

# Whales for missiles

## SANCTUARY CREATED—BUT WHALING GETS THE GO-AHEAD TOO

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**PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico, and WASHINGTON D.C.**—As whale defenders cheered the May 26 creation of the Southern Whale Sanctuary around Antarctica, the International Whaling Commission on May 27 unanimously approved a U.S. motion to provisionally accept the Revised Management Plan, a formula for setting renewed commercial whaling quotas. Mexico, Ireland, and India voiced reservations but did not formally oppose the consensus.

The Southern Whale Sanctuary starts at the 40th parallel south latitude, dipping to the 55th parallel around the lower tip of South America. It connects with the extant Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary. Although the IWC has no policing power, the sanctuary designation means that whaling is permanently illegal in approximately half of the world's waters, protecting—on paper—about 80% of the surviving baleen whales, an estimated 80% of the time.

The RMP, meanwhile, is the key component of a Revised Management Scheme that would reopen commercial whaling north of the 40th parallel, where whales are far fewer and most species are believed to be still at risk of extinction. The adoption of the RMP, under strong U.S. pressure, leaves the IWC perhaps less than a year away from ending the moratorium on commercial whaling adopted in 1982, which took effect in 1986 and was officially honored by Japan in 1988. Although both Norway and Japan continue killing minke whales for "research" and selling the meat, whales have been killed for acknowledged commercial purposes during the past six years only by Iceland, which withdrew from the IWC in 1990, and Norway, which resumed commercial whaling in 1993, defying the moratorium.

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

(continued on page 8)

*Sperm whale. (Photo by Bill Rossiter.)*

# ANIMAL

*News For People Who*

# PEOPLE

*Care About Animals*

# Vets talk about low-cost neutering

71%

## PART TWO OF A NEW NATIONAL STUDY

PORT WASHINGTON, New York—The issue is money. Most veterinarians want to be paid more for neutering cats and dogs, most pet keepers think they already pay too much, and most animal control and rescue workers feel caught in the squeeze, trying to talk veterinarians into neutering for less in order to convince the public to neuter as many animals as is necessary to stop population control killing.

That's no news to anyone who reads **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. The real news, emerging from a national survey done by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for the Spay USA program of the North Shore Animal League, is that much of the friction could be reduced or ended.

Many remediable sources of misunderstanding emerged in the answers to a six-page questionnaire completed by 87 veterinary participants in national low-cost neutering programs, plus 140 small animal practitioners who belong to the American Veterinary Medical Association, who were picked at random from demographically representative zip codes. Their responses were compared and contrasted with those obtained on similar questionnaires completed by 37 humane society directors, 127 low-cost neutering clients, and 89 pet owners picked at random from demographically representative zip codes, for a total of 690 survey participants in all.

Perhaps the most striking finding was that 76% of the AVMA respondents—three out of four—said they had participated in at least one low-cost neutering program. This figure stood up even after **ANIMAL PEOPLE** examined the possibility that veterinarians who were involved in low-cost neutering might have been more likely to return the survey form. Only a minority of veterinarians seem to object to low-cost neutering on principle. Yet most do object to how low-cost neutering programs typically work.

At the same time, while most veterinarians have some low-cost neutering background, those who belong to national programs tend to have been in practice roughly twice as long. In fact, only 25% of the low-  
*(continued on page 5)*

## INSIDE

**Nailing down boards**

***Fish wars***

**Blowing the cover off  
"dog meat soup" hoax**

**HIRSCH ACCUSED OF RAPE**

**Anti-rodeo vet was a  
rodeo performer**

***Rats, mice, birds  
Animal Welfare Act  
verdict overturned***

**GATT REJECTS U.S.  
DOLPHIN PROTECTION**

**Summer books**

*Grizzly bear ponders sharing the Yellowstone range. (Photo by Richard Piliero.)*

## ***Endangered Species Act package includes wolves for Yellowstone***

WASHINGTON D.C.—The Fisheries and Wildlife subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee opened discussion of reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act on June 15 amid a flurry of actions by the Clinton administration designed to mitigate objections to the ESA from landowners while convincing environmentalists that the key goals of the act will not be yielded for political advantage.

Most notably, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced June 14 that effective upon publication of new ESA regulations in the Federal Register, it will institute peer review of species listing and recovery decisions by panels of three independent scientists; produce multispecies listings and recovery plans for species sharing the same ecosystem, to expedite the regulatory process; publish land use guidelines spelling out what is and isn't allowed in the habitat of each new species listed; and most symbolically impor-

tant, add landowners and business representatives to endangered species recovery planning teams. The latter comes close to building into the listing process the cost/benefit analysis that the George Bush administration argued should be part of endangered species decision-making back when the ESA first came up for renewal in 1992.

One day later, the same day Babbitt testified to the subcommittee, he gave final approval to the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and central Idaho, where they were extirpated circa 70 years ago—a major symbolic victory for environmentalists and wolf enthusiasts, who actively sought the reintroduction for more than a decade, and a signal to Wise Users and ranchers who opposed the reintroduction that while they may get some ESA concessions, including exemption of the Yellowstone wolves from ESA protection,

*(continued on page 13)*

## Editorial

# *Nailing down boards*

Three outstanding executive directors of humane societies were ousted last month due to board politics. All three are nationally noted authorities on various aspects of humane management. One was forced into retirement after 25 years on the job for alleged fundraising failures in a city hit by three disasters during the past two years. Another, known for turning deficient shelters around, was apparently fired from his third such effort because the board didn't like his ultimatum to either help or quit. The third individual lasted barely six months in his first top job, after a distinguished career as a second-in-command, because he apparently didn't realize that the most important duty of most executive directors is not management of the work to be done but rather management of the board.

Unfortunately, the above paragraph, with minor variations, could be written almost every month. Only the number of people fired and their lengths of tenure change. Curiously, none of the people fired last month were in the midst of building a new shelter. That's an almost surefire ticket to ouster, since the additional fundraising and the letting of construction contracts multiplies the opportunities for executive conflict with board members. A frequent result of changing executive directors in mid-building effort is that contractual specifications are modified, or supervision is neglected, or both, resulting in cost overruns and defective facilities. Witness the American SPCA, whose new shelter was supposed to cost \$2.9 million when longtime chief executive John Kullberg was booted out in 1991; it actually cost \$5 million when opened a little more than one year later; and it still needs an estimated \$400,000 in improvements to meet humane standards. The blame for the ASPCA fiasco can be cut many ways—we've been told by people who should know that some senior staff never even looked at the blueprints—but it isn't coincidental that a variety of ASPCA board problems are almost legendary, including the presence of members who have flouted ethical policies by openly wearing fur and participating in captive bird shoots; who have had themselves sworn in as deputy humane officers in order to carry weapons without a license; and in five cases hold lifetime posts reserved to particular families through a quirk in the ASPCA charter. Lawsuits have challenged the legitimacy of the ASPCA board at least four times in the past 45 years.

The financial and organizational problems of the Montreal-based Canadian SPCA, documented here several times, demonstrate yet another common situation: a polarized board, whose infighting over the past 15 years has caused it to go through more management changes and proportionately greater economic losses than the Montreal Expos baseball team. It may be stabilizing now, if only because more than half the board resigned in early 1993 when it was on the verge of bankruptcy and they were close to being held personally responsible for the accumulated debt.

Wherever one looks, humane organizations are crippled by boards whose members quarrel, second-guess, do nothing, and/or actively meddle—none of which properly belongs in a board member's job description. There are many available summaries of the functions of boards and executive directors, compiled variously by standard-setting bodies and consultants, but they all agree on the fundamentals:

- The board exists to set broad policy guidelines and to raise funds.

There is also general agreement among nonprofit management experts that board members should be:

- Thoroughly familiar with and committed to the objectives of the organization, with a long history of involvement on behalf of the organization.
- Professionally qualified to deal with fundraising and policy questions.
- Willing and able to raise funds. (In other areas of nonprofit activity, it is not uncommon for board members to be required to ante up a certain amount each year, either through fundraising activities exclusive of direct mail, which is generally supervised by the executive director, or out of their own pockets.)

Note whom this excludes. Often longtime volunteers are rewarded with a board post, a fatal mistake unless the volunteers are otherwise qualified, because suddenly someone over whom the executive director must exercise authority is in a position of authority over the executive director. Inevitably conflict results. The remainder of the staff, both hired and volunteer, becomes confused as to who is really in charge. Similarly, high donors frequently are given board positions, without adequate grounding in just what they are to do—an invitation to meddling.

Obviously well-qualified board members are in short supply. It is thus incumbent upon boards to realize their responsibility to train themselves, on an ongoing basis. A subscription to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, which often reviews board roles, should be mandatory for board officers; a subscription to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** could help every member of a humane society board; and the American Humane Association and Humane Society of the U.S. both offer worthwhile board development seminars.

It is also incumbent upon boards to terminate vacant seats rather than filling them with unqualified or uninterested people. Many of the most severely fragmented boards are so large as to be unwieldy, as factions have tried to stack them one way or the other or encourage high donations through creating new seats. Rule of thumb: if a board has more members than the organization has departmental managers, the board is too big. A potential solution for the too-large board problem is to subdivide into an executive committee, which will perform the policymaking function, and an honorary board, whose role is exclusively fundraising—but make sure the executive committee is also committed to fundraising and that the honorary board doesn't confuse a title with entitlement to tell anyone else what to do. At least two national humane organizations and one major regional humane society have ongoing problems because the board that makes the decisions and the board that raises the money are either in perpetual conflict with each other or simply have no contact (in the latter instance to the considerable benefit of the executive director).

## *Where standards fail*

It is likewise necessary that donors become more savvy about the nature of boards. Since it is unrealistic to expect the average donor to know either the boards of his/her favorite charities and/or have expertise in nonprofit management, this really means per-

- The board must conduct itself according to the highest ethical standards of the organization, both in public and in private.
- Day-to-day management, including the hiring and firing of staff, is none of the board's beeswax.
- The executive director makes the management decisions. The executive director reports to the board upon the fulfillment of policy and on financial needs.
- Unless summoned by the executive director to make a special presentation about a program, staff members do not attend board meetings, do not report to the board, and do not have direct access to individual board members. The proper channels for staff grievances are through the executive director and/or through union grievance procedures.
- If the board is dissatisfied with organizational performance, it should fire the executive director and hire another. It should not try to override particular executive decisions or otherwise micromanage the organization. Nor should it keep an executive director in a state of limbo, with limited authority to make essential decisions and discipline staff.

suading the National Charities Information Bureau, Better Business Bureau, and other standard-setting bodies, including legislatures, to update their ethical requirements. Extant requirements focus upon preventing material conflicts of interest, an essential goal in that charities can and have been used to squirrel away tax-exempt family fortunes, provide sinecures to heirs, and/or enrich executives and board members. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has documented, the National Anti-Vivisection Society demonstrates the potential for abuse in that the current board president and executive director succeeded her own father, while family members hold at least half of the board seats and all of the top-paying jobs in the organization. Yet it is important to realize that none of the above might be a problem if NAVS had not also heavily invested in companies which not only perform but promote vivisection, while paying the top executives huge salaries relative to organizational income, and providing such outlandish perquisites as a television-equipped van reportedly used as the personal vehicle of the board president's husband. The abuse lies in the response of the individuals in question to the situation, not in the situation itself. And, ironically, NAVS so neatly follows the letter if not the intent of the various codified ethical requirements that it recently drew the top rating of any national humane organization from one minor independent reviewing body. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, meanwhile, consistently flunks the ethical requirements of the NCIB because it avoids both board problems and conflicts of interest through the simple expedient of limiting board membership to three: cofounders Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco, plus one other trusted associate. We're critical of PETA for many reasons, but the NCIB rulings are blantly unfair, in that no one has ever turned up the faintest hint that PETA is either enriching anyone or failing to spend donations consonant with its charitable purpose. The structure of the PETA board, together with the self-disciplined nature of the individuals involved, insures efficient management. Enlarging the board to eliminate the "conflicts of interest" occasioned by the presence of more than one voting staff member would do nothing to improve organizational integrity.

The same could be said of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, whose board and staff are one and the same, and of hundreds of other relatively small, tightly structured and eminently effective humane groups, for whom accountability is a matter of being visible to the donor base. If we're not doing our job, you see it. If the Mom-and-Pop Animal Rescue League's founders drive a Porsche they didn't have before they mailed their most recent appeal, the community soon talks about it. If programs are adequately publicized and if executive compensation and financial statements are published on an annual basis, the objectives of the NCIB, BBB, et al are met even if every member of the charity in question is both related and on the payroll. Real accountability begins not with board structure but with disclosure.

That's why we publish the financial essentials of all the major national animal and habitat protection groups each December. We regret that time and space don't allow us to do the same for each of the 3,000-odd regional and local humane charities in the U.S. and Canada. We believe that by and large, animal-related charities stack up fairly well in the area of ethical use of resources, compared to charities in other fields—and our reading of the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* and other sources of information indicates that the greatest misuse of resources in this field as well as most others comes not through self-aggrandisement and fraud, though certainly these are problems on occasion, but rather through ordinary mismanagement resulting most often from board misperformance.

It is time the accreditation standards many donors use to guide them were updated to stress operational efficiency as well as oversight, and to recognize that the best oversight comes not necessarily from uninvolved and unrelated parties, nor from large boards, but rather from dedicated people, whoever they are, who both keep the charitable purpose foremost and know how to work together to make decisions.

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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

# Letters

## *Save the Whales!*

*Editor's note: The producers of Free Willy! addressed this letter to the White House. We thought it worth further notice.*

This administration's handling of the whaling issue in particular, and animal rights and conservation issues in general, is utterly scandalous. Russia is currently exporting hundreds of tons of fresh whale meat to Japan illegally. Norway has been caught exporting tons of frozen whale meat to Japan through Korea illegally. And now, by refusing to sanction Norway for its illegal commercial whaling, and by adopting the RMP, the U.S. is officially climbing into bed with the whaling nations.

You may or may not be aware that at the end of our movie *Free Willy!* we put up a 1-800-4-WHALES telephone line and received over a million responses from people extremely interested in getting information on how they could personally help whales in the wild. We are currently producing a sequel, and fully intend to do something along the same lines, with the potential of reaching millions more. Using the names we already have, plus the new list, we will send out information about what is happening to our planet's marine mammals, why it is happening, and what can be done about it. We expect another huge response.

The fate of marine mammals may not be top priority on the agenda of the administration right now, but the issue has an excellent chance of building and becoming a nightmare closer to re-election. As lifelong Democrats, we hate to say it, but marine mammals, like many endangered species, fared much better under the Republicans.

—Richard Donner and Lauren Shuler-Donner  
c/o Warner Brothers  
Burbank, California

## *IFAW irate*

Your June cover article is a fantasia of fact and fiction, quotations from memoranda out of context, and grossly erroneous speculation. The important fact is that the International Fund for Animal Welfare worked with Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund for two years to get the Southern Whale Sanctuary (following 10 years of collaboration to achieve and keep the still existing moratorium on commercial whaling) as the best way of strengthening the moratorium by plugging a major loophole: Japan now has no justification for continuing to keep its Antarctic fleet in being by "scientific whaling."

The allegations, which you evidently embrace, that the three organizations were making deals to get the sanctuary in return for concessions elsewhere are totally false and disgusting.

## *Feral cats*

The feral cat problem is, as the late E.F. Schumacher wrote in *A Guide for the Perplexed*, a divergent problem. It cannot be solved but must be transcended.

—Mary Pillar  
Enterprise, Oregon

## *Cats and dogs*

Although I do believe there is too much emphasis on cat and dog issues, as the president of Cornell Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals I say without hesitation that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is the absolute best news source in the animal rights movement.

—Michael Greger  
Endicott, New York

Friends of Animals

There were no deals or even consideration of deals, nor indeed has anyone suggested any practical scenario involving deals which is remotely plausible. We shall now be in a better position to work to prevent Norway from continuing outlaw whaling, and the International Whaling Commission's acceptance of the Revised Management Plan by consensus will make that easier.

—Sydney Holt, Scientific Advisor  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Citta della Pieve, Italy

*Time will tell whether Holt helped save the whales or helped engineer their extinction. Only when and if Japanese whaling in southern waters halts and it is firm that commercial whaling quotas will not be set despite the RMP will anyone be able to declare definitively that the creation of the Southern Whale Sanctuary at cost of the RMP was in fact a victory. If Holt is right, we shall be happy to so acknowledge. (See our continued in-depth coverage of the whaling issue in this edition.)*

## ***IFAW irate, part two***

I write in response to the article in your June issue "Brian Davies foundation invested in vivisection."

Everyone at IFAW was genuinely concerned to discover that investment mistakes had been made. The brokers were firmly instructed to implement rigorous ethical standards which required that no funds be invested in companies which test on animals or which are involved in the meat, leather, or fur business. Despite these instructions, errors were made, and the brokers no longer manage the IFAW accounts. IFAW would never knowingly use funds which could ultimately result in animals being harmed or exploited. The article implies that unethical investments are still in place. This is categorically not the case.

Our salaries are set in accordance with average pay scales for similar positions in the external marketplace. Since 1986 the Hay Management Group has set senior pay scales, including my own and that of Brian Davies.

IFAW finances are far from mysterious. Our accounts are prepared by leading international accountants, Coopers and Lybrand, and are available free of charge.

—Richard Moore, Executive Director  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
East Sussex, England

*Well before our expose went to press, we asked IFAW to comment on our discovery that up to 39% of the subsidiary Brian Davies Foundation portfolio may have been invested in firms that vivisect or are under boycott by other major animal and habitat protection groups. We got no reply. Upon receiving the above on June 2, we promptly faxed to Coopers and Lybrand requesting legally required public access documentation of current investments and salaries. We mentioned that Moore himself referred us. Three weeks later, we have again had no reply.*

Natural Pet

(check)

# Letters

## "Year of the Cat" Whale blackout

Since I'm the one who dreamed up the "Year of the Cat," subject of several recent letters to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, it's time for me to come clean. The four of us who put this campaign together had two goals: to waste our time and to fill our overflowing coffers with money. Fun and profit. That about sums it up. We failed on both counts. As a bureaucrat for one of the responsible organizations, I was hoping to go to a lot of meetings about the Year of the Cat. (You know how much we like to travel and stay at expensive hotels!) Guess how many meetings we had? None! Not a darn single junket. So we were all forced to work for animals instead of bopping around the country. And guess how much money we spent on those fancy promotional materials? \$2,109.59 apiece. And so, since we all have such big budgets, and we didn't have meetings or buy glitzy things, we were forced to spend our money helping cats. And shoot, with all the publicity, and people and agencies acquiring campaign materials virtually at cost, you'd think someone would have made a donation to us. Alas, not one single gift. Ingrates.

Let this confession take the place of all the letters of apology I should send to over 1,000 humane societies, veterinarians, and animal control agencies who mistakenly used the ruse of the "Year of the Cat" to initiate new programs in a year-long campaign to change the way people respect and care for cats.

Recently I've had informal discussions with people across the

The full import of your article "Save the whales!" is shocking. Since the Australian government is the "running dog" of U.S. big business, and Australian Peter Bridgewater is now chair of the International Whaling Commission, I think we must now closely monitor the Australian end.

Your news of the arms deal is sensational stuff. I just wonder what's in it for this rotten administration. We have an almost complete media blackout in this country. No one knows anything about the deal over the RMP. Greenpeace, IFAW and World Wildlife Fund are all busy celebrating and continuing to raise money to "save the whales."

As a former senior investigative reporter I have many contacts in the media. I can't get a single word out. All other major issues are treated the same way, i.e. the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, the forestry issue, pesticides, etc. The majority of Australians have no idea at all of the meaning of the Uruguay Road and its ramifications.

Once again, congratulations on one hell of an article.

—Sue Arnold, Coordinator  
Australians for Animals  
Byron Bay, NSW, Australia

## Zoos

How uplifting to read the essay on "Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness for Wildlife in Confinement," by John Lukas, director of the White Oak Conservation Center. We can only hope the zoo community will note

## Shelters ought to stink

In these times when the primary activity of most high-profile animal protection groups seems to be soliciting donations by taking credit for the work of others, it's wonderful to read about the success of the North Shore Animal League, with its no-kill philosophy and direct alleviation of animal suffering. They are an inspiration to us all.

However, I think even NSAL contributes to the problem by trying to completely eliminate animal odors from an animal shelter so as to avoid dissuading prospective adopters who fear that their homes will stink if they include a dog or cat in their tidy lives. As founder of the Horse Rescue Network, when I was asked to represent the Washington horse industry at the county fair I was annoyed by the fair management's insistence that I run in and scoop up the apples every time a pony relieved herself. In real life this is not how we manage our stables. While no caring person can argue that feces should be allowed to accumulate for days on end in an animal's quarters, it is the epitome of anthropomorphism for us to go to the opposite extreme. People must learn to compromise their standards of cleanliness in order to appreciate their beloved pets and have time for things besides being squeaky clean.

Also, by the adoption standards of NSAL, my husband and I would not qualify—our two dogs

live outdoors year round, with three doghouses, our home's crawl space, and the garage for shelter, plus free run of our farm. Our cats live mostly in the house, but get daily outdoor time. Yes, we understand the risks, and occasionally—rarely—one of our cats or dogs is injured or gets sick. I say that's life. Animals, not unlike ourselves, can survive quite comfortably and happily in a less than perfect world. Denying them access to an outdoor environment that is as safe as we can make it is cruel and unhealthy.

Quality pet ownership already demands much sacrifice. With animal protectionists limiting permissible uses of animals and requiring increasingly demanding standards of care, society making it harder to keep animals at all, and the veterinary community heaping costly new routine maintenance procedures upon us, I'm afraid increasing numbers of people will decide that the rewards of animal companionship are severely outweighed by the drawbacks.

