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THE CONTROVERSIAL CASE FOR

THE NORTH SHORE ANIMAL LEAGUE'S UNCONVENTIONAL METHODS

PORT WASHINGTON, New York — According to the most recent tax records available from New York state and the Internal Revenue Service, the North Shore Animal League in 1991 contributed more than \$3.5 million toward the cost of neutering more than 220,000 cats and dogs; donated \$2.4 million to 21 other animal shelters and two veterinary schools; adopted out more than 43,000 animals; issued more than 41,000 free 30-day health insurance policies to guarantee the well-being of animals adopted out; vaccinated more than 41,000 animals; treated more than 17,000 animals at an in-house veterinary clinic (open 16 hours a day, seven days a week); and made 71,000 post-adoption contacts to insure that the animals were neutered, well cared for, and well-adjusted in their adoptive homes.

To put those numbers in perspective, the next largest neutering program of national scope, conducted by Friends of Animals, spent \$2.2 million. With the possible exceptions of one or two charitable foundations, who conduct no programs of their own, no animal-related charity spent as much as North Shore to assist colleagues. No other animal shelter adopted out even a third as many once homeless cats and dogs.

But no animal shelter gets worse publicity, year in and year out, from animal protection media. North Shore achieves its stunning statistics by breaking just about every convention in the animal sheltering business—and doesn't even bother to answer critics.

"We do not wish to get involved in any debate," North Shore president David Ganz confirms. "We feel our

good work speaks for itself."

Does it? So far as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has been able to discover, no nationally distributed animal protection publication has published an article explaining North Shore's unconventional methods, except to the degree necessary to blast them, in the past 10 years. So far as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** can determine, only one head of any other national animal protection group, former American SPCA president John Kullberg, has defended North Shore in public. (Kullberg is now president of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Inc.)

None of this seems to have hurt North Shore whose revenues have grown by 41% in the same time—and whose spending on behalf of animals has increased 150%.

John Freed, outgoing executive director of the
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ANIMAL

News For People Who

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

Reprieve for Alaskan wolves **But the Yukon opens fire**

Tourist boycott of Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta underway

WHITEHORSE, Yukon, Canada — Dispatched in near-secrecy circa February 5 by the Yukon territorial government, a helicopter attack team will have killed 150 of the estimated 200 wolves in the Aishihik Lake region, and be heading home again as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** goes to press.

The scheduled 20-day mission was undertaken in direct defiance of international appeals and threats of a tourism boycott. Protests held at various points in Canada and the U.S. on February 8 were ignored by Yukon minister of renewable resources Bill Brewster.

Brewster has close links to the hunting outfitters who expect to benefit by increased moose and caribou populations, which are supposed to result from the wolf massacre. Brewster also dismissed the concerns of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and World Wildlife Fund Canada president Monte Hummel, who pointed out that the killing zone is perilously close to Kluane National Park, whose wildlife is protected by international treaty. The park has been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

Animal and habitat protection groups barely had time to celebrate the January 29 cancellation of a similar wolf massacre scheduled for Alaska before the Yukon massacre got underway.

The Yukon government plans to spend \$975,000 (U.S. funds) to massacre wolves in the Aishihik region over the next five years, in an attempt to boost the regional moose population to 4,000 and the caribou population to 2,500—"500 higher than its historical peak," the Canadian Wolf Alliance pointed out.

"The wolf-kill plan is madness. The Yukon government must be stopped," Canadian author Farley Mowat declared. Mowat wrote the bestseller *Never Cry Wolf* based on his own experience observ-

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as a dog**

*Veterinarians debate
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**Japanese
government pushes
whale-eating**

Amadeus and Honeysuckle. (Courtesy of Wild Burro Rescue.)

When a horse needs help

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Held the weekend of February 6-7, the First International Conference on Equine Rescue could have run days longer, in Rich Meyer's estimation. As horse expert for the American Humane Association, Meyer knows horse rescue ranks among most shelter directors' and animal control officers' worst nightmares. First, there's the sheer size and strength of the animal to contend with. Second, where there's one starving or abused horse, there are usually several. Third, shelters set up to handle dogs and cats usually don't have facilities for livestock: big trailers, paddocks, pastures. Their regular veterinarians tend to be small animal specialists. And their budgets aren't easily stretched to accommodate the special needs and appetites of equines.

