restoring the Florida panther population, endangered almost to the vanishing point. The male Texas cougars, close kin to Florida panthers, were all purportedly vasectomized, but one, dubbed T-33, sired three litters of kittens, who were supposedly caught when their parents were recaptured in early 1995. Hoping the Waldo cat was a Florida panther, whose presence could keep a regional dump out of their coonhunting woods, a Florida hunt club last year reported his presence to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission—who trapped him and gave him to an unidentified Florida wildlife dealer, along with seven of the other translocated Texas cougars. "Unknown to the state," reported Rick Barry of the *Tampa Tribune*, "the Florida dealer sold them to a South Carolina dealer, who sold them to a Missouri dealer, who sold them to a Texas dealer, who is known to provide big game animals to private hunting preserves," a.k.a. canned hunts. However, Barry added, "Because the state failed to confer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the cats' disposition, a requirement of the federal Endangered Species Act—and because 'Waldo' had become a *cause célèbre* in north central Florida—the state tracked him down and flew him back to Florida." Questioning the genetic evidence, partly because Waldo appears to be too old to be the son of T-33, Sarasota In Defense of Animals is demanding that Waldo be returned to south Florida and released.

**On January 4, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission took in another cougar**—a severely malnourished cub whom a Pinellas County couple had purchased from an Oklahoma dealer. Malnourished and dehydrated, the cub was confiscated after the couple inquired about licensing. "He hadn't walked in three weeks," said veterinarian Leigh McBride. "I don't think he would have been alive in another 24 hours." Upon recovery, the cub was to be transferred to an exhibition at the Homossa Springs State Wildlife Park.

Gordon Batchellor and National Trappers Association president Tom Krause, an Ohio native, on the Working Group on Trilateral Standards, which also includes Hamilton. The Working Group, excluding animal protection representatives, was formed by the U.S., Canada, and the European Union after the International Standards Organization was unable to produce a "humane" trap standard.

The California Department of Fish and Game has proposed adding red foxes, once listed as a threatened species, to that state's list of legally trapped furbearers, calling them "an undesirable wildlife species, agricultural pest, and threat to some wildlife species" because they are of introduced origin. Ancestors of today's red foxes reputedly escaped from fur farms 60 to 70 years ago.

"Allowing the trapping of the red fox poses a serious risk to the threatened Sierra Nevada red fox, a species protected by state law," says Fur Bearers representative Camilla Fox. "Biological data indicates that territorial ranges for both foxes do overlap."

[Letters may be addressed to the CFGC at 1416 Ninth St., Room 1320, Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94233-2090.]

## Fur notes

**World Traders Inc.**, a six-store fur chain operating in Maine and New Hampshire, has gone out of business.

**California antifur activist Molly Attel** asks that letters protesting the sale of coyote-trimmed coats be sent to H.V. Moore, CEO, Woolrich Inc., Woolrich, PA 17779.

**Earth 2000 National** urges holders of Bon-Ton credit cards to cut them up and return them to Bon-Ton president Timothy Grumbacher in protest of his decision to lease boutique space in each of the 70 Bon-Ton franchises to Pollak Furs. Messages may be left for Bon-Ton at 717-757-7660.

**Don Rolla of the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal** hopes to collect 100,000 petition signatures in support of a federal leghold trap ban before World Animal Awareness Week, in June. For copies of the petition, call Rolla at 708-833-2560.

**Colorado People Allied With Wildlife** can still use volunteer petition-carriers to help gather the 90,000 signatures needed to put a bill to ban all lethal trapping, snaring, and poisoning onto the November ballot. The signatures are due by July 17. To help, call 303-702-1400 or 702-1408.

**The Fur Council of Canada** in a February 29 letter to the MediaCom advertising company objected that a billboard version of the Friends of Animals antifur ad published in the November and January editions of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was "offensive and misleading" because, claimed FCC vice president Harry Papadopoulos, whitecoat harp seals are no longer clubbed—procedure now is to wait two weeks, until they molt, then club them—and red foxes are neither electrocuted nor raised for fur. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** sent the interested parties a stack of literature from the Canadian government and fur trade groups, documenting the extensive rearing of red foxes by Canadian fur farms and explaining in detail how to anally electrocute them.

**Russian fur farms have reportedly cut production by 20% and laid off a third of their work force**, ostensibly because of competition from cheap imports, which are said to have glutted the Russian market. That happened because the pelts weren't selling in western Europe.

# Republicans ready to go on ESA

**WASHINGTON D.C.**— House speaker Newt Gingrich on March 21 signaled imminent motion toward passing a long-delayed Endangered Species Act reauthorization bill, appointing California representative Richard Pombo and New York representative Sherwood Boehlert to co-chair a new Republican task force on the environment. Pombo is among the most aggressive foes of the ESA; Boehlert is among the most prominent pro-ESA Republicans.

Momentum may favor the Republicans at least until the summer Congressional recess, following the failure of the Bill Clinton administration to lobby in favor of an amendment offered by Senator Harry Reid (D-Nevada) to the Omnibus Appropriations bill, which would have lifted the year-long moratorium on adding species to the federal "threatened" and "endangered" lists. The amendment failed on March 14, 49-51.

"The White House could easily have turned the vote around," Defenders of Wildlife spokespersons charged. "Five Democratic Senators voted the wrong way, including Senate Democratic whip Wendell Ford, of Kentucky." Defenders urged Clinton to veto the Omnibus Appropriations bill, part of which authorizes that the moratorium be continued.