—Pam Frizelle  
Sultan, Washington

*Having acquired many pets when they were dumped at her farm, Frizelle is acutely conscious of the reality of abandonment. It is to be noted that realistic standards of care for rural Washington and urban Long Island are quite different matters.*

## Pit bull has the run of the shelter

Shannon Lentz' May guest column "A sad place for a pit bull" suggests that all pit bulls are dangerous animals. As a shelter director with over 15 years of fulltime experience, I have come in contact with tens of thousands of dogs. I have evaluated many pit bulls, and yes, some needed to be destroyed. Most, however, were stable dogs who showed no aggression. Our shelter has placed 80% of the pit bulls and related breeds we have received over the past two years. Only one has been returned. The rest remain in their adoptive homes.

The Humane Society of Atlantic County has only one dog who is permitted the full run of the complex. Her name is Jessica. She greets every customer and their animals during the shelter's hours of operation. She goes to every fundraiser, and is surrounded by strange people almost all of the time. Her temperament has proven to be nothing but admirable with both

humans and animals. Jessica is, however, a pit bull.

Had Lentz (*a prolific rescuer*) applied to adopt a pit bull from this shelter, she would not have been sent home with one due to the different animals who were to come and go in her household. I do commend her for the efforts she took to save this little dog. However, she should not condemn an entire breed because of this situation. I would be happy to talk to anyone in regards to these special needs dogs.

—Steven J. Dash, Shelter Director  
Humane Society of Atlantic County  
Atlantic City, New Jersey

*Pit bulls make up under 1% of the North American dog population, but according to our log of severe dog attacks, pit bulls since 1982 have caused 50% of the human fatalities and 61% of the maimings.*

country who hope to keep the goals of the "Year of the Cat" campaign alive. We'll keep you posted. No meetings are planned.

—Carter Luke, Vice President  
Massachusetts SPCA  
Boston, Massachusetts

## *Selling the dead*

Re "Turning to Shelters" (May 1994), one important point was missing on the downside of allowing laboratory animal suppliers to buy euthanized shelter animals for dissection. Yes, the animals are dead, but should shelters and humane societies be contributing to the business of dissection, a business that is clearly out of control? The Montreal SPCA now has an anti-dissection policy, so when lab animal companies come calling, the answer is a simple "no."

—Anne Streeter  
Montreal, Quebec

his opinions regarding the pursuit of happiness for confined animals, the development of optimum standards for confinement, and the inclusion of input from humane advocates.

Unfortunately our own 14-year experience in dealing with the Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums and the officials of local zoos has taught us that Lukas' opinions are in the minority.

The article did not address the problem of surplus animals. It would be interesting to learn how the White Oak deals with this.

—Ingrid Pollak, President  
The Vancouver Humane Society  
Vancouver, British Columbia

*White Oak avoids surplus, controlling the reproduction of animals in Species Survival Plans by keeping the sexes separate. Other animals are neutered. Animals are sold or otherwise transferred only within Species Survival Plans.*

## *Are dog-pulling contests cruel?*

A few weeks ago a friend and I saw a man walking in a park with two dogs who wore harnesses connected to wooden boxes of large cinder blocks. The man said he was training the dogs for weight-pulling contests, in which dogs often pull over 1,000 pounds. How harmful is this to the dogs? Is anything being done to end it? I hope it does no damage to the dogs, but I do not believe it.

—Darren Deachan  
St. Louis, Missouri

*According to Malamute expert Margaret Anne Cleek, "The International Weight Pull Association is the major organization regulating weight pull. The Alaskan Malamute Club of America also holds events for Malamutes only. Under IWPA*

guidelines, dogs are never forced to pull. They can be called from 16 feet ahead by handlers, nothing else. The harnesses are designed to distribute weight so that dogs cannot be injured. Rules limit the temperatures at which pulls can be held (no warmer than 70° for Malamutes, who can pull over 2,000 pounds depending on conditions). Pools, water, and shade are provided for dogs in competition. Dogs are divided by weight. When competition gets down to a few dogs, long breaks are given between pulls for rest. If a dog lunges in harness or tangles the tracings, the handler can set the dog up to pull again. But if the dog does so three times, he or she is disqualified. In training, it is not uncommon for a dog drag weights in harness, both to work with resistance and to strengthen

muscle tone. Dogs need to learn proper form, e.g. to drop their heads and lean into the harness rather than lunge. As with humans, skilled and conditioned athletes can do incredible feats safely, while weekend warriors might harm themselves.

"Please keep in mind," *Cleek added*, "that when people compete with their dogs, a necessary part is spending time with the dogs. Dogs are happiest when they have something to do. They react to the harness with the same enthusiasm as pet dogs react to the leash for a walk. Pulling a load and getting a pat from their person makes them feel good. They appear to really enjoy it—and the more challenge the better."

*We've heard allegations, but have no record of any proven abuse in sanctioned dog-pulling.*

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# Veteran vets volunteer more often

(from page one)

cost list respondents had less experience than the average reported by AVMA list respondents. Just 18% had less than the somewhat lower AVMA median. Of the AVMA respondents, only 25% had as much experience as the low-cost list average and median, which were substantially the same. Three times as many AVMA respondents (31%) had been in practice for four years or less.

The high level of experience among low-cost neutering practitioners runs directly contrary to conventional wisdom, as virtually every humane organization that has ever tried to start a low-cost neutering program has tried to recruit young practitioners, while referring to veterinary opponents as "the old guard," or similar.

However, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** findings won't surprise Dr. Marvin Mackie, DVM, of San Pedro, California, who at the 1993 Spay USA conference in Boston advised that people who want to start a low-cost neutering program should seek "Veterinarians who have been in practice 15-years-plus, who for various reasons are not happy with full-service work but are too young to retire and want a practice or lifestyle change. Note," he cautioned, "that younger veterinarians have often spent eight years or more in college preparing for general veterinary practice, and understandably want to test their skills in the full-service arena. They are unlikely candidates for a neutering clinic."

Young veterinarians also have to worry much more about money. They typically have a huge debt load to pay off—the cost of their education and of setting up a practice—and are also likely to have young families plus unpaid home mortgages. Even if they endorse the idea of low-cost neutering, they may be financially unable to do much of it. Older practitioners by contrast may have earned financial security, including provisions for retirement. They can work for less, if they choose to do so.

We asked low-cost neutering practitioners to quantify their reasons for participating in low-cost neutering, on a scale of five with one being the most important reason and five being the least important. "Want to help animals" averaged 1.20. "Sense of professional duty" was right behind at 1.79. "Want to help poor people" was a minor consideration at 2.68. "Prefer neutering over other types of practice" and "Hope to find new clients" were of only marginal importance at 3.11 and 3.17.

Noteworthy contrasts between the profiles of the

Many such differences occur because the low-cost respondents include more full-time neutering specialists. For instance, only one AVMA list respondent said his/her workload and income both come 90% from neutering, but three low-cost list respondents did. No great disparities in dog neutering workload were evident among the AVMA respondents. Among the low-cost list respondents, however, 9% of the veterinarians neuter 30% of the female dogs and 35% of the males. Some disparities in the feline workload appeared among the AVMA respondents, possibly reflecting the participation of many in low-cost programs, albeit generally at a less active level: 10% reported doing 29% of the surgery on male cats, while 14% reported doing 34% of the surgery on female cats. Curiously, disparities in the male cat workload were less pronounced among the low-cost list respondents, as 14% did 31% of the surgeries, but the disparities in the female cat workload were the most pronounced of all, with 12% doing 47% of the surgeries.

Beyond the most active strata of low-cost neutering practitioners, the neutering workload evens out, as does the average and median percentage of income derived from neutering. Veterinarians on both lists agreed that neutering is not generally profitable. High-volume low-cost neutering practitioners earn more of their income from neutering simply because they do more neutering, especially of male dogs and female cats. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** did not find evidence to either support or refute the possibility that low-cost neutering practitioners have lower incomes overall, nor did we gather any evidence that suggests more than a handful of the most active low-cost neutering practitioners realize any economies of scale by doing more neutering.

## Pregnant spays

At every level of activity, low-cost neutering practitioners reported neutering more pregnant animals—especially cats. Three factors could account for this.

First, low-cost neutering practitioners may have fewer inhibitions against doing the abortions that are a necessary part of a pregnant spay. One low-cost neutering specialist, Jeff Young, DVM, of Planned Pethood Plus in Denver, shocked the 1993 Spay USA conference audience by asserting, "I'll spay a dog or cat if she's a week pregnant, I'll spay her if she's four weeks pregnant, I'll spay her if the puppies or

closed to feral cats, we also asked if respondents agreed that "low-cost neutering programs should be restricted to assisting owned pets." Only 32% agreed; 66% disagreed.

There was more division of opinion over whether or not a separate national low-cost neutering program should be set up to assist monitored neuter/release projects: 41% said yes, 47% said no, and 12% had no opinion. If such a program is formed, however, 53% said they would like to participate. Just 35% said they would not participate.

## Complaints

Pet owners' complaints about low-cost neutering combined concerns about cost and access:

PROBLEM	PET OWNERS	LOW-COST
Couldn't find a vet with the program.		15%
31%		
Cost was still too high.	15%	22%
Had to pay for unexpected services.		15%
14%		
Had to pay a surcharge.	4%	7%
Complications with the neutering.		4%
4%		
Was treated with disrespect.		2%
6%		

Veterinarians' complaints were rather different:

PROBLEM	AVMA	LOW-COST
L/c clients appear able to pay full price.		72%
45%		
L/c clients aren't repeat customers.		58%
41%		
L/c paperwork is tedious.	46%	17%
L/c clients expect other discount care.		44%
40%		
L/c clients take poor care of their animals.		38%
30%		
L/c clients don't keep appointments.		26%
20%		
L/c clients don't pay promptly.		15%
15%		
L/c clients take up too much time.		15%

practices of AVMA members at large and low-cost neutering practitioners are highlighted in boldface:

QUESTION	AVMA AVG. MEDIAN	LOW-COST AVG. MEDI-	
AN			
Years in veterinary practice:	<b>10.9</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>17.0</b>
Staff time on neutering:	19%	<b>10%</b>	22.8% <b>20%</b>
% of income from neutering:	<b>14.8%</b>		10% <b>22.4%</b>
Male dogs neutered/month:	<b>12</b>	10	<b>1</b> 7
Female dogs neutered / month:	<b>15.3</b>	12	<b>2</b> 0
Male cats neutered/month:	18.7	14	2 0
Female cats neutered / month:	<b>19.9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b> 2
% of dogs already pregnant:	<b>4.5%</b>		
% of dogs had a litter:	<b>16%</b>		<b>28%</b>
% of cats already pregnant:	<b>8.2%</b>		<b>22%</b>
% of cats had a litter:	22%		25%

kittens are just coming out, because I'd rather abort the fetuses right then and fix the mother when I have the chance, than see them all living under a dumpster until they're rounded up and killed by animal control." Another low-cost neutering specialist, Peggy Larson, DVM, of Green Mountain Animal Defenders, in Burlington, Vermont, is an outspoken advocate of abortion access for humans.

Second, low-cost veterinarians probably receive more animals from people who, mainly for financial reasons, postpone neutering until it's almost too late. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported in June, only 66% of low-cost neutering clients get their cats neutered by six months of age, compared with 85% of pet owners at large.

Third, low-cost veterinarians are more likely to be working with cat rescuers. Rescuers often claim the pregnancy rate among adult female feral cats and strays runs close to 100% among those who are not nursing. This assertion has not been documented. However, of 326 feral cats **ANIMAL PEOPLE** caught and had neutered between November 1991 and June 1992, 83 were adult females; 23, or 28%, were pregnant at capture, with the rate of pregnancy increasing as winter became spring. Supporting the hypothesis that involvement with cat rescuers may increase the rate of neutering pregnant cats, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found that 55% of the low-cost neutering practitioners we surveyed are neutering ferals in connection with a monitored neuter/release project. On the other hand, only three respondents reported that ferals made up more than 10% of their neutering workload, and overall, just 6% of the cats neutered by low-cost neutering practitioners were identified as ferals.

## Neuter/release

We asked only the low-cost practitioners for their views on neuter/release, but if their responses are indicative, attitudes toward this approach to the homeless cat problem are much less divided among veterinarians than in the humane community, where the mere mention of neuter/release is often enough to start a fight. A majority, 54%, agreed that "supervised neuter/vaccination/release is an ethical approach to dealing with feral cats." Twenty-two percent said "maybe," while only 24% said "no."

Perhaps a more critical view of neuter/release would have emerged if the same question had been put to the AVMA list. However, much of the most ardent opposition to neuter/release comes from shelter directors who subscribe to the position of the Humane Society of the United States. Since low-cost neutering practitioners are presumably the veterinarians who are most likely to work with humane societies (as 30% reported they do), it seems reasonable that carry-over attitudes would be most evident among them.

Because some low-cost neutering programs are

13%  
L/c clients are too demanding. 12%  
15%  
L/c clients drive away other customers. 3%  
0

The complaints of animal shelter directors combined the concerns of pet owners and veterinarians:

PROBLEM	SHELTERS
Local veterinarians are reluctant to cooperate.	
49%	
Administrative requirements are tedious.	
24%	
Low-cost neutering clients don't keep appointments.	
14%	
Lack of funds.	13%*
Lack of volunteers.	
5% *	
Lack of transportation for clients who need it.	
3% *	

\* *These complaints were all volunteered, and are probably significantly under-reported.*

Beyond question, money is the main issue for all concerned. Low-cost neutering practitioners are less critical of their low-cost clients than other veterinarians, yet are still annoyed by the frequency with which people who seek discounts apparently don't need them, and by people who take advantage of discount neutering but don't return for follow-up care. Of low-cost neutering practitioners, 75% agreed that low-cost neutering clients should be screened for financial need, a problematic position because from the humane perspective, the object is not to enforce economic justice, but rather to prevent the birth of unwanted animals.

Some veterinary complaints may result from misunderstanding financial distress, especially in areas undergoing rapid socio-economic transition, where people with new cars and homes in good neighborhoods may also have just lost jobs that appeared to be secure, and are left with crushing debt. In addition, it is likely that the vets never see many neutering clients again because the clients never seek veterinary care again. This would be particularly true of poor clients, who have trouble paying for any care and—as our June issue discussed—may have trouble just getting to a clinic.

Better preparation of veterinarians by program sponsors might help. In particular, telling veterinarians that doing low-cost neutering will expand their regular-price business seems to be a mistake of major magnitude.

Even more important, low-cost neutering programs in poor areas should be coupled with transportation help wher-

(Photo by Kim Bartlett.)

# EXTENDED LOW-COST SERVICE COULD CUT VETERINARY LOSSES

tant. Only 14% of low-cost neutering practitioners report getting any adverse reaction; 33% say they get adverse reaction sometimes; and 53% say they get none at all.

## *Veterinary recruitment*

### HOW LOW-COST NEUTERING VETS JOINED PROGRAMS

Contact with program volunteer:	31%
Direct mailing by sponsor:	28%
Read about program in news media:	12%
Heard of program from fellow vet:	12%
Saw advertisement for program:	9%
Heard of program from friend:	9%
Heard of program from a client:	7%
Read about program in vet literature:	6%
Heard of program at a conference:	1%
Heard about program at vet school:	0%

—Photo by Kim Bartlett

ever possible, perhaps provided by volunteers. Physical obstacles to obtaining routine health care for animals must be eliminated before allowing veterinarians to conclude either that low-cost neutering clients neglect their animals or take routine business elsewhere. If low-cost neutering clients did not have at least some interest in the health of their animals, many of them wouldn't seek neutering in the first place.

Among low-cost neutering practitioners, 12% said their relationships with low-cost neutering clients were "very satisfactory," 67% chose "satisfactory," 21% picked "somewhat unsatisfactory," and none said "very unsatisfactory."

Despite the financial aggravations, only 56% of the low-cost neutering practitioners limit their low-cost surgery to clients who show need—and the only proof 25% require is a simple declaration. Ten percent extend low-cost neutering only to the pets of senior citizens; 9% require that clients be receiving public income assistance; 6% require that clients have incomes of less than the official poverty level; and 4% limit low-cost neutering to pets of the homeless.

Forty-four percent of the low-cost neutering practitioners limit the amount of time they spend on low-cost neutering by other means. For instance, 14% accept low-cost neutering clients only to fill gaps in their work schedule, 8% limit the number of animals they neuter at a discount per week (with the range varying between one and 45), and 8%

		Yes	No	Maybe	
Veterinarian	1.42	84%	7%	9%	1.32
Humane advocate		2.89	41%	37%	22%
					1.97
Public health official		2.18	42%	39%	19%
					3.04
Insurance executive		3.44	27%	51%	22%
					3.13
Community leader		4.41	29%	44%	27%
					3.60
Dog or cat club leader	3.90	16%	58%	26%	26%
					3.67
Religious figure	7.36	5%	71%	24%	7.50
Doesn't matter	5.00				2.40

Veterinarians expectedly topped both lists. Humane advocates would seem to have markedly more credibility with veterinarians who are already in low-cost programs than with veterinarians at large. Veterinarians at large are equally more favorably inclined toward public health officials. Civic and business leaders drew a neutral ranking, as did the heads of dog and cat clubs. Religious figures seemed to be so universally reviled as to suggest the category should have been subdivided. Whether the negativity is directed at raucous evangelists or quiet nuns, however, low-cost neutering programs directed by religious figures appear foredoomed to failure.

We asked low-cost neutering practitioners to rank the sort of thanks they would like to receive from the sponsor on a scale of five. Advertisements for the low-cost neutering programs that cite veterinarians' names scored 1.69, just ahead of awards and honors publicized in general circulation media (1.96), and grants in support of innovative veterinary projects (2.00). Plaques and certificates that can be displayed in the veterinarian's office drew a mediocre 2.40, while awards and honors publicized in professional media were last at 3.86. Both of the top two choices amount to increasing the veterinarian's visibility and stature in his or her own community, which might eventually translate into more money—but grants scored lower, indicating that while veterinarians would like to get more money, getting more appreciation may be even more important to many.

QUESTION	AVMA	LOW-COST	LOW-COST	LOW-COST
Wish had	Wanted	Wanted	Found most	
known	to know	to know	daunting	
The workload	3.66	2.50	3.00	2.47

limit the number of animals they neuter at a discount per owner (with the number per owner ranging from one to 10).

## Losing money

Sound reasons for veterinary concern with the effect of low-cost neutering on income appeared when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** offered low-cost list respondents a choice among five statements about neutering and profitability.

I profit at both my regular price and my discount price: 20%

I profit at my regular price; break even at my discount price: 21%

I profit at my regular price but lose at my discount price: 25%

I break even at my regular price but lose at my discount price: 20%

I lose at both my regular price and my discount price: 16%

On average, low-cost neutering practitioners performed 48% of their neutering surgeries at a discount. The median was 33%.

Few businesses can afford to lose money on from a third to nearly half of their transactions. As veterinarians often commented, they subsidize low-cost neutering by forgoing income. Paradoxically, however, veterinary associations continue to oppose neutering clinics run by humane societies and activist groups, whose subsidies come from elsewhere; oppose low-overhead mobile clinics; and oppose high-volume neutering clinics—all of which make neutering profitable for participating veterinarians. The prevailing and colossally mistaken belief among veterinary association leaders is that if only low-cost neutering were restricted to the truly needy, more pet owners would pay full price and neutering would thus become profitable for the majority of veterinarians. The evidence obtained by both **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and many previous studies shows that this is not the case: most people who obtain low-cost neutering probably wouldn't have their animals neutered otherwise.

Among low-cost neutering practitioners, 47% say their view of low-cost neutering is still as favorable as it was when they started; 20% take a more favorable view now than they did then; and an alarming 34% now have a less favorable view. Even more worrisome is that only 55% say they recommend low-cost neutering to their colleagues, meaning nearly half do not. This implied pending attrition neatly coincides with the percentages of low-cost neutering practitioners who report they are losing money.

Adverse reaction from peers would seem unimpor-

Paperwork required	3.61	2.45	2.88
2.36			
Income vs. costs	2.16	1.74	1.75
Sponsor's reputation	2.73	2.03	2.93
1.14			
Peer response	4.79	5.12	2.44
4.50			
Client profile	2.71	3.25	2.72
2.47			
Chance of attracting loyal clients	3.35	3.44	2.50
3.17			
Number & location of other vets	5.31	3.59	(didn't ask)
6.00			
Client need	<i>(Didn't ask, but was often written in at a high value.)</i>		

Only three of the above issues seem especially important to most veterinarians: income vs. costs, reputation of the sponsor, and assurance of client need. The latter issue might best be handled by encouraging veterinarians to think of neutering as a service to the animal, not as a service to the human, and by pointing out the deceptive nature of external indications of need, together with the tendency of many truly needy people to disguise their poverty. It is a fact of life that effective low-cost neutering programs not only will but must give some undeserving people a free ride. The less veterinarians dwell on that fact and the more they recognize their accomplishments toward ending pet overpopulation, the happier they will be.

A factor of overlooked importance in recruiting low-cost veterinarians is the identity of the recruiter. Listing nine occupations from which the heads of low-cost neutering programs might come, we asked veterinarians to order them according to which they thought would run the best program, and also asked veterinarians from the AVMA list which programs they would be most likely to join.

PROGRAM HEADED BY	AVMA	AVMA WOULD JOIN
LOW-COST		

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## Expanded services

While veterinary associations tend to hate the idea of expanding low-cost neutering programs to cover other essential health care, such expansion might resolve many of the major complaints of both veterinarians and low-cost neutering clients. Considerations:

- Many of the animals neutered by low-cost programs are never again seen by a veterinarian. From both the humane and economic point of view, it makes sense to help the animal as much on that single visit as possible.