"None of us could actually stay at a conference as long as this one could have been," Meyer told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**,

"but there certainly was a lot to cover, and it's a shame so many speakers had to be limited to 15-or-20-minute presentations."

Veterinarian Richard Mansmann of Santa Barbara Equine Services assembled 32 speakers in all, under auspices of the Santa Barbara Humane Society. Among the topics covered were disaster preparedness; intervening on behalf of injured race horses; injuries common to show horses; outfitting an equine ambulance; lifting hurt horses with a sling; anesthetizing and immobilizing horses; safety in three-day riding events and endurance rides; rehabilitating starved horses; the 1992 Lipizzan horse rescue in Croatia; and the plight of horses who were caught up in Operation Desert Storm.

It was an intense introduction to the fastest growing field in animal protection. Horse rescue was one of the initial activities of the first humane groups, and horses were

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Editorials

Surviving the long, cold winter

We knew this would be a long, cold, difficult winter. Here at the confluence of the Berkshires, the Adirondacks, and the Green Mountains, winters are always long and always cold. Bears stay in their dens. Deer and rabbits nibble bark. Coyotes prowl farther, venturing into daylight to drag away half-frozen roadkills. Even the crows look lean, reserving their caws for real occasions. Though free to come and go through a special kitty door, the feral cats we've rescued huddle close to the basement heater. Several have even moved into the house, sleeping with humans for apparently the first time.

Despite the length of the winter here, in the shadows of tall mountains that make days short even in midsummer, despite the bitter Arctic blasts that turn our little hollow into a wind tunnel, snapping off trees and driving our dogs inside within minutes no matter how much they crave exercise, we felt six weeks ago as if spring was just around the corner. **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, we thought, was in great shape for such a young and risky venture. As indeed it is. Starting with only our own good names as collateral, we've built up a respectable international circulation; distinguished ourselves for prompt, thorough, broad-ranging coverage; become the periodical of record in the animal protection field.

Money has always been tight. We've accomplished what we have through plain old-fashioned frugality and hard work. Unlike the editors of commercial publications and the house organs of well-endowed charities, we don't just sit and write while contracting out our tedious jobs. Between reporting and editing, parenting, and looking after the 23 cats and two dogs in our care, we stuff every envelope ourselves, maintain our own subscription lists, do our own filing, answer our own telephone, and do all the other basic chores of publishing a newspaper, always working late into the night. We gather the wherewithal to pay the printing and postage bills each month in increments, a few subscriptions here, an advertisement there, and maybe a small cash contribution from someone. Though we're attracting more subscribers and advertisers with every issue, we still have to stretch every dollar. We don't really have big donors. Commercial advertisers are only just beginning to discover the value of reaching our audience. And apart from the handful of organizations who advertise, we get no support from the various national animal and habitat protection groups. Sure, they all call us for information. We use our extensive archives to assist anyone who's working in a good cause, without charge. But it's no secret that many of the biggest, richest organizations would shut us up if they could, to prevent publication of our annual feature on *Who Gets The Money*. Those who pay themselves six-figure salaries from donations people intended to help the animals don't like anyone to know about it.

Because we are optimistic, we didn't pretend to be in dire peril when we issued our first-ever winter appeal for donations. We knew times were tough for everyone. Sure, we had to raise money, as every charity does. Winter appeals are essential to build reserves that will get charities through the summer slack period, when most people are slower about responding to their mail and donations are correspondingly scarce. Since we'd only begun **ANIMAL PEOPLE** during the summer of 1992, our need for a successful winter appeal was considerable: we have no cash reserves, no securities, no other resources beyond good will, and good will, unfortunately, doesn't satisfy the telephone, gas, and electric compa-

bureaucratic delays of nearly five months in obtaining our Internal Revenue Service charitable tax status determination and our nonprofit mailing permit—after waiting three months to get nonprofit status from New York state. Such delays are not uncommon. Accordingly our postmaster informed us, the U.S. Postal Service makes a provision. New nonprofit organizations, the postmaster said, are allowed to mail at the standard bulk rates until they get all their nonprofit documentation, and then the postal service refunds the excess amount collected. Understanding we would eventually get a refund, we went ahead and started **ANIMAL PEOPLE** right on schedule, as we'd promised our subscribers and advertisers. When our nonprofit papers came through, we filed copies of all our postal receipts and awaited the refund.

