

What we've learned from feral cats

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SHUSHAN, New York—If the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** headquarters were the space station in *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, old Bull the former feral cat would be Constable Odo. Battle-scarred as a pirate, he lived most of his life in a wrecked car in the slum district of a struggling Connecticut mill town. He hates and fears humanity. And he's the walking refutation of almost everything anyone has ever believed about tough tomcats.

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett puts it, "Bull would be moral by human standards." Despite his piratical appearance, he observes rules of conduct generally believed to be beyond feline comprehension. From our first introduction to Bull, we've been repeatedly con-

founded by his altruism, his rigid respect for law and order, and his courage in what could only be described as moral dilemmas.

Bull doesn't steal. Ponder that. Most cats (and dogs) delight in stealing. It's a trick that enhanced the odds their wild ancestors would survive. But even when he could steal, Bull does not, waiting his turn for food and never hogging the dish when eating among others.

And that's only the beginning. If Bull needs to throw up a hair ball, he walks to the litter box. Nobody taught Bull to be fastidious; nobody can get near him. He just is.

We discovered Bull a little over a year ago while

coordinating a cat rescue project in Connecticut, when someone reported that a big orange feral tom cat had brought two kittens to be fed at her doorstep.

"You mean a feral mother," Kim corrected. Tom cats may be tolerant of their young, and might even play with them, contrary to the stereotype of the infanticidal tom—though there are also some of those around. But the notion of a nurturing feral tom seemed too far-fetched to be possible, especially given the harsh circumstances of these cats.

Yet the story checked out. Old Bull, ferocious as any tom who ever lived, had indeed helped a couple of kit-

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

Chicago, New Jersey, Macon

Model animal control programs meet fiscal reality

SHORT-TERM SAVINGS MAY MEAN LONG-TERM TROUBLE

CHICAGO, Ill., SPRINGFIELD, N.J., and MACON, Ga.— The financial pressures of the 1990s threaten to undo the model animal population control programs envisioned in the late 1980s, just as their benefits are beginning to be realized.

The budgetary ax fell first and hardest in Los Angeles, California, where on July 1, 1992, the city closed the public low-cost neutering clinics that helped cut animal control pickups from 144,000 in 1970 to 87,000 in 1991, even as the estimated city pet population rose by 21%. Euthanasia rates were cut proportionately. Animal control officials estimated that for every dollar

spent on neutering, the city saved \$10 in pickup and euthanasia expenses. The clinics survived the huge rollback of city services that followed the adoption of statewide property tax limits in 1977, but after riots wiped out the city treasury in early 1992, they were deemed expendable.

Riots weren't to blame in Chicago, Illinois, nor in New Jersey, nor in Macon, Georgia—only decades of business-as-usual that somehow left behind eroding tax bases, failed developments, declining family incomes, increased demand for social services, and sharply reduced federal aid.

The result is the gradual dismemberment of trend-setting animal population control programs that by all accounts have been successful—just not self-sufficient at a time when governments have no money to invest, even in developing longterm savings.

Chicago

The \$8.5 million David R. Lee Animal Care Center, opened in March 1984, testifies to the scope of Peter Poholik's vision. Poholik was appointed executive director of the Chicago Commission on Animal Care and Control by former mayor Jayne Byrne in 1982, after serving a decade with the Chicago Police Department mounted patrol unit. He inherited a traditional dog pound, with a high euthanasia rate, low adoption rate, antiquated facilities, and a demoralized staff of 67. Helping push through a bond issue, Poholik supervised con-

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(Photo by Merritt Clifton)

No dolphins in Denver!

ACTIVIST CAMPAIGN SUCCEEDS

DENVER, Colo.—An astute media campaign including extensive advertising in local newspapers and the April back cover ad in **ANIMAL PEOPLE** paid off big for Animal Rights Mobilization! on May 13 when the promoters of the proposed Colorado's Ocean Journey aquarium dropped plans to include captive dolphins. It was apparently the first time any major aquarium in planning anywhere cancelled a marine mammal exhibit under pressure from an animal rights group.

Apparently pushed by both politicians and corporate backers to avoid further high-profile confrontation, after a six-month war of words, project cofounders Bill and Judy Fleming declared, "The dolphin mission is not essential to the success of this project." Literature promoting Colorado's Ocean Journey had indicated at various times that it might include not only a conventional dolphin show, but also a swim-with-dolphins

concession that was later described as a therapeutic program for autistic children and perhaps an exhibit of highly endangered South American river dolphins.

Because the descriptive literature and public statements of the Flemings kept changing as the dolphin issue heated up, ARM! national director Robin Duxbury had to aim her ads at a moving target, but she still scored a series of damaging hits, most notably in January when she revealed that the Colorado's Ocean Journey volunteer veterinary advisors, Dr. Jay Sweeney and Dr. Gregory Brossart, had been professionally disciplined for their work with dolphins in connection with other aquariums. Sweeney ran into trouble with the state of Florida in 1990 for his role in capturing two dolphins near Tampa Bay to supply the Baltimore Aquarium, while Brossart was veterinarian of record at Ocean World in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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Outstanding cruelty officer tells how she gets convictions

Editorials

Pet overpopulation: it's win or lose now

The latest shelter statistics, presented on page twelve of this issue, suggest that at present about four million cats per year are euthanized for population control—about two-thirds of the total number of animals euthanized because they have no homes.

The significance of this number is not only that it is low indeed compared to the best estimates of feline euthanasia published only a couple of years ago, and almost unbelievably low compared to the estimates of 15 years ago. Records of kitten survival in both private homes and feral colonies indicate that only about half of the kittens who are born live long enough to be weaned. Only about half of the kittens who survive that long reach sexual maturity, so that no more than 25% of all the cats born eventually join the breeding population, even without neutering. Further, according to data **ANIMAL PEOPLE** collected and published in 1992, while conducting the cat rescue project described in our lead feature for this month, only about half of all feral mothers live long enough to bear more than one litter, and only half of those live long enough to bear more than three litters. Our cat rescue records indicate that only one feral mother in a hundred lives longer than three years, so four to five litters appears to be the normal outside limit to feral reproduction.

If non-spayed mothers, both pets and ferals, have on average two litters, and if on average two kittens from each litter survive to sexual maturity, the entire cat surplus could be produced by just one million mothers per year. What's more, the present rate of removal of cats from the feral breeding population via euthanasia, disease, accidents, and neuter/release is such that the homeless cat population may already have been reduced to equilibrium, the point at which removals equal reproduction. The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** survey of cat rescuers' estimates of the population under their care, published last November, confirmed that this seems to be the case. Although the population of individual colonies varied from 1991 to 1992, the total numbers each year were almost identical.

This suggests we have reached a critical and long awaited juncture in the struggle against pet overpopulation. During the past decade a variety of innovative and aggressive discount neutering, public education, and breed rescue programs have cut the number of euthanasias of dogs and cats by two-thirds—and dog euthanasia numbers have fallen even more dramatically than those for cats. We are now at last at a point where elimination of pet overpopulation altogether within the next five to ten years is a reasonable goal.

On the other hand, as our May issue warned with a screaming headline, we are also only a few years away from losing all the ground we've gained if the present momentum is halted. Euthanasia statistics from Los Angeles, in particular, demonstrate that pet overpopulation is not a problem we will permanently "solve"; rather, like the spread of contagious diseases, it is a problem we can contain, and keep contained, so long as we remain aware of the risks and remain dedicated to maintaining preventive measures. As soon as the effort slackens, homeless animal numbers and euthanasia rates skyrocket.

Unfortunately, as our May issue noted, Los Angeles closed its 20-year-old city-operated neutering clinics a year ago due to a civic budget crisis. The immediate result seems to be a drop of five to 10% in the total number of neutering operations performed in Los Angeles, which could quickly translate into an increase of 30% to 60% in the number

In the long run, as guest columnist Margaret Anne Cleek argues on page 5, we must convince both politicians and the public that properly funding the most cost-effective approach to animal control—population control—is as much in the public interest as funding maintenance of roads, sewers, police, and fire prevention service. Pet overpopulation is an "animal issue," yes, but it is also an issue vital to public health and safety, whether the threat comes from the roving dog packs that terrorized many American cities 150 years ago or from the quiet transmission of parasites.

In the short run, the job is still up to us, all of us, by whatever means we have available. Work on the political front may take many different directions. Our May issue reviewed a wide variety of legislative approaches to pet overpopulation that have been tried here and there, measured the results attributable to each, and pointed out that no single approach appears to be universally and absolutely successful. This month, guest columnist Cleek and Lewis R. Plumb offer more ideas. One way or another, it should be possible to develop an acceptable and feasible anti-pet overpopulation plan for even the most financially stressed communities—maybe not the ideal, but something to at least help insure that the problem doesn't get worse.

At the same time, it is equally necessary to continue the many private charitable initiatives that provide the models and inspiration for public efforts. On our first letter page, Friends of Animals advertises one of the oldest and most successful of the anti-pet overpopulation programs that brought us to the present point; on our back cover, the North Shore Animal League is announcing a newly formed alliance with another successful charitable program, Spay USA. Together, FoA, Spay USA, and NSAL's own neutering assistance program for humane societies and animal control agencies are helping to neuter approximately 400,000 pets per year. Such large-scale national efforts are only the most visible part of a quiet *ad hoc* crusade involving tens of thousands of dedicated volunteers more than 2,000 sympathetic veterinarians (who comprise approximately 10% of all licensed small-animal veterinarians in the U.S.), and hundreds of smaller local and regional programs, who collectively neuter several million dogs and cats per year at discount rates.

Successful anti-pet overpopulation programs, large and small, have one universal element. From individual humane cat trappers who provide neutering to neighborhood ferals to high-volume clinics like the one operated by the Animal Foundation of Nevada in Las Vegas, which neuters more than 7,500 animals a year, people of compassion and foresight are giving their time and money to correct a situation caused by other people who have neither compassion nor foresight. As Cleek writes, "We all have to pay for the irresponsible because by definition they won't take the responsibility."

Poverty is one reason why many people still fail to neuter their pets without a nudge from someone else, but it is not the only reason, nor, in our experience, is it the major reason. We gained much of our own hands-on experience with pet overpopulation in the inner city of Bridgeport, Connecticut, one of the poorest neighborhoods relative to the regional cost of living in the whole U.S.—and vividly remember elderly women who hadn't even a warm coat to wear in winter pressing \$20 bills on us in gratitude that we'd fixed their

of homeless animals. At that point the fecundity of dogs and cats is such that the growth of the homeless animal population could become exponential, until the carrying capacity of the often hostile habitat is exceeded and disease and starvation again become the primary population levelers, at tremendous cost in both animal suffering and dollars spent for animal control.

As this issue points out, beginning on page one, model anti-pet overpopulation programs in the cities of Chicago and Macon and the state of New Jersey are also in bad financial trouble, simply because their respective communities are in trouble and animal-related services are politically easier to cut or just not budget than services to voting human beings. The Los Angeles experience, which proved over two decades that every dollar spent for neutering saves ten on animal control, is apparently not enough to convince politicians that cutting anti-pet overpopulation program funding just because it can be cut is penny-wise but pound-foolish.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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cats; whole families living in single rooms who would somehow produce a fiver or a ten-spot; rag-tag children who interrupted their games in the street to run knock on doors and locate other cats who needed fixing. For these people, the biggest problem wasn't lack of willingness to pay, even if the means was hard to come by; it was simple lack of access to veterinary clinics, discount or otherwise, in an area with little public transportation and no vets within many miles.

Nor was lack of money the problem for the man with a new house and two sports cars who ordered us to cease catching and fixing ferals who made their homes on his property (although we caught them on the property next door), or for the countless people in wealthy suburbs who asked us to neuter their pets at our expense. Because selfishness and irresponsibility know no class structure, the rest of us must unfortunately continue to subsidize neutering the pets of a certain number of the rich as well as the poor until and unless we can devise a socially acceptable way to hold every pet owner to account.

When we do, enforcement will more likely be through moral approbation than law

The quest for accuracy

The New York Times is justly reputed as one of the most conscientious of newspapers—because it runs a daily "Corrections" box, because it publishes lots of letters in response to articles, and because editorial opinions, commentaries, and news analyses are clearly labeled. Even at that, it sometimes badly goofs. A decade ago the *Times* reassigned a distinguished investigative reporter and all but recanted his expose of how government troops in El Salvador massacred 791 people, most of them children, because the editors believed a U.S. State Department denial that any such thing ever happened.

Just the same, when the bones and the truth were exposed last fall, the *Times* promptly admitted the horrible mistake—on page one.

And that's why the *Times* can be trusted.

Mistakes in reporting happen for many reasons: because sources with an axe to grind may lie or conceal information, because reporters are sometimes confused in the struggle to master a torrent of information on an unfamiliar subject enough to write about it or short notice, or because information is garbled in transmission or translation.

For that reason, we emulate the *Times* by publishing a correction box and devoting a high percentage of our page space to letters and guest columns, some of which assert that we're stupid, crooked, and/or heartless.

We don't believe in concealing errors. Neither do we make them on purpose. If you think you see an error here, please let us know, as promptly as possible. Send us any source material you have, so that we can verify what's right and what's wrong. If it's a matter of factual error, we'll run a correction; if a matter of interpretation, we'll run letters expressing other points of view.

There are only a few kinds of letter we won't publish: those that may be libelous; those that are anonymous, those of excessive length, those that are redundant because someone else made the same points here already, and those that are either unintelligible or irrelevant to animal protection, e.g. abstract philosophical polemics. At that, we'll usually try to edit such letters down to something we can use, if there is an insightful or pertinent core. And when we cut for reasons of space, we cut first the letters telling us how wonderful we are. The letters saying we're all stupid, crooked and heartless, if signed, stay in—so long as they don't make similar accusations about anyone else without including substantive proof.

We trust you'll draw your own conclusions.

Letters

More on Spira

I've belatedly finished reading the April issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. I especially appreciated the editorial about Henry Spira's appearance in the periodical of the Foundation for Biomedical Research. He has the right attitude and approach in addressing our so-called enemies by trying to show them our mutual interests in a non-threatening way, and by seeing them as people who might, when approached appropriately, find alternative research to be in their own best interests.

I also appreciated that John Kullberg, in his letter, urged us to "see the humane movement as a continuum of caring for *all* creatures, human and nonhuman."

—Marion Friedman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Intubation bill

The infamous endotracheal intubation bill is back in the New York state legislature. This bill would allow unlicensed emergency medical students to perform endotracheal intubation on animals (mostly cats) under the supervision of a veterinarian, during non-emergency surgery. The procedure involves passing a breathing tube through the mouth of the animal, and can result in tracheal damage as well as death. It would require the consent of the animal's owner or custodian. Since it is preposterous to believe that most pet owners would give consent to this practice, it is apparent that "custodian" refers to shelters—the unscrupulous ones who have an endless number of cats for hire and

secure the back door.

This is my second appeal to solve these problems. Several months ago I sent out dozens of letters asking why we all can't somehow hire someone to trap ferals. Money should motivate someone to get out and do it (and I have a long list of places where I have permission to trap, but I already have a fulltime job). I don't think I received one answer.

Some day someone will specify that his or her estate be used for paying a cat-trapper (even if it's not until I myself die).

—Carol Reitmeier
Menlo Park, California

PMU

I have recently read "Estrogen boom brings breeding for slaughter" in the April issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. I was pleased to see these PMU (pregnant mares' urine) farms being brought to public attention. I'm sure many of your readers might never have heard of them.

I'm enclosing a story that appeared in *The Economist* of March 3, revealing that drug studies in Switzerland use human urine, from

post-menopausal women.

Why can't Ayerst Organics use estrogenic hormone (estriol) from the urine of pregnant women, instead of using mares' urine? Maternity wards of hospitals could be the source.

—Lee Davis
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Canada

Technically, it probably could be done, but meeting the demand that way would be virtually impossible. It takes 75,000 mares just to meet present demand, and will take 100,000 to meet the expected demand next year. Each mare produces more than ten times as much urine as one woman. Thus you'd need to find at least a million women a year willing to be catheterized for six months of their pregnancies to equal the immediate demand—and Ayerst expects demand to keep growing for at least another five years.

Some researchers predict that by then the horses will be replaced with laboratory-produced synthetic hormones, developed through bio-engineering. Because of progress in this direction, the Swiss firm Ares-Serono, whose work your clipping described, expects to be

able to quit using urine from post-menopausal women within five years. However, the demand for the Ares-Serono products, based on the hormone gonadotropin, is a tiny fraction of the demand for the Ayerst products, which are used in both birth control pills and estrogen replacement therapy.

Houston Humane

I was very disappointed with the negative article you published about the Houston Humane Society in your April issue. It seems to me that the positive achievements of a group working very hard to constantly improve and grow would be highlighted. For more than 40 years, the Houston Humane Society has been dedicated to eliminating abuse, cruelty, and the overpopulation of animals in the greater Houston areas.

Instead, you unfairly attacked an issue that has been a problem we have worked on for a long time—adopting animals.

The Houston Humane Society's purpose is to protect animals from harmful people. Adopting animals to the public can be a double-edged sword: when an animal goes to a loving, caring home we

feel elated, yet when there is potential for an animal to suffer from abuse and neglect, we simply cannot let that cat or dog go to such a household.

—Sherry Ferguson
Executive Director
Houston Humane Society
Houston, Texas

"Negative"? Our profile of HHS ran 33 column inches, of which 26 lauded Ferguson's improvement of facilities during the past 13 years and the \$15-per-surgery neutering clinic she founded. The remainder discussed the HHS euthanasia rate, which at 93% to 97% per year is among the highest in the U.S.; is markedly higher than that of other well-reputed shelters in Houston; and may be so high in part because among the adoption applicants who manage to complete a screening form asking a minimum of 101 questions, only 46% are eventually approved. Many shelters with excellent screening records cover the same essentials in 20 questions or less; very few find it necessary to reject more than 10% of applicants.

FoA ad

could effectively be turned into cat laboratories, for a handsome fee.

Supporters of this bill claim such training is necessary to develop skills to intubate children in an emergency, although infant manequin heads are used successfully for intubation practice in hundreds of hospitals around the country.

The state of New Jersey recently established an Office of Emergency Medical Services for Children. One of the projects at the Elizabeth General Medical Center includes a state-of-the-art course in pediatric life support. According to Children's Emergency Service Director Dr. Robert Van Amerongen, *only* infant manequin heads are used for training. The energy spent by the biomedical community and organizations like the American SPCA who are supporting the bill (virtually all other humane organizations are opposing it) should be spent in a positive way, using New Jersey as a model.

At this writing, the bill is out of committee in the New York Senate, and can be voted on at any time. The Senate version is S5005a; the Assembly version is A8059.

—Elizabeth Forel
New York, N.Y.

Feral cats

I have been trying for years to address the problem of trapping feral cats. It's not enough to just tell someone to rent a trap and use it. Most of the feeders I encounter are senior ladies with little mechanical skill and no tolerance for the sight of a cat in a trap. These women are being neglected because they try to find help but there is no efficient way of finding it. With improper training, they have experienced "the one who got away," e.g. when trying to transfer a cat from a trap to a carrier, or in my own case, by failing to hook some clips to

Corrections

The lead paragraph of the April page one article "Estrogen boom brings breeding for slaughter" confused the estrogen production cycle of horses used in the PMU industry with their gestation cycle. The estrogen production cycle runs from September to April; their gestation cycle normally runs from June to May. The horses are taken off the urine collection catheters (or cones in some instances) about a month before giving birth. The next sentence of the article described the Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust as "an agricultural industry umbrella group formed in 1988." That description belongs to the Ontario Farm Animal Council, not named in the article, which did however provide some background information. The Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust was founded circa 1970 by the Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada. Later, the article stated that because the horses are confined in narrow stalls while they are catheterized, they can only "stand up and sit down" for exercise. A number of horse experts pointed out to us that since horses lie down rather than sit, and since these horses don't have the room to lie down, they can't even do that much. They are able to sleep because horses customarily sleep standing up. Finally, a photograph with the article was mistakenly credited to Anne Streeter, who sent it, rather than Tom Hughes of CFACT, who took it.

An item under "Dogs and Cats" in our January/February edition misidentified Ray McBride as the would-be cougar trapper whose leghold trap badly injured a dog on December 5 near Keller, Texas. In fact, McBride is the cougar expert who advised Keller police chief Bill Griffith to remove cougar traps from the vicinity on December 18, nearly two weeks after the dog was hurt. This error occurred because we misunderstood the *Dallas Morning News* coverage of the incident. Hastily rewriting a Keller Police Department press release to make deadline on December 29, the *Dallas Morning News*

Guest column:

Let veterinarians do the job

by Lewis R. Plumb

Excellent shelter statistics for Harris County, Texas (Houston metropolitan area) were reported in the April issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. But while much detail and comment was included, further analysis is possible.