- Various studies indicate that the more a pet owner invests in the care of an animal, no matter how or when the animal was acquired, the longer the pet owner will keep the animal and the more likely he or she is to integrate the animal into family life. Therefore, it is desirable from a humane point of view to involve low-cost neutering clients in additional care to whatever extent it is medically necessary.

- Depending upon what the services are, performing additional services under a discount program could paradoxically be a way to increase the income of veterinary participants. For instance, the additional time required to vaccinate and/or ID microchip an animal at the same time the animal is neutered is practically nil. The cost of the vaccination is usually very low, as is the cost of microchipping once the equipment to do it is paid for. Thus offering vaccinations and microchipping as a package deal available only at the time of neutering could both give clients a bargain and earn veterinarians enough more per surgery to turn break-even or marginally unprofitable operations into modest money-makers.

At least a third of all neutering clients do require some additional service.

TREATMENT	AVMA	LOW-COST
Vaccination for specific dog/cat diseases		
40%	58%	
Distemper vaccination	39%	54%
Rabies vaccination		34%
59%		
Worming		19%
34%		
Grooming/bathing		19%
22%		
Treatment for serious medical conditions	9%	
11%		

The pets of low-cost neutering clients are from half again to nearly twice as likely to need worming and vaccination. Whether from poverty or from ignorance, low-cost neutering clients do not take as good care of their animals as regular-price clients. Yet this does not translate into deliberate

# Pet owners want it all for \$40

neglect. Note that the percentage of animals in need of grooming and bathing is almost identical from one group to the other. Grooming and bathing an animal takes no special facilities or training. Because low-income clients can do this for themselves, at little cost, they do it as often as anyone else. Note too that the percentage of animals needing treatment for serious medical conditions is virtually the same among both groups. If and when an animal needs treatment for an obvious problem, low-income people are as quick to get the treatment, at whatever the sacrifice. Low-income people skip routine clinical maintenance, which costs money for no obvious result. They do not stint on love and concern.

When the veterinarians who perform neutering surgery suggest additional necessary treatments to the clients, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** survey discovered, 60% of AVMA list neutering clients get the treatment from that veterinarian. Interestingly enough, 75% of the regular price neutering clients of low-cost neutering practitioners get the additional treatment from those vets—but only 39% of low-cost program clients do. Split the difference, however, and one gets 58% overall. Since 76% of the vets on the AVMA list do some low-cost neutering, the averages for the two groups are probably just about the same for each category of client.

We didn't ask why from 40% to 60% of all neutering clients either go elsewhere for other necessary treatments or simply don't obtain them. Other responses from our pet owner surveys suggest that price is probably the main factor.

We did ask each group we surveyed whether there is a need for a national low-cost vaccination plan and/or a national pet identification plan, and also asked how many of each group would join such a plan if it existed.

SERVICE OWNERS	AVMA		LOW-COST		SHELTERS	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Vaccination plan	20%	74%	26%	67%	67%	19%
Pet ID plan	67%	92%	4%	37%	58%	32%
Wd. join vac. plan	65%	14%	70%	19%	27%	73%
Wd. join ID plan	23%	66%	27%	73%	59%	26%
Already in ID plan	62%	24%	77%	11%	57%	24%
	56%	37%	26%	59%	26%	57%
	23%	22%	14%	51%		

they visit a vet expecting to pay a nominal price for a vaccination and instead are charged for a physical examination—plus, many times, costly care for a newly diagnosed condition. Veterinarians argue that pet owners should be prepared to pay for extra treatment, that allowances for pet care should be built into family budgets. As a matter of acculturation, however, this is not often done. High veterinary expenses inevitably come as a nasty shock. If veterinarians could be persuaded to take measures to lessen the shock, perhaps pet owners could be persuaded to visit veterinary clinics more often and pursue more routine preventative care rather than responding only to emergencies.

## *The package deal alternative*

Low-cost neutering programs could narrow the gulf between veterinary and pet owner perceptions of current vaccination practice, and get more animals vaccinated, by bundling a package of rates and procedures that will satisfy both veterinary needs and pet owners' budgets. This is not such a tall order as it seems. A physical examination is usually already part of neutering. As explained above, vaccinating and/or doing other simple procedures at the time of neutering requires little extra time on the part of the veterinarian, so that charging a modest additional fee could much improve the profitability of the procedure. The animal and client are already in the door. The trick at this point is to convert the client into a regular paying customer.

Suppose that instead of charging each individual client for each procedure performed, low-cost neutering veterinarians and/or programs charged a single multi-purpose fee, varied on a sliding scale adjusted for family income. The fee would cover the neutering, any necessary vaccinations from a basic list, and any additional medical treatment diagnosed at the time of the neutering.

This would be a significant departure from conventional pet health care plans, all of which to date have been modeled upon human health care, with monthly or quarterly premiums and payments adjusted to the age and health status of the animal.

Engineered into the low-cost neutering health insurance plan would be two critical considerations:

- Many animals treated under low-cost neutering plans are never again going to be seen by a veterinarian. The sooner this is accepted as a fact by the veterinary and humane

—Photo by Kim Bartlett

	4%	6%	22%	38%
Collar tags	4%	6%	22%	38%
Tattoo	29%	24%	32%	23%
<b>For cats:</b>				
Microchip injection	70%	60%	46%	15%
Ear-tagging		1%	5%	7%
Collar tags	4%	5%	22%	35%
Tattoo	29%	22%	32%	24%

Microchipping is clearly the system of choice among veterinarians, but has barely made an impression on pet owners. Ear-tagging gets little support from anyone. Collar tags have the strongest constituency among pet owners, but are much disfavored by veterinarians, who are apparently more aware that collars are easily lost or removed. Since shelter directors should also be aware of the deficiencies of

## Vaccinations

Money again popped up as an issue when we asked what vaccinations a low-cost plan should include—even though we didn't mention money in any way.

VACCINATION AVMA LOW-COST SHELTERS OWNERS

### Should the program offer vaccinations for:

VACCINATION	AVMA	LOW-COST	SHELTERS	OWNERS
Rabies	72%	74%	70%	92%
Distemper	53%	61%	81%	92%
Feline leukemia	47%	48%	70%	79%
Feline AIDS	11%	13%	60%	60%
Parvovirus	54%	60%	81%	78%

In every case the low-cost neutering practitioners more strongly favored including particular vaccinations than veterinarians from the AVMA list; shelter directors favored including them more strongly still; and pet owners, understandably, were most in favor of including most vaccinations. The only vaccination we asked about that a majority of veterinarians did not favor including, however, was the still experimental vaccination against feline AIDS. Several noted that this vaccination is not yet approved for general use, while others informed us that it doesn't exist.

While apparently open enough to the idea of a national low-cost vaccination plan to discuss what it should do and how it should work, veterinarians from both samples surveyed overwhelmingly think the present vaccination system works just fine, even if from a third to more than half of the animals they see for neutering haven't yet been vaccinated. Equally obviously, animal shelter staff disagree, and pet owners disagree most strongly of all.

Money is the hidden issue. Vaccination is the procedure that brings the most animals into clinics, being for most animals an annual requirement, and is the most lucrative part of veterinary practice. Many veterinarians charge a markup per vaccination of 1,000% or more—which is not surprising, since most vaccines are cheap but veterinary time and overhead can run quite high. Further, most veterinarians require that each animal be given a medical examination at the time of the vaccination, which often leads to diagnosing other conditions requiring treatment. Vaccination is thus the veterinarian's ticket to further business. This is why many major veterinary associations have for at least a generation battled the establishment of discount neutering clinics run by humane societies and/or out of mobile clinics. For most veterinarians, no vaccinations mean effectively no business.

Pet owners, however, routinely feel gouged when

communities, and dealt with in context, the sooner it will cease to be a problem.

- Virtually all of the animals treated under low-cost neutering plans are young and essentially healthy.

Most of the truly costly and time-consuming veterinary procedures, as in human health care, are associated with chronic conditions—basically conditions of age. Since a pet health insurance plan set up to cover animals who are undergoing neutering would not often be covering conditions of age, the premium charged as part of the neutering/vaccination/insurance package could be quite low and still permit substantial reimbursement of veterinarians. If properly promoted and administered, such a plan could resolve virtually all of the complaints of both veterinarians and low-cost neutering clients about issues pertaining to general animal health care and additional charges. It could even increase the rate of low-cost neutering customers obtaining follow-up care from the veterinarians who do the surgery.

## Pet identification

Each group we polled agreed in comparable proportion that a national pet identification program is needed, yet even though at least eight such programs already exist, three of them more than 25 years old, no more than 23% of any group actually belonged to one. Just over half of all pet owners (51%) did belong to a pet ID program of some kind, but conventional dog licensing accounted for just over half of those (26%); veterinary tagging systems accounted for 12%; and local humane society ID programs accounted for 8%. The most popular national ID program was that of the American Kennel Club: 7% of pet owners had dogs with pedigrees. The National Dog Registry was next, at 1.4%. Three other national programs rated one mention apiece.

If there is indeed a real need for a national pet identification network, there should be enough impetus in that direction to encourage the various separate programs to harmonize their identification and tracking systems. That this hasn't happened may indicate that there is no real market demand—not enough, anyway, for any one provider to promote successfully enough to make one system the standard. The diversity of systems and the distance between the status quo and coordination were illustrated when we asked respondents what means of identifying animals they most favored:

IDENTIFICATION AVMA LOW-COST SHELTERS OWNERS

### For dogs:

IDENTIFICATION	AVMA	LOW-COST	SHELTERS	OWNERS
Microchip injection	71%	61%	43%	15%
Ear-tagging		1%	5%	4%
Collar tags	4%	6%	22%	38%

collar-tagging, the support they give collar tags is inexplicable. Tattooing draws about 25% support from all quarters. Microchipping would appear to have a chance of becoming the standard—but there are also three competing and essentially incompatible microchip ID systems.

Despite the lack of a national identification standard, or perhaps because of it, momentum toward local pet identification has grown for half a century. Dog licensing is now near universal; with the advent of microchipping, cat licensing is taking hold as well. Licensing generally serves a dual purpose, both identifying animals and raising funds to support animal control and rescue programs, and/or neutering programs (such as the New Jersey Pet Population Control Fund). Identifying pets on a local rather than national basis makes sense because only a tiny percentage of missing pets are ever likely to be found more than a few miles from home.

## Pet health insurance

As with pet identification, many pet health programs already exist, at least two of them national in scope. Yet despite the number of programs, none have ever caught on, and few people actually have any experience with them.

- Only eight (3%) of the 216 pet owners in our survey had ever bought pet health insurance. Only one remained in a pet health insurance plan longer than three years. The average duration of membership was 20 months. All eventually quit, half of them after being refused further coverage for animals with chronic conditions. All agreed that having pet health insurance had not made keeping animals any easier.

- Only one of the 37 shelter directors had ever promoted a pet health insurance plan through his/her shelter.

- 31% of veterinarians on the AVMA list had some experience with pet health care plans, but only 17% had experience with a national plan. Half of those said the plan was unprofitable for them; half said it involved too much paperwork; nearly a third complained of slow reimbursements; almost as many said clients expected too much service; 75% said older pets and those with chronic problems were inadequately covered; 75% also said the plan inadequately covered routine care; and just under a third thought the plan inadequately covered emergency care.

Impressions of the extant pet health care plans from nonparticipants are no more favorable:

- Only one of six shelter directors who offered an opinion thought the current availability of pet health insurance encourages adoptions.

- Roughly half of the veterinarians we surveyed think a pet health insurance plan might help their income by increasing demand for veterinary procedures. However, more than a third fear that pet health insurance might depress

# Greenpeace and IFAW take a dive

*(continued from page one)*

Yet to be resolved is how compliance with the RMP will be monitored. This could be settled as early as January 1995, at a special IWC technical session to be held in Tromso, Norway—reportedly arranged through the intervention of U.S. vice president Albert Gore. Gene Buck of the Congressional Research Service estimated that commercial whaling could resume by 1996, and will resume by 2006.

“Adoption of the RMP is bad news,” assessed Christine Stevens, president of the Animal Welfare Institute. “Tromso’s location, in the farthest northern reaches of Norway, and the timing of the intersessional meeting in the depths of winter, are hardly calculated to attract nongovernmental organizations friendly to whales.”

## *Blood and Gore*

“Gore sold us out,” said Craig Van Nolte of Monitor, a Washington D.C.-based information service for animal and habitat protection groups. Sam Labudde of Earth Island Institute used almost the same words. Both cited the transcript of an October 5, 1993 meeting between Gore and Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland.

“Can we work on and achieve an RMS in 1994?” Gore asked.

“Yes, but with a condition,” Brundtland replied. “We cannot work within the IWC to determine an RMS, but then allow someone using legal loopholes to block acceptance and retain the moratorium.”

Responded Gore, “We will enter this process with you in good faith, and will not pull a ‘fast one’ at the end. We will continue to give you a candid assessment of the issues and also the pathway to proceed in resolving the issue.”

The exchange directly contradicted the stated belief of Greenpeace, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the World Wildlife Fund—rescinded in the latter case—that provisional approval of the RMP would not constitute a fast track to resumed commercial whaling. The three groups argued before the IWC meeting that despite the passage of the RMP, commercial whaling can still be indefinitely delayed by the disagreements over monitoring. Greenpeace and IFAW continue to hold that position.

As expected, Greenpeace and IFAW took a dive

## *Hoodwinked*

Indeed, the Greenpeace/IFAW agreement to accept the RMP nearly sank the Southern Whale Sanctuary proposal—because once Japan and Norway knew via the U.S. motion to accept the RMP that it was assured, they had no further reason to concede the creation of the sanctuary as a bargaining ploy. The sanctuary could only be created by the approval of 75% of the IWC membership. With additional votes lined up from Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent-and-the-Grenadines, four Caribbean nations who are heavily dependent upon Japanese aid, Norway and Japan were in a position to block the creation of the sanctuary pending concessions such as moving the boundary south from the 40th parallel and exempting minke whales from protection. On the opening day of the IWC meeting Japan and the others moved to set the boundary at the 60th parallel, which would have cut the sanctuary size by about 90%, since half the area within the 60th parallel is the Antarctic land mass.

Behind the scenes, Russian officials said, Japan tried to enlist their support for either blocking the designation of the sanctuary or reducing it, by threatening to withhold funds pledged earlier to help the Russian navy build storage

*Right whale. (Photo by Bill Rossiter.)*

Hughes Aircraft division of General Motors. The announcement of the missile deal belatedly explained why Bill Clinton refused to impose trade sanctions on Norway for resuming commercial whaling last year, despite acknowledging on October 3, 1993 that trade sanctions were warranted.

The IWC delegates were barely home before Norway announced on June 7 that it would allow whalers to kill 301 minke whales this summer—119 in a purported research hunt, of whom 19 had already been killed, and 189 in an overt commercial hunt. The combined quotas were only five greater than the combined quotas Norway set unilaterally last year, but were far greater than the actual 1993 kill of 226 whales. The quotas were a direct affront not only to the authority of the IWC, but also to observers who believed Norway would be deterred by the calculations of IWC Scientific Committee member Justin Cooke, of Britain, who argues that the Norwegian estimate that there are 86,700 minke whales within Norwegian territorial waters is high due to a math error, and that the actual number according to the Norwegian data should be 53,000. Under the RMP quota-setting formula, the lower estimate would purportedly limit Norway to killing only one whale a year for commercial use.

Influenced by Cooke’s findings, the IWC voted 18-

during the RMP debate, while the World Wildlife Fund joined virtually all other animal protection groups in reservation to the RMP too late to alter the outcome. A strategy of conceding the RMP in trade for U.S. support for the Southern Whale Sanctuary was detailed in a Greenpeace internal document dated March 29. Leaked by dissenting staffers, the contents of the document were disclosed by *The London Observer* and **ANIMAL PEOPLE** during the month before the IWC convened. Although Greenpeace has been identified with whale-saving since it was founded in 1971, the document pledged Greenpeace would not “stand in the way of the RMP’s provisional adoption.” It asserted that “Greenpeace does not oppose whaling, in principle,” adding for emphasis that, “Greenpeace is neither for nor against the killing of marine mammals.”

After the *London Observer* expose, IFAW—whose scientific advisor, Sydney Holt, helped draft the RMP—openly acknowledged a similar strategic posture. WWF initially took the same view, but as ulterior motives for U.S. endorsement of the RMP became apparent, reconsidered. On May 12, one day after Friends of Animals led a protest at the Greenpeace USA headquarters in Washington D.C., U.S. WWF president Kathryn Fuller told Gore that WWF strongly opposed “any action, including further work on the RMP or RMS, that could constitute a first step toward the resumption of commercial whaling.” In addition, Fuller said, WWF was also “concerned to hear that the U.S. might seek to accommodate Norway’s continued hunting of minke whales in defiance of the IWC moratorium.”

Added WWF staffer Mark Sutton, “We feel we’ve been hoodwinked by the administration.”

55%

*Gray whale. (Photo by Bill Rossiter.)*

tanks for nuclear waste. The Russians had been dumping nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan near Vladivostok. The real message may have been that Russia should shut up about revelations of whale piracy during the regime of the former Soviet Union. Japanese IWC inspectors were often aboard the Soviet whaling ships, and Japan bought most of the poached whale meat.

The sanctuary boundaries ultimately were altered, but only to dip around Tierra del Fuego in deference to Chilean and Argentinian territorial sovereignty. Otherwise, the boundaries and perhaps the sanctuary itself may have been saved by FoA and the Animal Welfare Institute, as well as by Ireland, which led resistance to further concessions in Puerto Vallarta. In addition to the FoA-led demonstration against Greenpeace, both FoA and AWI placed big ads attacking the RMP in leading U.S. newspapers. Thus prodced to take a more decisive stand, WWF joined Greenpeace in leading an unprecedented joint demonstration on May 17 in front of the White House.

The last-minute protests brought “frantic behind-the-scenes maneuvering” in Washington D.C., reported Polly Ghazi of the *National Observer*. “A friend of president Clinton was hastily drafted onto the American IWC delegation. The Americans exerted enormous pressure on wavering governments to make sure the sanctuary was approved. ‘There was total panic,’” Ghazi quoted “one senior American source. ‘Before, the priority had been to get the RMP in place because America owed Norway for brokering the Middle East peace deal. Suddenly we were told to move heaven and earth to get an Antarctic sanctuary.’”

## *Would you do it for \$625 million?*

A member of the U.S. IWC delegation told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that Ghazi’s account was substantially accurate—but also confirmed, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported in June, that the Clinton administration had an even bigger interest involved than just repaying Norway for a political favor. “It was a done deal before we ever got to Puerto Vallarta,” the delegation member said. Resumed commercial whaling was in effect a throw-in to secure a \$625 million sale of air-to-air missiles to Norway, in negotiation throughout the fall of 1993 and presented to Congress for *pro forma* ratification on May 13. At a stroke, the missile deal would erase the U.S. trade deficit with Norway, almost to the penny; insure continued Norwegian use of U.S.-made fighter aircraft, which in turn means parts and maintenance business for U.S. suppliers; and bail out two struggling defense contractors on the eve of this year’s Congressional elections—the Raytheon Corporation, of Massachusetts, and the California-based

3 in Puerto Vallarta, with six abstentions, to urge Norway to reconsider issuing itself even scientific whaling permits. Norwegian IWC delegate Bjorn Blokhuis immediately responded that Norway would continue killing up to 200 whales a year for research.

“We have had a good amount of contact with the U.S.,” said Norwegian fisheries ministry director general Stein Owne, in announcing the new quotas, “and we feel the likelihood of sanctions is less than last year.”

With the missile deal pending, that was an understatement. A trade boycott of Norway could be structured to exclude military hardware, but excluding the possibility of Norwegian retaliation would be difficult since the U.S. has more to lose.

## *The devil and the deep*

Norwegian defiance escalated a few days later when Norway proposed dropping minke whales in the North Atlantic from protection under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species—the international equivalent of the Endangered Species List. If this proposal is accepted, IWC rulings will not be directly affected, but pressure to resume commercial whaling will increase. More important, delisting minke whales under CITES would allow Norwegian whalers to openly sell whale meat to Japan, a traffic now covert. (Last October an employee of Norwegian whaling industry spokesman Steiner Bastesen was arrested for allegedly trying to smuggle whale meat to Japan.)

Anticipating the Norwegian action, an IWC Resolution on Trade in Whale Meat and Products asking members to cease illegal trading in whale products was adopted by consensus in Puerto Vallarta, with reservations expressed by Norway, Japan, and Denmark.

The Norwegian governmental interest in whaling isn’t primarily economic. Indeed, according to Greenpeace, the Norwegian whaling industry is currently worth just \$7 million a year, while export contracts lost because of non-governmental anti-whaling boycotts cost \$70 million a year. The real issue may be purely political. Whaling and sealing are focal points for the outrage of Norwegian fishing communities whose catches are sharply down due to pollution and overfishing, and whose vessels are now barred from parts of the North Atlantic while cod stocks recover. Villagers and local politicians in Norway, as in Atlantic Canada, blame competition from marine mammals rather than their own excesses for the reduced catches. The ruling Norwegian Labor Party, led by prime minister Gro Brundtland, holds only 67 of the 165 seats in the Norwegian parliament, and can’t afford to lose any support from the coastal towns. Indeed, on May 25, the third day of the IWC meeting,

*(continued on next page)*

# Whale trade

77%

Brundtland's government survived a motion of no confidence by a margin of just 83-80. Labor picked up 17 votes from opposition parties, and there were four abstentions. At issue was the appointment of Torstein Moland, who is accused of tax evasion, to head the Norwegian central bank.