But our postmaster, who retired while the paperwork was being shuffled through the system, had inadvertently misinformed us. Our refund would cover only the few days between when the U.S. Postal Service finished processing the nonprofit mailing permit and when we received it, not the 20 weeks we waited for the IRS to confirm the tax-exempt status we had already received from the state with our incorporation papers.

We got an apology, but apologies don't pay bills.

No, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is not going to cease publishing or skip issues. We're not going to threaten you with our imminent demise, because among other things, we do believe that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. We're here to help you help animals through thick and thin—on time, with the news, when you need it.

But we could really and truly use a little more help from our friends. Or, even better if you can manage it, a lot more, to give us breathing space.

We've kept up with all our bills; we don't owe anyone in connection with **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. It's still on a sound business footing—better than ever, in fact, with a broader distribution network, more subscribers, and more advertisers than we've ever had before. But we'd only managed to pay ourselves for four weeks each when bureaucracy clobbered us. And we haven't been paid since.

That makes for cold, hard times on this side of the mountain.

This is nothing new. We've long understood the price we pay for doing service journalism, instead of pursuing whatever captivates the public fancy. The editor won four national awards for investigative work with other nonprofit papers, while making ends meet through sportswriting; ghostwriting; running a printing press; shoveling manure, garbage and fly ash; slinging hay; chopping firewood—and is willing to do any or all of it again, if necessary. We know how to pay dues to make worthwhile things happen. And somehow or other, we will find a way to keep the baby, the cats, and the dogs warm and fed, and keep **ANIMAL PEOPLE** coming.

There's just one more thing to say:

Thank you. Thank you for whatever you can send, whether it's \$10, \$25, \$100 or more. Any donations above the price of a subscription are tax-deductible.

Remember, your gift to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is doing much more than just helping sustain a unique and valuable animal protection newspaper. It's also helping us maintain

nies.

Still, we pointed with pride to our economic successes. Most notably, we'd retired our start-up debt, after just four issues, during a year that saw a record number of newspapers and magazines go bankrupt. With your help, we'd demonstrated that enough people who care about animals want regular, prompt, reliable access to information to make **ANIMAL PEOPLE** both viable and essential, despite the concerted opposition of both institutional animal abusers and many of the national groups who have something to hide. We hadn't paid ourselves a red cent during 1992, but explained with naive optimism that we would soon, of necessity, begin paying ourselves a minimum living wage. We were sure we could do it because we understood we had a substantial refund coming from the U.S. Postal Service, which would put us an adequate distance ahead of other publishing needs.

This came about because back when we first set up **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, we met

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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an archive of information of global scope, so that whenever anyone anywhere suddenly needs background or statistics or contacts or an informed opinion pertaining to anything having to do with animals, we can quickly provide it. Every day, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** gets calls and letters from reporters with the mainstream media, humane society directors, conscientious investment counselors, schoolteachers, students, people organizing community projects and activities—from you, and your allies and colleagues.

Your gift is an investment in a future where compassion matters, informed by accurate, honest information. Please contribute today.

How do you tell Brooklyn from the Balkans—or the Berkshires?

The editor, the publisher, and the animal control officer were perplexed. Sipping mugs of coffee on a recent frozen afternoon, they compared notes.

"Jogging up the road here a few minutes ago," the editor said, "I ran into a young guy in camouflage, carrying a gun. It's not hunting season. There's nothing he could legally shoot that would be out at this time of day. Then I saw three kids coming the other direction, and every one of them had a BB gun. The only animals they could be shooting at are animals they're killing just because they're alive."

"I moved my family up here from Brooklyn," said the animal control officer, "to get away from an environment of poverty and stress and kids with guns. But now that I'm here, it looks just like the Balkans."