The Harris County area, with six animal control and/or sheltering operations active, has an estimated pet population of 1.28 million. About 8.5% of these will arrive at a shelter each year, with 82.4% of arrivals being killed for population control purposes. At an average cost of \$50 per euthanized animal (the cost to catch, keep, kill, and dispose of the carcass), the total population control cost is \$4.5 million a year. With an average dog or cat litter size of six, there is a need for an additional 16,000 spays per year to eliminate surplus births. These must be effective spays, meaning spays that would not otherwise be done, on animals who have a very high probability of breeding if not done.

At a cost of \$40 per spay, the yearly cost of preventative population control would be \$600,000. Clearly it would pay to transfer population control to veterinarians and away from animal control and shelter functions. The low cost neutering program now operated by the Houston Humane Society is accomplishing at best only 9% of the needed spaying. Since there is no income requirement to take advantage of the HHS program, many of the spays done there would have been done somewhere anyway. Thus much of the money put into this program (and others like it) may be wasted.

are unlicensed pets belonging to people who will not take advantage of low-cost neutering and vaccination programs from fear of being turned in for violating the law—a fear heightened by the other problems many poor people have with the law.

For humane societies to compete with private veterinarians is much against the American business ethic. To take advantage of nonprofit status to directly compete with private business is not ethical. Some may argue that the problem is veterinary fees being too high. Of course many fees are too high, including those of medical doctors, fast food chains, and brand-name athletic shoes. The thing that this country relies on to keep prices in line is competition, but that competition requires a so-called level playing field.

When applicants are screened for need, veterinarians are the real heroes in low-cost neutering work. Here in Butte County, California, 70% of the veterinarians perform half-price surgeries to help control the pet population. And remember, these surgeries are not sales promotions, since they are for persons with very limited means, who can hardly be looked upon as future profitable clients. Of course, vets need to know what the needed workload is. It turns out that if each practicing veterinarian would do, at most, one additional cat and one additional dog spay each week, the surplus would be ended.

It is time that each metropolitan area of the country made an analysis of its pet population control programs. They

The Promotion of Animal Welfare Society will be happy to provide further details. We have done thousands of low-cost neuter surgeries through private practice veterinarians. We do three things: advertise the program, process the paperwork (keeping proof of income on file for each approved application), and subsidize the surgery according to each applicant's ability to pay. (If an applicant has two-thirds of the ceiling income for participation in our program, then the applicant has to pay two-thirds of the cost and we pay one third.) This program is, we believe half as costly as if we had our own clinic since we would then have to pay wages as well as all the other expenses that are now taken care of by the vets.

Historically, humane groups and veterinarians have been at odds because many humane workers consider veterinarians' fees too high, while vets resent being criticized for charging what they believe to be reasonable fees in relationship to their costs. Two factors offer hope of resolving this conflict. One is the relatively small number of surgeries required to solve the pet overpopulation problem. The other is the willingness of veterinarians to assist humane societies so that they can, together, solve the problem. The next move is or the part of humane societies.

P.S.—PAWS is an all-volunteer organization.

[Lewis R. Plumb, of Paradise California, became a state humane officer in 1978. His organization, PAWS, began

reporter inadvertently blurred events of July and September, when a cougar was believed to be disturbing livestock near Keller, with the events of early December, which in turn confused McBride's identity. The editor of another Texas paper, who relayed the *Dallas Morning News* article to us later on December 29, just before we went to press, also misunderstood it. All of us involved regret the error and resultant embarrassment to Mr. McBride.

Meanwhile, in the poorer neighborhoods, unaltered animals have a very high probability of breeding. Where high licensing fees are in effect, the risk is exacerbated. To avoid licensing fees, and fines for violating them, many poor pet owners will not admit to having pets, and do not license them. When picked up by animal control, such unlicensed pets are called strays, but they are not in truth strays; they

will find great savings to be made by three steps:

1) Charge licensing and other fees in accord with ability to pay. Remove obstacles to participation of the poor.

2) Transfer population control work to veterinarians.

3) Provide positive identification at very low cost instead of license tags.

its neuter subsidy program in 1988, and added an emergency health care subsidy program in 1990.]

Pigeon control

Several years ago the EPA decided that all chemicals tested prior to a certain date had to be retested. Though Ornitrol, the pigeon birth control drug, hadn't caused any problems, testing would be required. An EPA official said the cost would be about \$3 million. The manufacturer said it had only sold about \$100,000 worth of Ornitrol in 10 years, and couldn't afford to retest. Ornitrol was withdrawn from the market—and it was the only humane pigeon control product on the market. Many of us wrote to Congress, the EPA, and to the White House, and the EPA backed off. But now the EPA is back again, saying "retest or stop manufacturing." The Avitrol Co., which makes Ornitrol, is again withdrawing the product because of the retesting cost.

Other forms of control are cruel. Poisoning causes a painful and lingering death, and is an ecological time bomb. Trapping leaves birds for days on end without water or food, exposed to either the heat and sun or the freezing cold and wind. Invariably, baby pigeons are left with either no parents or one parent who struggles to feed them and keep them warm (almost

impossible to do simultaneously), and usually loses the battle. If birds are trapped and relocated, which is rare because they are normally killed by the cheapest methods), no concern is given to the time of year relative to the difficulty of finding shelter and water. Live relocations still leave fledglings to starve. Birth control by contrast is humane and provides a 75% population reduction in 18 months. The birds merely lay eggs that do not hatch.

Such gradual flock reductions are effective, whereas sudden flock reduction merely causes pigeons to intensify their reproductive efforts. But pet control companies seldom use Ornitrol because it only requires that treated corn be put out for 10 days, twice a year. They want labor-intensive methods that produce large revenues and repeat visits.

Please write to your Senators and Congressional representatives, and EPA head Carol Bronwer (401 M St., SW, Washington D.C. 20460), and ask them to pressure the EPA to allow the continued use of Ornitrol. Thanks a million.

—Buzz Alpert
Chicago, Illinois

More Letters

Use zoning laws

I noticed that for all the remarks in your May issue regarding pet overpopulation and backyard breeding, no mention was made pertaining to city and county zoning ordinances. Denver, Adams County, and other areas have strict zoning laws, which are enforced. The limit in Denver is three dogs, and in Adams County the limit is two. No breeding or selling of pets is allowed in any residential area.

—Kitty Langdon

The Sunrise Foundation
Aurora, Colorado

Actually, we did mention the Denver pet limit, but failed to recognize how it and other zoning ordinances could be used against backyard breeders. Thanks for the tip.

Horse rescue

We are writing to introduce the Equestrian Training Center. We are located in the heart of Florida's horse country, and offer a retraining and adoption program for any horse, be it a slow, too small or injured race

horse, or an old brood mare. With our adoption placement running now at 40%, we are a great alternative for the thoroughbred industry.

We offer daily tours of our operation, and also give special time to teaching people about horse care. With our volunteer program, we promote the job opportunities available to young people in the equine field, providing hands-on experience as grooms, body-clippers, blacksmith handlers, and even stall-muckers.

All the effort in the growth of this foundation is on a volunteer and donation basis.

—Susan & Mike Heck
Equestrian Training Center
7295 NW 5th Lane,
Ocala, Florida 32675

Little people

Please write more "little people" stories. We rescue animals, help people, and go without to do so. The issue for us is saving lives, not how much any big organization spends to help. Anyone who has any extra money or time should be using it. It should not be newsworthy that a group spends a little of their mil-

lions, or a staff member is worthy because he or she does a good job on only fifty or sixty thousand dollars a year. What counts is what the "animal people" continue to do without huge salaries, often without any money at all! Our little group struggles to survive, while the big groups continue to raise massive funds when they already have more than they spend. Doing a little good with a lot is okay, but we need to read more about the many people who are doing a lot of good with a little.

The struggle is fierce, the animals are hungry and cold, and we need to be inspired. Find the real animal people and write their stories. Give us hints on how to make it work without money, because the funds are not there for those of us busy feeding and tending to the animals.

—Phyllis Fischer,
Director

Helping Our Pets Everywhere
New Albany, Ohio

We've published 19 articles by or about "little people" in our first seven issues, with more more scheduled. We have profiled only one person who earns above the U.S. median wage.

Guest column:

Instead of breeding bans

by Margaret Anne Cleek

I am convinced that breeding bans will not work. This broad-brush approach is inappropriate because the majority of pet owners are responsible. The people producing the surplus are a relatively small percentage of the population (perhaps one dog owner in three and one cat owner in five according to the pro-breeding ban Humane Society of the U.S.), but because of the high fertility rate of the animals involved, the numbers of animals resulting from their litters is great. We have to separate the animal numbers from the people numbers to understand this. Production control principles apply: you have to know the source of the problem to address it.

In fact, I believe there are several separate problems: random-bred animals in poor communities where people cannot afford neutering or are disenfranchised from the low-cost services for whatever reason (usually fear of action because the animals may not be licensed or vaccinated); shelters who release unaltered pets and pets lacking proper socialization; commercial breeding operations; the "just one litter" phenomenon; and yes, even fanciers who are producing too many puppies and kittens.

Each of these problems has a different solution. Solutions have to be specifically targeted to reach the appropriate population, and we may never be able to effectively deal with those who just plain don't care.

Backyard breeders

I am well aware of the purebred count at shelters, commonly estimated at anywhere from 7% to 22%. (*Editor's note: the figures vary considerably by region, but 20% seems to be close to the norm.*) This problem has to be addressed through the registries. The real money is where the real problem is: large scale commercial breeders who produce pups by the thousands and sell them with full breeding rights. Then everyone wants "just one litter" to make back the money they plunked down at the local pet emporium. Ironically, I suspect that every time

ber. People have to learn that puppy mills and backyard kennels run like puppy mills are not good places to get a pet. Puppy mills and backyard kennels will stop producing pups when people stop buying them. I wish some of the show breeders would realize that when they price pet pups at out-of-reach prices, they are creating a market for the backyard breeder.

Poverty

The poor, meanwhile, are put in a no-win situation by increased license fees and differential fee schedules. Where high differential fees are in effect, many poor people might like to neuter their pets, but cannot afford to do so, nor can they afford either the registration fees for having unaltered pets or the fines for noncompliance. Thus they live in fear of the dogcatcher, and fail to either neuter or license their animals.

This situation is compounded where humane shelters that have contracts to provide animal control have significantly raised impound fees to cover costs, and demand neutering at the owner's expense as a condition for release of impounded pets. A few even require a kangaroo court hearing that the owner must pay for. This is plain and simple extortion: pay/spay or we kill your dog or cat! There have been several documented cases where people were desperate to get beloved pets back, but for purely financial reasons, the humane societies involved would not release them.

In the long run, all of this results in both reduced compliance with animal control regulations and reduced revenue for increasingly expensive humane services, in an economic and social environment where enforcement is neither affordable nor viewed positively by the public. "I wish you'd do something about drug dealers instead of spending money on catching animals who aren't a threat to me," says John Q. Public.

Crystal. (Photo by Gina Spadafori.)

handling strays. We all have to pay for the irresponsible, because by definition they won't take the responsibility. It is appropriate that the entire community share the burden, not just pet owners, because as with the cost of maintaining police and fire services, the benefit accrues to the entire community.

The tertiary level of service would be to pet owners. I suggest that a registration fee be a value-added program, optional with payment of the household fee. For a modest additional payment, perhaps \$20, a family could register with a single identification number all of the animals in their household. The system could be extended to turtles and birds. Positive ID of each animal via microchip, tattoo, or tag would be required. Animal control would, in consideration of this fee, call the owner of any registered and identified animal within 24 hours of pickup as a stray. Given same-day redemption by the owner, all sequestering fees would be waived. If the animal were not picked up the same day, a per diem sheltering fee would be charged. My gut feeling is that a lot of people would like this service, which amounts to pet insurance. People opting for this service would tend to be a responsible group, not likely to lose pets often.

Pet owners not electing to pay for this service whose lost pets are wearing tags would be notified of pickup, but would be required to pay a redemption fee. Pet

restrictive legislation is enacted in Anytown U.S.A., the commercial breeders pop open the champagne. The American Kennel Club should require that all pups be sold with a non-breeding registration, and that the owner apply for a breeding registration after criteria are met including genetic clearance for common breed problems for the dog, and a demonstration of knowledge of the breed by the owner.

The "just one litter" problem needs to be addressed through veterinarians also. It has been my experience that although the "just one" breeder may claim various reasons to breed, the real reason is that he or she thinks this is a way to make big bucks. I remember running into someone who was indignant that he "got stuck" with Great Dane pups he couldn't sell and had to give away. He kept repeating his dismay that these were \$500 dogs, but no one wanted to buy them. I guess he thought there was quite a market out there for an unknown with pony-sized dogs for sale! Veterinarians can make the costs of breeding known, and be trained to tactfully inform owners that their dogs should not be bred. They need to address the status of the dog as pet and family member, not the quality of the dog.

Several years ago, AKC reported that 90% of the individuals registering litters never again registered another litter! These people do not know how to breed, socialize, or screen prospective buyers. They do not even know about limited registration, and their commitment to the buyer ends at the point of sale. Since these folks think they can make big bucks, and since they want "just one litter," they will willingly pay for a one-year unaltered permit and/or a breeding permit. Spay-or-pay and bans will do nothing to stop first-time breeders who see dollar signs.

Breeding bans and permit systems may even increase the purebred oversupply, as profit-motivated people breed more because of an assumed decrease in competition. If this creates unwanted pups, we have a problem, but I wouldn't mind the price of purebred pups coming down. A purebred pet should be a family companion, not an investment.

From a marketing perspective, I believe the "backyard" and commercial breeder issue needs to be addressed on the demand side rather than the supply side. The main problem that I have with commercial breeders and some backyard breeders is that the pups miss out on critical socialization and therefore are at a disadvantage for their whole lives. Many of the dogs surrendered at shelters are a neurotic mess as a result of living the critical first weeks of their lives in livestock holding conditions, which are not conducive to proper adjustment as a family mem-

Remodeling animal control

I believe the whole concept of animal control and licensing needs to be revamped, and a business-like problem-solving approach applied. There is no question in my mind that animal control as usually practiced is 40 years behind the times and still mired in the negative dogcatcher mentality despite the best intentions of many of the people involved, who know no other model. I believe that the application of sound science and management principles would solve existing problems. It is clear that the current mode of operation is not what people want, and they are refusing to support the concept. Nationwide, dog licensing compliance is less than 45%, and in the first year of cat licensing in San Mateo County, California, whose anti-breeding ordinance became a national *cause celebre*, only 600 licenses were sold, 576 of them to people who adopted cats from the Peninsula Humane Society. There are an estimated 13,000 cats in the area.

Some areas have done away with licensing, considering it not cost-effective. This may not be possible everywhere, but I still think we can generate some creative ideas within the existing framework. I think that in order to execute its original mandate, rabies control, pet licensing fees should be kept low and licensing should not be confused with population control. Hence I think even small license differentials are bad policy.

Perhaps animal control could be restructured with a service rather than enforcement focus. Layers of service could be identified and appropriate funding provided for the various layers.

By levels of service, I mean primary, secondary, and tertiary services. Our tax dollars should support basic animal control, which is essentially rabies control. I think the public view of rabies control is analogous to the public attitude toward polio. Both are problems which people think are no longer urgent (except where rabies pandemics are actually underway), failing to realize that they are not pressing problems only because of vaccination programs, and that both could come back if we get lax. Independent of revenue or pet licensing concerns, the public needs to be aware that rabies control is a critical public health issue.

Secondary animal control services, including population control, could be provided from revenues raised by a per household fee. I suspect that a very small fee levied per household could generate substantial income. Since we know there will always be some people who dump their pets, and since if pounds or shelters don't take them, they will be left to roam, the cost of handling owner releases would need to be covered as well as the cost of

owners of unidentified animals would have to visit pounds and shelters to find their animals, as now, and would be charged a higher redemption fee.

If someone wants a pet back but maintains he or she cannot afford the redemption fee, I would suggest that the pet be immediately released, but that the person be required to apply for a waiver of fees, which could be automatic to reduce clerical time. Irresponsible, habitual offenders would not have this option repeated, but something needs to be done for people in tough straits who really care about their animals. Such people could at that time be directed to low-cost or no-cost neutering programs.

This plan would slowly introduce the positive ID concept to the public and generate revenue from individuals using the service. Animal experts agree that positive identification is critical to the animal control function, and has been shown to increase the return rate on lost animals. Within five years, positive ID could become the norm in any given community, totally accepted by the public.

Additional levels of service would be provided, at appropriate fees, to commercial kennel owners, who would pay for inspection and permits, and individuals who choose to have wild animals as pets. I would suggest requiring positive ID with microchips as part of the requirement for keeping wildlife.

Finally, I would suggest strengthening support for volunteer programs. With a service-oriented animal control approach, and incentives for breed rescuers and fanciers to participate, along with other people who care about animals, adoption counseling and behavioral consultation programs could be improved and expanded. Many shelters are revolving doors for animals with behavioral problems. Volunteers with expertise could help people to do a better job of choosing the right pet and dealing with any problems that arise after adoption.

Part of the volunteer component would be a YIMBY program (Yes! In My Back Yard.) Such a program would urge individuals concerned about pet overpopulation to donate to a local neutering fund. The revenue would be made available to veterinarians to subsidize discount surgeries. Statistics now suggest an amazingly low amount of additional neutering in the right population groups could solve the unwanted pet problem.

These are only rough-outs of possible alternatives to breeding bans—just ideas I've thought about a bit. But I think they deserve serious consideration.

[Margaret Anne Cleek is an associate professor in the School of Business Administration at California State University, Sacramento, and a member of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America.]

Model animal control programs run out of \$\$

(continued from page one)

struction of the Lee Center, which ten years after it opened, in March 1984, remains state-of-the-art. The airy, skylit lobby full of potted plants invites visitors; an auditorium seating 75 people serves 4,000 Chicago children a year (and could serve more, if the city schools could afford more field trips); and three staff veterinarians enjoy the use of complete surgical and radiological facilities.

Poholik also halted the sale of as many as 1,600 animals a year to biomedical research laboratories; opened a public discount neutering clinic; and increased staffing, to a peak of 112 in 1984. In 1986, when Chicago animal control became the first municipal agency anywhere ever to qualify for the American Humane Association's Five-Star Shelter Award, the staff roster was at 101.

For fiscal year 1993, the roster was at 60, down nine positions from 1992. But the workload is approximately the same as it was in 1984-1986: between 60,000 and 65,000 telephone calls per year, with between 33,000 and 34,500 animal pickups. Adoptions are up to 2,500 a year now, more than double the pre-Lee Center adoption rate, and euthanasias are down from a peak of 29,000 to circa 20,000. Clearly, Chicago animal control is more efficient and humane now than ever before. But the department struggles to maintain the facilities and level of service.

Poholik isn't complaining, just worrying. "I don't find fault with my mayor," he says of incumbent Richard W. Daley. "He's trying to balance the budget. He does what he has to do. He's sympathetic. We have 50 aldermen, and they're all sympathetic. But they have their priorities. They hired 600 more police officers last year, and they had to get the money from somewhere."

To live within the sharply

seeing more and more wildlife in the city, because we're not trapping them and they're out there reproducing. Now that's fine except that some people think they're nuisances and shoot at them or put out poison. And then maybe we're going to get some rabies here from Pennsylvania or Texas and there's going to be panic in the streets."

Poholik envisions the same only worse for pet overpopulation. "We managed to cut registered bites from stray dogs from over 10,000 in 1981 to under 5,000 last year," he says proudly. "That's one of the biggest indicators that we're doing our job, taking strays off the street. But if it gets to where we can't do it from lack of manpower, what's going to happen?"

Bring out your dead!

Jane Stern of the Anti-Cruelty Society already knows what's going to happen. The Anti-Cruelty Society is the largest of three private shelters serving Chicago. Already, she says, "We have been receiving more calls for stray animal pickups, because Pete is only picking up the most severe cases." But handling the extra workload, especially if it increases further, is going to be difficult. Although the Anti-Cruelty Society receives no governmental funding whatever, until last December the city picked up and incinerated dead animals free of charge.

"In December," explains Stern, "the mayor decided to cut out this service to all private agencies, meaning humane societies and private veterinarians. Even though we have a contract with the city to take in stray animals, we too were cut. The financial burden placed on us has been tremendous. We are paying huge amounts of money to take away dead animals, when our precious funds should be spent on helping those who are in our care. We asked the

The Macon county animal control budget was recently cut from \$127,500 a year to \$71,600. Having no shelter of its own, it shares space with the city animal control department.