An even bigger issue for both Norwegian industry and the Brundtland government is that the Norway will vote late this year on whether or not to join the European Union—to exporters a boon potentially much bigger than any whale-related losses, but a threat to industries serving a domestic clientele, which are now protected by trade barriers. The rightist Progress Party and conservative Christian Democrats oppose joining the EU, on a patriotic plank. Brundtland tried to outdo them in January by asking that the EU grant Norway a special exemption from all applicable laws and treaties, to enable Norwegians to kill and sell not only minke whales, but also fin whales, sperm whales, and orcas. Rebuffed by a resolution restating EU opposition to commercial whaling, and by an International Union for the Conservation of Nature resolution to the same effect passed days later, Brundtland pledged in February to honor EU conservation agreements, presumably including the EU-supported IWC moratorium on whaling. Her administration tried to reduce the domestic pressure by setting the national sealing quota at 20,100, an increase of 2,100, even though the major purchaser of seal products is the Norwegian government, which reportedly stores unsaleable pelts in warehouses near Bergen, after buying them to keep the sealers employed.

Despite that maneuver, the Norwegian political situation now is such that if Brundtland failed to militantly promote whaling and sealing she could not only lose power, but also—ironically—lose the opening to EU admission. A poll published on June 6 pushed Brundtland farther into a corner, showing that only 28% of Norwegian voters favor joining the EU, while 52% are opposed.

The only prospect in sight for political trading that might have stopped Norwegian whaling involved sulfur emissions from British coal-burning power plants, which are believed to be the primary source of acid rain that has extensively damaged Norwegian forests. Although Britain has already cut sulphur emissions by 37% since 1980, Norwegian environment minister Thorbjørn Berntsen recently called his British counterpart, John Gummer, a “drittsekk” for not doing more. The term means “sack of excrement.” The two

gy had worked so well that back in Puerto Vallarta, even Norway “went for a walk on the beach at the time of the vote.” Indeed, the sanctuary was approved 23-1, with all the pro-whaling nations but Japan either voting with the majority or abstaining. Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent-and-the-Grenadines sat out the vote, daunted by the prospect of an international tourism boycott called by the International Wildlife Coalition. A fifth Caribbean nation, Antigua-and-Barbuda, was vigorously wooed by Japan but ultimately supported the sanctuary. Yet another, the Seychelles, withdrew from the IWC when 14 years of endorsing Japanese proposals in exchange for foreign aid became a national political liability.

With the passage of the RMP quietly assured, and the creation of the sanctuary certain as well without the opposition of at least five of the six Caribbean nations, Norway simply had nothing to gain by waking anyone up.

“We’ll intensify our campaign against whaling,” pledged Greenpeace spokesperson Geir Wang-Andersen, as the Norwegian whalers prepared to sail. Wang-Andersen did not know how this might be done, but guessed, “We’ll probably focus on our boycott work,” despite the likelihood that boycotts of Norway will be ineffective at least until after the final vote on joining the EU. “But we can’t rule out actions against Norwegian whalers,” Wang-Andersen added.

## *Minke whale. (Photo by Bill Rossiter.)*

Added Watson, “To be called a criminal by a nation that criminally slaughters whales is no great insult.”

Australia on June 14 became the first nation to formally reprimand Norway for resuming whaling. “A growing majority of world opinion is opposed to commercial whaling,” trade minister Bob McMullan reportedly told the Norwegian ambassador. Australia was among the leaders in seeking the creation of the Southern Whale Sanctuary, but joined the U.S. in moving to adopt the RMP. The current chair of the IWC is an Australian, Dr. Peter Bridgewater. The Australian position on the RMS in January could thus be critical.

According to the IWC meeting summary distributed by participating activist groups, “the staggering litany of smuggling, data falsification, environmental threats and cruelty leave every objective observer doubting that commercial whalers can make the comeback that a year or two ago seemed almost inevitable. The whalers face the same commercial extinction as so many of the species they ravaged.”

## *Japan still in Antarctic*

But Japan as well as Norway seemed to be determined to go on whaling. After Blokhus told media that, “Some nations could lose their patience with the IWC,” if the RMP does not lead directly to resumed commercial whaling

mended fences on June 14, however, as Gummer visited Norway to sign a treaty negotiated by the United Nations that commits Britain to continue cutting sulphur emissions, with a target of achieving an 80% reduction from 1980 levels by 2010. Whales apparently were not discussed.

## Party time

Nongovernmental organizations struggled to find an effective response to Norway, having apparently been lulled by the Norwegian IWC strategy—which after the creation of the Southern Whale Sanctuary at the 40th parallel seemed certain, was to keep a low profile pending the RMP vote. That strategy worked. When the sanctuary was approved, a party broke out in Puerto Vallarta, “with all the NGOs,” Steve Best of the International Wildlife Coalition announced early the next morning via the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society online news service. Added Best, “It’s difficult, as you can imagine, to engage any of them in cogent conversation.”

Another celebratory party was actually underway at the Greenpeace Australia headquarters in Sydney as the RMP was adopted. There, veteran Greenpeace whale campaigner Robbie Kelman enthused to media that the Greenpeace strate-

Wild Wear ad--  
paid for July/August

## Fire delays Watson

Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society were almost prepared. Expecting the worst at Puerto Vallarta, Watson spent the spring outfitting two new vessels for direct action against the Norwegian whalers. Watson described the 58-meter *Whales Forever* as “the largest and most powerful vessel in the history of the Sea Shepherd fleet, a virtual floating fortress, ice-strengthened, easily defended, with long-range capability.” The other new vessel is reportedly a submarine, details of which were secret. Watson was known to have inspected both Russian and British submarines that were up for sale as surplus late last year.

Scheduled to leave Ijmulden, the Netherlands, on June 9, the *Whales Forever* was instead delayed by a June 6 fire. According to a Sea Shepherd press release, the ship “was preparing to take on fuel when a loud explosion shook the vessel. The fuel barge broke away immediately as thick black smoke poured from the engine room. Donning smoke masks and air tanks, the Sea Shepherd crew descended into a smoke-darkened machinery space to discover a raging fire. They were able to extinguish the blaze, saving the ship but with the loss of the electrical switchboard and some auxiliary machinery. Chief engineer Jeremy Coon and crew member Paul Whalen suffered minor smoke inhalation.”

Continued the release, “The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. There are reasons to suspect sabotage...The blast, however, may have been accidental.”

Watson authorized \$150,000 worth of repairs, rescheduling departure for July 1, “in the company of Sea Shepherd’s submarine and with a total crew of 40.”

According to Watson, “Following Norway in defying the moratorium on commercial whaling are the nations of Japan, Iceland, Denmark, Korea, and Russia. Other nations contemplating a return to commercial whaling are Taiwan, Peru, Chile, Canada, and Brazil.”

Watson, Orcaforce head Lisa Distefano, and colleague Dwight Worker seemed undisturbed by their June 3 conviction *in absentia* for scuttling the Norwegian whaling vessel *Nyabraena* at harbor in December 1992. They were sentenced to four months in jail apiece. Watson said he has received no response to repeated requests for an extradition hearing in connection with the January 1994 scuttling of another Norwegian whaler, the *Senet*, which was refloated within several days. An extradition hearing would give Watson and DiStefano an international forum—which Norway doesn’t want.

“Norway wants to see the appearance of justice but is not interested in actually pursuing justice,” DiStefano charged.

quotas, implying Norway might follow Iceland in resigning, Japanese whaling commissioner Kazuo Shima voiced quick agreement.

Shima said he lacked the words to express “the resentment, remorse, discontent and disillusion I feel about the future that awaits Japan in the IWC.” Shima also raised Japanese discontent with international fishing regulations designed to protect depleted stocks. “If we introduce such an irrational principle” as protecting minke whales, he said, who are the one species believed to be more numerous now than at the height of commercial whaling, “it could extend to marine resources beyond whales.” The words were taken by some as a veiled threat that Japan might cease to enforce the international ban on driftnetting, a major source of “accidental” whale and dolphin deaths. (In fact, three grey whales were reportedly drowned in loose driftnets off the coast of British Columbia within a week of the IWC meeting.)

Shima took no notice of the position by other IWC members that minke whales must be protected to prevent poaching of other species whose remains might be passed off as minke meat. Indeed, an Earthtrust analysis of the DNA in alleged minke meat sold in Japanese supermarkets discovered shortly before the IWC meeting that of 16 samples, four came from fin whales, one mingled humpback with minke, one mingled sperm whale with porpoise, and two were from dolphins. He did state that Japanese “research whaling” would continue, both within the Southern Whale Sanctuary, where research whaling is not forbidden, and in the North Pacific, where whales have not been killed since 1988.

In other business, the IWC approved increasing the Alaskan aboriginal quota of bowhead whales from 41 per year to 51; renewed a quota of 140 grey whales per year for Russian aboriginals; and renewed a quota of 165 minke whales plus 19 fin whales per year for western Greenland, a Danish protectorate. Repeatedly denied in past years, a Japanese request for an aboriginal quota of 50 minke whales per year was denied once again.

The Alaskan aboriginals are allowed to wound up to 68 whales to retrieve the 51 they will butcher. Their quota was raised because the population of the 10 villages whose residents hunt whales has grown 40% in the past decade. Although bowheads are among the most endangered species, IFAW representative Holt said that, “Scientifically there’s nothing wrong with it because the stocks are increasing.”

According to Holt, grey whales and bowheads are the only species whose numbers have demonstrably grown since the advent of the moratorium. Gray whales, still defended against hunting by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, IWC, and Mexican legislation, were dropped from the U.S. Endangered Species List on June 15.

—Merritt Clifton

## MARINE MAMMAL NOTES

**The U.S. Navy plans to shut down** 14 of its 18 Sound Surveillance System (Sosus) underwater listening posts, permanently disabling much of a \$16 billion network of more than 1,000 microphones linked by 30,000 miles of seabed cables. The Sosus budget has been cut from \$335 million in fiscal year 1991 to just \$60 million for fiscal year 1995; staffing is to drop from 2,500 in 1993 to 750 in 1996. Set up 40 years ago to monitor Soviet submarines, the system was used in 1992-1993 to track whale migrations—and

### About trusting whales who are over age 30

ANIMAL PEOPLE reported in June that according to a new Humane Society of Canada study of all cetaceans known to have been captured 1960-1992, captivity cuts the average lifespan of orcas and beluga whales by 43 years, and the average lifespan of bottlenose dolphins by 15 years. It now appears, however, that the HSC estimates of orca and beluga lifespans in the wild were far higher than current research indicates. Cetacean ages are estimated by counting the enamel layers on their teeth. Until 1984, they were believed to grow one layer per year. Then a postmortem on a 24-year-old beluga who was kept in captivity from infancy found that he had grown two layers per year. Many references still state the old estimates, but follow-up investigation has convinced most marine mammalogists to cut those numbers in half. A study of captive cetacean longevity by D.P. DeMaster and J.K. Drevenak in 1988 produced similar averages to the HSC study—but also found that the life expectancy for wild-caught dolphins who survive their first year in captivity is 33 years, longer than dolphins live in the ocean, while life expectancy for captive-born dolphins who survive to age one is 47 years. First-year mortality is very high for cetaceans—as for most animals—both in the wild and in captivity.

proved sensitive enough to follow one blue whale for 1,700 miles. Hoping to keep using Sosus to help check compliance with international fishing and whaling treaties, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown on May 17 asked the Defense Department to keep what remains of Sosus intact, pending completion of a joint study into retaining it via interdepartmental cost-sharing. However, *The New York Times* reported on June 12, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration internal memo indicates NOAA is not willing to contribute to the upkeep costs.

**The U.S. Navy is reportedly also trying to donate 25 to 30 "excess" dolphins trained for underwater surveillance to suitable marine parks and aquariums**, but has found only four takers. Navy excess dolphin supervisor Randy Brill says he isn't opposed to returning the dolphins to the wild, but is not convinced that dolphins already returned to the wild by Ric O'Barry of the Dolphin Project are truly weaned from human dependency.

**The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** on June 1 returned two female pygmy sperm whales to the wild near Cape Canaveral, Florida. Both were rescued after stranding—one along the New Jersey shore at Thanksgiving 1993 after ingesting two plastic bags, the other at New Smyrna Beach, Florida, in April.

**Citing recent studies**, Alaskan science journalist Tim Moffatt charges in the Summer 1994 edition of *Friends of Animals'* magazine *Act'ionLine* that Steller sea lions and harbor seals in the Gulf of Alaska "are starving to death because the pollack are disappearing into the insatiable maw of the bottomfish industry, which "grew out of the 1980 Magnusen Act and its goal of Americanizing the U.S. bottom-fishery." The bottom-fishers pull out 100,000 tons of pollack a week. The Gulf of Alaska sea lion and seal populations are down 90% in 40 years. "In southeastern Alaska, where such fishing does not occur," Moffatt notes, "the seals and sea lions exist in stable numbers." (Join FoA, \$10/year, at 777 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820.)

## Fish wars erupt worldwide

Fishing vessels don't fly the Jolly Roger, but fish piracy is increasing from the Grand Banks to the Bay of Bengal, where crackdowns are underway. Related violence is up as well. Malaysian marine fisheries head Abdul Hamid Syukor on May 18 disclosed the seizure of a rocket launcher, five assault rifles, and 600 rounds of ammo from two Vietnamese trawlers allegedly caught in the act of fish-poaching. The Russian news service Itar-Tass reported June 5 that a Russian patrol boat "was forced to open warning fire" just after midnight on June 4 to drive six Japanese vessels out of the Kunashir straits. Norwegian coast guard ships on June 15 cut the nets of four Icelandic trawlers they caught fishing in Arctic waters and fired a warning shot to keep three others away. One Icelandic captain claimed the Norwegians tried to ram his boat. Norwegian newspapers predicted an imminent cod war. On June 18, meanwhile, a French destroyer broke up a net-cutting fight among several dozen French and Spanish trawlers off the Azores. Violence is also close to the surface on the Caspian sea, where caviar poachers affiliated with organized crime fight with the fishing fleets of five nations for the last of the once abundant beluga sturgeon. Globally, the seas are fished out—to the detriment of all marine life—and desperate fishing

**Brazilian pharmacies stock a salve made from the blubber of the Amazon manatee**, according to Daniel Vairo of Sea Shepherd Amazonia. Says the label, "These animals similar to seals were recently considered rare because of the pursuit of Indians," who harpoon them. "This is a product of Mother Earth." The First Quarter 1994 edition of the *Sea Shepherd Log* also carried a report by David Smith of Earthwatch on a Valentine's Day 1994 massacre of thousands of sharks and manta rays by illegal gill netters near San Benedicto Island in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico. (Join the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, \$25/year, at 1314 2nd St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.)

**The Chicago Animal Rights Coalition wants to blitz Shedd Aquarium handling of marine mammals with a radio offensive**—but stations that run ads for the Shedd have refused to sell CHARC any air time. According to CHARC, the Shedd has rehired head trainer Ken Ramirez, six months after he "went with a female trainer to French Polynesia to work on a dolphin swim program," under Jay Sweeney, DVM, now a fulltime cetacean catcher, who lost his Florida veterinary license in 1990 for breaking state laws while capturing dolphins for the National Aquarium in Baltimore. "In the Polynesian project," a CHARC online bulletin charged,

"Ramirez and Sweeney worked with a number of recently captured dolphins, most of whom had to be released because they were not adapting to captivity." Of three animals kept, two died. Ramirez will apparently now train three Pacific whitesided dolphins caught by the Shedd off San Diego last November.

**The National Marine Fisheries Service** is baffled by the death of 250,000 fish along the Texas coast near Galveston in mid-May—and is probing why 229 dead sea turtles washed ashore during the first five months of 1994, up from 176 in all of 1991 and 160 in 1992. Mass dolphin deaths in March are blamed on an outbreak of morbilli virus, a disease specific to dolphins. An algal bloom killed 22 million fish in the same area in 1986, but no such bloom has been found this time.

**Trying to make jobs**, indigenous residents of the north coast of British Columbia are planning the first commercial seal hunt in the Skeena River estuary in circa 30 years. Protest to Brian Tobin, Fisheries Minister, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6, Canada.

**The American SPCA asks that letters opposing the proposed resumption of seal hunting in Finland** be addressed to Seppo Havu, Dept. of Game and Fisheries, Ministry of Forests and Agriculture, Hallittuskatu 3 00170, Helsinki, Finland.

AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

Dog logo

# The Watchdog

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

## THE DOG MEAT SOUP HOAX

NEW YORK, N.Y.—As Joey Skaggs wrote in his letter of confession, “On Monday, May 16, 1994, artist and socio-political satirist Joey Skaggs mailed over 1,500 letters to dog shelters around the country announcing that his company Kea So Joo, Inc. (which translates into Dog Meat Soup, Inc., in Korean) was seeking to purchase dogs at 10¢ per pound to be consumed by Asians as food. The response was overwhelming. Calls were received from people willing to sell dogs (most likely attempts at entrapment); from people outraged at the concept of eating dogs; from people who were outright hostile and racist; and from people who threatened to kill the proprietor of this business as well as other Asians indiscriminately. Representatives of various governmental and animal rights organizations including the American SPCA were pressured to do something... American and Korean media were called to arms.”

Beginning at noon on May 17, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** telephone, fax, and E-mail communications were disrupted for days with inquiries about Kea So Joo, Inc., despite clear signs that the whole thing was a hoax—including that the letter was written in pigeon English while displaying perfect spelling and a considerable vocabulary. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** even recognized the style of the prankster as that of the person or persons behind a purported Greenwich Village brothel for dogs. In 1976 a WABC-TV magazine episode included a segment about the brothel, videotaped in good faith as the prankster and friends led dogs in and out of apartments while pretending to be brothel clients and staff. The episode was nominated for an Emmy and repeatedly aired as a rerun, continuing to draw protest from viewers who mistook it for current news for many years.

Manhattan, the hoax was “not to belittle Asians or animal rights organizations,” but was “to bring to light issues of cultural bias, intolerance and racism,” and to demonstrate how the media “plays a very important role in the perpetuation of hatred and bias,” through being “reactionary, gullible, and irresponsible.” Skaggs admits to having pulled numerous hoaxes over the past 20-odd years, so many that media accounts sometimes confuse genuine Skaggs hoaxes with similar stunts performed by others—much to Skaggs’ annoyance.

### *Denies blame for 1-900-PRO-AVID*

Skaggs denied involvement in a similar apparent hoax perpetrated by Winfield Scott Stanley III, whose purported American Vivisection Defense group in Boston published advertisements soliciting donations of pets to biomedical research in *The Village Voice* and *The San Francisco Bay Guardian* during late April and early May. Potential donors were to call a 92¢-a-minute number, 1-900-PRO-AVID, for details including a recipe for veal and a promotion for fur. Stanley told *Boston Globe* reporter Scott Allen that he had been hired by a man using the pseudonym Bobby Donka. That project was closed down circa June 1, after an official USDA investigation and a threat of lawsuit from American Veterinary Identification Devices, a maker of microchip pet ID equipment which also uses the name AVID.

Skaggs did, however, acknowledge contact with Stanley at some point not long before the 1-900-PRO-AVID ads began running. “I had never met him or heard of him before he called me,” Skaggs stated. “He is not a friend of mine. Nor did he know what I was

### Woofs and growls—

#### *It couldn't happen to a nicer guy (not!)*

**U.S. Surgical Corporation chairman Leon Hirsch**, 67, was sued on June 16 by his former housekeeper, Gizella Biro, 40, for allegedly keeping her in virtual sexual slavery from November 1989 until May of this year. Hirsch is noted in animal protection circles for funding pro-vivisection groups and for having purportedly set up an alleged assassination attempt on himself in 1988 to discredit antivivisectionists. Biro's husband of 20 years, former U.S. Surgical groundskeeper Denis Sebastian, made similar allegations to acquaintances during his divorce from Biro in 1990, while Biro formally charged Sebastian with sexual abuse. According to Biro, a Romanian immigrant who lived next door to Hirsch in a million-dollar mansion that Hirsch provided, and drove cars furnished by Hirsch, she was forced about once a week to have non-consensual sex with Hirsch and sometimes his wife, U.S. Surgical executive vice president Turi Josefson, as well as with other women. Biro further alleged that Hirsch sexually assaulted her two daughters, whose education Hirsch paid for, along with her friend and fellow former housekeeper, Eva Kale, whom Biro invited to join the staff. Kale is reportedly preparing a similar suit. Biro is asking \$21 million to drop her charges, all of which Hirsch denies.

#### *Dogfight*

**The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club** is resisting what Cavalier Defense Group spokesperson C. Anne Robins calls “the hostile takeover of a small, independently registered breed of dog by the American Kennel Club, despite the consistent and unequivocal vote of CKCSC membership against any form of AKC affiliation.” According to Robins, AKC affiliation was rejected by 78% in 1977, 81% in 1982, 82% in 1988, and 91% this year. “If this coerced recognition by the AKC succeeds,” Robins warns, “the numbers of Cavalier registrations will increase rapidly, through mass production by puppy mills, with distribution of Cavalier pups through brokers and pet shops.” Similar confrontations have occurred when the AKC began registering other breeds, including the Bichon Frise and the Australian shepherd, both of which suffered immediate puppy mill population explosions along with resultant degenerative health problems.

Near deadline with our June issue and preoccupied with probing the more serious chicanery involved in whaling politics, we telephoned our leads to the ASPCA and Friends of Animals' New York office circa 2:00 p.m. on May 17. FoA soon verified the high probability of a hoax, but didn't get the hoaxster's identity. At about 6:00 a.m. on May 30, after getting the June issue out and concluding several other investigations, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** began the online detective work that brought the sleepy Skaggs' verbal confession circa 8:00 a.m., followed by the written confession at 4:18 P.M. on May 30—which Skaggs claimed he had already faxed to the ASPCA four days earlier, just before the Memorial Day weekend. Be that as it may, an **ANIMAL PEOPLE** fax and online bulletin issued to all inquirants circa 9:00 a.m. on May 30 was the first confirmation of the hoax that any recipients acknowledged receiving—and still was, more than two weeks later, when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** helped several states to close official inquiries.