Results of the moratorium, according to Defenders, are that "More than 250 species have been denied a final listing decision," including the North American jaguar, originally ranging from Arizona to Louisiana but rarely seen in recent years. A recent report on biodiversity issued by the Nature Conservancy said that about a third of 20,000 native species whose status it reviewed are vulnerable to possible extinction.

David Hogan of Colorado Wolf Tracks meanwhile charged that, "While Congressional rhetoric has captured public attention, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—the agency with primary responsibility for ESA enforcement, has quietly dismantled the Act on its own, by voluntarily relaxing enforcement, to avoid political conflict."

Senators Bob Dole of Kansas, the all-but-nominated Republican presidential candidate, and Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, the author of a bill to gut the ESA, both stated in January that they want to get ESA legislation before Clinton before the start of the fall election campaign.

Data on \$65 million in wise-use campaign contributions distributed since 1989, released in a report by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group and the Environmental Working Group, meanwhile showed that the top recipient in the Senate was Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), who authored the ESA moratorium, at \$397,046, while the top recipient in the House was Don Young (R-Alaska), perhaps the most outspoken ESA foe in Congress, at \$314,028.

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## International wildlife news

### Africa

**Members of 840 Masai families** during the second week in March opened Kimana Tikondo Group Ranch, a 15-square-mile for-profit wildlife sanctuary in southern Kenya, under the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro. Just 17 visitors paid the \$10 entrance fee the first week, most of them members of a delegation from the Wildlife Conservation Society, formerly the New York Zoological Society. Start-up funding came from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Kenya Wildlife Services director David Western hopes Kimana Tikando and similar parks can make enough money to persuade the Masai that keeping wildlife is more profitable than killing it to graze more cattle.

**The estimated 31 northern white rhinos and 230 savannah giraffes** left in Garamba National Park, Zaire, the last wild members of their kind, are imminently menaced by poachers, the World Wildlife Fund warned on February 14. On March 16, WWF confirmed the poaching of a male northern white rhino, the first endangered animal officially killed by poachers in Garamba since 1984. About 80,000 Sudanese refugees and armed rebels occupy the regions east and west of the 1,900-square-mile park, a United Nations World Heritage site. At least 65 elephants were killed in Garamba during 1995 and early 1996, according to WWF, while the park buffalo population has fallen from 53,000 in 1976 to just 25,000. On March 6, David Barritt of the International Fund for Animal Welfare office in Johannesburg issued a similar warning about increased poaching in Uganda. Seven Ugandan elephants were poached in the first three months of 1996, up from just three in all 1995. "Some traders believe limited trade in ivory will be permitted (soon) and are getting a stockpile," said Barritt.

**University of Southern California anthropologist Gary Seaman** is creating a 200-CD-ROM archive of chimp behavior at Gombe National Park in Tanzania, the primary scene of Jane Goodall's chimp research. The videotape of the chimps, captured on the CD-ROM disks for repeated re-examination and computerized enhancement, has already enabled researchers to resolve some longstanding mysteries about chimp social interactions.

### Australia

**Australian environment minister Robert Hill** on March 19 pledged that 2,000 koalas would be relocated from Kangaroo Island, a coastal refuge to which koalas were introduced about 70 years ago. Endangered on the mainland, koalas now number about 5,000 on the island, where they threaten "to eat every damn leaf off until the trees give up the ghost," according to South Australia state chief wildlife officer Lindsay Best, who had suggested shooting 2,000.

**Mozambique is reportedly considering a proposal** from Louisiana gold speculator James Ulysses Blanchard III to start an \$800 million, 4,000-square-mile for-profit ecopark. Reported Donald McNeil Jr. of *The New York Times*, "His plans include a floating casino, thatched game lodges perched high over watering holes, a golf course with hippos in the water hazards, and an antique steam train." The project would restock the area with wildlife, all but wiped out by the 17-year Mozambiquan civil war. Blanchard during the war helped fund the right-wing Renamo faction, who eventually lost the conflict and subsequent elections to the Cuban-backed Frelimo faction. Imported would be 500 zebras, 30 white rhinos, 25 lions, 10 brown hyenas, a group of crocodiles, and the last Bushmen from the Kalahari Desert of Botswana, from which they are being pushed by cattle ranchers.

**Newsweek** reported on February 26 that the South African National Parks board is considering "whether to accept a \$5 million grant from a coalition of animal rights groups," on condition that it must "relocate many elephants" from Kruger National Park, where purported surplus elephants have been shot in recent years; "stop elephant culling for five years"; and "support the global ban on trade in elephant parts." Opponents, said *Newsweek*, "fear it could signal a surrender of national autonomy."

**The World Wildlife Fund has awarded the \$50,000 J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Award** to the staff of the Parc National des Volcans in Rwanda, for staying at their posts to protect the last wild mountain gorillas during the 1994 Rwandan civil war.

### Asia

**After closing 70 of about 120 traditional medicinal herb markets** in 1995 for selling fake goods or contraband, China in February announced a further crackdown, including the closure of all markets that violate the law after June. One concern is the traffic in remains of endangered species, especially those native to China.

**Friends of Nature, China's first approved environmental group**, hopes to make permanent a halt won late in 1995 on logging within the 62-square-mile last habitat of the golden monkey. The 600-year-old forest may yet be cut if Friends of Nature can't find other revenue sources for the human residents, whose average annual family income is just \$12 U.S.—a third of the Chinese poverty line.

**China announced on March 7 that it has allocated \$2 million** to upgrade the Altun Nature Reserve, a 16,900-square-mile corner of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which critics of the Chinese occupation of Tibet claim was created as a pretext for moving troops into the area, ostensibly to fight poachers and illegal gold miners. Chinese authorities say the reserve protects 300 types of rare plant and 60 endangered animal species, including 60,000 Tibetan asses, 80,000 Tibetan antelopes, and 10,000 yaks.