Neither the city nor the county provides anything beyond basic pickup, adoption, and euthanasia service. The Macon-Bibb Humane Society used to augment the animal control agencies' work by promoting adoptions, but went broke in 1990.

As the humane society fell apart due to dwindling community support, board member Edwina Barnes resigned in 1987 to found Humane Services of Middle Georgia in a downtown building donated by her husband. Since then, Humane Services' discount veterinary clinic has neutered more than 10,000 animals on an annual budget of less than \$25,000 a year, saving Macon more than \$100,000 while running up a \$65,000 debt. About half the debt has come from low-income clients failing to pay for veterinary work—mostly neutering—done on credit.

"Many of our clients are unemployed, people on fixed incomes, or terminally ill," explains Barnes. She and her husband have donated about \$75,000 to Humane Services over the past six years, but it has no other big backers. "We are located in the inner city," Barnes adds, "and our entire clinic staff is minority. All employees of Humane Services are volunteers."

In addition to providing the services of veterinarian Dr. Ronald Amsterdam, boarding the pets of AIDS victims, and doing humane education, Humane Services fights child abuse. "We work closely with our department of family and children's services," Barnes says, "and we work hard to get our religious community involved also."

But none of that pays the bills. On March 30, the Trust Company Bank of

(Photo by Mary Bloom.)

which about \$400,000 was available to pay veterinarians, while the rest went to overhead. Consequently, the program was cut back to assist in neutering only the animals of people on public assistance, the original basis of the program, which had been significantly expanded over the preceding decade. Veterinarians were also limited in the number of neuterings each could perform with an APCF subsidy.

"The New Jersey Department of Health projects there will be approximately 6,000 to 7,000 surgeries performed under the APCF in fiscal year 1992-1993," Alampi continues. "Legislation has been introduced that would provide additional funding for the APCF from the sale of license plates, and the Department of Health would be willing to work with an outside charitable foundation to earmark funds for surgeries. The NJVMA is actively

decreased animal control budget, Chicago animal control has gone from working two scheduled shifts per day to having just one. Two one-person pickup units handle emergency calls from 7:30 a.m. until 11 a.m., while five or six two-person units are on the streets from 11 a.m. until six p.m.

The shelter remains open 24 hours a day. Wildlife service, however, has been all but eliminated. "We still pick up wildlife," Poholik says, "but we have no trapping service. We used to drop off the humane traps for a \$20 deposit and pick them up the next morning. Some of the animals were relocated and some were euthanized—whatever the state Department of Environmental Conservation was into at the time, because they were the ones who had to authorize us. But we lost the people who maintained the traps and did the bookkeeping. Now we're

city if we could begin paying them to take away the animals, since the incinerator is still working and burns animal control's animals on a daily basis. They came back to us with a figure that would have cost us \$100,000 annually."

Negotiations continue. Meanwhile, says Stern, "We are using a private animal crematorium, which is cost-prohibitive, so we think we will be forced to turn to rendering."

That means former pets become fish food, fertilizer, and soap. Though rendering may be the most environmentally safe means of disposing of animal remains, it's the most unpopular with the public. But there seem to be no other options.

New Jersey

Financed by dog license sales since May 1983, the New Jersey Animal Population Control Fund hasn't been cut—only diverted. Since 1990, a \$900,000 "surplus" from the APCF has been reallocated to rabies control. But it wasn't really a surplus.

Explains New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association executive director Richard Alampi, "In the last fiscal year, from July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992, over 21,000 surgeries were performed (6,000 more than a year earlier). That level of activity depleted the cash reserves of the APCF, leaving approximately \$550,000 available for fiscal year 1992-1993," of

The Herb Bar ad

working with humane groups to resurrect the APCF to previous levels," Alampi adds, "as we still believe this program is a model, the most successful of any program yet devised in addressing pet overpopulation."

Macon

There never was much money spent on animal population control around Macon, Georgia, and now there's less. The city animal control department cut two positions in 1989-1990, leaving a working staff of six, and still functions on essentially the same \$220,000-a-year budget it had then. The budget is so tight that even though director Bill Brooks is president of the Southeast Animal Control Association, he has to pay his own expenses to attend the SACA annual training conference 96 miles away in Columbus. The \$80,000 a year the animal control department earns from adoptions, reclaims, \$5.00 non-differential dog licensing, and various other sources goes back into the Macon general fund.

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Middle Georgia demanded repayment of \$40,000 still owed on a loan. Since then Barnes recounts, "We've been denied funding by all the local foundations to which we've applied." An appeal for donations brought in \$4,000. The city and county governments, however, haven't chipped in a cent. The Macon city council has refused to raise dog licensing fees or institute a differential fee structure to help finance anti-pet overpopulation efforts, either through animal control or Humane Services.

Macon veterinarians Hermar Westmoreland and J.T. Davis are openly campaigning against Humane Services. "If you can't afford neutering," Westmoreland told the *Macon Telegraph* on April 26, "you really don't need the pet."

As harsh words fly back and forth and the community becomes polarized, the chances Humane Services will ever find the funds to continue dwindle.

"I don't know what we're going to do," says Barnes.

—Merritt Clifton

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Tomcats amoral?

Bull.

(continued from page one)

tens to survive the bitter winter. They appeared to be his own offspring—the male was practically a Bull clone—but this was still an extraordinary case.

And of course we didn't really believe it, at first. When two of our volunteers brought old Bull in to be neutered and socialized, if possible, we anticipated unholy chaos in the cat room—which was occupied at any given time by as many as 40 ferals, coming and going from neutering. Those who were to be returned to their habitat as part of a neuter/release project were kept caged, but up to 30 in various stages of socialization for adoption ran loose. Among them were always a number who fancied themselves dominant toms. Because Bull could not be returned to his plainly unsuitable habitat, we let him loose in the room with trepidation, hoping the hierarchy would be established without anyone getting maimed. To our surprise, however, he didn't even threaten anyone—just made a beeline for cover in a closet, and hid there.

Was he *not* a dominant tom?

We got our answer the following morning, when we arrived to find the closet packed with as many cats as could cram themselves in, all eager to get next to Bully boy. Wherever Bull went, the wildest of the wild and most feral of the feral followed, in particular, but even the tamest and friendliest cats also joined his entourage. We have no idea how he projects his charisma, yet he is truly a cat without feline enemies. None of the would-be dominant toms ever challenged him. Most of them, though, took turns sleeping beside him.

For a human to approach Bull, however, was to risk amputation of a limb. Bull wouldn't go beyond growling at our son Wolf, then 18 months old and now nearly three. He'd retreat at the prospect of a closer encounter, and still does. He'll also retreat from an adult, if there's a way, but if he's cornered, I'd rather shower with a couple of bobcats than try to pat his head.

When the time came to close down the Connecticut project and relocate to upstate New York to found ANIMAL PEOPLE, Bull was among the 21 unadoptable cats we were obliged to bring with us, along with our 10 personal pets. Because of Bull's age, estimated

Top: Bull's first mugshot. Right: Voltaire. Below: Mealttime. (Photos by Kim Bartlett.)

get hell from both of us."

Leland retreated. Bull acquired a new job. Now Voltaire's constable in earnest, he made a point of appearing whenever Leland threatened anyone else. Half Leland's size, he never fought. He just gave Leland a hard Odo-like look and Leland slunk away.

I've known other constable cats, including Catapuss, who was never actually a dominant tom, but who similarly took on the barnyard bullies when he was young, and similarly kept track of other cats, alerting me when others were in distress. Catapuss, however, is and always was a loner. He thrashed the barnyard bullies for his own reasons. He's also a distinctly abnormal cat, who not only doesn't hunt but becomes extremely upset if other cats

string of disappearances coincided with sightings of a coyote with an injured paw in the creek bed the cats frequented. Probably inhibited from hunting as he normally would have the coyote had apparently resorted to ambushing rabbits in unusually close proximity to human residences. Cats, we speculated, had become targets of convenience, though we only once found something that might have been a cat bone in a coyote scat.

Whatever the case, nine cats vanished before the coyote left the neighborhood. We ascribed their loss to predation, as even if that coyote wasn't responsible, there are also other coyotes, foxes, bears, bobcats, great horned owls, both bald eagles and golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, and marsh hawks in the vicinity

by our veterinarians at eight to 10 years, and because since being captured he had shown little interest in getting back outside, we decided he would have to be integrated into our household colony, including our pets and several of the more socialized ferals, plus Leland, an immense orange tom, a former pet, whom one of our volunteers rescued from a man who threatened to abandon him.

Unlike the cat rescue project colony, which was inherently unstable because cats were constantly being brought in and adopted out, our household colony had a long-established order. The undisputed dominant tom is Voltaire, Kim's first cat, a 22-pound adoptee from a now-defunct shelter in Houston, Texas, who projects the personality and philosophy of Buddha. One by one, Voltaire has accepted dozens of other cats into his home, rarely with any conflict, including numerous toms with dominant traits. Among them have been my own Catapuss, now 17, who if he could have named himself would probably be called "Dog-slayer," for his quick assertions of dominance over anyone canine; Isaiah, a feisty runt with a heart condition, also a dog-slayer, whom Voltaire treats as a favored son; and Alfred, who if a character on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* would be a Ferengi, whose buffoonery belies keen survival skills. One by one, Voltaire befriends them all.

Bull had no trouble recognizing the hierarchy and slipping right into it. He soon made fast friends of the other cats, including Voltaire, whom he follows much as other cats follow him.

But the former pet, Leland, proved an exception. He didn't bother Bull, but he challenged Voltaire's dominance increasingly overtly—not that Voltaire responded. For several weeks the relationship between Leland and Voltaire simmered like the relationship between George Kennedy, the chain gang lifer, and Paul Newman, the smart-assed newcomer, in *Cool Hand Luke*. Time and again Leland—who had already fought his way out of one adoptive home by mangling the adoptee's other cats—would avoid Voltaire while terrorizing the rest of the household. Voltaire, meanwhile, refrained from attacking Leland, but didn't yield an inch, either.

The situation exploded one evening when Leland thought he had Voltaire maneuvered into a place where he'd have to fight or else—in the middle of the dining room floor, with almost all the rest of the cats in the household watching anxiously from doorways. Alerted by the preliminary growling, we arrived just in time to see Bull streak from the bed where he'd been sleeping, align himself side-by-side with Voltaire, and address Leland in quiet but unmistakable terms: "You @#\$\$ with Voltaire and you'll

injure prey within his presence. Never a feral, he joined my household at five weeks of age, after being rejected by his mother at four weeks, and could well have received a substantial personality imprint from human beings.

I've also seen other cats fighting as allies. Once Catapuss and Alfred stood side-by-side in my doorway and duked it out with my neighbor Leo's cats Tom and Minnie just like Joe Start and Shane versus the cowboys in the movie *Shane*.

Bull's behavior thus is not wholly unprecedented. It's just a confirmation that the social structure of cats is a lot more complex and a lot more like our own, even among ferals, than most scientific observers imagine. There's a widespread theory among animal behaviorists that everything domestic cats do is an adaptation of the usually solitary behavior of wild cousins. The idea that domestic cats may have evolved to prefer a social life still has little scientific following. Feral cat colonies, the theory goes, are an artifact of proximity to human-provided food sources. Extended social behavior is supposedly an aberration resulting from that circumstance.

But how many generations of feral cats have lived in our dumps and back alleys, anyhow? And how many thousands of years did it take us to invent civilization? Is it really beyond comprehension to imagine that animals as intelligent as cats could get as far as developing social organization in the time since our civilizations began providing them with habitat conducive to social living?

Migration & mortality

Of the 21 cats from the rescue project we brought with us, only 10 remain here 10 months later. Leland did eventually find another adoptive home, through the efforts of the Bennington County Humane Society, where he's a beloved only cat. A former feral was taken back by one of our Connecticut volunteers. Bull and three others (besides Leland) were kept indoors for various reasons. The remainder were allowed to choose their own way of life. Their options were joining the household colony, as four did, two right away and two later; living a feral life with free access to a heated basement where food and blankets are plentifully provided; or wandering off. Only one wandered off immediately—Christmas, a spooky black-and-white whom I rescued from under a dumpster on Christmas night, 1991. Just a kitten then, Christmas didn't venture out in broad daylight for seven weeks after that, and never did let himself be petted or handled.

All the other former ferals seemed to maintain a tight-knit family until the end of summer, when a sudden

Predators rarely hunt other predators, at least on purpose but any of them might kill a cat in a sudden accidental confrontation—say over a mouse or young rabbit. Significantly, the remaining cats tended to be the waries and/or those with known previous experience around coyotes and foxes.

Though none were among the ferals from the rescue project, our outdoor-venturing cats Alfred, Keeter, and Gidget are all cases in point. Alfred was apparently taken into the woods in Quebec as a half-grown kitten to be used as live bait by a coyote trapper. Somehow he got away, and eventually followed me home from one of my trap-busting missions as volunteer assistant to the local deputy game warden. Before that, Alfred apparently lived for weeks by himself within a few hundred yards of both coyote runs and an inhabited fox den. Keeter, a feral who has taken six years to become almost tame, lived for five years within a quarter mile of both fox and coyote dens in Connecticut, as did Gidget, a former housecat who abandoned her home in favor of a barn and has only recently become a semi-housecat again. All three frequented the same areas as the cats who disappeared, and sometimes managed to stay out all night despite our best efforts to bring them in. Unless one counts the recent night when Alfred was apparently chased into a rainsoaked heap of litter box compost by a creature unknown, none seem to have suffered any distress from fellow predators.

Some time after the string of disappearances ended, Christmas reappeared. Since then, I've three times sighted cats in the woods who may have been some of our missing ferals, thriving alone in new territory—or they might have been other ferals, from other places. They were too sleek and healthy-looking to be abandonees. We've picked up a couple of abandonees here: Dolores, a sick longhaired grey female, who leaped into my arms one night after I'd mistaken her for a neighbor's cat for months, and Vincent, who arrived in the last stages of starvation but miraculously recovered with aid of antibiotics, warmth, and Kim's loving care.

Our only confirmed fatality was Daisy, a feline leukemia victim, whom we captured for diagnosis and euthanasia only after she became too weak to run out of the basement at the first sound of feet on the stairs.

Bull too has a chronic degenerative illness, feline AIDS, but he has not been euthanized because he still seems to enjoy life and is not likely to infect any of our other cats now, if they haven't been infected already. So far, all the others who have been tested have been negative.

We intended to keep detailed records on the re-

(continued next page)

What we've learned from feral cats

(continued from page 7)

cated feral cats by way of increasing the data base on the efficacy of neuter/release. Our continued observations were to supplement the thorough population and health statistics we kept during the seven months of the Connecticut cat rescue project. Though it handled 326 cats, that project was modest compared to many. Juliet Streett of New Jersey, for instance, has rescued approximately 4,500 cats in a neuter/release project begun in August 1987. Our Connecticut project did, however, produce more documented information about feral cats than any of the others, simply because we did keep good records. The project records and the national survey of cat rescuers **ANIMAL PEOPLE** undertook in mid-1992 with the support of Carter Luke of the Massachusetts SPCA virtually *are* the existing data base on many aspects of feral cat life and death.

But good intentions have gone awry. If we've learned one thing about feral cats in nearly 18 months of attempting to seriously study them, it's that seeking objective data is for the most part as elusive a goal as world peace. For the most part, one sees only what the cats are willing to have seen. Because different cats have different personalities, one tends to see a lot more of some, like Bull, than of others like Christmas—and the biggest questions of course concern the most elusive cats, the ones who come and go by night, whose very presence is often more a hunch than a verifiable fact.

The inherent conflict between feline nature and statistical quantification is such that when it comes to feral cats in their own environment, even such renowned animal behaviorists as Desmond Morris and Gerald Durrell have been reduced to extrapolating from limited evidence—in short, to presenting anecdotes instead of hard data.

We've had no better luck. We know a great deal about our own feral cat colony. We think much of what we've learned will apply to other colonies, but we can't prove it. We've learned, essentially, quite a bit about a few particular cats, a little bit about some others, and virtually nothing about those who disappeared. Thus we have from our efforts just a handful of statistics and a whole lot of anecdotes. Many researchers, including Morris, would disqualify the anecdotes as anthropomorphic projection.

Rethinking neuter/release

by Kim Bartlett

I have always had strict rules on neuter/release, essentially the same as those recommended on the facing page by Carter Luke: all cats and kittens who can be socialized for adoption should be; no ill, elderly, or disabled cats should ever be released; all cats should be properly vaccinated; no cat should be released into hostile habitat; and all feral cat colonies should be kept under the careful supervision of a responsible feeder, who will try to remove and assist any cat in distress. I have never seen neuter/release as any real solution to the problem of homeless cats, just a stop-gap measure to prevent more births. But I find myself even less enthusiastic about neuter/release now, after our experiences of the past 10 months.

We thought we had found feral cat paradise here on this 10-acre site in the mountains. It is nearly a mile from the nearest paved road; we have a basement outfitted with a spring-loaded cat door, blanketed beds, and a heater; on the grounds are numerous outbuildings, including a straw-filled barn and stable; and there are no human threats of any kind. The cats we released here did, in fact, seem joyously happy. For almost two months they ate, played, and explored. At night they would all congregate near the house—I could count each and every one. Then, in September 1992, one by one they disappeared, at three-to-four-day intervals, until nine were gone. I am convinced they were taken by coyotes. After the nine disappeared, nothing more happened to the group for eight months, until a small yellow female named Daisy developed leukemia and had to be euthanized. Two of the ferals moved into the house of their own free will: they hung around the doors seeming to want to come in, which they eventually did, with just a little coaxing. I wish the five ferals remaining outdoors would come in, too, but they really don't want anything to do with humans—except food and comfort. The house would be like a jail to them. I think it's cruel for hopelessly hardcore ferals to be forced to live in captivity: they are frustrated and live in constant fear of human approach.

I've come to believe that no matter how well one provides for free-roaming feral cats, their lives will most likely be short, though they may not be unpleasant.

Still only half-tame, J.D. was born feral but chose to live indoors. (Photo by Kim Bartlett.)

to touch him only after I'd fed him on my porch for two years, after neutering. He adjusted well to the move here and now spends his nights indoors. Merritt's former feral cat, Alfred, is the quintessential pet cat cat now. But both of these cases began with one-on-one relationships, and the cats originally came to us, at our homes. We have four other former ferals living in the house with us now; one is tame, one is semi-tame, and two remain unhandleable.

The impact of feral cats on wildlife cannot be ignored, and should be a major consideration. Ferals may fit in as predators, especially in the urban environment, taking the place of those long gone, but the balance is delicate. I'm not at all sure how to compare a cat to a fox, though I suspect the cat will kill a great many more animals than the fox, mostly for sport. I'm certain that the predator/prey ratio is askew in virtually all feral cat colonies. The feral who lives alone would be a more natural fit.

Certainly our observations may be colored by our own frame of reference.

But again, investigators of animal intelligence are increasingly reappraising past dismissals of "anthropomorphic" observation, and discovering that animals do often think and feel much as we do.

"The bottom line," Michael D. Lemonick wrote in the March 22, 1993 issue of *Time*, in a sidebar to a cover story on animal thinking, is that "anthropomorphism has been proclaimed okay. Your cat may well be grinning at you. Your dog may really be in a depression."

And old Bull may really be the constable of this particular colony, recognized as such by the other cats even if he doesn't have a badge and gun.

Whatever the case, his behavior on New Year's Eve will further confound anyone trying to assign mechanistic, instinct-driven motives to all his actions. Exactly at midnight, for the first and only time, he sidled up to Kim and let her pet him. Then he went back to await his turn in line at a bowl of milk beneath a table.

—Merritt Clifton

Contrary to the belief advanced by the late Phyllis Wright and others that the lives of ferals are necessarily miserable, many ferals do seem essentially happy, so long as they have adequate access to the necessities of life.

Still, one can spend a fortune fixing ferals, vaccinating them, relocating them, and providing for their needs, only to have them vanish. For that reason, I think that in the majority of cases it's probably better to round them up as gently as possible for euthanasia, and spend the money neutering the pet animals of people who can't or won't do it. That would effectively cut off the source of most of the homeless cat population. The typical stay of a cat in a home is about six years, whereas among the 326 mostly feral cats we handled in our rescue project, just 17% were older than two years. The potential number of litters a housecat may have is thus many times the number most ferals might have.