Although the ASPCA told several reporters that it might bring charges, at deadline apparently none had been filed.

According to Skaggs, who teaches a fall-semester-only two-unit course in "Cultural Jamming and Media Activism" at the School of Visual Arts in

doing. I told him I was coincidentally doing a piece about animals, but I never gave him any details."

Allen, for one, is skeptical. "The Stanley scam is a lot like consumer fraud, since he was taking money under a false front," Allen told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "And what Skaggs did, regardless of whatever he claims as his motivation, is a lot like ringing in a false fire alarm. And once he's admitted he's a liar, what kind of credibility does he have? Whatever point he has to make about the truthfulness of the media is lost in his own methods."

Skaggs' credibility was certainly challenged on at least one point. Although he denied having responded to anyone who called the Kea So Joo recorded message, Robin Duxbury of Animal Rights Mobilization told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that a man feigning an Asian accent called her, purportedly to arrange dog pickups, two days after she left a message in an entrapment attempt.

As to the purported viciousness of the response Skaggs received from the humane community, a sheaf of mostly anonymous letters he supplied to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** looked much like the routine fulminations any reporter receives after writing anything controversial.

—Merritt Clifton

The U.S. Border Collie Club recently headed off an attempted AKC takeover. For details, contact the Cavalier Defense Group c/o Robins, 53 Cat Rock Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807, telephone 203-629-3496, fax 203-869-2273; or the USBCC, c/o N. Hebb, 228-1 Alexandrine, Dearborn, MI 48124-1003, telephone 313-562-6747.

### ***Shockers***

**\$1.94 million of your taxes will be spent to subsidize fur** export promotion this year via the Market Promotion Program of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Fur exporters will be reimbursed up to 50% of their promotional costs for pitching pelts to China, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany, Spain, France, and Mexico. Protest to your Congressional representatives.

**The United Nations Environment 500 program** on June 3 honored Thai primate rescuer and rehabilitator Leonie Vejajiva—and Prince Philip of England, honorary head of the World Wildlife Fund, whose predilection for killing captive birds en masse was described in the June **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial.

*(continued on page 12)*

The Warm Store - not yet paid for July/August

CASH

**Woofs and growls—** (continued)**Amory vs. Corrigan**

A year-long clash between Fund for Animals and New England Anti-Vivisection Society president Cleveland Amory and James Corrigan of the AR-Alerts electronic bulletin board exploded into public view in mid-May when Corrigan sought to get NEAVS to make two grants outside of normal protocol and was instead ousted from both the Fund and NEAVS boards of directors. Corrigan, who had run AR-Alerts with NEAVS sponsorship, issued an online notice that he was having to shut it down at least temporarily—which was picked up and amplified two weeks later by the National Association for Biomedical Research newsletter. Corrigan and AR-Alerts got back online within another two weeks, now sponsored by the Rutgers Animal Rights Law Center, a project of Gary Francione and Anna Charlton. While on the NEAVS board, Corrigan reputedly had a key role in the late August 1993 purge of all of the program staff except for current executive director Jon Schotland, who had just been hired. Said Amory, "I think it's fair to say that I didn't approve of the way things were handled last summer."

**Dogfight**

ANIMAL PEOPLE has received several inquiries about the legitimacy of Memorial Animal Centers of America, Inc., promoted by Tennessee resident Deanna Reid, which is supposed to be a for-profit chain of adoption centers, grooming salons, pet supply stores, pet cemeteries, and obedience schools, with cruelty officers on staff as well. Reid told ANIMAL PEOPLE that her start-up capital came from undisclosed sources in Palm Beach, Florida, where people familiar with the regional animal care donor network had never heard of her, and said that additional capital would come from the sale of plaques memorializing pets, which would hang in MACA facilities. Two such facilities, she said, would open later this year, hinting that U.S. vice president Albert Gore and the governor of Tennessee might attend the first opening. Reid further claimed that her firm, incorporated in 1991, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. (It isn't.) Other callers have been told that four facilities are to open this year, that MACA is a closed corporation, and that individual shares cost \$50, "minimum major investments" \$10,000, and "maximum major investments" \$50,000. Reid purportedly told other callers that her backers include Ivana Trump, Bob Barker, Betty White, and ATT Inc.—but when questioned by Barker's media representative, Henri Bollinger, denied having used his name. By coincidence, one of the best-known nonprofit fundraisers in Tennessee is Diana Reid, of United Cerebral Palsy, in Memphis, who said she too had never heard of Deanna Reid—and indeed the only people ANIMAL PEOPLE could locate who had heard of her either knew of her strictly through the MACA pitch, or as a disgruntled former board member with at least one rural humane society.

**Animal control & rescue**

Consistent with previous studies done in Portland and Minneapolis, which have found that German shepherds make up about 14% of the canine population but do about 27% of the biting, a Denver study of 178 first-time biters and 178 nonbiters issued June 9 by the Centers for Disease Control found that German shepherds, chows, and collies were the dogs most likely to attack; the least likely were golden retrievers and poodles. Only one pit bull terrier, a nonbiter, was included in the sample. Despite the frequency of German shepherd bites, which may reflect their frequent use as sentries, the ANIMAL PEOPLE log of dog attacks causing death or serious injury indicates that German shepherds are responsible for under 2% of the attacks in those categories, while pit bulls, Rottweilers, and wolf hybrids together account for 79% of the deaths and 92% of the maimings.

German dog owners are fined \$3,000 each time their pets bite a mail carrier, but dog bites still account for 10% of postal service work-related accidents, authorities reported June 18. In just four central and southwestern states, 650 dog bite incidents cost the German postal service \$9 million in 1993 alone.

While many agencies are reluctant to confront Santerians following last summer's Supreme Court ruling that animal sacrifice in and of itself is a constitutionally protected religious exercise, Chicago Animal Control on May 29 raided a feces-filled house in the midst of an ongoing Santerian ritual to seize more than 200 severely neglected birds and mammals who were apparently being held for eventual sacrifice. The Supreme Court did make clear that their ruling was not an exemption for Santerians from all health and humane laws.

32%

*Shall we gather  
by the river?  
A scene from  
the May 15  
"Walk for the  
Animals" in  
Borderland  
State Park,  
Massachusetts,  
held to benefit  
the Neponset  
Valley Humane  
Society.*

Under pressure from the Fund for Animals, the town of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, in June temporarily suspended its policy of shooting stray cats on sight. Ridgway has shot stray dogs on sight for 20 years, says borough manager Martin Schuller, but only began shooting cats in February to enforce a new cat licensing law.

Bicyclist Mark Manson of New Orleans won the Legislation In Support of Animals Golden Heart Award on Memorial Day by jumping into Bayou St. John to rescue a severely scalded dog whom an unknown person or persons had chained to a cement block and heaved into the water from a bridge. Manson—who can't swim—was helped back to shore, with the dog, by jogger Doug Fowler.

Models of cat reproduction developed by the National Pet Alliance from survey data gathered in the Santa Clara Valley of northern California indicate that of a population of 1,000 adult homeless cats, 333 will die within a year; 658 kittens will survive to maturity; 94 of the kittens will be adopted into homes; and 564 will be added to the homeless population, for a 23% growth rate. Of 1,000 owned cats, 143 will die within a year; 47 kittens will survive to maturity; and without the adoption of homeless cats, the owned population would therefore decrease 9.4% per year. "If all stray and feral cats were caught and altered or killed," writes NPA founder Karen Johnson, "owned cats would have to produce an additional 22 litters per year per thousand cats to sustain the present population. This is twice the current reproduction rate."

Colorado kennel inspection authority has been transferred from the state health department, which ceased

### **American SPCA stories of the month**

**The heat on the American SPCA** over a variety of managerial problems will get hotter on July 15, as the Henry Bergh Coalition airs the first of a projected bimonthly expose series called *Eye on the ASPCA* on channel 16 in Manhattan. A prototype was broadcast three times on channel 34 during mid-June.

**One apparently baseless rumor about the ASPCA** concerns a supposed takeover of the Los Angeles SPCA. That story, convincingly denied by many sources, seems to have started in mid-April when former ASPCA west coast representative Madeleine Bernstein succeeded Ed Cubrda as LASPCA executive director. Cubrda retired after 25 years. Bernstein promptly halted Cubrda's popular Litter Abatement Program, begun to assist low-income people with neutering and recently heavily used by neuter/release feral cat rescuers. Bernstein said the program was under review, and would likely be resumed within several months, under stricter controls—possibly excluding neuter/release practitioners.

### **Dates & Projects**

**July 8:** Focus on Ferals: Moving From Pest Control to Birth Control, Alley Cat Allies seminar, Washington D.C. \$50. Info: 301-229-9263.

**July 20-24:** Vegetarian Summerfest, Johnstown campus, Univ. of Pittsburgh. Info: 518-568-7970.

**July 28-29:** Deer and Deer Management in America, conference hosted by Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, in Sturbridge, Mass. \$35. Info: 508-839-7991.

**August 6:** Breeding Regulation Ordinance Seminar, hosted by the Animal Welfare Alliance and Fund for Animals, Pleasantville, N.Y. \$20. Info: 914-747-3605.

**September 3-9:** "Guardian of Creation," National Ecology Apostolate Leadership Training Conference, hosted by Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, Garrison, New York. Speakers include antipollution activist and author Lois Gibbs, radio talk show host Charles Spencer, and ANIMAL PEOPLE editor Merritt Clifton. \$210 includes double occupancy room and vegetarian menu. Info: 413-737-7600.

**September 28-October 1:** American Humane Association annual conference. (See ad, page 10.)

*HOUSTON, Texas—Outside, it's a truck. Inside it's the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program's \$95,000 mobile clinic, on the road since February with major funding from Houston Rockets basketball team owners Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Alexander. Operating costs are estimated at \$141,135 per year, or about \$31 per surgery after the cost of acquisition, if surgeries are performed at the projected minimum rate of 15 per working day. SNAP, founded in 1988, is a community service of the Houston Animal Rights Team.*

Moore & Ahlers - paid through September

doing inspections several years ago due to a budget crunch, to the state Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Protection. Enforcement regulations are still being worked out by a committee including animal control officers, shelter management, pet store owners, and animal breeders.

**New Hampshire governor Steve Merrill** on May 27 signed a bill making a felony of repeated cruelty convictions and providing for felony prosecution of all deliberate animal torturers, with a maximum penalty of seven years in prison.

**After 126 years in Philadelphia,** the Women's Humane Society relocated on June 9 to a new \$4.1 million shelter in Bensalem, of nearby Bucks County. The relocation ends a long rivalry with the Pennsylvania SPCA and may begin one with the Bucks County SPCA. All three agencies report fast-falling intake and euthanasia rates.

**The Los Angeles Animal Regulation Commission** has amended a year-old suspension of coyote trapping to allow homeowners to contract for trapping upon payment of \$200, if they have first taken a series of recommended steps to prevent coyote problems, including building fences and removing food sources.

**A bear whose shooting** in Azusa, California, on May 20 touched off public protest was apparently driven from his home in a nearby canyon by brushcutting.

Tomahawk - invoice

**This ad would cost you just \$50!**

**Or \$45 if prepaid.**

**Or \$37.50 if prepaid for three insertions.**

**Or \$33.50 if prepaid for 10 insertions.**

**Imagine what you could do with it.**

**Then reserve yours today.**

**ANIMAL PEOPLE:**

**518-854-9436 (telephone)**

**518-854-9601 (fax)**

# ESA DEBATE OPENS (from page one)

they are not going to get everything their own way. The first 30 wolves of a Yellowstone population projected to number 100 within eight years are to be released this fall.

Adopted in 1973 with a 20-year authorization, the ESA missed becoming perhaps the hottest topic of the 1992 presidential campaign because neither Bush nor Congress wanted to open an emotionally charged debate pitting "warm, fuzzy" signal species against pocketbooks with their jobs on the line. Instead the 1973 ESA authorization was extended on an interim basis pending agreement upon an amended version, which has been quietly developed behind the scenes ever since. In the interim both the pro and con sides of the ESA have lost considerable steam. The environment has slipped far down the list of public priorities as named in polls since the peak of interest in 1990, the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, but the opposing Wise Use movement has lost strength as well, as major corporate backers of early Wise Use coalitions and conferences have backed away from association with "radical right" elements. The real heavyweight opposition to ESA reauthorization will come from the traditional land and wildlife use lobbies representing ranching, logging, oil, mining, and real estate.

Despite the perils of pursuing reauthorization with Congressional elections ahead, the Clinton administration isn't likely to get a better chance to pass the bill it wants, facing the virtual certainty of losing strength in the House and Senate.

The Republicans, meanwhile, may have as much chance to win concessions now as ever—unless they should happen to win control of the Senate. And in any event, leaders of both parties agree that the ESA should be reoriented toward protecting critical ecosystems rather than one species at a time—the object of Babbitt's multispecies listing strategy, the reason Babbitt wants a National Biological Survey parallel in scope to the National Geologic Survey, and an idea previously advanced by Babbitt's Republican predecessor, Manuel Lujan. Clashes have to do with logistics and partisanship more than principle.

Democratic Senator Max Baucus of Montana, one of a handful of sparsely populated states with a relatively strong Wise Use contingent, raised the direction of probable compromise in questioning Babbitt. "Landowners are afraid," Baucus said, "that when a new species is listed in their area, their use of their land will be hamstrung if the species lives on the land or migrates through it. It is time to start looking for more incentives, rather than relying solely on penalties."

Baucus, who chairs the full Environment and Public Works committee, was citing the Wise Use theory of "takings," which holds—now contrary to several Court of Appeals and

grudging and defensive" posture that enforcing officials and environmental advocacy groups adopted during former president Ronald Reagan's early first-term attempt to gut the ESA by postponing or neglecting enforcement. The administrative hostility forced species advocates to the courts to obtain letter-of-the-law injunctions that precluded any deals in an intensifying atmosphere of mistrust. The outcome was what Babbitt calls "a national train-wreck" over the spotted owl in the Pacific Northwest, an economic and political deadlock that portends even more prolonged and acrimonious conflict over restoring endangered salmon runs in the same area—if the same strategies are applied.

The Clinton administration has made reaching a negotiated settlement of the spotted owl crisis a priority—and has negotiated settlements of several other conflicts of a similar nature. Babbitt cited a deal with Georgia Pacific that released timberlands for logging in exchange for old growth corridors to protect the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Speaking again for landowners, Baucus pointed out to Babbitt that, "The real problem is smaller companies that don't have the reserves of larger companies," and therefore have less—or nothing—to barter.

Babbitt acknowledged the dilemma, in effect agreeing upon the central issue of the coming debate: how best to resolve the essential conflict between the rights and interests of humans, individual and collective, and those of species whose right to collective survival is now recognized not only in theory but in a considerable body of both legislation and jurisprudence.

## *Gnatcatchers and delta smelt*

The difficulties ahead were exemplified in California during a month of trying to balance the needs of the endangered Delta smelt with the water needs of much of the state. After holding pumping from the convergence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers to a minimum for months to protect also endangered winter-run Chinook salmon, state officials turned the pumps up on May 23—and in just five days killed 164,000 smelt, offspring of the most successful spawning season in years, despite taking every advised precaution. Eventually a huge population of the three-inch translucent smelt was discovered to be on the east side of the convergence, the opposite side from their normal habitat, which was in turn causing the unexpectedly high pumping mortality. At deadline there were still no evident solutions.

In Washington D.C., meanwhile, U.S. district judge Stanley Sporkin on June 18 restored the California gnatcatcher to the threatened species list, 46 days after removing it because the

## Wildlife

**Media accounts widely misrepresented an alleged disparity** between \$21,000 donated to help the orphaned cub of the mountain lion who killed California runner Barbara Schoener in May, and the \$9,000 donated to help Schoener's children. In fact, \$15,000 of the amount "given" to the cub came from the Folsom County Zoo's dedicated building fund for creating a mountain lion exhibit, which the cub will occupy. An attempt by hunters to use the fatal attack as pretext to reverse a hunting moratorium imposed in 1971 and made permanent by the passage of the 1990 Mountain Lion Initiative was rebuffed June 14 by committees of both the California state senate and assembly. In Montana, meanwhile, the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission delayed until August a decision on whether to deliberately cause a mountain lion population crash by raising the kill quota from 436 to 479, of whom at least 328 would have to be females. Anti-lion pressure from ranchers is up since Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt approved returning wolves to Yellowstone, assuring an overall increase in the regional predator density.

**The Australian Koala Foundation** predicts that koalas will be extinct in the wild within 30 years due to habitat loss. About 40,000 koalas remain in the wild. The AKF draws about half of its financial support from Japan, where concern for koala survival is stronger than in Australia itself.

**Sri Lanka announced June 14 that it will restrict the elephant trade.** "The move follows many complaints to the authorities that certain Buddhist and Hindu temples that received baby elephants as gifts from the state were found to have sold them after a few years," the Xinhua news agency reported. Elephants play a leading ceremonial role in the religious processions of both religions—but elephants with tusks fetch \$20,000 or more when sold to clandestine slaughter.

**Myanmar (Burma),** whose dictatorial government is believed to be deeply involved in rain-forest logging and wildlife trafficking, on June 9 adopted a sweeping wildlife protection law. Whether it will be enforced remains to be seen.

**The Taiwanese Council of Agriculture** agreed on May 26 to relax enforcement of a ban on trafficking in endangered species born on the island, but warned a mob of about 100 protesting dealers

Supreme Court verdicts—that restrictions placed on land use amount to government confiscation of property without compensation. But Baucus was also talking about Babbitt's current plan for raising grazing fees on government land, which departs from previous attempts to hike grazing fees by instituting price breaks for ranchers who meet specific "good stewardship" requirements.

Babbitt took the opportunity to explain his efforts to reorient ESA enforcement away from what he called the "narrow,

federal government had failed to make public the scientific data it used to rule the bird endangered. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has 90 days from June 18 to hear public comment on the listing before reaching a final decision. At issue is whether the California gnatcatcher significantly differs from similar gnatcatchers who live in Mexico. Critical habitat for the California gnatcatcher includes several prime coastal sites that were slated for major development.

## Captive wildlife

**The Audubon Institute** in Algiers, Louisiana, broke ground June 1 for the \$15 million Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species, a high-tech laboratory intended to complement the adjacent Freeport-McMoran Audubon Species Survival Center. The next planned Audubon facility, an insectarium to be built in the French Quarter of New Orleans, is getting a mixed reception from future neighbors, but appears certain to be approved by municipal authorities, in part because it is expected to attract 600,000 visitors per year.

**Singapore on May 23 opened Night Safari, a \$38 million state-of-the-art zoo for nocturnal species.** The facility has already achieved successful breeding of 18 of the 43 resident species, including the russet-coated Asian wild dog, the fishing cat, the Malaysian tapir, and the striped hyena. The zoo took seven years to build.

**Protracted negotiations** over the fate of Ivan the gorilla, kept for 27 years in solitary confinement at a shopping mall in Tacoma, Washington, were reportedly concluded June 9 with an agreement that he will be moved as soon as possible to Zoo Atlanta, to join a colony of 19 other gorillas. The Zoo Atlanta gorilla staff gained experience in rehabilitating long-isolated gorillas with Willie B., the original Atlanta gorilla, whose first companions arrived in 1987 after a major zoo expansion.

**Mark Schoebel, 40, owner of the R-Zoo game farm** near Neshkoro, Wisconsin, attracted police and media attention on May 6 when he shot an escaped bull hippopotamus who had taken refuge in the Mekan River—and again just 11 days later, when one of his black antelopes escaped from the Menominee Park Zoo in Oshkosh. Schoebel was fined \$1,000 in

1986 for selling bears to Korea, where their body parts are used in folk medicines.

**China has recalled Ming Ming,** a female panda who spent the past three years at the London Zoo, because she failed to mate with a male from the Berlin Zoo and did not conceive by artificial insemination.

**Bim, a Philadelphia Zoo orangutan** known for his love of fingerpainting, died June 4 at age 21.

Frank Zigrang ad--  
paid for July/August

that it could not ignore traffic in species of foreign origin. The Council took a stronger stance on June 7, after the Beautiful Taiwan Foundation produced a survey finding that most customers for bear's paw, tiger's penis, and endangered pangolins at Ho Chi Minh City wildlife restaurants are Taiwanese. "Eating these is a national shame," said Council vice chairman Lin Shiang-nung.

**The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game** on June 9 reported a rapid rise in caribou calving in the area where it killed 150 wolves last winter—but independent biologist Gordon Haber said few would survive, due to eagle predation on the newborns.

True Nature Network -  
paid through September

Ann Radaskiewicz ad

Patrice Greanville ad

# ANIMAL HEALTH

## Zoonosis

**Tests by the Henry Ford Hospital** in Detroit have concluded that the only sure way to prevent allergic reactions to cats is "to remove the cat from the home," Dr. Charles Klucka recently told the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology. "The next best thing is keeping the cat out of the bedroom," while the cat owner takes allergy drugs or shots. Bathing cats in distilled water, applying a topical spray 60 times per week, and giving them low-dose tranquilizers, all touted as antiallergen treatments, did not reduce the dander of the 24 cats included in the Ford Hospital study.

**Ten thousand volunteers** in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin are field-testing a Lyme disease vaccine developed by Connaught Laboratories, following up on a 1992-1993 test that included 300 people. Preliminary data published in the June 8 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showed that levels of Lyme antibodies increased fourfold in 23 of 24 volunteers who participated in a limited test in Albuquerque, none of whom suffered serious side effects. A rival firm, SmithKline Beecham PLC, is reportedly also close to testing a vaccine for Lyme disease, which afflicts about 10,000 Americans a year, and has been found in 44 of the 50 states.