**Habitat destruction due to development** imperils the orangutans of eastern Kalimantan province, Borneo, officials said on March 15. About 30,000 orangutans remain in Borneo, but more than 1,000 have been lost to traffickers during the past decade. Baby orangs reportedly fetch up to \$25,000 apiece in Taiwan, the major market.

**The Smithsonian Institute and Malaysian Wildlife Department** on February 8 released the second of a series of rogue elephants who are to be outfitted with radio transmitters in an effort to prevent damage to crops and villages without killing the elephants. The elephants' locations are recorded by a U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather satellite. The first elephant in the program, a female released in October 1995, had wandered 1,960 miles within Taman Negara National Park when the second, a bull, was let go in the same area.



### Europe

**The evacuation of 135,000 people from a region the size of Rhode Island** around the Chernobyl nuclear disaster site in the Ukraine has aided wildlife, researchers say. One of the four Chernobyl reactors blew up on April 26, 1986, killing 32 people outright and as many as 10,000 from after-effects. Since then, Mary Mycio of the *Los Angeles Times* reported on March 4, "The population of large animals has rebounded. The number of boars has increased eightfold. The number of moose has doubled. Eagles, cranes, and endangered black storks have reappeared. There are also more roebucks, wolves, foxes, otters, and rodents. That so many creatures are flourishing leads ecologist Vitaly Gaichenko and others to the conclusion that for wildlife, the benefits of a human-free environment can outweigh even the biological costs of radiation."

**Loss of blueberries and other browsing staples to soil acidification** has changed the diets of Scandinavian moose, says Center for Metal Biology researcher Adrian Frank, of Uppsala, Sweden, who has dissected 4,360 livers and kidneys from moose shot by hunters since 1982. Now, says Frank, "Moose frequently browse on cultivated fields of oats and linseed, which are heavily limed by farmers." This lowers the level of copper the moose get, but increases the molybdenum. The resulting imbalance has killed at least 1,500 moose over the past decade in Alvsborg County, north of Gothenburg, which may be the most acidified part of Europe, receiving acid rain from most of the continent.

**Leeds University biologist John Altringham** on March 5 announced that small pipistrelle bats from neighboring Yorkshire and Lancashire counties in northern England may be of separate species. Altringham's team found that the Yorkshire bats squeak at 45 kilohertz, while the Lancashire bats squeak at 55 kilohertz. This matters so much to the lookalike bats that they "don't mate or co-habit."

American Humane Association #3 (through December 1996)

## COURT CALENDAR

### Crimes against humans

**Thomas Hamilton, 43, of Dunblane, Scotland, held permits for hunting weapons including a shotgun and two rifles,** as well as for the four pistols he possessed as a target shooter and used on March 13 to kill 16 five-and-six-year-olds, along with their teacher, wounding 17 others. Hunters on the America Online "Animals and Society" discussion board nonetheless rushed to deny that Hamilton was a hunter. Some also argued that Hamilton was not a "pervert," since though long suspected of pederasty, he was never formally charged with an offense. Hamilton purported to teach outdoor skills to boys for more than 20 years, trying several times to start youth clubs after he was ousted as a Boy Scout leader in 1974 for keeping eight boys overnight in a freezing van. At one point he allegedly used his shotgun to threaten a boy's mother, but when she called the police she was told they could do nothing because he was licensed to have the weapon.

**Calls to impeach Brooklyn judge Lorin Duckman** resounded throughout New York after he released Benito Oliver, 35, of New Rochelle, from jail on January 24 on \$2,000 bail, so that Oliver could be reunited with his dog. The dog was in custody of Oliver's former girlfriend, Galina Komar, whom Oliver attacked three times in late November and December, at least once holding a butcher knife to her throat. Oliver had placed three threatening calls to her on December 27 from his cell. "He has been in jail enough for a person who is charged with these crimes," Duckman insisted over the objections of prosecutors. "I want to know about the dog." Ten days later, Oliver shot Komar dead, then shot himself.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent Kelvin Smith, 42, of New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania,** was arraigned on February 29 in Harrisburg for allegedly lying to the FBI about the nature and extent of the paramilitary training he gave to the Islamic extremists who bombed the World Trade Center in 1993.

**Leftist rebels reportedly loaded a burro with 130 sticks of dynamite,** then blew her up by remote control when she approached the police station in Chelan, Colombia, on March 13. The blast and the shooting attack by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia that followed killed 11 police officers. Colombian authorities said FARC, founded in 1964, had not previously used animals in bombings.

**The South Australian Director of Public Prosecutions** announced February 20 that three executives of the bankrupt meat firm Garibaldi Smallgoods shall be prosecuted for manslaughter over the death of a four-year-old girl from hemolytic uremic syndrome caused by contamination. Another 22 children and one adult were also stricken between November 1994 and February 1995.

### Downer test case

**A potential first court test of the California Downed Animal Act** ended in a plea bargain on March 15. After allegedly beating a critically ill calf to death with a cane and a hammer in September 1995, Turlock Livestock Auction Inc. manager Russell Felch, TLA itself, and TLA owner Karen Cozzi were charged with both animal cruelty and violating the downer act. The cruelty charges and all charges against Cozzi were dropped when Felch and TLA agreed to plead "no contest" to the downer charge, for which each was fined \$500 and agreed to donate \$1,000, tax deductible, to SPAY of Modesto. Humane Farming Association president Brad Miller, long critical of the downer act, charged that it enabled the defendants to escape stiffer penalties. "The fines are chump change to the meat industry," Miller said. "The only thing the industry fears is jail time or restrictions on their ability to do business. To avoid that, they will now happily plead 'no contest'" to the downer law, which protects them from the stigma associated with an actual cruelty conviction."