"It's the same macho culture here as there," explained the publisher, "that says if a man doesn't have anything else to do, he should be out with a gun, killing something. It goes with poverty and lack of education."

The animal control officer cupped his cold hands around his mug. "They live in shacks or old house trailers that are worse than shacks," he agreed. "They've been on public assistance for three, four, five generations."

"And it hasn't even been that many years," the editor added, "because you have children having children. You have grandparents who are only 30. Some of them aren't even that old."

"Back in Brooklyn," the animal control officer continued, "you hear people saying it's a black lifestyle, or a Puerto Rican lifestyle. Then you come up here and you see that it isn't. It's a white lifestyle too, with people in that trap who look just like you and me."

"They don't learn to read and write," the editor noted, "because their parents don't know and don't teach them or encourage them. But they learn how to carry a gun. In Brooklyn the kids don't have a lot of animals to shoot at, so they shoot at each other. Here they shoot at the animals."

"Somehow," all three agreed, "we've got to take hold of this problem. We've got to find a way to get to the kids and teach them that this isn't any way to live."

*Coming in April: **Animals in No-Man's-Land.** Rare and endangered species often find their last refuge in toxic waste dumps, battlefields, and nuclear power stations. Don't miss this special report on the desperate search for somewhere to live unmolested in an age of vanished wilderness.*

Letters

The feature article in your January/February 1993 issue about the role or non-role of minorities in the movement was top-notch. I am proud to have worked for seven years at the Michigan Humane Society's downtown Detroit facility, prominently mentioned in your article as one of the only major U.S. humane societies still committed to serving animals and people in an often dangerous environment where needs are greatest. Some important facts not noted in your article are that the MHS has minorities on its board of directors and in supervisory positions, and that its Detroit-based charitable animal hospital helps thousands of animals each year—primarily at reduced cost, no cost, or with extended payment plans. In my current capacity as an independent lobbyist with the MHS among my clients, I've given a copy of this thought-provoking issue to all of the Afro-American members of the Michigan House and Senate (one of whom I chose to sponsor an MHS bill to create new, progressive felony penalties for cruelty).

Finally, words can never fully express the relief and gratitude I felt as I read your editorial in the January/February issue, "Time to get smart about politics." It should be required reading for every animal protection activist in the U.S.! I've already distributed numerous copies, and plan to reprint it in the 1993 newsletter of the political action committee I started here last year, HEAL PAC (Humanitarians for Environmental and Animal Laws Political Action Committee). Everything you said, including your accurate 10 points for people to remember when trying to get legislation passed, I've been saying for the better part of 15 years now, usually feeling like a lone voice crying in the wilderness. For example, a well-known Michigan activist took me to task for HEAL PAC's endorsement of a state senator who was running for

a Pennsylvania-based political action committee for animals, who are doing that right now. By working with other groups and individuals throughout the state, we just passed a bill to allow students the right to refuse dissection, and are now working on a pet overpopulation bill. Interested parties may call me for additional information: 412-241-1630.

—Charlotte L. Grimme
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

When the first of Hollywood's animal display ban ordinances passed in 1990, requests were received from all over the country for copies. I thought it as important to inform persons *how* the ordinance got passed as it was to inform them *what* it stated. I drafted a set of seven guidelines, which I still think are useful, especially at the local level.

—Jack Tanis, 925 North Northlake Drive,
Hollywood, FL 33019-1112

Tanis' guidelines are available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and a few extra stamps for the photocopying.

FoA ad

Money and power

Congratulations on the Jan/Feb editorial "Time to get smart about politics." This message should be hammered home to all humane memberships. I've been in animal protection work for two decades, and this is the first time I've seen the message so clearly presented.

—Paul D. Witmer, Janesville, Ohio

I'm glad you're continuing to publish financial data on animal-related nonprofit groups. I wish your work could somehow be extended to other progressive movements. Accountability is an obligation of donated money, they should go out of their way to inform contributors and recipients of their funding appeals as to exactly how their funding is allocated. Reliance upon blind trust only facilitates abuse.