This is not to say there aren't success stories with ferals, or that there aren't completely appropriate situations for neuter/release—say, when the cats are quasi-pets living on their caretaker's own property. Keeter, one of my favorite cats, started out completely wild, and allowed me

But despite what I may think about feral cats today or tomorrow, I would never, never try to discourage anyone from attempting a responsible neuter/release approach. First of all, while neuter/release may not always be the best thing to do, it's still a good thing to do. In the worst case scenario, it's better than doing nothing: at least there won't be more cats born. Second, many people are constitutionally or philosophically unable to catch an animal for delivery to the euthanasia room—only 20% of the cat rescuers who responded to our national survey last year had done so. In many cases, neuter/release is all one can do with a particular colony: for example, when a caretaker will only allow the cats to be caught if they are to be returned.

I *still* don't want to take a hard-and-fast position on the issue, or alienate anyone doing the best and most he or she can do—whether it's neuter/release or capture/euthanasia. It's a very polarized and polarizing topic, which pits one's humanitarian instinct to preserve life against the humanitarian mandate to prevent suffering. It's a case where something has to be done, but one seldom feels really good about the options.

Rosalba: a girl of the streets and her dirty old, mean old man

Catapuss and Rosalba. (Photo by Kim Bartlett)

As among human beings, cats sometimes form seemingly incomprehensible friendships, which make sense only after noticing the details. One of the oddest we've observed is between Catapuss, the grouchy old bachelor, and Rosalba, a pretty young former feral. Kim rescued Rosalba as a starving three-quarters-grown kitten, who was barely surviving in inner-city Bridgeport. "Her body was so badly twisted from starvation that she couldn't walk straight, she couldn't keep her eyes open without constant twitching, and her teeth were falling out," Kim remembers. "She was the most pathetic cat I ever saw." Yet she shared her habitat with a number of immense and eminently healthy feral toms, who apparently looked out for her to some extent.

We presume that Rosalba's early experience with

the monster toms has something to do with why she's appointed herself nurse to old Catapuss—whose only previous close feline friend was a small grey former feral who died of fast-spreading cancer after eating a bird who'd just eaten poisoned seed corn in 1986. Though he has some redeeming virtues, including sensitivity toward the suffering of other animals, Catapuss is otherwise best described as the nastiest cat we've ever known. Exceptionally intelligent, he's also been quick to take offense and deliberate in pursuing revenge all his life. His preferred form of revenge for an imagined slight—for instance, not getting the lap he wants or not getting his food within 30 seconds of when he wants it—is to find something belonging to the guilty party, then urinate or defecate on it.

When Catapuss yowls in complaint, Rosalba

comes running from wherever she may be, attempting to placate him with body rubs. At best, he ignores her; at worst, bats her away.

However, like many other grouchy old men with pretty female attendants, Catapuss pays Rosalba for her favors. Because he's so obnoxious, he gets kibble on demand, up on the kitchen counter, unlike the rest of the cats who share a bowl on the cat room floor. Therefore, he'll jump up on the counter and meow—and as the food appears, back away to let Rosalba get an extra ration before meowing again if he wants some for himself. Often as not, he doesn't meow again, seeming to have only wanted something for her.

—M.C.

Guidelines for cat rescue

by Carter Luke

EDITOR'S NOTE: Carter Luke, vice president of the Massachusetts SPCA humane services division, submitted the following guidelines as "a quickly drafted summary of my thoughts about things to consider" in cat rescue. "The MSPCA is not necessarily endorsing nor are we practicing neuter/release," he continued, "but we are trying to provide guidance for humane approaches using any kind of strategy."

The solution to the issue of unsocialized or feral cats is often clouded with issues related to responding to the presence of these cats. Clearly though, the bulk of our efforts should be directed to preventing these situations from occurring in the first place. All agencies involved in animal protection should first and foremost be promoting responsible cat ownership, particularly focusing on matters relating to sterilization, the wearing of identification, veterinary care, and keeping cats safe at home, i.e. controlled.

Before doing anything

1) Visit the area and discuss the situation with the residents, neighbors, and the local animal control officer. Collect information about estimated numbers, descriptions of unsocialized animals as well as pets who are allowed outside, any pregnant cats noticed or kittens believed to be present, wildlife in the area (what will you do if you capture a skunk, woodchuck, raccoon, etc.?). Find out who is feeding unsocialized cats, if anyone. Be sure to remind all cat owners of the importance of sterilization, identification, and the value of keeping cats safe at home permanently.

2) Once your plan is determined, share the information with all the residents, neighbors, and authorities. Remind cat owners to keep their pets home.

3) Before setting any traps, establish a regular feeding schedule at a set time of day. If possible, leave unset traps in the area so cats can become used to them.

4) Once all plans are set, and the key players are prepared, skip a feeding day.

5) The following day, at the regular feeding time, set as many traps as possible (with food), and monitor them carefully. Do not leave them overnight, or out in bad weather. Someone responsible needs to be watching them. Avoid the practice of lending out traps without

enhance the odds that other species survive. For example, several studies indicate that bird-eating cats prefer English house sparrows. By hunting abundant English house sparrows, who are not native to North America, feral cats may open nesting habitat to less prolific native songbirds—but only if these species are less inclined to feed on the ground and therefore become vulnerable to cat attacks, and only if these species are undisturbed by the mere presence of cats in the vicinity of their nests, which would have to be built out of reach of climbing cats.]

5) Weather of area. In parts of the country in which weather extremes pose a risk to outdoor cats, the cats' access to warmth and shelter should be carefully explored.

6) Traffic and other dangers in the area. In areas where there are significant trauma risks, establishing a feral cat colony is not advised.

7) If a neuter/release program is being implemented, a plan for safe and humane capture, transportation, treatment, identification, and release should be developed in advance, using the most humane and appropriate methods and equipment available.

8) When captured, feral cats should be vaccinated, sterilized, treated for parasites, and evaluated and treated, when appropriate, for other health conditions. Animals should not be released unless they are in general good health. Cats who appear to be socialized should not be released, but should rather be placed into permanent homes.

9) Legal issues. There may be areas in which legalities must be considered. Local animal control officers should be consulted prior to implementing neuter/release.

10) A regular feeding schedule should be established in order to minimize contact with other cats and/or wild animals. Cats should be fed at a set location at a set time, with uneaten food being picked up within a short time of presentation.

Euthanasias down— but by how much?

ANIMAL PEOPLE PROJECTS
ANNUAL TOLL OF CIRCA 6 MILLION

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—A new estimate of euthanasia rates produced by Phil Arkow of the Humane Society of Pike's Peak indicates the pet overpopulation problem may be only half as bad as the most optimistic previous projections. Factoring in additional information apparently unknown to Arkow, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** extrapolates a current annual euthanasia rate of about six million dogs and cats per year—half again higher than Arkow's figures, but still significantly lower than older estimates, which ranged as high as 20 million per year 20 years ago, and have gradually fallen to below 10 million.

Most previous estimates of the number of animals euthanized in shelters each year have been based on the returns from the American Humane Association's annual shelter survey. The AHA numbers have shown a steady decline in number of euthanasias over the past several years, to 11 million as of 1991, the last year for which complete figures are available. However, the AHA shelter survey has often been criticized because the returns are not proportionally weighted, and the majority of respondents tend to be with the largest shelters.

Believing the AHA estimates are too high, Andrew Rowan of the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy in early 1992 developed a much lower estimate—6.5 million—based on response to a telephone survey of every pound and shelter in New Jersey. The Rowan estimate held up when compared with the findings from a Massachusetts SPCA survey of all the pounds and shelters in that state, but may still be inaccurate, as Rowan himself explains, because New Jersey has had a unique statewide neuter subsidy program for more than a decade, while Massachusetts has an unusually high per capita income and level of education. Both education and income appear to be factors in reducing euthanasia rates, since on average educated people of secure financial status are more likely to have their pets neutered.

On the other hand, while these factors would tend to depress the New Jersey and Massachusetts euthanasia rates, most animal control agencies in the New

total confidence in the humaneness and responsibility of the borrower. It is best if you are the monitoring agent.

6) Once a cat is captured, cover the trap with a blanket to keep the cat calm. At the site, check description lists to ascertain if the animal is a neighborhood pet or is one of the group to be captured. Look for collars, signs of socialization, etcetera. Transport carefully—no loud radios or sharp turns.

Neuter/release

If one is considering neuter/release, the following considerations should be taken into account:

1) Neighborhood attitude about stray cats. An advisory effort must take place in the immediate area to insure complete support for a neuter/release and maintenance program by both residential and business neighbors.

2) Prevalence of diseases in the area, e.g. feline leukemia, rabies, etcetera. Any neuter/release program must include appropriate vaccinations and the removal of any diseased cats.

3) The financial and time commitment of a group of people willing to sustain over many years an effort to provide food, shelter, and follow-up veterinary care for the colony.

4) Wildlife in the area. Specific issues about wildlife, including the presence of rare species, should be evaluated with regard to the impact a feral cat colony might present to wild animal populations. *[Editor's note: this is more than just determining predator/prey relationships. In some instances, by preying upon one species, cats may*

12) Accurate written records should be maintained on all cats.

13) Continual evaluation of the environment, neighborhood, public attitude, etcetera, should be conducted, with adjustments made to the neuter/release strategy as necessary to prevent problems.

Adoption or euthanasia

If the cats are not to be released:

1) Conduct a careful evaluation of each cat and respond accordingly. Experienced and knowledgeable people should be involved, as it is often difficult to determine whether an individual cat is truly unsocialized or just under severe stress.

2) Socialized cats should be held during an attempt to locate the original owner, then be put up for adoption.

3) Clearly identifiable unowned, unsocialized cats should be humanely euthanized. The MSPCA recommends intraperitoneal injection through the cage trap, to minimize handling and stress on the cat.

4) Be persistent with efforts, including the feeding schedule and communication with the neighbors, until all cats have been captured. At conclusion, all feeding should cease. People should be advised of any socialized animals being held. Post signs with descriptions, if appropriate.

5) In all cases, with all involved parties, always focus on the importance of sterilization, identification, vaccination, and keeping cats supervised and safe.

Jersey have a mandate to pick up cats, to prevent the spread of rabies—which most animal control agencies in other states do not. Thus New Jersey may be euthanizing far more cats per capita than the national norm.

Arkow tried to broaden the Rowan data base by factoring in the findings of surveys of all shelters in Colorado, Iowa, Oregon, and Washington, in addition to New Jersey and Massachusetts. So doing, he projected an estimate of only 4.1 million euthanasias of homeless animals per year—half the lowest previous AHA estimate and only two-thirds of Rowan's estimate.

However, the Arkow estimate could be low by 50% or more because it is derived from an even more unrepresentative data base than Rowan's. All four states Arkow added are heavily rural; rural animal control departments typically pick up and euthanize only a fraction as many homeless animals, and very seldom pick up cats. All the states but Iowa in Arkow's sampling also rank high in mean level of education and all, including Iowa, are among the upper third in per capita income.

In addition, adding the other states shifted the ethnic mix of the human population well away from that of the U.S. as a whole. Ironically, New Jersey alone is more ethnically representative of the U.S. than the Arkow combination of states: according to U.S. Census data, 21% of New Jersey residents belong to ethnic minorities, compared with 20% for the U.S. as a whole and just 13% for the six states whose records Arkow examined.

While Arkow expanded the Rowan data base to include the 1991 euthanasia information for six of the seven states for which it is available, he missed Texas, apparently unaware D. Byerly and L. Marks of the Texas Humane Information Network had gathered the necessary data.

Adding the Texas data improves geographic balance by bringing in the South, and raises minority representation to 17%. With Texas included in the projection base, the number of euthanasias performed in the U.S. in 1991 would appear to have been 5.3 million—about halfway between the Rowan and Arkow estimates, but likely to rise toward the Rowan estimate if data from a heavily urbanized state such as New York or California could also be included.

Arkow's estimate was published in the spring 1993 issue of *The Latham Letter*, the newsletter of the Latham Foundation, founded in 1918 to promote humane education. Aware of the potential for error, Arkow concluded his article by asking humane organizations in other states to tabulate euthanasia information.

—Merritt Clifton

Chestnut Lane ad

Monica Paulsen / EM Enterprises ad

Agriculture

The Food and Drug Administration held hearings May 6-7 on whether to approve the sale of milk produced with the aid of the genetically engineered hormone bovine somatotropin (BST), and if sale is approved, whether the milk should be specially labeled. Four chemical firms—Upjohn, Monsanto, American Cyanamid, and Eli Lilly—have reportedly spent \$500 million to develop and introduce BST, which boosts milk production per cow by up to 20%. BST is opposed by consumer groups concerned about the possible effects of the drug on human health, which may include altering the growth rate of bone and liver cells; animal protection groups worried that BST may increase the stress on cows; and dairy farmers anxious that many of them could be put out of business, since BST enables fewer cows to produce more milk, which is already in oversupply. The same debate is underway in Canada, where a multi-department review of the possible effects of BST is to be completed later this year.

A Dutch court on April 28 refused to order 50 cows to undergo abortions because they had been impregnated by a genetically engineered bull, and ruled as well that the bull could continue to provide semen to impregnate other cattle. The bull, raised by Gene Pharming Europe, of Leiden, bears a modified human gene that causes his daughters to produce human milk protein. The abortions and ban on further use of his semen were sought by the Netherlands Society for the Protection of Animals and the Dutch Green Party.

The Environmental Protection Agency is reportedly planning a crackdown on manure runoff from farms—and expecting outrage from agricultural lobbies. "Three-quarters of the nutrient pollution in coastal estuaries comes from non-point sources, including animal wastes,"

ANIMAL HEALTH & BEHAVIOR

Chinese authorities have begun purging officials of Shenqui county in Henan province for collaborating with Wang Zhiqiang, an entrepreneur who built a rural empire around a factory that manufactured fake veterinary medicines—among them "antibiotics" made of talcum powder and cornstarch, and "intravenous solution" made of monosodium glutamate dissolved in water. Wang allegedly bought off police and politicians, held investigators for ransom, and tortured witnesses. Federal authorities finally arrested Wang and shut down his No. 1 Veterinarian Medicine Factory, as he styled it, last December—five years after a veterinary hospital in a neighboring county tried to initiate action, and one year after Wang purportedly bought off a federal probe. Wang's factory reportedly earned \$526,000 from selling 20 different fake medicines over a six-year period, which in the Chinese economy had the purchasing power of tens of millions of dollars in the U.S. At least 20% of Wang's take was paid out in bribes.

Pitman-Moore, one of the world's largest veterinary pharmaceutical firms, is laying off more than 1,000 employees—30% of its workforce—and closing 11 of the 27 plants it operates in the U.S., Great Britain, South America, and the Pacific Rim. Imcera Group Inc., which owns Pitman-Moore, announced the downsizing on May 19. Several product lines will be discontinued due to poor profitability, including Grolene, a hormone used by confinement hog farmers to produce leaner pork, in lieu of providing the hogs with the opportunity to get outdoor exercise.

Thai Rath, one of the leading newspapers in Bangkok, Thailand, reported May 4 that an elephant rehabilitation center in the northern part of the country is trying to help 30 elephants formerly used

Trapping *not* necessary for rabies control, says N.Y. wildlife official

NEW YORK, N.Y.—New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Bureau of Wildlife official Gordon Batcheller rattled readers of *Fur Age Weekly* on May 17. "Although the harvest of raccoons is one way of reducing the risks of contact," Batcheller wrote in a guest article, "the relationships between hunting or trapping and population size are too complex to make a simplistic statement like: hunting and trapping is a *necessary* means of *control*."

Batcheller went on to describe progress in developing means of vaccinating raccoons to halt the mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic, now in its 14th year. His remarks were a sharp departure from the traditional position of state wildlife agencies, whose income is derived in part from the sale of trapping licenses, and were a direct rebuttal to recent claims by several *Fur Age Weekly* columnists.

The Centers for Disease Control and National Academy of Sciences agreed as far back as 1973 that trapping is ineffective in slowing the spread of rabies—because it opens habitat, encouraging both diseased and healthy animals to migrate and reproduce in greater numbers. Trappers and the fur trade have defended their activity, however, by pretending that it has a role in rabies prevention, and have been undaunted by the evidence that trapping up to half a million raccoons per year in the mid-Atlantic states during the 1980s only accelerated the spread of the raccoon rabies pandemic northward.

The pandemic began when trappers and raccoon hunters relocated rabid raccoons from Florida to West Virginia in 1977.

Diet & Health

The USDA on May 5 announced that it will begin requiring labels on raw meat and poultry to include cooking and handling instructions, explaining how to prevent health hazards such as the growth of *E.coli* bacteria, which in January and December killed four children who had just eaten undercooked hamburgers. The labeling rules are to be formally proposed by August 15. The new requirement comes in settlement of a lawsuit brought by Beyond Beef and the parents of one of the January victims. U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor meanwhile denied in a series of press releases and public statements that such strengthened food labeling laws could be overturned under that General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs and/or the North American

numerous animal rights groups, and obliged to pay a substantial sum to settle 16 state and federal cruelty charges.

After five years of virtual silence on farm issues, the Humane Society of the U.S. has unveiled a campaign against factory farming. HSUS launched a highly visible postcard campaign against what it called "the breakfast of cruelty"—bacon and eggs—in 1986, but allowed it to wither in 1988 after catching intensive flak from the pork and poultry lobbies. Eighteen months ago HSUS appeared to have tentatively aligned itself with the Beyond Beef Coalition assembled by crusading author Jeremy Rifkin, but was not involved by the time the coalition went public.

explains Environmental Defense Fund researcher Doug Rader. New York City is already spending \$3.4 million to fight manure contamination of the city water supply, piped in from upstate reservoirs. Thousands of Milwaukee residents fell ill in April after ingesting *cryptosporidium*, a parasite that apparently got into that city's water via cow manure.

Ian Duncan, director of the Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, finds out what conditions are acceptable to farm animals by letting them walk away from anything they don't like. He uses obstructions including a weighted push-door to measure the strength of their determination to get away from irritants. Duncan's work is funded by the Ontario Chicken Producers Marketing Board, Ontario Hydro, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Thirty-two federal grand juries are still probing the milk price bid-rigging scandal that broke in 1988. So far, 48 individuals and 43 companies have been convicted of inflating the price of milk sold to schools and military bases in 20 states. Major dairies involved include Borden/Meadow Gold, Flav-O-Rich, Pet/Land-O-Sun, Dean Foods, and Southland.

Namibia in early May froze transactions at several leading ostrich farms to facilitate an investigation of charges that eggs and chicks are being smuggled out of South Africa for resale via Namibia to the United States. Although there is still little demand for ostrich products other than feathers, speculation in breeding stock has reached such a pitch among U.S. farmers looking for alternatives to unprofitable cattle operations that eggs sell for \$350, chicks for \$2,500, and adult birds for as much as \$30,000. Promoters claim a market for ostrich meat and leather will develop, but outside analysts suspect the ostrich boom will collapse first.

The Vulture's Quill offers a flyer on soil erosion, free for SASE: P.O. Box 1124, Ukiah, CA 95482.

for dragging logs to kick amphetamine addiction. The elephants were allegedly drugged by their handlers—an extremely dangerous procedure for both the elephants and the men—so they would work harder.

Health officials in the Eastern Townships of Quebec (just north of Vermont) have confirmed 43 cases of rabies in wildlife, livestock, and domestic pets since last July, almost all of them in the Cowansville/Bromont/Granby/Knowlton area. Of the three humans who have required rabies shots, two were bitten by their own pets while the third was bitten by a skunk she mistook for one of her cats.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is blaming an outbreak of canine distemper among raccoons on the decline of trapping. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton recently pointed out to DoC officials that while raccoon trapping is sharply down, raccoon hunting with dogs is up—and it was fecal matter from diseased dogs, probably contaminating water sources, that undoubtedly brought distemper to the raccoons in the first place. DoC spokesperson Kathy Love then asserted that distemper can't be transmitted by fecal contamination of water sources, contradicting virtually every veterinary manual on the subject and the evidence that canine distemper transmitted by feces washed into the North Sea with storm runoff was responsible for killing several thousand seals during 1988 and 1989—the worst outbreak of canine distemper among wildlife on record.

Lance Workman, a lecturer at Glamorgan University in Wales, has discovered with the aid of sophisticated sound analysis equipment that robins from different parts of Britain sing with distinctively different regional accents. British robins don't migrate, unlike American robins, who may lose their accents through meeting and mingling with other populations.

Pippy, an escaped budgie, stopped barmaid Ruth Durbin on April 29 in the village of Nailsea, England, told her his address, and demanded to be taken home. Startled, Durbin complied.

Free Trade Agreement, as alleged obstacles to international commerce. Last year, the two agreements were invoked to overturn the use of U.S. dolphin protection legislation to exclude imports of tuna netted "on dolphin," at considerable cost in dolphin lives.