**Raccoon rabies officially reached Vermont** on June 4, when a Bennington resident shotgunned a rabid raccoon in his yard. The mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies strain reached nearby corners of New York and Massachusetts about a year ago, and was already assumed to be in Vermont. The strain has spread north and west at about 50 miles a year since 1977, when a group of West Virginia coonhunters and trappers released 3,500 raccoons from a known rabies area in Florida along the Virginia border in an attempt to rebuild the hunted-out local raccoon population.

**A new strain of the hantavirus** blamed for killing 42 people in 18 states during the past 18 months has been found in harvest mice inhabiting Orange County, California, and Apache County, Arizona. The hantavirus, most common in the southwest, has previously been found mainly in deer mice. Unlike deer mice, harvest mice favor grasslands, and rarely if ever enter houses.

## Agricultural vet medicine

**The USDA on May 25 banned the import from Mexico of Holstein steers and spayed heifers.** Of 438 tubercular cattle found in the U.S. during 1993, 427 came from Mexico; about 240 of them were Holsteins. The ban

# AGRICULTURE

**At deadline Washington D.C. sources believed** a Justice Department probe of accusations that Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy improperly accepted free travel, football tickets, and other favors from the Tyson poultry empire would end without charges being filed. However, Bob Gottsch, a leading Nebraska cattle feeder, on June 14 sued Espy for \$22 million in damages, alleging Espy unfairly favored poultry over beef in strengthening sanitary requirements for beef slaughterhouses without likewise regulating poultry slaughterers. Ironically, Espy was editorially hit the same week by *The New York Times* for purportedly favoring beef by exempting hamburger from a requirement that meat product labels must accurately describe fat content.

**Despite recent improvements, the USDA meat inspection system** "is only marginally better today at protecting the public from harmful bacteria than it was a year ago or even 87 years ago when it was first put in place," General Accounting Office food and agriculture chief John Harmon told Congress on May 25.

**An archaeological team led by Dr. Michael Rosenberg of the University of Delaware** has excavated evidence at Hallan Cemi, Turkey, that humans domesticated pigs before taking up cultivation—2,000 years after domesticating dogs but 2,000 years before domesticating sheep and goats. The finding suggests that agriculture may have evolved not to stabilize crop production for direct human use, but rather to stabilize fodder production.

**Perdue University professor William M. Muir** says he has developed a docile breed of chicken who won't require debeaking to prevent fatal fights in cages. Rose Acre Farms, one of the biggest egg producers in the U.S., estimates the mortality rate for hens who are not debeaked at 35%; Muir, whose 13-year project was both state and federally funded, claims a mortality rate of 3%.

**"The evidence shows beyond all reasonable doubt** that keeping hens in cages is extremely distressing in many different ways," Dr. Mike Baxter of Brunel University testified in the June 15 edition of *The Veterinary Record*, a British journal.

**Biotechnologies Inc.,** formed by California engineers James Hamamoto and Renato Lumbroso, is attracting attention with an organic method for high-volume sterilization of cow manure. The end product is reportedly a superior fertilizer, free of harmful organic elements, but as rich in nutrients and as easily handled as peat moss. The process may become a solution to the waste disposal problem that has become the Achilles heel of factory dairy farming.

# Horses

**Responding to an appeal from Brigitte Bardot,** Belgian interior minister Louis Tobback on June 13 banned the controversial Krombeke trap-horse race—as well as any demonstrations that might be held to gloat over the victory. Held on slippery cobblestone streets, the race resulted in frequent injuries to horses and drivers. Tobback, who said he'd always dreamed of getting a letter from Bardot, last year banned a similar race at nearby Sint-Eloois-Winkel.

**Six-time Canadian Olympic equestrian Ian Millar,** of Perth, Ontario, on May 30 announced the retirement of Big Ben, the 18-year-old Belgian he rode in three Olympics. Ben, whom Millar began jumping in 1983, was the first North American show jumper to win more than \$1.5 million, achieving 40 grand prix victories; led Canada to the 1987 Pan American Games gold medal; and won back-to-back World Cups. Uncommonly resilient, Ben twice returned to competition after serious abdominal surgery—and in 1992 resumed winning events just two weeks after surviving a head-on truck crash that killed a man and another horse. Ben is to compete eight more times, finishing at the Royal Agricultural Fair in Toronto in November.

**Uniquely adapted to high altitudes,** with enlarged lungs and hearts, Nangchen horses of Tibet have apparently been purebred for 14 centuries, reports French anthropologist Dr. Michel Peissel, who recently rediscovered the breed—first recorded in 6th century Chinese chronicles. Dr. E. Gus Cochran, director of the equine blood research laboratory at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, believes the Nangchen lung adaptations may offer solutions to the problem of lung bleeding in thoroughbred race horses.

**The drug industry may soon quit using horses** to cultivate rattlesnake antivenom, as an antivenom cultivated in sheep by Therapeutic Antibodies Inc. is apparently safer. The Rocky Mountain Poison Center has so far treated 10 human snakebite victims with the sheep-based antivenom, finding no serious side-effects. It must be given within six hours of the bite.

**Colorado Horse Rescue has relocated to a farm in Broomfield,** now being restored by volunteers. The postal address remains POB 1510, Arvada, CO 80001.

will reduce somewhat the incidence of facebranding and spaying without anesthetic, targets of recent protest led by the Coalition for Non-Violent Food. To check the spread of bovine TB, the USDA requires that all 60,000 to 80,000 Mexican cattle imported each year be facebranded, and all cows be spayed, before they are moved from the border.

**Trying to avert an outright European ban on the use of meat and bone powder in sheep and cattle feed**, which is believed to be the source of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy outbreak devastating the English cattle industry since November 1986, European Union agriculture commissioner Rene Steichen has recommended uniform high-temperature processing requirements for meat and bone powder additives. The incurable disease apparently infected cattle as a mutation of scrapie, a serious sheep disease. Two German states, Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westfalia, banned the slaughter of any cattle imported from Britain in May, after three cases of BSE were discovered in cattle who had been kept by a breeder Horst Freiser, who is believed to have used BSE-contaminated feed of German origin. The use of animal remains in cattle feed has been banned in Germany since 1989. Lower Saxony agriculture minister Karl-Heinz Funke has asked that all of the estimated 5,200 British-born cattle in Germany be slaughtered, to keep BSE from spreading further. Lower Saxony livestock exports have been banned since last October, when the first BSE cases appeared, with devastating impact on 1,500 farms. Lower Saxony had been believed to have the highest density of pig-rearing in the world.

## ***Miscellany***

**Canine distemper has killed more than 70 of the 2,000 lions** in the Serengeti National Park of Tanzania since February—spread, apparently, by the dogs kept by native humans. A similar dog-to-lion outbreak reportedly occurred at a southern California sanctuary several years ago. Researchers hope that vaccinating the dogs can save the remaining lions. "Of the 250 or so study animals we've been following, perhaps a third have been wiped out and many more are sick," said behavioral ecologist Craig Packer of the University of Minnesota, who has directed the 30-year-old Serengeti lion observation project since 1978.

**The American Humane Association's third annual Shelter Veterinarian Educational Program** will be held October 1-2 in New Orleans, following the September 28-October 1 AHA annual conference. Sponsored by Cycle Dog Food, the program will include sessions in practical immunology, rabies control, behavior evaluation, pain evaluation and prevention; early-age neutering; and investigative necropsy. Veterinarians completing the two-day program will receive 12 continuing education credits preapproved by the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine. Registration is \$100. Get further details at 800-227-4645.

Today's semi-urban factory dairy operations are typically situated prohibitively far from the fields where their hay is produced: trucking the manure away to spread costs more than it's worth. The Hamamoto/Lumbroso process purportedly improves the quality of the fertilizer to the point that trucking becomes economical. Hamamoto and Lumbroso developed it after serving as consultants with a failed attempt to generate energy from cow manure.

**Rather than comply with pollution laws**, the ConAgra Red Meat Co. on May 15 abruptly closed its Northern States Beef slaughterhouse in Edgar, Wisconsin, throwing 450 people out of work without warning. Holding about 30% of the U.S. market, ConAgra is the world's largest meatpacker, with sales of \$16.2 billion in 1992.

**Utah State University is beginning a \$300,000 EPA study of methane emissions from bovine belching**—a follow-up to a similar study of methane releases from manure begun at Washington State University in 1991. Although a 1991 analysis by Cornell University holds that a cow has the same effect on global warming as a continuously burning 75-watt light bulb, other authorities believe cattle produce about 20% of all global methane emissions, and are thus a major cause of the "greenhouse effect" buildup of methane in the upper atmosphere.

**Compassion in World Farming and Global Action in the Interest of Animals** shocked the European Union farm ministers on May 30 with a special screening of a new film, *For a few pennies more*, which documents livestock abuse in transit—especially in France and Italy. The European Parliament in December recommended an eight-hour limit on continuous animal transport. 1991 legislation, now in effect, requires transporters to feed and water animals only once per 24 hours.

**The summer 1994 edition of the Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Animals newsletter** features anonymous testimony from cattle truckers about neglect and abuse of animals en route from farm to slaughter. Inquire c/o POB 18024, 2225 W. 41st Ave., Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6M 4L3.

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*Diana Chontos with rescued burros. (Steve Bloom photo.)*

**ONALOOSKA, Washington**—"Why are people waiting three years to adopt a burro from the Bureau of Land Management when 40-plus burros are shot each year at Death Valley National Monument?" asks Gene Chontos, co-founder with his wife Diana of Wild Burro Rescue. The killing is expected to escalate with the anticipated November passage of the California Desert Protection Act, which will transfer land inhabited by about 600 feral burros from the BLM to the National Park Service. This will remove them from the protection of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. The Park Service intends to have the burros shot as an alleged threat to native species—although burros may have inhabited the area for about 400 years. With Park Service cooperation, WBR hopes to arrange a mass rescue. Get details c/o 665 Burnt Ridge Rd., Onalaska, WA 98570; 206-985-7282.

Wild Burro Rescue ad (July/Aug.)

# Anti-rodeo vet was performer

**BURLINGTON, Vermont**—“I raced two of my horses at local rodeos,” veterinarian Peggy Larson recalls of her youth in North Dakota, “and often rode other people’s horses in races. I also rode bareback bucking horses for two years at local rodeos. Once I rode a steer. Damned near killed myself.”

Now an outspoken rodeo critic, Larson remained involved in rodeo long after becoming a veterinarian. “Duane Howard, a national champion bull and saddle bucking horse rider, was a client of mine,” she recalls. “He was retired from rodeo because of a serious injury which left him partially deaf and ataxic. He also rode in the same small town rodeos where I rode.”

In addition, Larson “vaccinated and castrated bucking horses for a man who supplied small-time, non-Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos.”

There are three main types of rodeo in the U.S., Larson notes: the PCRA circuit, including most of the big money events; non-PCRA rodeos, which are essentially amateur events; and Mexican-style or *charro* rodeo.

“Because the animals in PCRA rodeo have to be better performers, they are selected for their ability—bucking, for example,” Larson says. “These animals are valuable and get better care.” Some are even rescued from slaughter at events like the Bucking Horse Sale, held annually in Miles City, Montana, since 1950. Losers are still slaughtered—but those who buck mightily in an eight-second audition may become stars.

By contrast, the horses used in small town rodeo, Larson saw firsthand, “usually are not given grain regularly if at all, receive little or no veterinary care, and many receive inferior hay

Because the horses in charro rodeo are considered expendable, they are usually rented for the day from drovers taking them to slaughter.

Other *charro* events that appall Larson include a form of calf-roping, where instead of releasing the calf within eight seconds, as required in PCRA rodeo, the calf is dragged between two horses; and “tailing,” in which “a running cow or steer is grabbed by the tail by a mounted man, jerked off her feet and slammed to the ground. The animal is used over and over until too tired to run. Tailing requires no skill other than being able to grab the tail and being strong enough to knock the animal down,” she says with contempt. “Once a calf is roped, no skill is needed to drag him around the ring for five minutes. There is very little skill required to rope a horse by the front legs as she is herded against a wall.”

## “All rodeo is inhumane.”

But Larson doesn’t reserve her contempt for just *charro*. “I believe now that all rodeo is inhumane,” she states. “Further, I do not believe that rodeo can ever be made humane and still remain popular. It is in the nature of the event. The cruelty is not hidden.”

At the same time, Larson believes most critics look at the wrong things. In bucking events, for instance, “so much attention is paid to the flank strap that truly painful spurring is overlooked. The strap does not go over the genitals, and it is my opinion based on experience that the flank strap does not cause the animal pain.” Rather, it apparently tricks the horse into trying to escape from an imagined encumbrance. Meanwhile, “The rider is kicking his spurs into the shoulder of the horse with

wand, and is jerked to a sudden stop by a rope. I have seen many calves flipped over backward with the breath knocked out of them,” Larson avers. “I have also seen calves die from a broken neck or have to be killed because of broken limbs or a broken back. Further, the calf is suffocated by the rope,” after running hard and needing extra oxygen.

Horses are most often abused behind the scenes, in Larson’s experience. “In training my own ranch horses,” Larson explains, “I found that many follow or herd calves instinctively. Also many horses start quickly on their own. However, in rodeo the horses must also stop quickly and whirl sharply. Some of the methods used to teach these acts are unbelievably inhumane. Often the mouth is wired. The wire extends over the upper gum and is attached to the bit. When the bit is pulled, the wire tightens and pain to the gums causes the horse to stop or whirl. I examined one reining horse whose tongue was cut in half. I examined other horses whose teeth were damaged by the gum wires.”

“Ultimately,” says Larson, “rodeo widens the gap between animal and man, and negates the need for all animals, including the human animal, to learn to live together.”

## Spectacles

**Bullfights and rodeos have been banned** in Sao Paulo, Brazil, scene of more than 100 such events in 1993. The ban took effect in May.

**Trying to slow the pace of the Iditarod dog sled race** from Anchorage to Nome, the Iditarod Trail Committee has eliminated five food dropoff points, to require mushers to pack heavier loads, and has cut the maximum number of dogs in a team from 20 to 16. To make up for sponsorship losses, the entry fee has been increased from \$500 to \$1,750.

**Hog-dog rodeo promoters** in Polk County, Florida, raised \$616.92 on June 12 with which to hire an attorney to fight state attorney general Bob Butterworth’s May 6 ruling that the events, which pit dogs against pigs, are illegal. “It ain’t just about hogs,” said hog-dogger Pay Powell, of Punta Gorda. “It’s about living.”

**Fighting humane criticism of circus acts**, the 124th edition of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus includes the Muttville Comix, a comedy act whose 16 mixed-breed dogs all were rescued from animal shelters.

**Sam Mazzola’s wrestling bear act**, roasted repeatedly by humane and sanitation enforcement in the northeastern U.S., ran into similar flak on a recent attempted 20-city tour of Canada. Performances in Hayden, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, were cancelled after intervention by the Ontario SPCA and Wildlife Canada, respectively. Various charges in connection with the bear act are reportedly pending.

**Pakistan has promised the World Society for the Protection of Animals** that it will soon ban bear capture and use of bears in entertainment.

or fend for themselves in winter by pawing for feed in the snow. If the frozen grass is plentiful," she notes, "these horses actually remain quite well albeit heavily parasitized, if they have good teeth. The bucking horses I vaccinated and castrated fell into this category. These horses did not like to be handled and were not encouraged to be tame."

Larson has only seen bootlegged video of *charro* rodeo, but has studied it closely, and doesn't hesitate to venture that in her view, "*charro* is nothing more than cruelty to animals. In one event," she objects, "a loose running horse is beaten by a group of riders while a man on the ground ropes the horse's front legs. Injuries to the horse may include rope burns, broken legs, sprains, joint dislocations, possible blindness if the rope misses and encircles the face, severe concussion, internal injuries, and perhaps paralysis or death. If the horse is not crippled, he or she is used again and again."

all his strength. It is deceptive for the PCRA to require spurs to be blunt or that the rowels must roll so that the horse will not be cut. Cutting is not the problem. Tissue damage is caused by repeated blunt injury. Usually the horse is bucked again before the bruises heal, so the damage is compounded. Common sense will tell you that when steel meets flesh, flesh loses. Spurs should be outlawed on bucking horses," Larson says, "if not in general."

Steer wrestling "is probably the least injurious to the animal" of all the popular rodeo events, in Larson's view. "While the steer's neck is twisted to throw him, it is highly unlikely that a cowboy could either break a steer's neck or harm the heavy musculature of the neck. Harm is probably limited to fear and constant reuse."

But calf-roping is another matter. "In calf-roping," Larson describes, "the calf runs at full speed out of the gate, often prodded with an electric

## ANIMAL PEOPLE

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## Diet & Health

A 10-month study published in the June issue of *Cancer Causes and Control*, the journal of the Harvard School of Public Health, found that children who eat more than 12 hot dogs a month whose fathers have a history of similar consumption have nine times the normal risk of leukemia. The study compared 232 leukemia patients under age 10 with a similar group of leukemia-free children. Wrote Dr. John Peters, who led the University of Southern California study team, "These findings, if correct, suggest that reduced consumption of hot dogs could reduce leukemia risks, especially in those consuming the most. Until further studies are completed and this issue becomes clearer, it may be prudent for parents to consider reducing consumption of hot dogs for themselves and their children where consumption frequencies are high." About 2,600 children a year get leukemia; 72% survive.

**Hot dogs may eventually be dropped** from federally subsidized school lunch menus under a plan to reduce fat content by 30% announced June 7 by Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy—the first major change in the menus since the program began in 1946. However, the changes won't take full effect until July 1998.

**The conservative news weekly *Human Events*** recently reported that U.S. president Bill Clinton, weaned from hamburgers by heart expert Dr. Harry Ornish, has become addicted to low-fat vegetarian "Boca burgers" made from soy beans by Sun Foods of Boca Raton, Florida. Clinton and White House staff ate 1,920 of the veggie burgers in May alone.

**An estimated 150,000 asthma sufferers** thronged to Hyderabad, India, on June 8 for the Goud family's 134th annual administration of the first of four doses of a secret medicine which must be placed in the mouth of a live sardine, who then must be swallowed whole. The Gouds claim the treatment will cure asthma if taken for three consecutive years.

**U.S. seafood consumption rose to 15 pounds per person** in 1993, according to the Commerce Department, of which 53% was imported. The June 7 announcement followed by one week the conviction of former Food and Drug Administration inspector Robert A. Vaccaro for allegedly taking \$65,000 in bribes while running a ring of other corrupt inspectors who among them exposed the public to at least 7.5 tons of swordfish with excess mercury; 645 pounds of decomposed lobster tails; and 1.5 tons of lobsters contaminated with fecal bacteria.

**Despite the demise of former Ethiopian dictator Haile Selassie** in 1975, whom Rastafarians believed to be the Second Coming, Rastafarians say their numbers are growing. Central tenets include belief in a black God; the ceremonial use of ganja, a mild intoxicant; and vegetarianism, based on a strict interpretation of Judaic dietary law.

**Zimbabwe, already exporting \$25 million worth of crocodile skins** a year, has begun exporting the meat as well. Major buyers are Hong Kong, Thailand, and Malaysia.

## Birds

**Bald eagle recovery in New York and New Jersey** reached milestones this spring, as the former had 24 nesting pairs and the latter five, up from one apiece when DDT was banned in 1972. Before the introduction of DDT, which built up in the food chain and caused the females to lay brittle eggs, New York had 75 pairs; New Jersey had 20 to 25. The current population are descended from 198 eagles imported from Alaska between 1976 and 1988, plus 60 from Manitoba, who were released between 1983 and 1988. Of the original 198, 32 are known dead—half of them shot by vandals—and another 32 are known to have reached maturity and paired at least once. Eagles from that group have now settled in seven states. Curiously, half of the pairs who have nested within New York state have chosen trees that were documented nesting sites around the end of the 19th century.

**Portugal in late May acknowledged poisoning 20,000 herring gulls** on Berlenga Island, 15 miles off its Atlantic coast, to protect guillemots, eagles, and other scarcer species who live there. About as many herring gulls survived.

**France on May 31 rescinded a law** that required all 28,000 French racing pigeon owners to register their birds with the defence and interior ministries, just in case the birds should ever be needed in wartime.

**Final approval of Bill Clinton's plan to protect spotted owl habitat is still pending** after Judge William Dwyer of the federal district court in Seattle on June 6 allowed limited logging of old growth forests to go ahead, but also allowed lawsuits filed against the plan by both loggers and environmentalists to proceed.

**Dartmouth geochemists Page Chamberlain and Joel Blum** are reportedly close to perfecting an isotope mapping technique that will use trace minerals found in feathers to find out where birds migrate from. Presently the wintering areas of many neotropical songbird species who summer in the U.S. are unknown. Many of these species are in sharp decline, according to the annual Breeding Bird Survey conducted by volunteers under supervision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Isotope mapping may determine whether habitat loss due to rainforest logging is the cause. Complicating the issue, some other neotropical songbirds are on the increase.

**Pigeon rescuer Buzz Alpert and actress Robin Douglas** on June 15 told the Evanston city council that its strategy of sealing viaducts under rail bridges to prevent pigeon infestation amounts to burying pigeons alive. "I ask you to search your soul, to test your conscience, to find a way to be kind," Alpert said.

## Laboratory animals: rodent and bird verdict reversed

**The U.S. Court of Appeals** in late May struck down a 1992 federal court ruling that Congress meant the Animal Welfare Act to apply to rats, mice, and birds, exempted by the USDA since 1971. Declining to hear arguments, the court held that the Humane Society of the U.S. had no standing to bring the case because it could not prove it is harmed by the USDA policy in question. "We intend to petition the Appeals Court for a rehearing based on errors in the rul-

**Forty top medical institutions surveyed by Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Labs Inc.** of Long Island, New York, reported indicative differences in their use of cats for intubation practice. All 12 anesthesiology residency programs train residents in endotracheal intubation of newborns or infants, but none use animals, according to CAAL attorney Elinor Molbegott. All 16 pediatrics residency programs provide similar training; six use no animals, two

**For a detailed list of gruesome University of California at San Francisco biomedical research projects** that might be involved if UCSF is allowed to take over the Letterman Hospital research facility in the Presidio National Park, contact Sandy Barron at In Defense of Animals, 816 West Francisco Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901.