## ISAR, HSUS, Mercy Crusade lawsuits

**The International Society for Animal Rights** on February 28 sued founder and recently deposed president Helen Jones along with her sometime driver Edward Woodyatt, both of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, for alleged fraud and conversion of ISAR assets to personal gain. The bill of particulars against Jones includes 28 purported breaches of fiduciary duties, involving misrepresentation of financial data, using ISAR funds to purchase alcohol, abusive behavior toward staff, and bizarre personal conduct, paralleling the accounts given by former staff in the October 1995 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

**Former Humane Society of the United States vice president for investigations David Wills,** fired in October 1995 and sued for allegedly embezzling \$93,000, on December 28, 1995 filed a countersuit against HSUS, HSUS president Paul G. Irwin, the HSUS subsidiary Humane Society International, and three HSUS staffers who accused Wills of sexual harassment. Wills denies the allegations against himself, accuses Irwin of not keeping his end of a multi-party transaction involving a Corvette, claims the allegations of sexual harassment including an accusation of rape were false, and asserts he was wrongfully deprived of a promised promotion to head HSI. Wills further accuses Irwin of making false statements to Canadian authorities in connection with a passport application. By coincidence, a copy of the Wills suit reached **ANIMAL PEOPLE** the same day as a copy of the Humane Society of Canada incorporation document, anonymously mailed by a person unknown, in which the HSC board members are identified as Dominique Bellemare of Montreal, longtime HSUS/HSI president John A. Hoyt, and Paul G. Irwin, listed as a resident of Brantford, Ontario; his telephone is answered by a voice mail message from a "Gary Irwin." Canadian law requires that a majority of nonprofit board members be either citizens or landed immigrants. The Paul G. Irwin who heads HSUS is a resident of Maryland. Longtime acquaintances say they have no information indicating that he might be a Canadian citizen.

**The California Attorney General on February 23 sued four officers of the Van Nuys-based animal protection group Mercy Crusade** for allegedly misappropriating \$400,000, \$173,000 of which was spent on automatic weapons while \$130,000 went to maintenance of an airplane owned by Mercy Crusade president James McCourt, and toward financing for McCourt's business dealings. Along with McCourt, who is an economics professor at Pepperdine University, defendants include Robert Simoneau, Max Goar, and Marcia Horn. Incorporated in 1949 to promote animal welfare, do humane education, oppose cruelty, and oppose vivisection, Mercy Crusade was noted in the 1970s for promotion of low-cost neutering, but was little active in recent years, after transitions of leadership, apart from appointing 12 humane officers who under a since amended law dating to 1915 were thereby allowed to carry firearms. The law was changed after the *Los Angeles Times* revealed the weapons purchases in January 1995.

## Activism

**Robert E. Kazelak, of Hoffman Estates, Illinois,** was charged on March 22 with misdemeanor reckless conduct for allegedly twice firing a shotgun just over the head of Chicago Animal Rights Coalition member Mike Durschmid six days earlier. Durschmid, with CHARC president Steve Hindi and other activists, was on the far side of Illinois Highway 173, protesting a cage-reared pheasant shoot at the Richmond Hunt Club in McHenry County. According to Hindi, Kazelak "aimed the weapon directly at the heads of the activists," making sure he had their attention before he fired. The incident was immediately reported to the McHenry County sheriff's department, who turned it over to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, who gave it to the McHenry County State's Attorney, Hindi said, without key evidence. The charges were finally filed only after the shooting drew heavy publicity.

**Hindi was arrested in the wee hours of the morning on February 19 in Minnetonka, Minnesota,** along with Minnetonkans Against Animal Cruelty members Bobbi Rudh, 47, and Mary Cecilia Constantine, 59, for allegedly being within 100 feet of a deer trap. Hindi, a videotape surveillance expert, was in Minnetonka at the invitation of MAAC to videotape a controversial deer cull, in which 175 to 200 deer are to be trapped and dispatched with captive bolt guns. Among many aspects of the arrest suggesting an ambush were that while the arrest reports indicate the three were under surveillance themselves as they retrieved cameras that had already been set up for hours, they were not actually apprehended until they were back in Hindi's van and had driven some blocks—which enabled the seizure of Hindi's whole array of high-tech equipment, little of it used in the relatively simple documentation of deer suffering during the cull. Hindi did get most of the equipment back a week later, with a long-distance legal assist from California animal rights attorney Larry Weiss, who showed him how to request the necessary judicial

order, but the Minnetonka police initially refused to return the items on the day set by the judge, reconsidering when Hindi threatened to call the media and stage a sit-in. When the equipment was finally returned, Hindi said, he found everything had been switched on and left to run until batteries were drained.

**Freeman Wicklund, a traveling organizer** with the Student Organization for Animal Rights and outspoken advocate of the Animal Liberation Front, drew 90 days in jail on March 12 for alleged disorderly conduct while occupying the office of University of Minnesota president Nils Hasselmo last year in protest of addictive drug experiments on animals. Wicklund remained free pending appeal.

**David Callender, 37, identified by police as a senior officer in the Animal Liberation Front,** on March 6 drew 10 years in jail in Birmingham, England, for allegedly plotting a firebombing campaign. Callendar was arrested in 1994 in possession of 60 kitchen timers similar to those used in a 1991 ALF bombing, plus other materials that police said were sufficient to make 100 firebombs.