If the publication of your financial research divides the movement in any way, the responsibility lies with those who perpetuate their own affluence by exploiting the issues to take advantage of unsuspecting contributors.

—Bob Smith, San Francisco, Calif.

Thank you so very much for your extremely informative articles regarding the budgets and salaries of various nonprofit organizations. The Humane Animal Rescue Team is encouraging its 300,000 readers to become involved and more educated about the organizations that they donate their monies too, and we feel certain that this article will be very instructive to the interested individuals who read it.

—Sally Deutz, Executive Director, HART
Fillmore, California

NRA on wildlife refuges

Thank you for calling to our attention that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has given the National Rifle Association an official voice in refuge management. This is like asking the Irish Republican Army to protect the Queen of England! We have written to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt noting that the NRA did not support Bill Clinton in last fall's election.

—Bernice and David Edovitz
Winthrop, Massachusetts

Congress, because he is an avid hunter. When I explained how consistently supportive he has been of all animal protection bills, it didn't matter. Her "all or nothing" attitude was not only politically naive and unfair to a very supportive legislator, but indicative of why this movement hasn't made greater progress at lawmaking.

I'd also like to thank you for recognizing the unequaled effectiveness of the American Humane Association's lobbyist, Adele Douglass (who serves as one of HEAL PAC's advisors). As far as I know, Adele and Martha Cole Glenn are the only animal protection lobbyists besides myself who have actually worked as legislative aides and understand the system from the inside. You also gave well-deserved credit to the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, headed up by Christine Stevens of the Animal Welfare Institute. Without endless appeals for money for legislation that isn't going anywhere anyway, SAPL continues to quietly and effectively get crucial legislation passed.

Last but not least, thanks so much for telling people about the lack of detailed and correct information about bills and politics in articles on legislation published by many of the national groups. This has bothered me for so long that it was one of the reasons compelling me to start HEAL PAC here in Michigan: we intend to fill that void without mincing words.

—Eileen Liska, Lansing, Michigan

Thank you for your timely and informative editorial, "Time to get smart about politics." I agree with almost every word. I have been working within the legislative system for the animals for the past 10 years. I have also worked on several successful political campaigns, so I know how the system works. You are right: we must limit ourselves to viable issues within the legislative process, and must work together to present a united front to the legislators.

I am a part of the Pennsylvania Legislative Animal Network and ANIPAC,

More letters

Throw the editor to a pit bull!

I work at an animal shelter and we receive **ANIMAL PEOPLE** regularly. I've always been impressed with the quality and integrity of your publication—until I read "Why not trust a pit bull?" in your Jan/Feb issue. As a proud owner of a one-year-old female pit bull, I object to the insinuation that Chester's behavior was due to the fact that he was a pit bull. Many dogs exhibit violent behavior and some kill other animals or people—not just the pit bull breed. I've handled pit bulls in my job, including many who have been trained as fighting dogs, and have never been attacked, bitten, or even growled at. It is a sad fact that many pit bulls are trained or baited until they will kill other animals, but until there are stronger anti-cruelty laws and more ways to enforce them, fighting and baiting will continue. I am fortunate that my pit bull loves my five cats, my ferret, and every person she's ever met. I've had her since she was four months old and she is constantly supervised around children and other animals, as all dogs should be. It is a shame that Chester's owner blames the breed for what happened. She acquired Chester from an urban area, as a stray adult, not knowing what he had been

exposed to or trained for. The dog should have been supervised at all times—and an animal care technician should have known that. Then to destroy Chester by shooting him? As an animal activist, Chester's owner should have known that there is a humane alternative to shooting a pet: lethal injection in a leg vein, done by a veterinarian or a shelter.

—Amber Garrison-Spence,
Harrington, Delaware

As the item in question stated, Chester was under a year old, and for several months was well-behaved around six cats, a rabbit, and two small children. When his caretakers and their children left the house on Christmas Eve, he was confined away from the other animals. When the caretakers returned home a few hours later, Chester had smashed the doors open, killed the rabbit and two cats, and injured another cat. As the author explained to us, once the doors broken, there was nowhere safe to keep Chester for the several days until veterinary offices and/or shelters would be open. Under the circumstances, shooting Chester was the most humane alternative

Throw the dictionary at hunters!