Honeymooning at Disney World in early May, Jeff Dorson and Dana Dell of Legislation In Support of Animals were so delighted to find soy burgers sold there that they gave the management a Golden Heart Award. The vegan burgers were added to the menu only two days before Dorson and Dell arrived. Aware that animal lovers are the single largest Disney constituency, Disney World has made a concerted effort to please the animal protection community since 1989, when several senior staffers were arrested for massacring a flock of federally protected black vultures to keep them from bombing visitors with their droppings. Disney World was subsequently disciplined by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, rebuked by the National Audubon Society, picketed and boycotted by

5 A Day, a two-year-old farm industry coalition formed to promote eating fruits and vegetables, now boasts more than 100 member organizations with a multi-million-dollar budget. Most of the members are corporate produce growers, but some farming and retailing groups and even some supermarket chains are included as well.

The USDA on May 20 closed the Cornhusker Packing Company in Omaha Nebraska, for allowing feces to contaminate cattle carcasses. The plant was featured but not named in a CBS news expose five days earlier.

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The Watchdog

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

But it was a great appeal

A firm called **In Vitro International** enlisted the aid of the Doris Day Animal League and the Animal Welfare Institute in late April as it awaited a ruling from the U.S. Department of Transportation as to whether a non-animal test it developed to measure chemical corrosivity could be used as a substitute for the traditional skin burn test on rabbits. Literature apparently originating with IVI, reprinted verbatim by AWI and colorfully amplified by DDAL, suggested that "tens of thousands of rabbits" would be subjected to the painful skin burn tests this summer so that U.S. chemical manufacturers could comply with a voluntary international labeling standard recommended by the United Nations and ratified by DOT, to take effect on October 1.

When DOT approved the IVI alternative test on April 30, DDAL immediately issued a press release claiming credit for the "victory." But as one leader in the alternatives field told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the release was, "Not quite the whole story." Checking with a variety of animal protection and chemical industry lobbyists, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** learned that most U.S. chemical manufacturers performed the tests necessary to comply with the U.N. labeling standard years ago—decades ago in some cases. Further, most of the chemical industry including the powerful Chemical Manufacturers Association supported the IVI application. No one **ANIMAL PEOPLE** contacted could identify any substantive opposition. Apparently, the DOT approval was a foregone conclusion (whether or not IVI knew it) before any of the alerts to activists were ever issued—which is why several other animal protection groups who knew about the application did not become involved.

Mountain lion mix-up

NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICANS FOR MEDICAL PROGRESS —OR MORE OF THE SAME?

Americans for Medical Progress has posted a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever vandalized the homes and cars of five federally funded researchers on April 28. Although the names of the researchers were not officially disclosed, one is believed to be Sharon Juliano, whose experiments on cats have been subject of numerous protests held in front of her home and elsewhere in her neighborhood.

AMP was founded by three executives of U.S. Surgical Corporation, specifically to attack the animal rights movement—and U.S. Surgical, whose laboratory use of dogs has been target of annual demonstrations by Friends of Animals for 13 years, donated \$980,000 of the \$985,000 AMP raised in 1991. (1992 financial data isn't yet available.) However, AMP refrained from any mention of animal issues in a May 14 full-page ad in *The New York Times*, which depicted Marie Curie and suggested that the purpose of the organization is to "bring the story of medical science—and medical heroes—to young Americans."

Sources close to the biomedical research community told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that U.S. Surgical president Leon Hirsch desperately wants to gain a role in designing the national public health plan now being assembled by Hilary Clinton, and has realized that bashing animal rights activism won't appeal to White House science advisor John Gibbon, an outspoken critic of animal experimentation that doesn't have a direct bearing on improving human or animal health.

Freedom of speech

Janet Fontenot, new editor of *The Southern Utah Spectrum*, a newspaper circulating 50,000 copies daily, recently dropped a weekly column by Lester Wood of Citizens for Humane Animal Treatment, and according to Wood, "initiated a policy of censorship against environmentalists, refusing to print letters to the editor with a pro-ecology viewpoint." In place of Wood's column, Fontenot is now publishing a column called "Maverick Country," which Wood describes as "a rabid anti-ecology column." Other Utah journalists essentially confirm Wood's account, noting that Fontenot has praised cattleman Met Johnson as

It's to make you turn green

The United Conservation Alliance, an association of hunters and trappers whose name only *sounds* like an environmental group, teamed with the Fur Information Council of America to distribute 100 public service announcements to 50 leading TV stations just before Earth Day. The 30-and-60-second announcements—which apparently were not aired by most of the stations—quoted Greg Lincombe of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, claiming, "Commercial trapping through the fur industry is the only

Last October, *Predator Project Newsletter* extensively quoted and paraphrased from a letter by Michael Horan of Eagle's Nest, New Mexico, protesting the relocation of 13 mountain lions as part of a study of their population dynamics which has yielded strong evidence that the species should not be hunted. Horan linked the relocation to older and ongoing mountain lion killing projects undertaken to protect livestock.

Various animal protection groups picked up and echoed Horan's claims, condensing his account each time, dropping source identification, and eventually adding appeals for letters of protest to be addressed to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Then someone, remembering that the original item had been published on newsprint, wrongly cited **ANIMAL PEOPLE** as the source, although the first issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** hadn't even gone to press yet when Horan wrote his letter.

While Horan alleged that the relocated mountain lions were being hunted, New Mexico Division of Wildlife chief Daniel Sutcliffe states that, "Prior to moving lions to private lands," the researchers "obtained agreements with the owners to ensure they would not be hunted, and they have not been." Eight of the 13 mountain lions have died, however, including two who were killed in fights with one another over territory and another who was trampled by a buck deer he attempted to pounce for food. Mountain lions are still being killed for predator control elsewhere in New Mexico, but the numbers are down considerably from the early 1980s.

Paws for Thought

"Legislator of the Year." Johnson is among the members of the Utah legislature who have advanced open seasons and legal jacklighting of skunks, raccoons, and red foxes, plus a 20% increase in the sale of puma permits, in the erroneous belief that killing predators will make more game available on depleted rangeland. The state wildlife agency and even some hunting groups are against the proposals.

Direct action

U.S. District Judge Fremming Nielsen freed Jonathan Paul, 27, from the Spokane County Jail on April 10, 158 days after Paul was held in contempt of court for refusing to testify to a federal grand jury probing an Animal Liberation Front raid on a Washington State University laboratory in August 1991. Paul had been asked to testify about his former housemate Rod Coronado, a suspect in several ALF actions who has been sought for questioning for over a year. Paul's twin sisters, one of whom is TV actress Alexandra Paul, waged a national campaign to free him that eventually led to a two-page spread in *People* magazine.

Activists John Paul Goodwin, 20, Michael Karbon, 20, and Jesse Keenan, 19, all of Memphis, Tennessee, pleaded guilty April 19 to petty vandalism in connection with spray-painting three fur stores last year, slashing the tires of a truck, and signing the action "ALF." They drew a year in jail apiece (which may be suspended), fines of \$2,000 each, and were ordered to make restitution.

Shelter Gang ad

viaible solution to keep muskrat and nutria in check." Actually, Louisiana alligators eat a lot more muskrat and nutria than trappers catch, and they'd eat even more if Linscombe's department didn't remove as many as 75,000 alligator eggs a year for resale to alligator farmers—but it's the sale of trapping permits (down 90% in five years) that keeps him in a job.

If they only knew

A recent survey commissioned by the Connecticut Attorney General found that of 805 randomly selected state residents, 55% said they would support a charity only if administrative and fundraising costs were kept below 20% of the charity's total budget—a standard most charities would fail but for accounting rules that allow many to write off fundraising expenses as "public education." A ceiling of 30% would be more realistic, and the National Charities Information Bureau sets the ceiling for accreditation at 40%.

Shirts by Bob

"PAWS on Sanibel Island (Florida) has done a good job with the feral cat population," ANIMAL PEOPLE subscriber Sue Clark wrote on the back of this photo.

Calif. neutering bill stalled SEEN AS THREAT TO NEUTER/RELEASE

SACRAMENTO, California—Apparently ready to clear the California state legislature without opposition, a bill to require that free-roaming cats be neutered was stalled at the last minute by unexpected objections from the San Francisco SPCA. The bill, AB 302, by assemblyman Paul Horchner, reads simply, "An owner of a cat over the age of six months shall have the cat sterilized if the cat is permitted outdoors without supervision." Violators would be given citations similar to traffic tickets, with all penalties waived if their cats were neutered within a 30-day grace period. The bill had the active support of the California Veterinary Medical Association, numerous national organizations, and almost every humane group in the state, including several who neuter and release feral cats. However, a San Francisco coalition called Cat Advocates somehow saw AB 302 as a

mittee still wants to kill the cats. "We suspect their agenda is to quietly hire cat exterminators," Smith told ANIMAL PEOPLE.

Apparently Cat Advocates believes that AB 302 could be used to declare the presence of the Golden Gate ferals illegal, or conversely, to declare that the groups which have neutered them are their owners and therefore responsible for removing them from public property.

AB 302 will now be reviewed in committee until next year.

"We face more than enough attack, opposition, and innuendo from people who are uneducated, misguided, or who have agendas other than the animals' best interests at heart," editorialized Marin Humane Society cruelty officer Pat Miller in the spring 1993 edition of the California Humane Action and Information Network newsletter. "Which makes it all the more

National survey finds both high neutering rate and indifference

Newly published statistics collected last November by the polling firm Penn & Schoen Associates shed new light on the human aspects of pet overpopulation. Interviewing 803 randomly selected Americans who had owned pets within the preceding five years, Penn & Schoen found that 77% of cat owners and 58% of dog owners had neutered their animals. Five percent of cat owners and 11% of dog owners were intentional breeders, but the data, published in the May 1993 edition of *Shelter Sense*, did not distinguish between breed fanciers, who may breed only once in several years, and backyard commercial breeders, who in effect run small-scale puppy mills and catteries. Approximately 12% of cat owners and 31% of dog owners would appear to be accidental breeders, responsible for producing at least one unwanted litter per animal (although with what frequency the unwanted litters are born was not clear).

The Penn & Schoen telephone poll also asked owners of unaltered pets why they did not have them neutered. Among this group, 23% percent of dog owners and 31% of cat owners said neutering is unnecessary; 26% of dog owners and 14% of cat owners cited interest in breeding; and 4% of dog owners (1.7% of all dog owners) and 11% of cat owners (2.5% of all cat owners) said neutering is too expensive.

This information corroborates recent findings in similar polls commissioned by the Massachusetts SPCA and the Humane Society of Vero Beach (Florida). The most significant differences found in the MSPCA poll were that none of the MSPCA respondents thought neutering a dog is too expensive, and 87% of the cat owners had neutered their animals. The Vero Beach poll differed most notably in that 53% of the owners of unaltered dogs wanted to breed them—twice the national average. Although the percentages of MSPCA and HSVB respondents who complained about the cost of neutering cats were higher in each case than the national average, the range was only up to 4% of the total number of cat owners.

The Penn & Schoen survey was paid for by the Humane Society of the U.S.

Performing Animals

The Louisiana state senate on May 12 passed a bill to make attending an illegal dogfight a crime, 33-0, but reduced the offense from a felony to a misdemeanor, and cut the maximum penalty from three years in jail and a fine of \$3,000 to one year in jail and a fine of \$1,000. A bill to ban cockfighting meanwhile remained stalled in a legislative committee headed by cockfighting fan Rep. Raymond Lalonde.

Top-ranked three-year-old race-

obtain custody of a caged brown bear a United Nations patrol found behind a restaurant on April 29 near Vitz, Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The bear's future remains in the hands of armed men hardened by war and resentful of foreigners trying to impose alien standards on the treatment of animals," the *Montreal Gazette* reported.

Axel Gautier, 51, an elephant trainer with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus since 1957, was

bill to require the roundup and euthanasia of all feral cats, even though no language in it suggests any such thing.

The three member groups of Cat Advocates—the San Francisco SPCA, Pets & Pals, and StreetCat Rescue—“have been involved for months in hearings with San Francisco Animal Control and Welfare,” according to Dana C. Smith of the Feral Cat Advocates subcommittee. “The Audubon Society is trying to blame depleted numbers of ground-feeding birds and songbirds on feral cats in Golden Gate Park,” although the rats plentiful in the park probably have at least as much to do with it. “They have been lobbying for a trap-and-kill program. Animal Control, after six well-attended public meetings, determined there was no definite evidence linking cats to significant loss of birds.” However, the park planning com-

disheartening when we are hit with ‘friendly fire’ from one of our own, whether it be a territorial dispute, a hurtful public statement, or lack of support for a beneficial and much-needed piece of legislation.”

[Editor's note: the trick to avoiding friendly fire is communication. Inasmuch as Marin is only a five-minute drive from San Francisco, both are only a two-hour drive from the state capitol in Sacramento, and all three are served by the major San Francisco media, which have extensively covered the Golden Gate Park situation, ANIMAL PEOPLE wonders why Cat Advocates and the San Francisco SPCA weren't consulted about the language of AB 302 before it ever was introduced. This is exactly the sort of fiasco we warned about in our January/February editorial, "Time to Get Smart About Politics."]

horse Union City broke a leg in the May 15 Preakness Stakes, and was euthanized minutes later.

British horse racing authorities are still trying to sort out the legal and financial chaos resulting from the repeated false starts and eventual nullification of the April 4 Grand National Steeplechase. Twice race officials recalled the field due to technical difficulties and disruptions by animal rights activists, but the second time most of the 39 riders missed the red flags. John White, riding 50-1 longshot Eshna Ness, galloped to “victory” just ahead of 25-1 risk Cahervillahow in the cancelled race, as 50,000 spectators and bettors came to the verge of riot.

As of mid-May, British troops acting on behalf of the World Society for the Protection of Animals were still unable to

fatally stomped May 4 by an elephant at the circus farm in Wiliston, Florida. Gautier was a sixth-generation circus performer descended from the founders of the Didier Gautier circus in France. His sons Michael and Kevin continue the family tradition.

Greyhound trainer John Pimental, 63, of North Pownal, Vermont pleaded no contest on April 21 to two cruelty charges in exchange for further charges being dropped, and was sentenced to do 100 hours of community service. Pimental allegedly allowed at least four of the 70 dogs in his kennel to become seriously infested with parasites. He was cited by the Bennington County Humane Society in August. In late December the North Pownal greyhound track announced it would go out of business.

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Animal Control & Rescue

The North Shore Animal League on May 13 became official sponsor of Spay USA. NSAL sponsorship is expected to result in a major expansion of the program, a hotline to help pet owners locate affordable neutering (1-800-248-SPAY; 375-6627 in Connecticut).

The New York State Humane Association is supporting 13 bills to strengthen state humane laws, including measures to set up a state Animal Population Control Fund similar to those in New Jersey and Connecticut, and to give judges the authority to take animals away

POUND SEIZURE FIGHT RESUMES

The term "pound seizure" may be unfamiliar to animal protection people who have been involved for less than a decade, but the battle over it is heating up—again.

The most bitterly fought issue in humane work for decades, "pound seizure" is the practice of laboratories requisitioning dogs and cats from shelters for research use, which is known to discourage many people from surrendering animals to shelters. After the National Society for Medical Research formed in 1945 to promote pound seizure, it became mandatory in Minnesota (1948), Wisconsin (1949), and New York (1952). South Dakota, Connecticut, Ohio, and Iowa also enacted mandatory pound seizure before 1960. The American SPCA endorsed it, as a presumed humane alternative to euthanasia (a position since revoked), while the then-New York-based American Humane Association split over the issue. Anti-pound seizure factions quit both groups to found the Animal Welfare Institute in 1951, the Humane Society of the U.S. in 1954 (then known as the National Humane Society), and the National Catholic Society for Animal Welfare (now the International Society for Animal Rights) in 1959.

After an attempt to mandate pound seizure failed in Illinois, the issue lay dormant until the mid-1970s, when it was

from convicted abusers. New York residents may get details from 914-255-7099.

The Louisiana House Agriculture Committee recently killed bills to permit judges to order the seizure of allegedly abused animals during investigations, and to start a state animal population task force.

Legislation In Support of Animals on May 13 won an appeal of a district court ruling that because the local district attorney found no violations of law

shire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Biomedical research use of dogs and cats meanwhile fell to less than 10% of the numbers of the mid-1960s—about 170,000 dogs and 60,000 cats, as of 1988, combining the numbers used in public and private institutions. Most are now purpose-bred.

But pound seizure quietly went on. Interest in the forgotten issue reignited in January when several Washington state legislators backed a bill to mandate pound seizure, as an act of retaliation, one explained, against animal rights activists who annoyed her during the battle over the anti-pet breeding ordinance adopted in King County last year.

The Washington bill was killed by the intervention of the Washington State Federation of Humane Societies—on four days' notice before the first legislative hearing. But it encouraged humane groups around the U.S. to probe pound seizure in their own communities. In Texas, Houston Animal Control and Harris County Animal Control were found to have sold 225 and 1,065 animals to laboratories, respectively, in 1992. The Louisiana group Legislation In Support of Animals discovered that East Baton Rouge Animal Control sold as many

himself, LISA could not prosecute the Vermilion Parish Police Jury in Vermilion, Louisiana, for allegedly neglecting impounded animals. The prosecution will now proceed, LISA executive Jeff Dorson said, unless the pound cleans up its act.

The Louisiana SPCA on April 23 used a 1987 vaccination tag to reunite a Doberman named Tasha with owner Chris Altobello of Metairie, who searched for her for six months after she jumped his fence during a 1988 electrical storm.

Because behavioral problems are the leading cause of failed adoptions, the San Francisco SPCA now requires adopters of dogs to leave a deposit refundable upon completion of an obedience course (for both dog and owner).

Marksmen hired by the federal Animal Damage Control program resumed killing laughing gulls at New York's Kennedy International Airport on May 20, after the Federal Aviation Administration declared them a safety hazard. The gunners killed 30,000 gulls at the airport during the past two years, an estimated 25% of the population, but planes continue to hit gulls, including an Avianca jet with 96 people aboard that made an emergency landing February 25 on just one engine, after a gull strike knocked out a second engine. That gull was probably a black-backed gull or herring gull, according to Sierra Club board member Jack Hoyt, since laughing gulls don't frequent the airport in February.

The Daishowa Inc. pulp mill near Quebec City, Quebec, rated the seventh worst industrial polluter on the St. Lawrence River by Environment Canada, plans to destroy thousands of gulls' eggs under government supervision because the birds allegedly make too much mess.

The Houston SPCA is building a 46,000-square-foot shelter, 2.5 times as big

when the new one opens.

Police in Easton, Massachusetts on May 1 discovered a headless African jungle cat called a serval near the Raynham Taunton Greyhound Park. Callers from three nearby towns had reported seeing a jungle cat—but the remains did not match videotape of the cat.

TV personality Dick Cavett reportedly hopes to make a documentary on the abuse of exotic cats kept as pets, based on the experiences of the Cedar Hill Sanctuary in Caledonia, Mississippi.

Louisiana State University veterinary students are helping cat rescuers Merle Suhayda and Joy McCool to neuter the campus feral cat colony. About 35 of the 90 cats treated so far have been adopted out; the rest are in a neuter/release program.

Law librarian Katherine Foster 31, of Garland, Texas, says she plans to build an animal shelter with the \$1 million she won in the May 13 state lottery.

Acting on instructions from the Illinois Department of Conservation Dupage County Animal Control arrested volunteer state trapping instructor Ron Erickson on February 10 for setting unmarked traps without the landowner's permission. However, when Erickson argued that animal control officers don't have the authority to enforce wildlife laws, the charges were dropped and the DOC, a deadline, was refusing to reopen the case. Earlier, Erickson led a successful lobbying effort to amend state law to bar communities from independently banning leghold trapping—as Dupage County had.

Fire possibly caused by a leaking gas line razed the Seminole County Humane Society in Sanford, Florida on April 14 killing 63 of 103 kennel dogs and causing \$157,000 worth of damage. An adjacent cat shelter was unharmed.

Humane Society of Greater Akron director Dee Durst resigned May 1, after a members' meeting convened by court order required the board to hire a vet

revived by the rise of the animal rights movement and by anti-pound seizure voices within the AHA, who finally gained control after the organization moved from New York to Colorado. Pound seizure was then banned in nine contiguous northeastern states between 1977 and 1985—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hamp-

Tough sledding

The United Coalition of Iditarod Animal Rights Volunteers is asking that letters be sent to sponsors of the 1,100-mile Anchorage-to-Nome dog sled race, asking them to either withdraw or back rules that would require teams to be rested at all checkpoints; disqualify mushers who have a dog die during the race; bar competitors from holding organizing or officiating posts; and require independent drug testing of dogs. The major sponsors include Chrysler Corp., 12000 Chrysler Drive, Highland Park, MI 48288-0857; IAMS, 7250 Poe Ave., Dayton, OH 45414-5801; Timberland, P.O. Box 5050, Hampton, NH 03842-5050; and ABC Wide World of Sports, 47 West 66th St., New York, NY 10023.