**David Francis "Frank" Arnold,** of Victoria, British Columbia, with no apparent history of animal rights activism, was reportedly arrested on February 29 in Whitbourne, Newfoundland, for allegedly plotting to blow up the local seal processing plant. "He had a vehicle full of incendiary devices," the CBC reported, "and had been asking for directions to the plant." A math major at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Arnold was teaching assistant last term for Wendy Wickyre, whom police sources apparently erroneously identified as his girlfriend. Interviewed by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** correspondent P.J. Kemp, Wickyre said Arnold was interested in environmental issues, and according to Kemp, "she knew he had been imprisoned, but beyond that was rather surprised by the whole turn of events. I asked if Arnold was active on campus in animal rights causes, and she said no, that apparently no one had ever heard him talk about such things."

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# BOOKS

## Beyond The Law:

### *Agribusiness and the Systemic Abuse of Animals Raised for Food or Food Production*

by David J. Wolfson.

Coalition for Non-Violent Food, POB 214, Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024, 1995. 53 pages.  
(Send self-addressed catalog envelope with 78¢ postage.)

### **Animal Welfare Legislation in Northern European Countries: A Study Tour**

by Glen H. and Beverly A. Schmidt.

Privately circulated by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Animal Industry Foundation.

"Today," warns attorney David Wolfson, "the majority of states in the U.S. have enacted laws that mandate that prosecutors, humane enforcement agencies, and the judiciary cannot examine farming practices for cruelty or animal abuse once the particular practice is demonstrated to be an 'accepted,' 'common,' 'customary,' or 'normal' practice, as defined by the U.S. farming community."

Further, Wolfson points out, of the 28 states exempting farmers from cruelty laws, "17 states amended their statutes in the last 10 years to place agribusiness beyond the statutes' reach, and 14 of these 17 amended their statutes in the last seven years," including Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, and Wyoming within the past year.

Continues Wolfson, "The effect of this trend of amendments...indicates a nationwide perception that it was necessary to amend anti-cruelty statutes to avoid their possible application" to farm animals. He argues, however, that "what is most remarkable about the statutes is that *any* act if considered 'accepted,' 'common,' 'customary,' or 'normal,' cannot be successfully prosecuted on the basis of cruelty." Wolfson cites as example a Pennsylvania farmer's effort to escape conviction for starving horses, on the pretense that horses *en route* to slaughter are commonly starved. The farmer was convicted, not because starving animals under any circumstance is cruel, but because he failed to demonstrate that enough other farmers do it to make it 'normal' in the opinion of the judge.

"The criminal law," contends Wolfson, "should not be altered simply because a profitable practice falls within it. The law should not presume that 'accepted,' 'common,' 'customary,' or 'normal' farming practices are not cruel and do not cause unnecessary suffering, or determine that, even if unnecessary pain occurs, nothing should be done simply because the practice is one accepted by the farming community. It is difficult to imagine another non-governmental group possessing such control over a criminal legal definition."

Concludes Wolfson, "The reality in the U.S. is that our society seemingly condones cruelty to animals. The laws either fail to cover the vast majority of domestic animals in this country, or are ineffectively enforced or painfully inadequate. If we are to honestly act as a society which perceives that causing unnecessary suffering to all animals is wrong, the system must be changed, as in Western Europe, where certain farming practices have been recognized for what they are: cruel. Otherwise, the legal system in the United States seems to imply that we value profit and appetite over any pain felt by any animal."

## Not oblivious

Paradoxically, farm animals have been deprived of whatever weak legal claim to rights they ever had while the animal rights movement has never been stronger. But while the animal rights movement has paid little attention to farm animals, agribusiness has been anything but oblivious to the implications of the animal rights and humane movements for animal husbandry. In



—K.B.

addition to pursuing exemptions from cruelty laws, as a short-term buffer against pressure to change, agribusiness representatives seek to manipulate the court of public opinion, self-consciously aware that if people ever become so concerned about cruelty in farming as to stop eating meat, no economic or ecological imperative mandates the survival of any branch of animal agriculture. Rather, economic and ecological imperatives would seem to mandate the diminution of animal agriculture, at least relative to the total global food supply.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and Animal Industry Foundation last year sent Ohio State University agriculture professor emeritus Glen Schmidt and his wife Beverly, interim associate pastor of the Indianola Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio, to inspect farms in northern Europe. Contrary to the direction of legislation in the U.S., European nations have been adopting increasingly stringent anti-cruelty laws on behalf of farm animals since 1952, often in combination with measures intended to protect the very small family farms that create much of the European ambience. The Schmidts essentially sought ways and means of defending American agricultural practices against humane criticism based on European models.

But they didn't really find any. Despite recent success, they warn, "Livestock producers should not be complacent, believing they can head off any proposed legislation." They recommend that farmers "evaluate their current production practices that might be of concern to consumers to see if they are really necessary; either develop or support research to produce alternative and more animal-friendly systems; and communicate with the public about the production practices and why they are important, both for the sake of the animal and for the sake of an inexpensive, high quality, and safe food supply."

In other words, they seem to argue, agribusiness must defend itself by appealing to the pocketbook ahead of the heart.

—M.C.

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## Titles to read aloud

### Families of the Deep Blue Sea

by Kenneth Mallory, illustrated by Marshall Peck III

### Can We Be Friends?

by Alexandra Wright, illustrated by Marshall Peck III

### Do They Scare You?

by Sneed B. Collard III, illustrated by Kristin Kest

### Animal Close-Ups series:

#### The Whale, by Valerie Tracqui,

with photos by Francois Gohier/Jacana

#### The Fox: Playful Prowler, by Christian Havard

#### The Wolf: Night Howler, by Christian Havard

All from Charlesbridge Publishing, 1995.