**The Scientists Center for Animal Welfare** has moved to Golden Triangle Bldg. #1,

American AV ad  
(paid through September)

ing," said Martin Stephens, Humane Society of the U.S. vice president for laboratory animal programs. Stephens dismissed the precedential import of the verdict on standing, but Valerie Stanley of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the lead attorney in the case, told the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that it means, in effect, that no animal protection organization may sue to protect laboratory animals.

**The Michigan Court of Appeals** ruled 3-0 on May 25 that workers who contracted herpes B via monkey bites while working for the International Research and Development Corp. may seek for worker's compensation, but may not sue for damages. One of the plaintiffs, Thomas McGeorge, died on June 20, 1989. The other, Scott Lennox, is still sick.

**Canadian Council on Animal Care** publications are notably less vitriolic since a recent change of CCAC leadership. One recent issue even debunked "the stereotype that animal rights advocates buy leather shoes and eat at Burger King between demonstrations," citing a recent study by Harold Herzog of Western Carolina University that found "nothing to suggest that animal rights activists as a group are in any way psychiatrically disturbed or misanthropic." The same issue said 2,115,006 animals were used by Canadian laboratories in 1992. Fish made up the greatest number, followed by mice.

**Excavation for a new sewer line** at Mt. McGregor State Prison in Wilton, New York, has turned up nearly 1,000 glass jars filled with the pickled remnants of fetal animals used to test tuberculosis drugs, buried and forgotten circa 1945. The find made headlines when a cub reporter misunderstood the word "fetal" to mean "aborted human remains."

**The Animal Alliance of Canada** seeks letters urging Ontario premier Bob Rae to authorize the New Democratic Party caucus to pass a bill banning cosmetic testing on animals before the next election, in 1995. Rae and the NDP are not expected to be re-elected. Address Rae c/o Legislative Bldg. Room 281, Queens Park, Ontario, Canada M7A 1A1.

**THE CIVIL ABOLITIONIST** explains how animal experiments hurt rather than help humans. For sample copy, send 29¢ stamp to Box 26, Swain, NY 14884.

rarely use animals, and six use animals routinely. Of seven emergency medical service programs, all provide the same kind of training; five use no animals, one rarely uses animals, and one does routinely. Of the five undergraduate medical schools, three do not provide training in intubating newborns and infants. The other two provide the training without animal use. Get details from Molbegott, 419 Latham Lane, East Williston, NY 11596.

**Earth 2000, an 18-member high school group from Reading, Pennsylvania,** won the American Anti-Vivisection Society's first annual Young Activists Campaign Contest on June 9, worth \$250, with activities including vegetarian meals for AIDS patients, lobbying efforts, and an anti-whaling demonstration in Washington D.C. Runners-up were the Humane Education and Living Project, of Deer Park, New York; Activists for a Healthy Future, in West Lafayette, Indiana; and the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, in Clarksville, Maryland.

**New York City is planning school curriculum revisions,** to take effect next year. Letters suggesting the use of non-animal scientific study methods may be sent to School Chancellor Ramon C. Cortines, 110 Livingston St., Room 512, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

**Of the 50 largest corporate users of animals** in research and testing, 15 are clients of Burson-Marsteller, an international public relations firm notorious for whitewashing military dictatorships and controversial industries (including the fur trade, for a time, until the furriers couldn't pay the BM bills).

**The Visible Human Project** expects to have both male and female cadavers online in tiny slices by October. The program, requiring use of special computers costing \$50,000 each, will replace many dissection exercises in medical teaching and training.

**A paper by Dr. Maryls Witte** and colleagues at the University of Arizona charged in the June 8 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that a misreading of animal test data led to serious errors in a 1992 *Science* report by Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute—and that *Science* tried to cover up the evidence. Gallo postulated that a compound from soil bacteria might be used to stop the growth of Kaposi's sarcoma, a purple skin cancer common in AIDS patients.

7833 Walker Dr., #340, Greenbelt, MD 20770; telephone 301-345-3500; fax 301-345-3503.

**Friends of Animals published a detailed resume of bizarre vivisection projects funded by the March of Dimes** in its summer 1994 newsletter, but wrongly listed the Cancer Fund of America, of Knoxville, Tennessee, as a cancer charity that does not fund animal-based research. In fact, the Cancer Fund of America has been in repeated trouble with regulatory authorities for alleged fraudulent accounting, and apparently funds little or no cancer research.

**Contrary to an indication in the June issue of ANIMAL PEOPLE,** the Michael Sargeant who buys dead cats from animal shelters has no association with Sargent-Welch biological supply, of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, according to San Bernardino Animal Control, of southern California, which was formerly one of Michael Sargeant's suppliers. Two weeks after the World Society for Animal Protection exposed a Mexican cat theft ring that supplies cats for dissection to U.S. firms including (indirectly) Sargent-Welch, whose involvement was discovered by *Boston Globe* reporter Scott Allen, Michael Sargeant sought to buy dead cats from the Los Angeles Animal Regulation Commission. He said he was based in Auburn, California, with facilities in Texas and elsewhere in southern California—and told San Bernardino officials he had a facility in Utah—but the only facility registered to his name on the current USDA list of Class B animal dealers is Sargeant's Wholesale Biological in Loomis, California. A Robert Sargeant is listed at Ramona, California. If such facilities don't handle live animals, however, they need not have Class B permits. There are no other Sargeants registered (by any spelling) in the southwest.

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR** sought by **The American AV Society.** Must have media contact experience and public speaking abilities; good writing skills; be free to travel and work occasional weekends; lobbying experience a definite plus; and must be extremely knowledgeable about animal rights issues, anti-vivisection in particular. Salary is \$25,000 per year plus generous benefits. Send resume to: Peggy Eldon, 801 Old York Rd., #204, Jenkintown, PA 19046 or fax 215-887-2088.

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# COURT CALENDAR

## Activism

**The U.S. Supreme Court on June 13 upheld federal court and Court of Appeals rulings that communities cannot constitutionally ban the display of political signs on citizens' own property.** Issued on behalf of anti-Persian Gulf War protester Margaret Gilleo, of Ladue, Missouri, who is now a Congressional candidate, the ruling applies as well to people who have been ordered to cease displaying signs on behalf of animals.

**Friends of Animals in early June won a judgement** against the State of Alaska for attorney's fees incurred in defending itself against governor Walter Hickel's failed attempt to sue FoA for libel. The Hickel suit was filed in June 1993 in an apparent attempt to prevent FoA from further publicizing the Alaskan plan to kill wolves in order to make more moose and caribou available to hunters.

**The Idaho State Supreme Court on June 10 reversed the conviction** of activist Claire Casey for hunter harassment. Casey was accused of scaring chukar pheasant away from two men who were hunting on federal land on November 29, 1990. "There is a realistic danger," the court wrote, "that the statute could significantly compromise recognized First Amendment rights." The ruling came as a

Congressional conference committee tried to reconcile the different versions of the Crime Bill passed by the House and Senate. The Senate version includes a hunter harassment statute.

**David Barbarash, a Canadian suspected of involvement in the June 1992 Animal Liberation Front raid on the University of Edmonton, Alberta,** was arrested by the FBI as an illegal alien on May 9 in Scotts Valley, California, and deported on May 27 to face charges. Darren Thurston, convicted in September 1993 in connection with the same raid, was re-sentenced on May 13 by the Alberta Court of Appeal. Originally given two years on probation and ordered to pay \$73,725 restitution, after serving 15 months in jail while awaiting trial, Thurston will now serve two more years, one year less than the prosecution requested in the appeal.

**Alleged British ALF fugitives Keith Mann and Angie Hamp** have reportedly been arrested in Hastings, England, a year after Mann escaped from a police van. Vivien Smith, who was arrested with Mann then, is reportedly at large again, having walked away from a supervised release program just one year into a seven-year sentence.

## Exotic animals

**New York City police responding to a burglary call** found 62 live rattlesnakes and more than 40 dead ones on June 5 at International Collection Enterprise, a Jackson Heights "debt collection agency" whose main business was apparently selling snake-based folk medicines. Arrested were the owner and two clerks, all related: Jung Kim, 45, Chung Kim, 27, and Chang Kim, also 27.

## Wildlife lawsuits

**The Exxon Corporation faces lawsuits seeking \$1.5 billion in compensatory damages and \$15 billion in punitive damages** following a June 13 federal jury verdict in Anchorage, Alaska, that the firm was negligent in hiring known alcoholic Joseph E. Hazlewood to captain the *Exxon Valdez*, the supertanker that hit rocks in Prince William Sound, Alaska, on March 24, 1989, causing the worst oil

## Dogs & Crime

**Murphy, a three-year-old golden retriever,** is Illinois' star witness against Helmut Hofer, 25, charged on May 10 with allegedly bludgeoning Suzanne Olds, 56, of Wilmette, last December. Hofer is described as a "business partner and frequent social companion" of the victim's estranged husband, Dean Olds, 64. Dean and Suzanne Olds were in the midst of a bitter divorce. The state contends that bite scars on Hofer match Murphy's tooth pattern. After unsuccessfully defending the victim, Murphy guarded her body until the crime was discovered.

**A 13-year-old boy** was charged June 1 with shotgunning a nine-year-old golden retriever belonging to Joseph Ellis, 50, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, as revenge for a thwarted robbery attempt. One day before the dog killing, police said, the suspect stole a bicycle from a nine-year-old boy at knifepoint.

**Aaron Wall, 19, and Michael Leombruno, 20,** of Ford Edward, New York, were charged May 24 with felony assault for setting a pit bull on Ernest Stanley Jr.; Stanley, who suffered an arm injury, had intervened when they allegedly set two pit bulls on a cat. In the same small town, alleged dogfighting trainer Michael E. Kelly was allowed to plea-bargain a conditional release on related drug charges four days later. Another alleged Fort Edward dogfighter, Clay Baudoux, 31, was given a similar plea bargain release from felony counts earlier.

**Former Pennsylvania SPCA driver Alexander Thomas, 20,** pleaded guilty on June 2 to dog theft and dogfighting. Sentencing was postponed.

**Ending a case that titlated Paris,** French Foreign Legion veteran Stig Hoffner, now bouncer for a Danish nightclub, was fined \$5,300 on June 8 and given a two-year suspended jail term for setting an attack-trained pit bull on karate teacher Raymond Gros last May, after finding Gros in bed with his girlfriend. The dog tore off Gros' right cheek.

**In Buenos Aires, Argentina,** building caretaker Jose Roberto Traverso was charged June 1 with killing a man whose dog urinated in a freshly cleaned doorway.

—Kim Bartlett

## *GATT panel says U.S. can't protect dolphins*

On May 23, one week before the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibition on the import of tuna netted "on dolphin" took full effect, a General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs panel ruled for the second time that the prohibition violates GATT because GATT does not allow trade bans based on commodity production methods.

As in 1991, the U.S. ignored the GATT ruling, bringing the ban on non-dolphin-safe tuna into place as scheduled on June 1. The previous ruling was brought on behalf of Mexico, which did not seek enforcement to avoid jeopardizing the North American Free Trade Agreement, then before Congress for approval. The May 23 ruling was brought on behalf of the European Union, and was slightly more favorable than the 1991 ruling in that it did recognize—in theory, if not in practice—the legitimacy of national attempts to mandate international environmental protection.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor immediately blasted the verdict, pledging to make public all documents in the case and press for an open rehearing. "GATT procedures not only denied us a fair hearing," Kantor said, "but they need to be totally revamped."

Senate Environment and Public Works committee chair Max Baucus (D-Montana) said the decision "further reinforces the need to work toward environmental reform in GATT."

Jason Black, communications officer for the World Society for the Protection of Animals, warned that the tuna ruling is a dangerous precedent. "The recent victory for animal protection groups in the decision of the International Standards Organization not to attach the label of 'humane' to trapped fur may be shortlived," Black said. "The decision not to label fur as being 'humanely trapped' will help to uphold the European Union's import ban on fur that is expected to take effect in 1995, but the import ban could be viewed as a barrier to trade, and be challenged as illegal under GATT." Black pointed out that GATT could also be used to challenge the EU ban on the import of milk products produced with the aid of bovine growth hormone. GATT implementation, said Black, "serves to reinforce the idea that animal welfare is incompatible with international trade." The result, he predicted, would be diminution of animal protection laws worldwide to meet GATT standards—and reluctance among legislators to press for new protections for animals.

"As Congress prepares to decide whether or not to approve the implementing legislation for GATT," Black emphasized, "it is vital that language be inserted to ensure that U.S. conservation and animal protection laws are not minimized."

In yet another case where a favorable ruling for animals could run afoul of GATT, Earth Island Institute, the American SPCA, the Humane Society of the U.S., the Sierra Club, and the Georgia Fishermen's Association together sued the U.S. Departments of Trade and Commerce on June 7 "for permitting foreign commercial shrimp fleets to routinely and brutally drown tens of thousands of sea turtles each year in flagrant violation and reckless disregard of federal laws," according to their suit synopsis. The case, the synopsis continued, "has the potential to result in the embargo of shrimp imported into the U.S. from approximately 80 nations, valued at over \$1.8 million, for failing to require all commercial shrimp trawlers to use turtle excluder devices."

The plaintiffs estimate that nonuse of TEDS kills 155,000 endangered turtles annually. However, the requirement of TED use would also be considered a "process standard" under the current GATT definitions.

**Former Jungle Friends pet store manager Edmund Celebucki, 40,** of Parma, Ohio, pleaded guilty on May 26 to trying to smuggle \$255,000 worth of exotic reptiles into the U.S., including 64 lizards and 226 snakes. Doing business as Herpetological Research Associates, Celebucki was charged in connection with two 1987 trafficking incidents, two more in 1989, and others in 1991 and 1993.

**Convicted of illegally capturing six baby loggerhead sea turtles** in Florida in August 1992 and taking them home as pets, James T. Frainey, 33, of Frankfort, Illinois, drew 70 days in jail and was ordered to pay \$14,455 restitution to the Shedd Aquarium on June 9. After the turtles began falling ill, Frainey abandoned one at the Shedd in September 1992, and another in January 1993. The Shedd finally caught him with a sting when he tried to leave two more in April 1993. He still faces unrelated check forgery charges.

**Authorities in Loxahatchee, Florida,** are probing the deaths from neglect of 430 exotic birds worth \$500,000 at the home of missing collector Bhagwan Lall. The door was unlocked and all Lall's clothes were gone. Also missing was a companion known only as Lila. Another 300 birds were rescued, weak but alive. At deadline police planned to excavate what they termed a "mysterious mound" in the backyard of the home.

**Exotic animal rancher Ron Morrow,** of Millerstown, Ohio, was fined \$50,000 on May 10 for more than 50 Animal Welfare Act violations, including operating without a permit, and was barred from getting a permit for at least 10 years. Morrow is expected to appeal. Also recently fined by the USDA for AWA exhibitors' permit infractions were Arthur and Joann Weinke of Weinke's Paul Bunyan Lookout in Spruce, Michigan (\$1,500 with \$2,500 suspended); Brian DeLong and Vincent Mancnielli of Aby Reptile Show in Newark, Delaware (\$500); Hank Post of Stagecoach Productions in Las Vegas, Nevada (\$2,500); and Peter Caron of Octagon Sequence of Eight, in Punta Gorda, Florida (\$10,000).

spill in North American history.

**The Wise Use theory of property rights took another legal hit** June 9 when the U.S. District Court in Cheyenne, Wyoming, ruled that wildlife belongs to the state and that the state can therefore restrict hunting on private property.

**The Cleveland Metroparks commissioners** have agreed to spend up to \$15,000 defending the park board and ranger Lillie Blair against a damage suit brought by George A. Csiba, of Auburn Township, who claims he was improperly arrested in April 1993 on an outstanding warrant issued after he was accused of setting his dog on deer in November 1992. The case was dismissed in August 1993 because the charges were not brought to trial within 45 days, as Ohio law demands.

## Animal neglect

**Howard Circuit, Maryland Judge Cornelius Sybert Jr. ruled June 5 that Howard County Animal Control warden Timothy Grove didn't need a search warrant** to inspect two starving cows in the barn of Dr. Richard John Burroughs, because a barn is not a citizen's home. Burroughs was convicted of cruelly neglecting the cows in May 1993. His appeal is pending.

**Mary L. Hatmaker, 31, a recent widow,** and her brothers Ricky and John Saulsbury, 29 and 30, were briefly held for psychiatric evaluation in Baltimore on June 6, after police removed 63 animals from their rat-and-roach-infested rowhouse on Friday and returned Sunday to remove 22 more they had picked up in the interim..

**The Promotion of Animal Welfare Society** in Paradise, California, is donating several thousand dollars to the Northwest Animal Shelter in Oroville, which is close to insolvency due to the cost of keeping animals in a series of cases involving poodle breeder/collectors Don and Charlotte Speegle. On May 18, two weeks after Charlotte Speegle sued the NWSPCA and Butte County Animal Control in federal court for alleged criminal conspiracy to put her out of business, the shelter sued the Speegles for \$301,000 in civil fines and exemplary damages.

## Meat became murder

**Black roosters, the political symbol of ousted president Kamuzu Banda, were beheaded en masse** in Blantyre, the capital of Malawi, on May 19. Coming after an orderly election, the killings were not expected to presage genocide, unlike in Rwanda, where years of symbolic animal killing flared into ongoing massacres of humans in mid-April. However, chicken-killing did become human-killing in two other remote nations with no food scarcity. On May 23 Cambodian soldiers Chan Thy, 28, and Chan Reaksmeay, 20, each drew 13 years in prison, while a third soldier, Mil Chan Vibol, 19, got 10 years, after killing a seven-year-old boy, a 54-year-old farmer, and a 24-year-old policeman who intervened when they tried to steal a chicken in the village of Ban Teay. Then, circa June 19, two Nicaraguan youths identified as J.L., 13, and A.J., 14, were charged with the machete murders of four children who caught the youths stealing a pair of chickens from their home in Pita village, Chontales province, and threatened to tell their mother.

Jane Gadbury

# SUMMER BOOKS

Fishwatching cover @ 52%

**The Cats of Thistle Hill**, by Roger Caras. Simon & Schuster (1230 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 1994. 236 pages. \$22 hardcover.

An excellent book for youngsters who demand to know why they cannot have as many pets as they like, *The Cats of Thistle Hill* is a melange of feline biographies, information about the origins of the species and current breeds; hints on the care, feeding, and behavioral problems of cats; and anecdotes about the other animals on Thistle Hill Farm, which seems to be less a farm than an animal refuge. Roger Caras, now president of the American SPCA and formerly an ABC television personality, apparently maintains the fiction of farming as a front for animal rescue. He provides a dollars-and-cents analysis of the adoption costs associated with each animal that someone else has irresponsibly dumped, adding debt-shirking to the already considerable list of charges against those who contribute to animal suffering. Caras is quite frank in his opinion of such people and what ought to be done with them.

Readers may have to keep turning pages backward, unfortunately, to see if they have missed transitional sentences, as Caras often begins new topics abruptly. The end of one and beginning of another may be indicated only with a top-of-the-page picture, while "from the barn bulletins" about new additions to the menagerie contribute little beyond further breaking his continuity.

—Phyllis Clifton

**Smart Cats: How To Understand & Train Them**, by Sigrid & Harald Theilig. Stirling Publishing Co., Inc. (387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016), 1994. 87 pages. Color photos, illustrations, index included. \$8.95.

Reading this book clued me in on everything I had done wrong in trying to transport cats by car or having them walk on a leash. The kicker is that the techniques of cat training are absurdly simple and make eminent sense, which is probably why they might tend to be overlooked when one is dealing with one's own cat(s).

The authors are careful to point out that cats in general have a personality only a few degrees removed from the wild. If this is respected and worked with, one can have cats who are pretty good companions, rather than the aloof,

**Ruffly Speaking**, by Susan Conant. Doubleday (1540 Broadway, New York, NY 10036), 1994. 261 pages, hardcover. \$19.95.

Light reading for the summer? Susan Conant's "dog lover's mystery" might fit the bill for people who are not too discerning about literary quality. Holly Winter, Conant's fictional heroine and owner of two Alaskan malamutes, has just lost one of her friends to a poisoned salad. The question is, was it an honest mistake or were the noxious greens deliberately insinuated into the salad? If the latter, why?

For the first half of the book, the reader might also ask, who cares? Instead of getting into the plot, Conant favors distracting "dogliness is next to godliness" philosophical rambling; discussion of the professional dog show circuit; descriptions of grooming and handling tricks; the pros and cons of various training methods; and observations about the sometimes fierce competition between show dog owners. Readers may well wonder how much actual love of dogs is part of their psychological makeup.

The most interesting parts of *Ruffly Speaking* concern the training of hearing dogs. This adds a clever angle to the murder plot, but can't quite compensate for stilted characters and a plot lacking any sense of intrigue.

—P.J. Kemp

## New wildlife titles

**The Zoo Book**, by Allen W. Nyhuis. Carousel Press (POB 6061, Albany, CA 94706-0061), 1994. 288 pages, 79 photos. \$14.95 paperback.

Exhaustive but not definitive, *The Zoo Book* will give zoogoers a general idea of what to expect at approximately 100 institutions, including 53 major U.S. zoos plus many aquariums, foreign zoos, and other venues for observing captive wildlife. Assessing each zoo from a tourist's perspective, *The Zoo Book* unfortunately gives good ratings to some whose animal holding conditions and programs for the benefit of wildlife are poor to mediocre. It also overlooks most small zoos. This justly penalizes the notorious roadside zoos, but may also tend to steer visitors away from some outstanding small zoos, such as the revamped collection at Watertown, New York, where a few

**Fishwatching: Your Complete Guide to the Underwater World**, by John Quinn. The Countryman Press (POB 175, Woodstock, VT 05091). 232 pages. \$18.00, paperback.