ABC is withholding a payment of \$40,000 to the Iditarod Trail Committee for exclusive rights to televise the 1993 race because the ITC allowed ESPN, owned by the same holding company as ABC, to broadcast a two-minute news segment. The ITC has also received notice that it will not receive \$50,000 it expected to get from Stephan Fine Arts as a royalty on the sale of official Iditarod art prints, due to poor sales.

Staff of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough animal shelter in Alaska recently found the remains of 41 dogs of all ages and several different breeds along roadsides near Misty Lake, Big Lake, and Sutton. The dogs had been shot multiple times. Believed to be culled sled dogs, none had the microchips used to identify Iditarod participants.

as 700 live dogs, 200 live cats, 60 dead dogs, 30 dead cats, and 20 dead kittens to the Louisiana State University medical school in 1992-1993—the most since 1988, when it sold 511 live animals to labs. The Network for Ohio Animal Action revealed in a recent alert that Summit County Animal Control in Akron is also selling animals to labs, and several northern California activist groups report that their local animal control agencies apparently sell animals to labs, too, though none could give **ANIMAL PEOPLE** hard numbers.

A variety of anti-pound seizure campaigns are now in planning.

Greyhound racers, cultists on the run in Brazil

SÃO PAULO, Brazil—As of January, the Brazilian humane group *Uniao em defesa das baleias/Uniao em defesa da natureza* had no files on greyhound racing. Then, president Ana Maria Pinheiro told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "Dino Miraglia imported 30 greyhounds from New England."

Quick to investigate, Pineiro obtained thick dossiers on greyhound racing and training as practiced in the U.S. from the World Society for the Protection of Animals, translated the materials into Portuguese, "invited the press, and had a meeting with the attorney general," who is empowered to enforce the Brazilian humane laws.

The attorney general promptly "called Mr. Miraglia to his office," Pinheiro continued, and obliged him to "sign a commitment declaring that he will not keep the animals in cages, that he will not encourage the dogs to run with the use of live animals, and he will not by any means engage himself in gambling. The animals will be examined periodically by veterinarians designated by the League for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, located in Belo Horizonte, capital of the State of Minas Gerais," whose president is attorney Edna Cardozo Dias."

But Miraglia, who had already presented one race in Belo Horizonte, sponsored by Coca-Cola, was not about to give up. He threatened to sue Pinheiro and her organization for defamation. Cardozo Dias, however, presented the judge with an article about Miraglia's greyhound investment from the Boston *Globe*, "in which he explained himself all that we had declared of him."

Miraglia is apparently still seeking a permit to hold greyhound races from the Ministry of Agriculture, but is now opposed by 70 organizations.

Meanwhile, Pinheiro wrote, "We wish to inform you that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** played a very important role. As we were getting our documents ready for presentation to the attorney gener-

al, the very eve, we received **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. We intended to leave it aside and read it later. But something made us open it." The issue included a brief item noting that as betting receipts decline in New England, breeders are looking to Brazil as a new source of profits. "We clipped the news," Pinheiro went on, "translated it, called attention to it with our colored pens, and the attorney general was very much impressed by those facts.

erinarian who would report to the board, not to the director. Supported by most of the board, Durst had been criticized by several former board members and volunteers for allegedly failing to provide veterinary care. When the dissidents tried to call a special membership meeting to address the matter the pro-Durst faction withheld the membership list until the court stepped in.

Calls to the Pet Assistance Foundation seeking help with neutering increased 41% this spring, after the San Diego Water district enclosed a notice about the group's neuter subsidy program with water bills.

"We are also fighting against the use of animals in rites," Pinheiro noted. "Our Constitution bans cruel acts against animals and allows freedom of religion 'provided the laws be not disrespectful.' But as these ritual killings occur mainly indoors, in 'sacred' places called *terreiros*," there is no effective enforcement of the anti-cruelty law.

"Sometimes these cultists go to cemeteries," Pinheiro went on, "where they worship John Skull, the chief of the phalanx that inhabits cemeteries, who is fond of bad deeds. Therefore this deity receives many gifts like animals with their eyes pierced, limbs severed, mouths stitched closed, or even sewn into other animals. On Fridays many animals die, especially on Passover."

The former mayor of São Paulo, a cultist himself, opened bidding two years ago for the construction of 20 sacrificial altars in public cemeteries. Backed by the press, the humane groups petitioned the city superintendent of funeral services to block the plan—which she did, at considerable personal risk.

"Now we have a new mayor," Pinheiro said, "the former mayor's strongest opponent, and he promised us that he will never allow such abominable constructions. We have been inspecting the areas surrounding cemeteries, and we have found many improvements."

Letters of thanks may be addressed to Paulo Maluf, Mayor of São Paulo; Rua Costa Rica, 146; 01437-010 São Paulo, SP; Brazil.

No dolphins in Denver!

(continued from page one)

1987-1991, during which time the USDA charged the park with a number of violations of federal dolphin holding standards.

Duxbury scored another hit when the Flemings insisted Colorado's Ocean Journey would include only "third-generation captive-born dolphins," only to learn through the media that there are no third-generation captive-born dolphins anywhere in the world.

The Flemings denied that the ARM! campaign was the reason they decided not to build a dolphin facility, but gave no other specific reasons for the surprise announcement. Several corporations that had provided seed money, however, had become visibly jittery—and the Flemings have raised less than 10% of the \$50 million estimated cost of building the park.

"When we initially sponsored this," Pepsi-Cola Denver marketing manager told *Westward*, a local weekly newspaper, "we didn't know there were issues at all over dolphins." The Coors Brewing Company meanwhile backed away as well. Coors director of corporate communications David Taylor told everyone who inquired that, "Coors isn't involved on one side or the other."

Two rival groups are also in the race to establish an aquarium in the Denver area, and both have already pledged to exclude marine mammals. Colorado Aquarium Inc., established by the 45-year-old Colorado Aquarium Society, is dickering with the suburb of Westminster over a bond issue to finance a similar \$50 million facility, and has a comparable list of initial sponsors. The much more recently formed Rocky Mountain Aquarium Foundation has received \$20,000 from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation to research building an aquarium in Estes Park, to feature native North American species only.

Big win for struggling group

The "no dolphins in Denver" campaign was an impressive national debut for Duxbury, a former laboratory technician whose on-the-job experience preparing dogs for experiments convinced her to change directions in life. Duxbury spent about \$20,000 on the dolphin campaign over a six-month period, about a fifth of the budget for similar campaigns waged by bigger groups with less suc-

cess—and was able to spend that much, about \$1.00 for every person on the ARM! mailing list, only by often going without her already minimal wages.

Duxbury succeeded ARM! founders George Cave and Dana Stuchell as head of the organization just last year. A leading voice of the animal rights movement under the name Trans Species Unlimited during the 1980s, the group went into steep decline in 1989-1990, as revenues fell 70%. The name change, coming in mid-collapse, apparently didn't help. A New York office was closed and the Chicago office became an independent organization before Duxbury took over, at which point ARM! relocated from Pennsylvania to Littleton, Colorado. In order to devote her effort to reviving ARM!, Duxbury folded her own six-year-old Rocky Mountain Humane Society, which did no sheltering but won a strong reputation for regional advocacy. Three of her regional campaigns drew national attention: a successful boycott of Mary Kay Cosmetics, begun in 1988 to persuade the firm to quit testing products on animals; the 1991 prosecution of Denver TV reporter Wendy Bergen for staging a dogfight, ostensibly to expose dogfighting; and an unsuccessful attempt to halt an annual prairie dog killing contest held near Nucla, Colorado.

The "no dolphins in Denver" campaign was initi-

ated last fall by another local advocacy group, the Society for Earth Ethics, but quickly gained a national profile when ARM! took the leading role. Finding other animal rights groups uninterested and uncooperative, Duxbury formed strong alliances with marine mammal protection groups instead, including the Dolphin Alliance, the Dolphin Project, Earth Island Institute, and Orcalab. Dolphin experts providing significant help included Ric Trout, a former dolphin trainer for the U.S. Navy whose revelations about military use of marine mammals drew Congressional attention to the subject in 1989, and Ken Levasseur, who helped release two dolphins from captivity in mid-experiment at the University of Hawaii's Kawala Basin Marine Research Facility in 1977, after spending two years as one of their live-in caretakers. (He was assisted by Steve Sipman, another live-in caretaker.)

But Duxbury's most influential backer was David Brower, founder of both Earth Island Institute and Friends of the Earth. Brower persuaded Aspen Center for Environmental Studies director Thomas Cardamone to resign from the Colorado's Ocean Journey advisory board in March, a month after Thorne Ecological Institute director Susan Q. Foster quit, citing unease with the proposed dolphin exhibit. The resignations undercut the Flemings' claim that Colorado's Ocean Journey would serve an ecological purpose as well as being an entertainment center.

"All in all, I'm happy," Duxbury told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "I think I'll take a break for a few days—do some hiking and enjoy the mountains." Upon her return, she pledged, she would take a careful look at another attraction promised by Colorado's Ocean Journey, "swimming tigers" trained by Bill Fleming himself. Tigers, unlike most other felines, are often enthusiastic swimmers, but whether they like performing is unclear.

There was one disappointment for Duxbury. "A few people," she said, "who shall remain nameless, were less than enthusiastic over the news. I'm hurt and appalled over their reactions, and these people are part of the animal rights movement! It's as though they didn't want to see a victory on this. I guess I'm naive, but I thought the goal of the animal rights movement, as a whole, is to put itself out of business as a result of achieving animal liberation—somewhere down the road in about 100 years."

—Article and photo by Merritt Clifton

AAZPA ADOPTS GIANT PANDA CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

Stung by criticism of panda rental deals, which have enabled some U.S. zoos to rake in millions of dollars by spending several hundred thousand dollars to borrow a giant panda from China, the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums adopted a comprehensive giant panda conservation action plan on April 23. Under the plan, AAZPA will for the first time station a species survival coordinator in China, at cost of \$100,000 a year, to make sure money paid by U.S. zoos for panda and panda habitat protection is actually spent for the stated purpose. China is presently receiving more than \$1 million a year from AAZPA members in connection with panda rentals, but indications are that much of the money is diverted, as was a considerable portion of the \$2.5 million the World Wildlife Fund sent to China for panda protection between 1961 and 1986. The budget for a WWF-funded panda breeding facility included building a town-sized hydroelectric plant—and the breeding facility, for all the spending, had produced only one stillborn panda cub as of 1990. Wildlife Conservation Society science director George Schaller, author of *The Last Panda*, praised the AAZPA action as a step in the right direction. Meanwhile, concerned that money for pandas might stop coming if the last thousand left in the wild and last 100 in captivity die without reproducing, China has over the past year announced the creation or expansion of 14 panda reserves, and the birth of 13 pandas in captivity, of whom 11 are still alive. Panda loans continue: the San Diego Zoo has just agreed to pay China \$1 million a year for each of the next three years to borrow a breeding pair, and may renew the deal for up to 10 years.

Zoos & Aquariums

The Zoological Society of London on April 13 rejected plans by entrepreneur David Laing and New Zoo Developments Ltd. to build a \$55 million walk-through aquarium and wildlife film theatre on the 36-acre site. The 166-year-old London Zoo, the world's oldest, has raised \$3.8 million independently, toward the cost of \$32.5 million worth of renovations it needs to become a captive breeding facility. Laing said he would try to situate the proposed aquarium and theatre elsewhere in London.

The Pittsburgh Zoo opened an insect gallery on April 24, featuring a \$24,000 video camera that allows visitors to zoom in on particular insects, magnify their view, and follow them around a terrarium. Nineteen insect species are featured in the gallery, and are rotated in the magnification area.

The Houston Zoo in mid-May opened Small Mammal World, featuring 165 animals of 37 species in replica desert, rain forest, and mountaintop habitats, plus a Texas Wetland Exhibit, which is a renovated alligator exhibit and—protected from the alligators by a fence—a number of other native species including turtles, ducks, gars, and egrets.

The Fossil Rim Wildlife Center at Glen Rose, Texas, announced May 20 that it has managed to hatch endangered Attwater's prairie chickens—the first time the species has been bred successfully in captivity. Adverse weather has cut the wild population from 1,100 individuals to fewer than 450 over the past five years.

Jaws

The National Marine Fisheries Service on April 29 issued fishing quotas on 39 shark species native along the U.S. coast from Maine to Texas, and banned catching sharks just to cut off their fins, which command high prices in China, Japan and Southeast Asia. The action is intended to prevent the slow-breeding and heavily hunted sharks from becoming endangered. A total ban on commercial pursuit of the great white shark, tiger shark, and black tip shark is under consideration. West coast sharks were not protected because, NMFS spokespersons said, they are already covered by various state laws.

The Parc Safari Zoo in Hemmingford, Quebec, was quarantined May 11, just 11 days before it was to open to the public for the summer, after two Cape elands were found to have died of tuberculosis back in February. Any other infected animals were to be slaughtered, except for endangered species, which would be placed in permanent quarantine.

Last year the Philadelphia Zoo began turning a buck on the side by selling animal manure to a company that marketed it as Zoo Doo. The Paignton Zoo in southeastern England has upped the ante, selling resin-coated, cannonball-sized elephant turds at \$9.25 apiece. First offered on Easter weekend, they reportedly went "like hot cakes."

Whaling ban holds

TOKYO, Japan—The 47th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission concluded May 14 with the 1986 ban on commercial whaling still intact—and Japan and Norway still threatening to follow Iceland in quitting the treaty that holds the IWC together.

Norway has already announced that it will resume commercial whaling this summer, risking trade sanctions from the United States. Meanwhile, Norway and Japan are already harpooning 100 and 300 minke whales apiece per year for "research." The rudimentary research ends in each nation with the whale meat on restaurant tables. Claiming that the Southern Hemisphere minke whale population is up to 760,000 and out of danger, Japan wants to kill 2,000 a year. The Japanese government is also desperately worried that the IWC will extend its authority from minke, the smallest of the great whales, to smaller cetaceans such as dolphins and porpoises. As with the great whales, some species of dolphins and porpoises have been driven close to extinction by aggressive hunting, and public opinion in most of the developed nations favors protecting them.

Japan, whose turn it was to host the IWC meeting, had hoped to weaken the whaling ban by persuading four tiny Caribbean nations—Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines—to vote with the Japanese and Norwegians as a bloc, apparently with economic aid from Japan as an incentive although Japanese IWC commissioner Kazuo Shima denied any linkage. The extra votes were enough to delay a French proposal that all waters south of 40 degrees latitude should immediately become an international whale sanctuary, and to win approval for a resolution recognizing the effect of the whaling ban on Japanese coastal whalers. However, street demonstrations and whale meat banquets staged by the Japanese whaling industry with government support failed to impress other IWC delegates, and were met with counter-demonstrations by Japanese environmentalists.

As the meeting got underway, the four-vessel Norwegian "research" whaling fleet announced that after a month at sea, it hadn't managed to kill any whales at all due to rough weather. A group of priests in coastal towns began praying for them, and a week after the IWC meeting, called upon counterparts in the U.S., England, and Germany to tell their congregations that opposing whaling is "in conflict with Christian thinking."

Birds

Alaska revives plan to strafe wolves

JUNEAU, Alaska—Just six months after an international tourism boycott forced the Alaska Board of Game to rescind a plan to strafe radio-collared wolves, the board is ready to ratify essentially the same plan—unless it ratifies one even deadlier.

On the agenda for the June 26 meeting of the Board of Game are 92 separate wolf management proposals, including two from the state Department of Fish and Game that differ from last winter's proposal mainly in that they would encourage killing as many wolves as possible from the ground before the air strikes begin. Hunters and trappers would be given the radio collar frequencies, so that they could trace each wolf pack in the Delta and Fortymile areas, south of Fairbanks, right to their dens. The killing could start as early as July 1.

The Department of Fish and Game proposals renege on deputy director of wildlife conservation Wayne Regelin's written statement last January that "the commissioner of Fish and Game has suspended implementation of the wolf management plan and ordered that no wolf control measures be taken in 1993."

When the new proposals became public, Regelin said his written statement was made "in error."

Most of the other proposals to the Board of Game, presented by various individuals and organizations, call for a similar approach. Some would legalize jacklighting wolves; some would legalize poisoning wolves; some would restore bounties on wolves; many would defy the federal Airborne Hunting Act by reviving wolf hunting from the air by private individuals. Only a symbolic handful would stop the slaughter.

The original rationale for the wolf-killing was to increase the number of moose and caribou available to hunters in the heavily hunted area between Anchorage and Fairbanks. But for many would-be wolf-killers, the issue now is political independence. As Alaska governor Walter Hickel put it in defending last winter's wolf-killing proposals, "I will not be part of the state of Alaska giving away its sovereignty." As leader of the Alaska Independence Party, Hickel favors seceding from the United States.

"They hope to take the fizzle out of a tourism boycott," said Friends of Animals president Priscilla

Unidentified falconer's prairie falcon. (Photo by Robert Harrison.)

Trying to find out why a pair of peregrine falcons have been unable to produce eggs in five years of nesting atop Terminal Tower in downtown Cleveland, raptor expert Harvey Webster of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History captured the female on April 30—and learned she was a sterile hybrid of a peregrine and a prairie falcon, illegally bred by a falconer whose leather tethers remained on her legs. The falcon was sent to the University of Minnesota aviary for live study. Her mate, who in 1988 was the first captive-bred peregrine released in Ohio, is expected to find another female soon, as several others have recently been seen in the area.

The discovery of a peregrine falcon nest on a ledge overlook-

Wildlife

New head of USFWS faces fight to renew ESA

LAND USE CONFLICTS ERUPT ALL OVER

WASHINGTON D.C.—Nominated by President Bill Clinton to head the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, forester Mollie Beattie of Grafton, Vermont is expected to be Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's chief mapmaker, as the administration seeks to secure renewal of a strong Endangered Species Act by reorienting the law to protect critical habitat rather than individual species.

Her main duty, she told Burlington *Free Press* reporter Nancy Bazilchuk upon receiving word of her nomination, will be to "map and inventory the country's ecosystems, so we know which ones are scarcest and need more protection."

The first woman to head the USFWS, Beattie will also be asked to revitalize the agency's law enforcement division, whose budget and staff were decimated after high-profile conflicts with trophy hunters during the 12 years of the Ronald Reagan and George Bush presidential administrations.

Meanwhile, even as Clinton personally took the lead in trying to negotiate a solution to the spotted owl crisis in the Pacific Northwest, more land use conflicts erupted.

Return of the panther

In Florida, pressured by a lawsuit filed by the Fund for Animals, the USFWS on May 5 published a conservation plan for the endangered Florida panther that would put 3.2 million acres in 20 counties off limits to development—about 53% of it belonging to private individuals. Membership in Citizens for Constitutional Property Rights immediately soared, new local chapters were organized, and numerous landowners and developers

ing I-91 near Morey Mountain, Vermont, has delayed maintenance to prevent rock slides until after August 1. Once the young falcons fly away, the ledge will be covered with a \$280,000 steel net. Previous slides in the area closed I-91 for a time in 1990, and one lane in each direction has remained closed ever since.

New United Motor Manufacturing Inc., jointly owned by General Motors and Toyota, is building artificial nesting sites for endangered burrowing owls in exchange for state permission to build a new bumper-making plant in Fremont, California. The artificial nesting sites are in lieu of setting aside a 6.5-acre owl preserve that might have cost \$1.5 million.

Tearing down an old transmission tower in Metairie Louisiana, Louisiana Power and Light in April displaced about 500 federally protected purple martins at the height of their nesting season. LP&L set up 40 martin houses by way of replacement, but that wasn't nearly enough, martin expert Debra Voth told the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, and in any case they were installed months too late. Voth estimated that the project prevented the birth of as many as 2,500 martins.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation is providing bird feeders, a starter feeding kit, and various accessories to nursing homes at \$120 per kit, through a program called "A Bird's Eye View." Some participating nursing homes also receive regular visits from animal shelter staff, who bring cats to be petted, but the programs are complimentary, as the birds stay outside and the cats stay in.