(85 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02172-4411)

\$6.95 each, paperback.

### Animals In Disguise

by Martine Duprez,

illustrated by Helene Appell-Mertiny

### Birds Of The Night

by Jean de Sart, illustrated by Jean-Marie Winants

Charlesbridge, 1995. \$14.95 each, hardcover.

Charlesbridge Publishing is fast emerging as a leader in issuing entertaining zoology books for children, with titles for each age group from preschool to (at least) junior high. Some, like *Families of the Deep Blue Sea*, by Kenneth Mallory of the New England Aquarium, are authored by recognized experts. Mallory discusses the early life of sea creatures as diverse as leafy sea-dragons and polar bears. Each brief description covers both an unusual aspect of the animal and something with which young readers can identify—including sibling rivalry, in a page about how fetal sharks devour their siblings in the womb. Parents may cringe, but not anyone who's been chased and bitten by an irate baby brother.

Most Charlesbridge titles, however, are translated from French. The themes and illustrations speak an international language, but there are avoidable flaws. Experts will recognize several mistakes in species identification in a set of picture-books for non-readers, not reviewed here, which may result from the unfamiliarity of the original European publishers with North American species similar to, but not the same as, their European kin. Less pardonable are the many blunders of Christian Havard, author of both *The Fox* and *The Wolf*. For example, in *The Wolf*, Havard claims coyotes don't hunt in packs. That's true in areas where heavy hunting pressure prevents pack formation, but coyotes will pack up if left alone to do so in an area where the available prey makes pack hunting worthwhile. In *The Fox*, Havard asserts with appalling naivete that while, "In other parts of the world, a fox hunt ends with the death of the fox," English fox hunters "do not hurt the fox." **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has a file folder of recent photographs demonstrating the opposite.

No such ignorance mars the Charlesbridge hardcover volumes, *Birds Of The Night* and *Animals In Disguise*. These are serious natural history, the former covering the major families of owl, while the latter introduces the concept of camouflage. It isn't as funny as the Monte Python's Flying Circus skit on "The Advantages of Not Being Seen," but certain anecdotes and illustrations come close, without compromising authoritative accuracy.

The most unique and valuable Charlesbridge titles, however, may be *Can We Be Friends?*, explaining symbiosis, and *Do They Scare You?*, explaining the ecological importance of creepy-crawlies and Tasmanian devils, debunking myths right up to the last page, where we're abruptly introduced to the Slime-Encrusted Bone-Cruncher, a dragon-like beast from "not here, not anywhere." He's every child's nightmare, and author Sneed Collard III succinctly explains that no such creatures have ever existed, or could.

—M.C.



Please make checks payable (in U.S. funds) to: ANIMAL PEOPLE, P.O. Box 205, Shushan, New York 12873.

# MORE BOOKS

## Cat Love Letters: Collected Correspondence of Cats In Love

by Leigh Rutledge, illustrated by Robert Crawford.  
Dutton (375 Hudson, New York, NY 10014), 1994. \$14.95.

I am afraid this is a women's book. I cannot imagine a man, even the most aieurophilic student of romantic correspondence of bygone eras when time and pains were spent on billet-doux, wading through this. Junior high school girls giggling in gaggles, indulgent mother-and-daughter teams of all ages, and sentimental elderly women will find it "precious." It is cleverly done, clearly designed to be a gift item. My copy came as an anniversary remembrance, and as a valentine or a birthday gift, it will outlast more passing around than chocolates, but it is written by cats who knew Martha Stewart, had ancestors who knew the late Emily Post, and probably had descended from pets of Madame de Sevigne and Lord Chesterfield, both. Maybe a sigh and a mew is not enough. Perhaps both cats and their people should make more of a game of corresponding, not just roll the ballpoints under the desk and fall asleep. Here is a book that reveals the intricate maneuvers that may resolve the most ardent love problems when pen and paper and purr engage.

## The A.B.C. of Cat Trivia

by Rod Evans and Irwin Berent  
Thomas Dunne, St. Martin's Press  
(175 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010),  
1996. \$19.95.

This seems rather pricy to me, as so many of the items are rather well-known. I suppose it has utility as a reference, if one frequently gives speeches on cats, but if you just want to wow a cat-owned date with cat lore, you would probably do as well to arrive with a catnip mouse. Included are 200 pages of superstitions about cats, cruelties to cats done by historical personages, long lists of place names and floral designations which seem to have as little to do with cats as one always figured.



**A Cat**, by Leonard Michaels,  
illustrated by Frances Lerner  
Riverhead Books  
(200 Madison Ave., New York, NY  
10016), 1995. \$14.95

Michaels' book is like poetry, and the illustrations are reminiscent of Japanese brush painting. There is deft economy, an aptness to both Michaels' observations and the fluid strokes adorning the pages. Michaels tells us, "A cat is beautiful, and no cat is far more appealing than most. Cole Porter wouldn't have written, 'Though your face is charming, it's the wrong face' about a cat.

On another page, Michaels reminds us, "Much that is meaningful between you and a cat transpires in silence. It isn't different between people."

Some of his more controversial observations refine my own perceptions of what had seemed commonplace. There are things to ponder, things to question, things to quote.

—Phyllis Clifton

## Beastly Abodes: Homes for Birds, Bats, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife, by

Bobbe Needham. Sterling Publishing Co. (387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016), 1995. 144 pages, hardcover. \$21.95.