*Fishwatching* "had its genesis," author John Quinn writes, "on a wind-and-wave-swept fishing jetty in Deal, New Jersey, in a conversation I had with my own conscience following an especially exciting landing of a striped bass. Until that day I had been an enthusiastic sport angler and spearfisherman, and although I do not now condemn these activities out of hand...I have come to value less disruptive ways of interacting with the underwater world." Reaching an epiphany more often described by former hunters, Quinn has responded not with a tome on why fish have feelings or should have rights, but rather an extremely rich compilation of a life's learning about fish and their habi-

contrary, and sometimes hysterical fluffballs we often end up with. The method, which is carefully broken down for each particular training activity, requires patience, consistency, and genuine affection on the part of the trainer.

The book makes plain that cats are to be trained not for the purpose of showing off pretty tricks that reflect only on the owner, but rather to make life easier for all concerned. Necessary trips to the vet, housebreaking, and preventing furniture scratching all can be done without trauma to either cat or owner.

—P.J. Kemp

### **Making It Happen: Networking to End Companion Animal Overpopulation,**

edited by Esther Mechler. Published by Spay USA, a program of the North Shore Animal League Intl. Division (14 Vanderventer Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050). 240 pages. \$10.00 paperback.

Ubiquitous as fleas and rarely more useful, anthologies of conference proceedings are purportedly published for the benefit of those who couldn't attend the flea-circus in question, but usually serve mostly as expensive souvenirs for the speakers.

None of the above applies to *Making It Happen*, the proceedings of the 1993 Spay USA Action Conference. Unlike your average proceedings editor, Esther Mechler has paid close attention to lucidity, so that this volume actually reads like a book. Further, the event it records uniquely assembled a range of perspectives on just about every aspect of low-cost neutering: starting a program, starting a clinic, adapting a program to suit one's own region, statewide programs, government programs, private programs, combined programs, working with animal control departments, working with veterinarians, legislative approaches, public education, using the media, marketing, and fundraising.

Many of the contributors to *Making It Happen* are appallingly little-known within the humane community despite their wealth of expertise, in part because they've spent their long careers doing their jobs well instead of politicking on the conference circuit. Make the most of this introduction to them, including among others deserving of mention Donna Bishop, Mary Herro, Sue Skaskiw, Barbara Bonsignore, Mert Davis, W. Marvin Mackie, Pam Burns, Peggy Larson, Jeff Young, and Henry Suhrke. They share the secrets to doing what you've always wished you could do, if only you could figure out how.

—Merritt Clifton

years ago the administration realized that keeping a few native species in exemplary naturalistic exhibits can be far more attractive and educational than keeping a lot of exotic species in a depressing concrete and steel prison.

These faults aside, *The Zoo Book* offers an impressive amount of information. A solid start to what should become an often updated series, it could be most improved not by making it thicker, but rather by turning each of the major regional sub-headings into a separate as well as more complete volume—which would enhance sales, because a lot of people who won't pay the cover price for capsule descriptions of zoos that are beyond driving range would nonetheless pay half that much for a guide to all of their local captive wildlife viewing options.

**Wildlife Survivors: the flora and fauna of tomorrow,** by John R. Quinn. TAB Books (Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294-0850). 208 pages. \$12.95, paperback.

Whatever naturalist John R. Quinn did to incite sabotage by book designers Jaclyn J. Boone and Brian Allison, it wasn't half what they deserve for rendering almost unreadable one of the most thorough looks yet at the natural history of the many species which thrive in the presence of human beings. The *sans serif* typeface, intended for limited use in eye-stopping advertisements, inhibits fluid reading when slapped down in dense blocks across pages so wide they should have been split into two columns. This is doubly unfortunate, because besides presenting information on familiar birds and mammals, Quinn covers plants, fish, reptiles and amphibians, along with discussion of their interdependency in the urban ecology. The factual data on each individual species is readily available from other field guides, but the context is not. The most distinctive and valuable aspect of *Wildlife Survivors* is Quinn's review of just why the species he describes survive, while others go extinct.

Communicate with Animals - paid through Oct.

tat. *Fishwatching* may actually be the most comprehensive book about fish yet written for a nonacademic adult audience that does not focus upon ways to kill them. Much of it focuses upon Quinn's own underwater observations. On the way down he adds a quick course on the basics of scuba diving. The technological obstacles are such that fishwatching will probably never become a bigger business than either birdwatching or fishing, but certainly if more people appreciated fish, we'd have a healthier and more biologically diverse environment.

**Living With Wildlife: How to Enjoy, Cope with, and Protect North America's Wild Creatures Around Your Home and Theirs,** by the California Center for Wildlife with Diana Landau and Shelley Stump. Sierra Club Books (100 Bush St., 13th floor, San Francisco, CA 94104). 352 pages. \$15.00 paperback.

*Living With Wildlife* probably won't supersede Guy Hodge's 1990 *Pocket Guide to The Humane Control of Wildlife in Cities & Towns* as the wildlife book that animal control officers use most: it doesn't fit easily into a pocket or glove compartment, it gains much bulk from tips on wildlife-watching and natural history that aren't necessarily pertinent to nuisance wildlife control, it costs about three times as much as the Hodge book, and it appears from the Sierra Club, which has no history of involvement with animal control, while the Hodge book was published by his employer, the Humane Society of the U.S.

However, if you have room on your shelf for two such guides, *Living With Wildlife* is a good consulting reference, and it may help with many situations that the Hodge book does not address. Moreover, it covers a wealth of species that Hodge neglected. Maybe you've never had an animal control emergency involving a sea turtle before, nor even one involving a domestic pig. When you do, though, you'll need to borrow expertise in a hurry, and chances are it will be at a bad hour for calling someone. For less than your agency would pay for an hour of holiday overtime, *Living With Wildlife* could easily save its own price the first time you use it.

—Merritt Clifton

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**North Atlantic Humpback Whales**, recorded by Paul Knapp Jr. Compass Recordings (POB 8173, Bridgeport, CT 06605), 1992. \$10.00.

As the do-wop chorus behind Paul Winter, Manfred Mann, Country Joe and others, whales have a CV comparable to that of the little-known Diana Love, who sang on even more hit albums than the Beatles before getting a star billing in her 29th year of rock-and-roll. Paul Knapp Jr., an active member of Cetacean Society International, rectifies the musical injustice to whales with his tape *North Atlantic Humpback Whales*. The whales sing uninterrupted and unspliced on side A, picking up a background chorus of popping and crackling pistol shrimp on side B.

Some listeners may be surprised that the whales' style more resembles country-western than jazz, folk, or rebel rock. But humpbacks aren't longhairs. Playing their equivalent of a singles bar on a Saturday night, they mingle barnyard sounds with a refrain reminiscent of bed-springs, making their intentions clear. Philosophizing about what it all means can wait until Sunday morning—or maybe they already know.

That's my interpretation. Our almost-four-year-old son Wolf may have another, listening to *North Atlantic Humpback Whales* in studious silence for hours with his head slightly cocked, as if he hears a message that has eluded all the PhDs who have spent the past 20 years trying unsuccessfully to crack the linguistic code of whales—if indeed there is one. Whatever Wolf picks up, though, he does not translate into English. "They're just whales," he tells me. "They're just whales singing. Play it again." So we do, he listens, and I wonder.

—Merritt Clifton

**Early-Age Spay/Neuter**, distributed by Cats In Need of Human Care (POB 431, Pomona, CA 91769, attn. Tiffany Curry). \$10.00, or \$13.00 including additional information for veterinarians.

"I began early-age neutering in early 1988," recalls veterinarian W.M. Mackie in a commentary distributed with the *Early-Age Spay/Neuter* video. "By the summer of 1989, the Coalition for Pets in Los Angeles assigned Phyllis Daugherty to video me in a show-and-tell. It is an amateur production," Mackie acknowledges of the newly released product. But the technical faults don't get in the way of the message. "The purpose," Mackie continues, "is to show my anesthesia protocol and to demonstrate that the skill required is not extraordinary. Shown quite clearly is that recovery of youthful patients is quick."

Because the video is intended for use in veterinary instruction, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** asked for an opinion from Peggy Larson, DVM, the leading neutering practitioner in Vermont, whose long career (described in our July/August 1993 issue) has combined professional distinction with frequent critical challenges to the veterinary establishment.

## ON SCREEN

"I found it to be generally very good," Larson said. "I especially liked the commentary on the improved health and behavior of spayed and neutered animals. I was very happy to see that the mothers of the kittens were also spayed," along with the kittens themselves. "The plane of anesthesia was very good and the display of sterile instruments was impressive. The technique was flawless."

But Larson, a former USDA inspector, did note potential problems. "If the video is used to try to convince veterinarians to do early neutering," she said, as opposed to teaching skills to those already interested, "there might be some criticism about the anesthetic gas escaping into the room from around a loosely fitting anesthetic mask; some criticism of Dr. Mackie for not scrubbing before putting on his gloves; for not wearing a mask or cap; and for wearing a watch that the gloves do not cover. While these infractions are minor and are of no importance to the success of the surgery, some veterinarians will undoubtedly yell sloppy technique. Unfortunately," she added, "some of our techniques are more for show than for necessity."

*Humpback whale. (Photo by Bill Rossiter.)*

**The Think Film**, free to shelters, from the North Shore Animal League (Lewyt St., Port Washington, NY 11050).

The North Shore Animal League offers *The Think Film* free to all who request it on humane society letterhead. Intended for either continuous screening in adoption centers or for use in humane education, the five-minute video describes the duties and difficulties that come with a pet, suggesting simple solutions to commonplace problems. In keeping with the NSAL philosophy, the video doesn't preach. Instead of stating negatives, it states corresponding positives, preparing the viewer for possible trouble while providing reassurance that each situation can be dealt with. The animated format is suitable for both children and adults.

Okay, so you don't have a video monitor at your shelter. Maybe you don't even have a waiting room. No problem. Get somebody to donate a used monitor, use brackets to mount it on a wall, and give *The Think Film* a try. There's not much you can do to help your shelter that could have as much positive impact with as little cash outlay.

—Merritt Clifton

## OBITUARIES

**George Huebner**, 51, died of cancer on May 26 at home in Houston.

Huebner became aware of humane issues as curator of laboratory animals from 1961 until 1977 at the now defunct Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences. That job overlapped 22 years as head of

the veterinary paramedic program at Houston Community College. In 1973 Huebner cofounded Citizens for Animal Protection, serving on the board from 1977 on as it grew to run three Houston-area shelters.

"He was an inspirational force and practical guide in helping CAP plan and open our Pet Adoption Center in 1981," CAP officer Kappy Muenzer recalled. In 1983 Huebner began a weekly column for the *Houston Chronicle*, "Pet Place," which ran until his death. Since 1980, Huebner also managed the Animal Rescue League Humane Ranch in Arcola, Texas, a sanctuary for horses.

Huebner's most dramatic work, however, came as director of the CAP animal cruelty investigative program and cofounder, with deputy constable Guy Clark, of the all-volunteer Harris County Animal Cruelty Enforcement Unit. "On his own time," recounted Muenzer, "he went to night law enforcement classes and became the first Harris County constable to specialize in cruelty investigation." From 1980 until 1985, Huebner and Clark led the unit in a series of headline-making raids on cockfights, dogfights, and other abusive situations.

"Humans were put on earth as shepherds in charge of animals, and George was one of the best shepherds," said Clark.

"I'll tell you what humane work does," Huebner once wrote. "It hooks you. It's like an addiction. Once you go out there and help a dog, a cat, or a horse who's tied up, who's starving, who has blisters on her neck, you go back. You feel as if you've done something to help that no one else was going to do. And you realize how much more work needs to be done. Yeah, I'm really hooked."

## MEMORIALS

In memory of Peter Berg, born November 16, 1948, deceased April 4, 1991. Peter was passionately and selflessly committed to the relief of animal suffering. His dream was nothing less than the abolition of all forms of cruelty and the establishment of global reverence for life. In Rochester he led People for Animal Rights and inspired a group who tirelessly protested cruelty in laboratories, supply houses, fur shops, circuses, zoos, factory farms, and more. In addition, Peter was a member of the board of the Rochester Area Vegetarian Society, where his model of ethical veganism added to the enlightenment of the vegetarian community.

—Stanley M. Sapon, Ph.D., Coordinator of the Rochester Area Vegetarian Society, for the Memorial Fund Committee

In memory of Precious, who was rescued two years ago, hardly more than a kitten and working at survival despite being almost blind from some unknown traumatic event. Whatever it was stunted his growth and weakened his immune system, and a respiratory infection caught from his housemates brought him down. He asked less of life, and gave love more freely, than any other cat I've known, let alone any human. His short life just may have been more satisfying than the much longer and much more selfish lives of most of us.

—Anonymous

In memory of Bull.

—Lillian Angelini

*Peter Berg*

**Jared Tamler Schottland**, 13, son of activist Julie Tamler and New England Anti-Vivisection Society executive director Jon Schottland, died April 8. Born severely brain-damaged, Jared was confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak, but in various ways demonstrated empathy for animals and became a familiar figure at protests, including the anti-greyhound racing vigils that helped to close the track at Pownal, Vermont, and the 1991 mass demonstration against the annual Labor Day pigeon shoot in Hegins, Pennsylvania.

**Jeffrey Jerome**, perhaps the most famous pig in the world, was killed by lightning on May 31 at San Marcos, Texas. The son of Priscilla, a pet pig who saved a drowning child in 1984, Jeffrey Jerome helped Ada Davis of Houston raise funds to help the homeless until 1988, when he was banished for violating the city animal control ordinance. The Texas legislature rejected an attempt to override the ordinance on his behalf. Jeffrey Jerome would have been seven in July.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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# NORTH SHORE ANIMAL LEAGUE IS...

Lady with dog in cast — enlarge 15%.

**The Handbook of Cage and Aviary Birds**, edited by David Alderton. Sterling Publishing Co. (387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016-8810). 496 pages, including 269 color illustrations. \$24.95 hardcover.

This may be the most useful title for animal rescuers yet in the fast-growing Stirling cage bird reference library. If you're like most animal care and rescue workers, you don't handle exotic birds often enough to have particular bird expertise, and you sure don't recognize the really rare species and subspecies. Yet making quick positive identifications can be essential when, for instance, the cops nab 15 birds in a drug raid and you need to 1) decide whether to call in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to investigate possible violations of CITES and the Endangered Species Act, and 2) find a qualified foster home to keep the birds until their permanent placement can be resolved. *The Handbook of Cage and Aviary Birds* is essentially a field guide to all the species you're more likely to find indoors than out. It also conveniently includes enough care and feeding tips to enable you to keep birds alive until someone more expert can take over.

—Merritt Clifton

**The First Pet History of the World**, by David Comfort. Fireside Books (1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 1994. 279 pages, paperback, \$10.95.

David Comfort's *First Pet History of the World* owes more to Mel Brooks than Will and Ariel Durant, indiscriminately mixing fact and fiction with little attention to completing the journalistic checklist of who, what, where, when, why, and how, and none whatever to attribution. For the same price you could read the most whacked-out tabloid at your local supermarket for at least a year, be about as reliably informed, and have something to line the cat-carrier with when you're done.

—Merritt Clifton

Lady with kitten—reduce 27%.

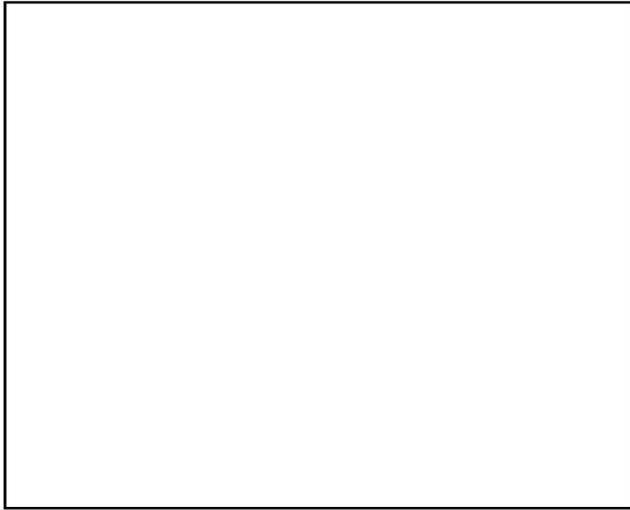
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Whether it's a newborn orphaned kitten who must be bottle-fed around the clock, a rescued pet who needs a "private nurse" while



As Manager of the League's Foster Care Department, Gladys Schurkman (pictured above with one of her special charges) takes care of hundreds and hundreds of the League's "babies."

And being a mom is just what Gladys does best. She gives just the right dose of "tender, loving care" to each of her four-footed friends. "I bring my bottle babies back and forth with me to work because they have to be fed every three to four hours depending on their age," says Gladys. "I think the hardest part of my job is saying good-bye to the babies I've helped raise. But, I feel good knowing that, thanks to the League, these little guys have gotten a second chance."

Whether it's a newborn orphaned kitten who must be bottle-fed around the clock, a rescued pet who needs a "private nurse" while recuperating from surgery, illness, or injury, or an abandoned pregnant dog needing some "T.L.C." until the birth of her litter, we pride ourselves in the quality of care given by the Foster Care staff here at North Shore Animal League.

Our state-of-the-art Medical Center includes a Foster Care unit staffed with special people to meet a pet's special needs. In addition, the League has a unique Off-Premise Foster Care Program where Foster Care parents open their homes and their hearts to these "little guys" who need that extra care.

- This on-going Foster Care Program continues to grow--and in 1992, more than 3,500 mistreated, injured, ill and pregnant animals were and cared for through the Program.
- Currently, there are 25 specially trained, off-premise foster parents tending to those animals needing home care until they are ready for adoption.

#### YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO:

- Contact your local shelters or humane societies and see if they have such a program. Then, offer to help.
- Begin foster care programs in your area.
- Recruit others to become foster parents, too.

**NORTH SHORE ANIMAL LEAGUE, INC.**  
**LEWYT STREET**  
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**Nominations for the Bill Rosenberg Award,** a plaque and \$250 savings bond presented by the Farm Animal Reform Movement to an outstanding farm animal advocate under age 18, are due September 16. Get details from POB 22213, Alexandria, VA 22304, or call Riki, 703-823-8951.

their income by depressing the price of various procedures without providing compensation.

- Many veterinarians may equate pet health insurance with Medicaid for pets, as 24% of low-cost neutering practitioners and 29% of AVMA list respondents said such programs should cover only pets whose owners prove need.

Nearly everyone, no matter how negative about existing pet health insurance, offered some opinion as to what a successful plan should cover:

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>AVMA</b>	<b>LOW-COST SHELTERS</b>	<b>OWNERS</b>
Routine vaccinations	34%	23%	27%
Laboratory diagnostics	76%	53%	41%
Prescription drugs	55%	41%	27%
Congenital defects	22%	12%	14%
Dental care	64%	42%	22%
Second opinions	51%	32%	19%
Euthanasia	29%	26%	16%
Disposal of remains	19%	14%	5%
Life-threat. conditions only	13%	16%	19%
All essential health care	54%	47%	43%

Only veterinarians from the AVMA list reached clear agreement that any particular type of care is a must for a pet health insurance plan to cover. Their first priority, laboratory diagnostics, drew close to 50% support from each of the other groups. Their second priority, however, pet dental care, didn't get more than 42% support from anyone else.

Roughly half of all respondents seem to believe that all essential health care should be covered. Does this mean roughly half would be willing to pay for comprehensive pet care? That's another matter.

#### PET OWNERS WOULD PAY AS AN ANNUAL PREMIUM

<b>AGE</b>	<b>MALE DOG</b>		<b>FEMALE DOG</b>	
	<b>Ave.</b>	<b>Med.</b>	<b>Ave.</b>	<b>Med.</b>
Under 1 year	\$48.43	\$50.00	\$46.77	\$45.00
Under 2 years	\$41.00	\$50.00	\$44.55	\$37.50
2 to 5 years	\$43.75	\$22.50	\$46.33	\$50.00
6-10 years	\$47.08	\$45.00	\$40.33	\$50.00
10+ years	\$55.36	\$50.00	\$47.08	\$40.00

<b>AGE</b>	<b>MALE CAT</b>		<b>FEMALE CAT</b>	
	<b>Ave.</b>	<b>Med.</b>	<b>Ave.</b>	<b>Med.</b>
Under 1 year	\$41.54	\$30.00	\$42.35	\$30.00
Under 2 years	\$38.06	\$25.00	\$42.25	\$42.50
2 to 5 years	\$47.63	\$45.00	\$44.07	\$45.00
6-10 years	\$36.82	\$35.00	\$30.77	\$30.00
10+ years	\$39.64	\$40.00	\$35.39	\$30.00

Of the 20 average and median suggested premiums for dogs, 17 are from \$40.00 to \$50.00. The range for cats is wider, but 18 of 20 fall between \$30.00 and \$45.00. There are 20 comparisons of averages with medians. Only twice is the gap more than \$10.00.

However, using these figures as a basis for establishing actual premiums is problematic because they present inverse values. Older pets are more likely to develop chronic conditions, yet only owners of male dogs seem willing to pay more for medical care as their pets age. Owners of female cats seem to want to pay less.

Once again we confront a paradox. As the number of unwanted litters falls, through the success of low-cost neutering programs, cutting shelter surrenders will become a higher priority in humane work. One aspect of this will be working with veterinarians to promote better awareness of pet health maintenance, in effect trying to convince pet keepers to pay more. Simultaneously, programs must be devised to bring the cost of pet health maintenance down into the range that most pet keepers will pay.

























