The controversy over protection measures for the endangered spotted owl has spilled over into British Columbia from the northwestern United States. The B.C. environment ministry is drafting a spotted owl recovery plan to safeguard 46 of the owls who have been located at 27 sites since 1990. The population includes only five nesting pairs, and 17 of the owl sites are imminently threatened by logging. Already about 40% of the land in the Fraser Valley, where the owls have been found, is off limits to logging, and owl protection is expected to claim 10% of the remainder.

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Feral, who was among the first to call last winter's boycott, "by shooting wolves this summer," after most travel reservations have been booked. "Then the big killing would start in the early winter of 1994, when the snow is deep and the wolves can be easily tracked from the air. Boycotts will have a powerful effect in November, when people are making reservations for the summer of 1994. Unfortunately, November is too late, as Alaska will say they've been knocking off wolves all summer and fall. Our enormous task is to announce something as soon as the Board of Game decision comes out, and then keep the message alive for the next six months."

Letters protesting plans to kill wolves may be addressed to Hickel at P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK 9981-0001, and to Connel Murray, State of Alaska Dept. of Commerce and Economic Development, P.O. Box 110801, Juneau, AK 99811-0801.

Polls show that despite the vociferous support for wolf-killing from hunters, most Alaskans believe the whole idea should be cancelled.

Habitat

Over the past 28 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund financed by offshore oil and gas drilling royalties has raised more than \$9 billion, the revenues from which—\$900 million a year—were supposed to have been spent on acquiring land for national parks and wildlife refuges. However, the Ronald Reagan and George Bush administrations gradually diverted the money elsewhere. The current federal budget, Bush's last, allocated only \$284 million for land acquisition, and Bill Clinton's proposed budget cuts that 24%, to just \$208 million.

China has set aside 77,000 square miles in northern Tibet as a wildlife sanctuary—an area the size of South Dakota. More than 125,000 square miles of the remote Himalayan nation had already been reserved for wildlife. Nearly 40% of Tibet is now officially protected habitat for yaks, snow leopards, rare high-altitude sheep, and a variety of antelope species.

New York City has announced plans to separate the Central Park Reservoir from the city water system later this year. The reservoir, one of the critical habitats for New York's urban wildlife, may be added to the park area intact—or may be drained, filled, and converted into athletic fields.

pledged legal action. Leading members of CCPR have already sued several governmental bodies for allegedly depriving them of property rights without compensation, via zoning and other conservation measures.

The fracas broke out just as Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission biologist David Maehr suggested the panther might be saved through the occasional introduction of closely related Texas cougars to the remaining habitat, a program begun in February to prevent inbreeding. Formerly, experts believed that the population of only 50 adults was perilously low, Maehr explained, but the discovery of the tremendous range of individual mountain lions in the west in recent years now suggests that "15 to 20 adults are all that is necessary given normal demographics to last 100 years," Maehr said. "Other models suggest a minimum of 50 adults, and we are very close to that here."

More trouble

Two weeks earlier, Defenders of Wildlife served notice of intent to sue the USFWS for not meeting a June 21, 1992 deadline for designating critical habitat for the Louisiana black bear. The notice came days after the Nature Conservancy bought 4,941 acres adjacent to the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge to protect bear habitat. The land is scheduled to be given to the refuge, but only once the critical habitat designation is in place.

Another fight broke out along Cape Cod, as off-road vehicle enthusiasts threatened to sue or seek legislation to guarantee their access to beaches that have recently been placed off limits to motor vehicles to protect the nests of the endangered piping plover.

And, demonstrating the clout of endangered species protection opponents, the California Fish and Game Commission on May 14 took the Mohave ground squirrel off the state endangered species list to avoid obstructing development in Kern County. County officials say the presence of the rare squirrel has held up or killed 226 development projects. The squirrel is still awaiting consideration for federal endangered species protection.

"Wear the badge and the uniform."

How a small

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA—On March 12, the Montgomery County Humane Society took a man named Tom Green to court. His offense, testified executive director Mary Stanley Mansour, was keeping seven Weimeraners in "complete darkness and filth in a large warehouse for several months."

It was the sort of case anti-cruelty officers often hesitate to recommend for prosecution, a case of neglect rather than overt physical abuse, involving conditions that in many poor communities aren't demonstrably far from "normal," no matter how undesirable. Mansour was not eager to prosecute Green, either. She gave him repeated warnings.

But when Green paid no attention, Mansour nailed him. "We called in the health department to observe the filthy conditions and surrounding odor, as well as the bags of feces thrown on the ground outside the warehouse," she told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "After attempts to speak with Green failed, we swore out a warrant for his arrest on animal cruelty charges and subpoenaed the health department witnesses. I was also in court the day of his plea hearing to present the court order for the confiscation of the dogs. He defied the court order and was found guilty."

Municipal court judge Judge Randolph Reeves handed Green five days in jail and a fine of \$500.

It was the 50th cruelty case Mansour has taken to

court, and her 48th conviction. A month later, on April 16, Mansour won another tough case, obtaining a fine of \$500 and a 60-day jail sentence against Wilda Sue Barnes, who left her three cats to starve to death in her locked home while she was away for six months. Because Barnes didn't pay the fine, she's now serving the sentence.

Mansour and the Montgomery Humane Society are now a perfect 48-for-48 in municipal court, and 49-for-51 overall—a 96% conviction rate, probably the best in the United States for any humane society or animal control division pressing at least as many cases. (Montgomery Humane, which holds both city and county animal control contracts, is both.)

Other Alabama humane society and animal control department directors have told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that weak humane laws and poor public attitudes prevent them from laying cruelty charges in any but the most egregious cases. Even then, they say, they're lucky to get a conviction half the time. But Mansour doesn't believe in excuses. She came to Montgomery Humane as a public relations officer, after earning her college degree in zoology and going on to work with a variety of zoos and state wildlife departments as a wildlife rehabilitator. She learned to do law enforcement work on the job, adding part-time deputy duty to her public relations workload and then keeping her eyes and ears open.

A good sense for public relations, she discovered could help her considerably. The first secret of successful anti-cruelty law enforcement, Mansour learned, was "just building a good relationship with other departments. If you're there to help them, they'll help you when you need them. We've built our relationships very carefully."

Uniforms

Learning to look and act like a peace officer was an essential first step. When Mansour became executive director of Montgomery Humane, she remembers, "We started wearing our uniforms every day. We have them and we wear them, and we faithfully wear the star" of animal control officers, "because we've found that uniforms are a must. We wear browns in county court and blues in city court," matching the uniforms of the sheriff's department and police department.

"The wearing of uniforms, I've found, is very important psychologically," Mansour emphasizes, "both in getting the respect and attention of the general public and in maintaining our image with other branches of law enforcement. Uniforms are not that expensive to do. If you can only afford one uniform, you can take it home and wash it yourself every night—that's what I did at first."

Mansour and her staff rarely work alone on cases

COURT CALENDAR

Dog Crimes

The Cuyahoga County, Ohio grand jury on April 23 indicted Jeffrey Mann, 36, for murder, alleging that he ordered his pit bull terrier to fatally maul his common-law wife, Angela Kaplan, 28, on September 2, 1992. The indictment came as result of an eight-month probe by Cleveland homicide detective Michaelene Taliano, and extensive observation of the dog's nature by animal behaviorist Karen Arnoff. Taliano suspected the attack was a murder, not an accident, because the dog

Crimes Against Livestock

Lancaster Stockyards, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was convicted of cruelty on April 27 for having failed to promptly treat or euthanize a downed cow on July 22, 1992. The case, the first-ever conviction of a U.S. stockyard for cruelty, was filed on the complaint of Farm Sanctuary humane officer Keith Mohler. Lancaster Stockyards pledged to stop accepting "downers" (animals so badly injured or ill they can't stand) in 1988, but Farm Sanctuary says similar cases are a continuing problem.

Crimes Against Wildlife

Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researcher Richard Mitchell was convicted May 26 in Alexandria, Virginia, of smuggling the pelts of endangered species into the U.S. in contravention of the Endangered Species Act, but a Federal District Court jury cleared him of misusing his job for financial gain. In addition, U.S. District judge Claude Hilton threw out six counts of tax evasion and one count of smuggling, and ruled that the court could not hear evidence about Mitchell's activities

FUR

Someone used rat poison in late April to kill more than 17,000 mink at the Sakhalin Fur Industrial Association fur farm on Sakhalin Island in the former Soviet Union. The fur farm claimed a loss of \$2.8 million, although at current world pelt prices the actual loss was probably closer to \$400,000. Possible suspects include rival fur entrepreneurs trying to boost prices for their own pelts by creating a shortage and simultaneously wiping out a rival; someone in management attempting

bit Kaplan more than 100 times, but never around the neck and throat, the usual sites of fatal bite wounds. Mann pleaded innocent and was freed on \$25,000 bail.

Sheila Devore Levy, 30, of Oakland, California, was charged May 17 with assault with a deadly weapon, for allegedly setting her Rottweiler on an 11-year-old boy who was fighting with her two sons. The victim, bitten multiple times, may undergo rabies treatment too, as at deadline the dog hadn't been found.

Billy Shepherd Jr., age 2, of Hicksville, New York, was killed by a 121-pound Rottweiler on May 14 while swinging in a neighbor's yard. The dog broke out of a four-foot stockade and crushed the boy's skull with one bite as his mother, Jill Shepherd, tried to intervene.

Michael Chenevert, age 8, of Kenner, Louisiana, received 45 stitches to his face, ear, arm, back, and shoulder on May 18 after beating off a Rottweiler who attacked his 5-year-old sister Amanda. The girl was unhurt.

County Animal Control in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has recorded 76 Rottweiler attacks on people and other animals during the past two years.

Tyler Olson, age 3, of Toms River, New Jersey, was awarded \$850,000 on May 14 by Superior Court judge Rosalie Cooper, in compensation for the loss of his right arm, which was ripped off above the elbow by a neighbor's wolf hybrid when he was 16 months old. The liability verdict was rendered against the neighbors, Robert and Beverly Speivak; wolf hybrid breeders John and Christine Boehm, for selling an animal inappropriate to be kept as a pet; and baby sitter Jean Archer, who allowed Olson to wander into the Speivak property. Olson will receive \$644,343 after legal expenses, which will be kept in a trust fund. His injuries, also including a stroke, a coma, eye damage, nerve damage to his left leg, and brain damage resulting from a failed attempt to reattach the arm, cost more than \$300,000 to treat, but the family's medical insurer agreed not to seek reimbursement.

The Australian poultry industry is assessing the repercussions of an 18-page, seven-count cruelty conviction rendered by magistrate Philip Wright on Feb. 24 vs. the Golden Egg Farm of Acton, Tasmania. Since the verdict hasn't been ratified by any higher court, it has no weight as a legal precedent, but it has affected public opinion.

Veterinarian Richard John Burroughs, 51, of Mt. Airy, Maryland, was convicted May 18 of letting two cows starve on his land in January 1992. Another veterinarian, Dr. Frederick Lewis, testified that both cows were at least 250 pounds underweight when rescued. Burroughs said he would appeal.

Activism

The Illinois Department of Conservation has appealed a lower court ruling that it must provide a list of all pigeon shoots it has licensed to anti-pigeon shoot activist Steve Hindi. Illinois senior assistant attorney general issued an opinion on September 16, 1992, that pigeon shoots appear to violate section 4:01 of the state Humane Care for Animals Act, but the DOC has refused to tell shoot organizers to cease and desist.

District judge Kenneth Bronson of Chelsea, Michigan, on May 19 overturned the October 1992 hunter harassment convictions of anti-hunting activists Joe Taksel of Pittsburgh, Jodi Louth of Ann Arbor, and Patricia Dodson of Arbor Hills, on grounds that the hunters they allegedly harassed had entered the Pinckney State Recreation Area too early in the morning to be hunting legally.

Fund for Animals staffer Heidi Prescott has sued radio station WRIF-FM of Detroit and bowhunting rock-and-roller Ted Nugent, alleging that Nugent called her a "shallow slut" on the air and said, "Who needs to club a seal when you could club Heidi?", while program hosts Drew Lane and Mark Clark called her a "butthead" and asked her in an interview if she was wearing clean underwear.

prior to 1986 because the statute of limitations had expired. Mitchell said he would appeal the remaining conviction. Scheduled to be sentenced on August 13, he faces a fine of up to \$250,000 plus five years in prison. In 1984, while on loan from the USFWS to the Smithsonian Institution, Mitchell set up the nonprofit American Ecological Union, heavily funded by Safari Club International, and began escorting rich trophy hunters on trips to bag endangered species in China, Nepal, and Pakistan—including former Texas governor Clayton Williams. The scam came to light in 1988 when Williams was charged with illegally importing the pelts of Argali sheep. The Smithsonian paid for Mitchell's defense.

The Louisiana legislature is considering a bill to split the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in two, creating a new office of wildlife law enforcement. The bill originated out of discontent among wardens after the legislature cut the use of general funds to support the DWF, costing the present enforcement division \$1.6 million of a \$10.8 million budget. Other DWF divisions, partially funded by the federal government on a matching basis, were less affected. Hunting writer Bob Marshall of the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* predicts that creating the new office will not solve any financial problems, as it would still be funded by the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, all of which are declining.

Humane Enforcement

Attorneys for Animals, an association of 60 Michigan lawyers incorporated in December 1992 by Wanda Nash, is compiling a handbook on the state's various animal statutes.

The Clatsop County, Oregon, animal shelter is looking after 117 malnourished dogs, four cats, and two chickens who were rescued April 16 from a boarded-up school bus in Brownsmead that owner Vikki Kettles, 45, described as a no-kill animal shelter. Kittles, who denied being an animal collector, was freed from jail on her own recognisance April 24.

to cash in on the limited insurance coverage; and/or disgruntled employees.

The National Board of Fur Farm Organizations has declared opposition to the federal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, which would require farms with more than 25 workers to provide child care; give workers the right to sue under all federal, state, and local health and safety laws; require that farm workers be hired by the day or hour, rather than on a piecework basis, and be paid for the full time contracted; hold farmers liable for the actions of their labor contractors; and increase the penalties for those who violate farm labor law. Fur farms typically hire the migrant laborers the bill is intended to protect only during the killing season each fall. The NBFF is believed to be fighting the bill mainly in return for favors from stronger farm lobbies.

The Canadian Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Department of the Environment on April 23 committed \$12 million over the next five years to further prop up and promote the staggering fur trade. Total Canadian government support of the fur trade over the past five years exceeds \$33 million, including \$13 million spent by the Agricultural Products Board to buy 90% of the nation's ranched mink pelts in 1991 to support prices; \$15 million spent in 1990 and 1991 on lobbying and publicity for fur; and \$5 million granted to the Canadian Sealers Association in 1988 as seed money to rebuild their industry.

The American Fur Industry and Fur Information Council of America plan to publish this year's fur fashion advertising supplement to the *New York Times* on October 17. Similar ad supplements will be published in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post*, and *Boston Globe*.

Kaufmann's, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has become the latest department store chain to discontinue selling fur garments.

Alabama shelter wins big in court

that look as if they might go to court. "We work fairly closely with the police and sheriff's department," Mansour explains. For instance, in the Barnes case, Montgomery Humane was called by the sheriff's department, after deputies found the dead cats while carrying out an eviction. The deputies then became witnesses for the prosecution.

"Unless an animal is dead or in extremis," Mansour says, "we usually leave recorded citations with the offenders. Then, whenever possible, we will call other departments such as the health department, etcetera, to back us up as witnesses. There are five of us, my deputy humane officers and me. If the case is one of chronic abuse," Mansour continues, "we swear out an affidavit instead of an arrest warrant to avoid false arrest suits. If there has been great damage to the animal, or failure to comply on the part of the offender, we will go the arrest route. We contact all media on spectacular cases, and by getting the coverage we will usually find homes for the animals that are turned over to us in these cases; create a deterring factor for the other potential abusers in the area by showing that we will prosecute; and create pressure on reluctant judges by arousing the animal-loving public."

Contrary to the national trend, Mansour prefers to charge offenders with a misdemeanor, rather than a felony. "When the offenses are misdemeanors," she explains, "we're in a court where the cases are less costly and easier to deal with all around. We would like to see cruelty made into a possible felony in Alabama, as an option, but we would rarely use it. Bringing felony charges would not only bring more cost, it would also encourage defendants facing

stiffer penalties to put up more resistance," for instance by bringing in top lawyers and filing counter-suits.

Getting the maximum on a lot of misdemeanor convictions, Mansour believes, has more deterrent value than getting a light penalty imposed in a few felony cases.

Mansour praises Judge Reeves, fellow municipal court judges Curtis Springer and Clark Campbell, prosecutor Oscar Hale, and bailiff Tom Coker for their sympathetic attitudes on animal cases. "We've only had two walks," she says, "and both of those were in county court."

But even one of the failed prosecutions brought some positive results. The victim was a dog named Phoenix, "who had everything that could be wrong with a dog because his owner refused to get help. The judge released the owner with a 'not guilty' verdict, but Phoenix had already been one three major prime time news shows and an outraged public wrote the judge over 200 letters. Phoenix received \$1,500 for his recovery, and today he has new owners and looks like a million bucks."

As the designated county humane officer, Mansour is the only one of the Montgomery Humane team authorized to carry a gun—and she does. "I don't carry it because of the animals," she notes. "It's the two-legged animals I'm worried about. We go into some rough areas," including the vicinity of crack houses, where Montgomery Humane has uncovered dogfighting, cockfighting, and livestock theft rings. She is presently seeking authority to have her deputies carry guns as well, since they too sometimes face potentially life-threatening situations.

"I've made a lot of enemies," Mansour concludes,

Grounds manager Terry MacNeal, executive director Mary Stanley Mansour, and deputy humane officers Joe Riccardi and Jeff Harold with Jessica, a puppy rescued from a 20-foot-deep well in 1991.

"but I don't care. With all these convictions in really bad cases, people have started donating enough that pretty soon we're going to build a brand-new shelter."

After investigating an average of 450 cases a year managing to deal with most of them out of court, Mansour notices one big change. "Today, when we go through our jurisdiction on patrol," she says, "we see fewer people to cite."

—Merritt Clifton

Hunting & Fishing

Fed up with poachers, the Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana district attorney's office two years ago began offering people convicted of hunting and fishing offenses the option of contributing to an equipment fund to help game wardens in lieu of paying higher fines. The 1991 receipts bought walkie-talkies and a video camera. Receipts rose to \$5,125 in 1992, and were mostly spent on a \$4,000 night vision scope, to detect jacklighters.

The Louisiana House of Representatives on May 14 killed a bill to require hunters under 16 to pass a

advocated carrying sword under proper conditions." One John F. Tamburo responded, "Why break a perfectly good weapon? Take aim and use the gun as it was designed."

A bill to allow mourning dove hunting in Ohio cleared the state House of Representatives on May 6, 51-45, but supporters postponed the Senate vote when Senator Grace Drake of Medina, Wayne, and southeastern Cuyahoga counties declared May 19 that she would oppose dove hunting, in line with calls from her constituents, which were running 251-31 against it. Drake was believed

VIVISECTION

Cruelty charges against Dr. Florintino Sanguinetti, director of the Hospital de Clinicas Jose de San Martin in Buenos Aires, Argentina, may be dropped soon because the judge assigned to the case has failed to schedule a prosecution, according to the Asociacion para la Defensa de los Derechos del Animal. The case made international headlines in March 1990 when judge Omar Faciuti joined ADDA in a visit to the hospital dog laboratory, and found numerous dogs confined in tiny, poorly ventilated

gun safety class.

Allen Sarratt, of Camden, Tennessee, killed his son Brent, 12, and daughter Kelly, 15, with a single shot on May 17 when he slung his loaded deer rifle over his shoulder as he started down the steps of their home and it discharged.

Three Pennsylvania hunters were shot by mistake on May 1, the first day of the month-long turkey season, but none were killed. This was the first year that turkey hunters were required to wear bright orange.

Shot in the lower abdomen by squirrel hunters while bicycling at the Buzzard Ridge Wildlife Area on October 22, 1992, Michael Cavanaugh has sued Jackson County, Iowa, for failing to adequately warn non-hunters that hunting was going on. Cavanaugh suffered what the suit terms "permanent, partial functional impairment."

Anthony Roberts, 25, balanced a fuel can on his head May 1 during initiation rites for Mountain Men Anonymous near Grants Pass, Oregon, challenged a member of the macho club to shoot it off with a bow, and lost his right eye for his trouble. He then nearly killed himself by trying to pull the embedded arrow back out.

John F. Reina, 41, Louis E. Filardi, 29, and Loreto J. Rufa, 38, were charged with attempted murder on April 25 in Mineola, Long Island, for allegedly shooting rival lobster trapper Able H. Miguel, 43, of Kearney, New Jersey, in a territorial dispute near Sands Point, N.Y.