At a glance this looks like just another book of birdhouses: ornaments for the garden, never to be occupied by the creatures they were built for. But though it has plenty of photos of fancy artistic bird dwellings, *Beastly Abodes* also contains an unexpected wealth of information about wildlife. Each house comes not only with plans for building it, but also instructions on siting it to attract the right creatures. Each is made with natural or recycled materials that blend with the surroundings.

Besides birdhouses, projects include bat dwellings, butterfly and bee shelters, even housing for toads and flying squirrels. Some are simple, rugged, and practical, using materials as diverse as woven vines and gourds. Instructions for working with gourds are a bit short on the how-to of drying them properly. Finishing already dried gourds, however, is thoroughly covered. A few gourd designs are unbelievably intricate, as is the twig mosaic siding used on some of the birdhouses. And the nuthatch house with a winged roof should appeal to experienced woodworkers.

Each shelter design is accompanied by detailed background on the species it attracts. Tips include protecting preferred species from predators, the right kind of paint to use, and when to prepare the abode for next season's occupants. Though all the tips are practical, I especially liked one piece of advice about maintaining purple martins: "Don't die," writes Needham, "until you've taught someone else how to manage your martin colony."

Like many of the featured designs, this book is a pleasant mix of practicality and artistry. The photos alone would inspire most backyard wildlife enthusiasts to new heights of creativity. But the specifications, based on solid research into wildlife habits, are simple enough for the most inexperienced craftsperson to adapt into dwellings that creatures will find attractive.

—Cathy Czapla

**Simon & Schuster Children's Guide to Birds**, by Jinny Johnson, with Dr. Malcolm Ogilvie. Simon & Schuster (1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 1996. 96 pages, illustrated, \$19.95 hardcover.

What gets children interested in birdwatching—a dull class, a window, and a bird outside, or a nice big book full of colorful creatures called titmice and jackass penguins? Maybe it's both. Unfortunately, pages the size of workbooks make this otherwise excellent basic guide a bit difficult to conceal, open, in a lap beneath a desk—and it's too big to take out into the field in a pocket, too. But then, children are more likely to do their early species identification from indoors, anyway.

—M.C.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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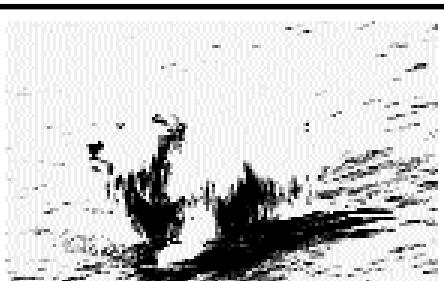
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## MEMORIALS

In memory of Philomena Smith  
—Frank Smith

In memory of Tinker.  
—Adele M. Armstrong

In memory of Cuddles Jaworski,  
a Labrador retriever, who rescued her two  
humans from a Milwaukee house fire  
on January 3, but was killed when she ran  
back inside in an unsuccessful bid  
to save Fluffy the cat.

**There's no better way to remember animals or animal people than with an ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial.**  
Send donations (any amount), along with an address for acknowledgement, if desired, to  
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**Your love for animals can go on forever.**  
The last thing we want is to lose our friends, but you can help continue our vital educational mission with a bequest to  
**ANIMAL PEOPLE.**

Bunny Huggers' Gazette ad  
(free—can bump)

Fellow lover of animals,

... and suddenly my prayer was answered. There in the distance I spotted Bruno . . . a hungry old shepherd . . . stumbling along the trail . . . hurrying to get a morsel of food . . . before it was all gone.

Watching him amble toward me, gray around the muzzle, I wondered who abandoned him in the forest . . . and why.

Every time I fed him . . . I felt his loneliness . . . his longing to be loved . . . just once in his life.

Bruno always watched me hug the other dogs when I rescued them . . . and he just looked up at me, sadly. My heart always ached for him . . . I desperately wanted to rescue him.

This morning, he was late . . . and I soon found out why.

Bruno had injured his leg.

In order to get him medical attention I had to immediately lure him into our cage trap . . .

. . . it was risky because if I failed, he might never come near me again . . . he wouldn't trust me.

He watched as I loaded the trap with his favorite can of food. Then I walked away while he went up to it and began eating.

Five times he entered the cage and backed away.

But finally . . . on the sixth try . . . he went all the way in and tripped the door. I was overjoyed!

Running up to it, I hugged the trap with the nervous Bruno in it. He calmed right down . . . I poked my fingers through the cage on the ride to our shelter, stroking his face . . . he pushed his head into me for more.

Bruno was probably a "junk yard" guard-dog. He never knew the love and tenderness of a real family . . . and when he was too old and stiff to work anymore he was taken "for a ride" . . .

. . . abandoned . . . in the wilderness . . . left to starve to death slowly . . . to die alone.

I've been feeding hungry, frightened dogs—abandoned in the forest—for years.

People who want to help me save them . . . donate \$30, \$50, \$90 or more to feed them in the forest, rescue them . . . and care for them.

Whenever I show up these abandoned dogs . . . expecting a feast . . . gather around the van. One at a time they eventually begin to trust me . . .

. . . when they do, I pick them up and take them to our no-kill sanctuary. But Bruno always stayed just out of reach.

I rescued many dogs at this spot . . . a campsite in the forest . . . but never Bruno . . . until this lucky morning.

Now at our 89-acre "No-Kill" sanctuary, for the first time in his life Bruno is loved and cared for. He doesn't have to "earn his keep" . . . and every day he trusts a little more.