Fifty fishing worm pickers rammed each other's vehicles May 5 in a fight over territory near Georgetown, Ontario, until a van carrying a propane tank exploded; they then jumped out and fought with steel pipes and clubs, sending 13 people to the hospital.

Quebec has banned fishing with live minnows, not because it's cruel, but because some of the minnows escape and go on to eat stocked trout fry.

Kansas is the latest state to permit coursing pens, in which hunters "train" their dogs by setting them upon captive foxes and/or coyotes. Sometimes the prey animals are "rescued" for repeat use; other times, the pack tears them apart alive. Such operations have become common all over the South, and are licensed in Florida, but have only recently spread to the Midwest.

On May 2, during a Compuserve Pets Forum computer network exchange, *Michigan Outdoor Journal* columnist Roberts Howard told hunter Kevin Walker to quit arguing with anti-hunters, because, "Actions speak louder. Next time you are harrassed while hunting," Walker continued, "look around and be certain you are not observed and buttswipe the malefactor. Place unconscious form on ground. Retire quickly...Remember, even Jesus

to be the swing vote. The *Akron Beacon-Journal*, one of the two biggest newspapers serving her constituency, reported that letters were running 73-2 against dove hunting. The hunting lobby had described the dove hunting bill as a critical test of strength that it expected to win.

Hours after the Ohio state Human Relations Commission sued the 50-year-old Midland Sportsmen's Club for racial discrimination, and one week after long-time club president James Boyle of Vanport Township admitted blacks were not invited to join, the club admitted a black police officer.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is opposing a state bill to prohibit spotlighting deer during deer season. Jacklighters now use lights—legally—to find deer after dark, then shoot them illegally and either report them as having been killed the next morning or don't report them at all.

Vermont state police on May 22 arrested Scott Clark, 27, and Russell Mcallister, 33, for using a pipe bomb to catch 10 trout near the Brockway Mills hydroelectric dam in Rockingham. They then threw a second bomb, which didn't go off.

Thwarted in trying to get authorization to sell moose hunting permits from the state legislature, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board voted 7-0 on May 19 to issue 30 free moose permits this fall instead. Moose have not been hunted in Vermont since 1896.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has moved to restrict deer hunting in the Post Oak Savannah region, where intense pursuit of does as well as bucks cut deer numbers from 560,693 in 1986 to 249,753 in 1991.

Quebec will not issue doe permits in the Eastern Townships this year (just north of Vermont) due to protest from farmers in the wake of numerous confrontations with hunters during last year's three-day doe season, which coincided with fall plowing. The Eastern Townships deer density of 14 per square kilometre may be the greatest in the province. Doe hunting has not been allowed there on a regular basis for more than 30 years.

Outgoing Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney was lambasted in papers across the country in early May for shooting a small boar in an apparent "canned hunt" near Moscow with Russian premier Boris Yeltsin.

The Traverse City, Michigan council voted 6-1 on April 13 to set aside 500 acres of the 1,240-acre Brown Bridge Quiet Area, a public park, as a no-hunting zone. Local hunters are reportedly irate, as they now have only 67,000 acres of state and municipally owned land left in Traverse County to hunt on.

cages, amid heaps of their own excrement. Faciuto immediately ordered that the dogs be removed and the laboratory be closed. It was the first time anyone in Argentina had closed a laboratory via the courts. But that's where the action stopped. As of March 17, ADDA urgently requested that letters be addressed to: Sr. Juez de Ira. Instancia Correccional G, Dr. Omar Facciuto, Paraguay 1178—Secretaria 101, (1057) Buenos Aires, Argentina and Sr. Fiscal en lo Criminal y Correccional Nro. 14, Dr Enrique Alvarez Aldana, Diagonal Norte 1174, 9no Piso (1035) Buenos Aires, Argentina. The appeal didn't reach **ANIMAL PEOPLE** until after our May issue went to press.

Miles Berkeley Inc. is once again offering \$25,000 to researchers or research institutions engaged in developing alternatives to animal research. The deadline for applying, with a complete project description, is June 15. Applications should be sent to the Citizens' Humane Commission, c/o Animal Care Services, 2313 Second St. Berkeley, CA 94710.

An unidentified 18-year-old woman who took an overdose of medicine was kept alive for 14 hours on May 17 with an artificial liver made from plastic, cellulose, and pig liver cells. The woman received a conventional human-to-human liver transplant at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, but her body rejected it. She was then given the artificial liver as an emergency stand-in until a second human liver could be obtained for transplant. That one took. The woman, as of our deadline, was expected to make a full recovery.

International publications

While space doesn't permit **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to acknowledge all publications received, these may be of special interest to readers working in the international milieu:

Ahimsa, newsletter of the Association Humanitaire d'Information et de Mobilisation pour la Survie des Animaux, published in French by Marjolaine Jolicoeur, Sainte-Rita, Quebec G0L 4G0, Canada;

Animaux Magazine, the leading French-language animal protection publication, c/o SPA, 39 blvd. Berthier, 75017 Paris, France;

The Animal Policy Report, newsletter of the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, 200 Westboro Rd., North Grafton, MA 01536 (U.S.-based, but with strong input from abroad);

ProAnimal, a slick "independent, nonprofit bulletin for animal lovers," from POB 2039, Rehovot 76100, Israel.

New pocket (gopher and bat) books

Conversations With A Pocket Gopher And Other Outspoken Neighbors. By Jack Schaefer. Capra Press (PO Box 2068, Santa Barbara, CA 93120), 1978, 1992, 126 pages, paper \$8.95.

(pocket gopher)

Originally published in *Audubon* magazine, the seven tales collected here attempt to explain ecological situations from the perspectives of individual nonhuman beings. The late author, best known for his Western novel *Shane*, deserves credit for trying, though his style too often becomes precious and archaic when he strives hardest for enlightenment.

The most memorable of these "talking" animal characters is *Myotis lucifugus*, the little brown bat Schaefer rescues when a cold snap temporarily interrupts his migration. Schaefer is planning to bury the inert form when the bat speaks. "The words are faint yet clear," Schaefer writes. "A fellow creature I thought dead is alive. And is speaking to me." Eventually the bat explains he is on a mission to gather data on declining bat populations—a situation later attributed to overuse of agricultural chemicals.

In the meantime, their conversation turns to the finer points of bat biology, the evolution of flight, and similar interesting topics. Here, as in the other stories, Schaefer apologizes for the general lack of environmental awareness among humans. Likewise, each animal character, after grumbling for several paragraphs, "forgives" humans for their ignorance.

These essays do have a certain charm despite their naivete; Schaefer is, after all, an accomplished storyteller. They are always informative, if somewhat preachy. And they convey a degree of sensitivity toward other living crea-

tures. If each is at heart a morality tale, then the moral is particularly applicable to modern life.

It could also be argued that if animals could communicate directly with humans, they would express opinions very close to those Schaefer attributes to them. Consider the kangaroo rat's response when a human family captures it for a pet:

"You humans are weirdos. You persist in trying to make pets of other animals without bothering to learn about their habits, their likes and dislikes, their dietary needs, their notions of what constitutes joy in living. You make out fairly well with domesticated and thus dulled animals like horses and dogs, to some extent even with cats. In regards to others your ignorance is appalling."

Their habits, their likes and dislikes, their dietary needs, their notions of what constitutes joy in living: these details are not neglected here. And though the style verges on being anachronistic, it lacks any corresponding taint of anthropomorphism. Each essay is an honest effort to depict humans as animals might see us. While the style may be dated, the subject is as immediate as the next environmental news story.

—Cathy Czapla

The Bat In My Pocket: A Memorable Friendship. By Amanda Lollar. Capra Press (P.O. Box 2068, Santa Barbara, CA 93120), 1992, 86 pages, paper \$9.95.

Combining scientific fact with her own experience, Amanda Lollar has written a book that's impossible to put down. Long before the story ends, she'll have convinced the most reluctant reader that bats are intelligent sensitive and beneficial creatures.

Currently a licensed rehabilitator, Lollar found her first injured bat quite by accident. Though she was ever then an animal person experienced in caring for domestic strays and occasional wildlife, her initial reaction was revulsion. Describing her trepidation and her fumbling attempts to save the creature, she evokes the helpless feeling all too well known to anyone who has ever found an unfamiliar wild animal in pain.

But the bat, a Mexican freetail whom Lollar named Sunshine, is the real heroine of this story. Recovered but unable to fly, she becomes Lollar's constant companion. While some will accuse the writer of anthropomorphism it's only when one lives a while with anyone that understanding develops, whether or not both are of the same species. Sunshine's habits, and her ability to communicate her needs, are described in such detail that it's difficult not to attribute her actions to intelligence.

"Loud peeping seemed to be used only for distress," Lollar writes. "I learned the hard way that these noisy squeals while she was on my shoulder or in my hand meant she had to relieve herself. Bats do not like to soil themselves or their roosting area. Tissues became a permanent object in my pocket. She readily moved from my hand to the Kleenex, and then back on my hand when finished..."

We learn more about bat behavior as the bond between Lollar and Sunshine grows stronger. We discover that this particular bat has a definite personality! She has cravings for avocado, and loves a daily brushing. Altogether she becomes "a spoiled rotten bat."

Nevertheless, while Lollar's affection for this tiny creature is obvious, she makes clear that it's never easy caring for an injured bat. There are mishaps that could have cost Sunshine her life. As with any wild creature, there are

CHILDREN AND ANIMALS

AHA photo

Shakira Hemphill, Michael Mims, Robert Ronnell Jones, and LaTroy Eugene Murphy (not pictured), all of Abram Simon Elementary School in Washington D.C., on April 29 shared the American Humane Association's first-ever Be Kind To Animals Kid Award for their part in bringing to justice an off-duty police officer whom they witnessed in the act of severely beating a dog. All four witnessed the beating on May 2, 1992. Jones, a third grader at the time, approached the man and demanded an explanation. As the abuse continued, he ran up and down the street to keep an eye on the dog, whom the man eventually dragged into an alley, while the others called the Washington Humane Society. All four then pointed the abuser out to the WHS cruelty officer who responded to their call. The dog was impounded, but was returned to the owner on June 15, who claimed to have given her away one week later. A grand jury declined to indict, leaving any punitive action up to the Washington D.C. police department division of internal affairs. As the nominating shelter for the AHA award winners, WHS received \$1,000 worth of dog food from Advanced Nutrition Cycle.

Sixth graders in 40 New England, New York, and Florida elementary schools counted roadkills in their neighborhoods for six months during the past year as part of a computerized information exchange project sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The students collected more roadkill data than all previous studies of the subject combined—and the project will go nationwide during the next school year. Watch for more extensive coverage in upcoming issues of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, along with survey forms for our own four-season roadkill count, which will formally commence in July with the cooperation of *Country Life*. In combination with the NSF data, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** count will produce the first definitive national data base on roadkills, a first step toward developing effective prevention programs.

Katherine C. Grier examines the emergence of kindness toward animals as a theme in the evolution of family structure and child-rearing during the Victorian era in *Between The Species* volume 8, #4, available for \$5.00 from P.O. Box 254, Berkeley, CA 94701. As Grier documents, kindness became not only an ideal, but also a symbol of belonging to the middle class rather than the rabble.

KIND News, the humane education newspaper of the Humane Society of the U.S., will add an edition for students in the primary grades (K-1) this fall, and a Spanish version of the primary edition, to be called **KIND News Internacional**. HSUS already publishes **KIND News Jr.** and **Sr.** editions, for students in grades 2-4 and 5-6, but only in English. Get further details from P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423-0362.

Tenafly High School in Tenafly, New Jersey will offer biology students an alternative to dissection next term as result of a year-long campaign by graduating senior Jen Michel, 18. The alternative program, expected to involve 18 to 20 hours of work, may be the first of its kind in the state.

The Student Earth Action League at California University of Pennsylvania recently organized an open forum on dissection alternatives, purportedly at the suggestion of the university president. "Guess who did not show up," wrote humane officer Kathy Hecker of Animal Friends Inc. in nearby Pittsburgh. "Not one dean, not one science professor, and not even the university president." The event did, however, draw local press coverage.

problems with nutrition, medical treatment, and the adjustments that humans must make for animals away from their normal habitat. Despite the wealth of detail here, this is not a manual on keeping bats in captivity, nor does Lollar recommend bats as pets.

Amanda Lollar has rescued other bats since Sunshine, but each with its distinct personality has no doubt been an emotional as well as a material commitment. If this book is a memorial to her first bat companion, it is also a plea for our understanding of all bats. *A Bat In My Pocket* concludes with Bat Conservation International's instructor for building a bat house. After meeting Sunshine, who could resist the opportunity to provide shelter for her relatives?

Cathy Czaplak

DATES & PROJECTS

June 12: Open house at Days End Farm Horse Rescue Inc., 17601 Frederick Rd., Mt. Airy, Maryland. For details, call 301-831-7095.

June 23: Vermont Humane Federation Animal Expo at Hildene Meadowlands, the former estate of Robert Todd Lincoln, on River Road in Manchester, Vermont. For information, call 802-457-4732.

July 29-August 1: Conference, "A New Generation for Animal Rights," in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Get details from 209 N. Graham St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516; 919-942-6909.

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

August 21: American Horse Protection Association Summer Jubilee, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Frying Pan Park, Herndon, Virginia. For details, call 202-965-0500.

All summer: The Chicago Animal Rights Coalition seeks participants for demonstrations each Sunday from 11 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Shedd Aquarium. Call 708-552-7872 to volunteer.

All summer: the Mountain Lion Foundation seeks petitioners to help place a wildlife habitat acquisition bond issue on the June 1994 California state ballot. Volunteer at 916-442-2666.

Dates & Projects lists, at no charge, public participant activities for which there is no more than a nominal admission fee. Send full details on your event to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, P.O. Box 205, Shushan, NY 12873.

Natural Healing for Dogs and Cats. By Diane Stein, The Crossing Press (P.O. Box 1048, Freedom, CA 95019; 800-777-1048), 1993, 186 pages, paper \$16.95.

One American in three resorts to alternative health care methods for some ailments, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported in January. Recognizing the potential value of some alternative treatments, the National Institutes of Health recently formed an Office of Alternative Medicine, with an initial budget of \$2 million. Yet the availability of similar therapies for companion animals has received relatively little attention. Pat Lazarus raised the possibility in her 1983 volume *Keep Your Pet Healthy The Natural Way*, and a few alternative-oriented veterinarians such as Richard Kearns have attracted faithful followings, but perhaps because there are few health food stores for animals, interest has been comparatively slow to develop.

Diane Stein describes several of the more accessible types of alternative treatment and their application in *Natural Healing for Dogs and Cats*. Because her publisher, The Crossing Press, is known for inventive and successful promotion, the volume is likely to receive more exposure than any similar work has for quite a while. Some of Stein's recommendations may seem exotic, and a few are of questionable value, but none should be harmful if her instructions are followed carefully. All are meant to enhance, not replace, regular veterinary care.

Though often writing about the metaphysical, Stein emphasizes the practical. Descriptions of canine and feline anatomy, for example, are detailed and easy to follow. Included is extensive material on the animals' "emotional, mental and spiritual bodies," though Stein admits her knowledge of the "nonphysical anatomy comes from psychic observation that may not be scientifically provable at this time." Since science seems inherently incapable of quantifying nonphysical states, readers will have to decide for themselves if this information is useful. In other areas, such as communication, she offers a range of possibilities. In particular, for those of us less adept than Stein at psychic

BOOK REVIEWS

communication with animal companions, she includes Jean Craighead George's depictions of cat and dog body language.

The quality of Stein's research is perhaps most evident in her chapter on nutrition—a chapter sure to spark controversy. She takes into account dogs' and cats' carnivorous natures, and their need for high-quality protein. "Dogs can survive on an all-vegetarian diet if the diet is well-planned," she writes, "but they are not happy or healthy on it; cats on such a diet will die within a year." However, she does question the quality of most commercial pet foods. The sections on commercial additives, common food allergies, and vitamin requirements are invaluable. Sample recipes for homemade pet foods are followed by a long list of further references.

The efficacy of Stein's recommended treatments often depends on the animal's acceptance of an unfamiliar regimen. Cats, especially, often demonstrate a preference for commercial foods. Likewise, herbal remedies can be very effective, if the animal can be persuaded to swallow the (usually bitter) substance. Some dogs will eat anything. Cats, on the other hand, have a violent aversion to most herbal preparations. Stein suggests, for instance, squirting liquids into a cat's cheek pouch. I have scars that testify to a complete lack of success using this method to give cats garlic; the cats undoubtedly bear psychic scars from the experience.

I therefore cringe at the thought of introducing cats to acupuncture. Fortunately, Stein states that it "is not a method for the untrained to use at home." Accupressure and massage, as she describes them, seem harmless enough. Indeed, the only problem may be that animals begin to like it too well. "'Beware of the cat or dog who becomes a massage-junkie and pesters for it constantly,'" warns Stein. The drawings that accompany descriptions of massage techniques for dogs will certainly look familiar to anyone who has ever indulged the canine craving for total affection.

Irony Supplements

One of the great attractions of alternative medicine for many compassionate people is that most of the remedies have been discovered (or rediscovered) without the use of extensive testing on laboratory animals. Ironically, this is also one reason why alternative remedies are not readily prescribed by most veterinarians. First, there isn't the test data available to prove to conservative practitioners that the remedies actually work on animals. Second, the remedies are not manufactured and distributed by the big pharmaceutical companies that veterinarians tend to know and trust. Thus they may not be listed in standard desk references, or promoted with free samples, notepads, calendars, and other incentives that tend to encourage product and brand-name recognition. Oddly enough, alternative veterinary medicine—of a sort—may be most popular among a class of unlicensed practitioner whom both mainstream veterinarians and humane alternative enthusiasts would cheerfully put out of business: the people who patch up fighting dogs to put them back in the ring, drug racehorses, and "doctor" show horses with such "cures" as ginger up the rear end, to make them step higher.

—M.C.

Natural Healing for Dogs and Cats covers other more esoteric techniques, from homeopathic remedies to flower essences, muscle testing, and communication with deceased companions. Most of this information is anecdotal and quite vivid, incorporating Stein's own personal experiences. Combined with extensive data from other sources, it should allow readers to form their own judgments about the usefulness of each treatment.

Ultimately, it would seem that the value of any alternative therapy depends greatly upon our own faith in it. At least, with this book, we are given the opportunity to explore the possibilities.

—Cathy Czapl

OBITUARIES

Mycologist Catherine Roberts died on April 12. Roberts received her Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley in 1943. A pioneer in affirming

enduring changes in the mind and heart of the biologist that will commit him to ethical goals and to compassion, justice, self-restraint, and humility in his dealing with

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the ethical responsibility of humans toward animals, Roberts published her book *The Scientific Conscience* in 1967. This book contained one of the earliest criticisms by a respected scientist of such experiments as the maternal deprivation studies done on infant monkeys. Roberts was also author of many articles on behalf of animals, and another book, *Science, Animals and Evolution*, which appeared in 1980. In this, as in other works, Roberts anticipated more recent writers who believe that science needs to become less fragmented and specialized, and to include a unifying spiritual vision. "*Science, Animals and Evolution*," she wrote, "envisages a new kind of biology. It speaks of a religious regeneration of the scientific conscience and, with it, those

all living organisms." Her cause was real and personal to her. She was a vegetarian. She loved, and was loved by, the large dogs who were her companions, and gave generously of her time and energy to ensure that their lives were rich and happy.

—Rose Evans

Tammi Don Elkins, 25, of Charleston, West Virginia, was killed May 8 as she tried to pull her dog out of the way of a 150-car freight train that suddenly came up behind them as they walked on the tracks near the town of Glen Jean. The dog was also killed, while Elkins' companion, Michael Williams, 24, of Shrewsbury, suffered head and leg injuries.

MEMORIALS

Janni & Andre

In memory of Janni.
—Kim Bartlett, Andre & Jayne Gordon

In memory of Bosco, who died March 26.
—Vivian Altholz

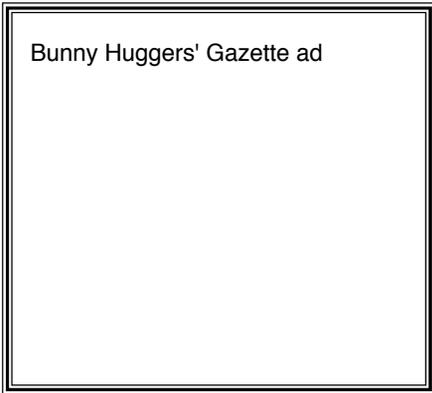
In memory of Queen, who had to be put to sleep March 4. I miss her terribly.
—Dorothy E. Reynolds

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