And the other day he wagged his tail at me!

Bruno is living proof of the difference our love can make . . . and the difference you can make to an abandoned dog with no hope of survival.

For \$30 you can feed an abandoned dog like Bruno . . . for \$50 you can neuter him and treat his wounds . . . for \$90 you can give him warmth and love at our sanctuary.

Bruno always had plenty to eat in the forest . . . thanks to people who care . . . but it wasn't like that when I first started rescuing abandoned cats and dogs.

. . . back in 1979. I still remember that morning as if it were yesterday . . .

. . . sadly, I found 35 dogs in the forest that day . . . so hungry they knocked over garbage cans full of picnic trash . . . trying to find a morsel of food . . .

. . . they even ate paper sandwich wrappers.

I was so shaken by this, I drove to the city and bought four large fifty pound bags of dog food.

Back in the forest, I spread them over the ground.

Then I whistled for the dogs—they ran toward my car . . . all 35 of them! What a sight! I can still see their faces . . . all my old friends.

They dove into the food piles up to their elbows and started munching loudly . . . while they ate, they smiled at me . . . thanking me for helping them.

Moved to tears . . . I never left their side.

We were together in the cold winter rains—when they were sick with pneumonia . . .

. . . and I put medicine in their food to help get them through it.

I remember feeling so helpless that I couldn't do more for them . . . my best friends were homeless . . .

. . . living on the cold ground . . . trying to sleep through the pounding storms . . . in puddles of water—rain beating constantly on their heads.

It took a full year to get them all out of the forest, but I did . . . before the next winter's rains. I found loving homes for some, but many I kept myself . . .

. . . I was too much in love with them to say "goodbye."

I didn't start out to build the only dog and cat wilderness rescue organization in the country. It just happened . . .

. . . because of these 35 beautiful dogs . . .

. . . and as each one passed away over the years, my sadness became a renewed commitment to dedicate my life to saving their friends . . . whatever it takes.

I'm here for these animals . . . 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

With your gift of \$30, \$50, \$90 or more today, I can continue to feed them, rescue them . . .

. . . and shower them with love . . . at our spacious 89-acre sanctuary . . . home to over 750 abandoned cats and dogs.

They can stay as long as they like . . . because we run a "No-Kill" shelter. When it gets crowded, we build more.

And it gets crowded!

Because of the poor economy, people are dumping their pets at an alarming rate.

We must all do something about it.

What can you do?

Simply fill out the coupon below and support this mission with a gift of \$30 to rescue a starving animal—like Bruno—in the wilderness . . .

. . . or \$50 toward his neutering and medical care . . . or \$90 to care for him at our huge sanctuary . . . or even more.

Your gift will make the difference . . . for at least one animal like Bruno. For his sake . . . send right now.

For the animals,

Leo Grillo, Founder

### YES, LEO! I want to help save an animal like Bruno, abandoned in the wilderness. Here's my gift to spend over the next month...

\$30 to rescue a pet, like Bruno, in the wilderness.

\$50 to spay or neuter and medicate this animal.

\$90 to care for him at our No-Kill Shelter.

\$250 to care for a mother and her litter.

**Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please send me your free book of animal rescue stories, *Is This The Place*.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make your check payable to: D.E.L.T.A. Rescue. Your gift is tax-deductible.

*Thank you!*

D.E.L.T.A. RESCUE P.O. Box 9, Dept. AP, Glendale, CA 91209

**Alligators & Crocodiles**, by Eric D. Stoops and Debbie Lynne Stone. Sterling Publishing (387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016-8810), 1996. 80 pages, illustrated, \$13.95 paperback.

At about age four, I was terrified of a mummified baby Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman belonging to a student who roomed with us—in part because he was dead. I sensed that the caiman no more wanted to be among us than I wanted him to be there. *Alligators & Crocodiles* brought that 40-year-old memory back with a photo, captioned “Studies of the contents of the stomach of the Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman suggest that these caimans sometimes eat their young.” Adds a second caption, “Probably the Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman is the rarest.” Small wonder. Most other crocodilians are, if nothing else, devoted mothers. And this book tells everything any child is likely to want to know about them.

—M.C.

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**"SPEAKING FOR THE WOLF"**— Video of address by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton to the National Ecology Apostolate Leadership Training Conference at Graymoor Christian Unity Center. \$9.00, c/o Claire Lynch, 84 Hadley Village Road, South Hadley, MA 01075-2187.

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**Responding to rabies outbreaks that killed 15 Vietnamese** in 1995 and two so far this year, Hanoi decreed on March 14 that village chiefs will from now on be held responsible for any cases occurring within their jurisdiction.

**The mosquito control unit in Pinellas County, Florida,** has begun a three-month attempt to eradicate raccoon rabies through the deployment of 115,000 vaccine-laden bait balls, following up on the distribution of 85,000 bait balls in a pilot effort last year. Pinellas County had gone 28 years between rabies cases in domestic animals when one turned up in 1994. In 1995 the county found 20 raccoons, seven cats, two otters, and a horse who had rabies.

**Three Northern Ireland mothers** whose sons lost an eye apiece from toxicariasis after coming into contact with dog feces, at ages two, five, and six, have organized a campaign—cutting across the usual sectarian lines—against allowing dogs to poop in play areas.

**Saudi Arabia on March 5 banned the import of horses** from Venezuela and Colombia, to prevent the spread of encephalitis equina, a tropical disease originating with rodents, transmitted by mosquitos, which killed at least four people in Venezuela and Colombia last September.

turtle-fishing and eating turtle-mea.