About a year ago our organization embarked on a project to drop the words "hunting,," "hunter," etcetera from all of our publications and correspondence. We have also been encouraging our membership and other organizations to drop these words in favor of the more accurate description of "wildlife killing" and "wildlife killer." The word "hunting" infers some type of skill and legitimacy, but there is little skill involved in blasting a defenseless animal or bird with a high-powered rifle.

—William R. Sparkes, President,
Pennsylvania Animal Welfare Society
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

We share your distaste for hunting. However, besides hunting, wildlife killing includes roadkills, trapping, and animal damage control, whose motivations and methods often vary greatly from those of sport hunters. Thus your suggested change of terminology is not more but less accurate. There is also little to gain by denying that hunting involves skill. Some kinds do require more skill than others, but for many hunters, the imagined contest of skill remains a key motivation. Hunters know how hard they work to develop their skills. Thus denying this aspect of hunting costs us credibility when we point out that hunting is not, after all, a genuine contest, and point out to them further motivations, sexual and subliminal, which give many a lot more to think about than they'd prefer to have on their minds while trying to outwit a beast. Finally, having lived much of my life in Quebec, whose language police are justly notorious, I've seen that few things annoy most people more than self-righteous attempts to change familiar vocabulary. If you want to talk to people, speak the language they understand—clearly.

—The Editor

Ethnicity

I think there may be differences in how cultures perceive animals, but these are often abandoned when the person becomes assimilated into the heterogeneous American lifestyle. For example, I was recently discussing vegetarianism in India with an Indian who had been living in the U.S. for the past five years. He felt that any Indian immigrant who eats beef is being influenced by

SPIRA AD

Western values, as the cow is sacred in India.

While culture is a factor, I think the individual's placement in the economic strata is more important. To some extent, as people become more capable of fulfilling their basic needs (food, water, shelter), they become more sensitive to other social issues.

—Tammy Wong
Concord, California

Lyme disease in dogs

Regarding Zooky (*Ani-mal health*, Jan/Feb) in humans with Lyme disease, optic neuritis (inflammation of the optic nerve) and anterior uveitis are seen. Veterinary ophthalmologist Dr. Covitz has done Lyme titers on over 100 dogs with anterior uveitis (inflammation of the anterior part of the eye in front of the iris), and he told me he never saw a relationship between the condition and the Lyme titers. He feels dogs don't develop eye disease from Lyme.

I would also doubt Zooky's murmur is the result of Lyme. Although people get myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle), we have not had a dog develop a murmur as a sequel to Lyme, and we see over 100 cases yearly.

—Joan Poster, DVM
Westport, Connecticut

Early neuter: *cruel or kind?*

Cruel! by Leslie N. Johnston, DVM

There is a trend now to establish what are called spay/neuter clinics at all of the city and county animal pounds and at the various so-called humane animal shelters all across our country. The term spay/neuter is incorrect use of the English language. The simple term *neuter* is enough.

The people running these clinics are also ignorant about neutering dogs and cats. The trend now is to neuter the dog or cat before he or she leaves the facility, regardless of age (as early as six weeks of age). To neuter a dog or cat this early is cruel, inhumane, deceptive, and the most sadistic vivisection that could be done to a poor little animal.

Remember, dogs and cats are not hogs and cattle. We neuter calves as soon as we can catch them, and pigs at about six weeks of age. But these animals will be slaughtered at six to 18 months of age. We will keep our cats and dogs with us for 10 to 20 years. The minimum ages for neutering dogs and cats are six months for female cats, nine to 12 months for male cats, eight months for female dogs, and 10 months for male dogs. Add time to these figures and the better for the animal.

I am all in favor of neutering, but

this must be done properly and at the proper time by proper people. Early neutering leads to:

1) Extreme overweight. With obesity, all kinds of other health problems will develop.

2) Poor bone formation. The bones in early neuters tend to elongate and be spindly in character, much more subject to fracture.

3) The genitalia will just about stop development at the time of neuter. The penis of the dog or cat will not grow as large as it should. This is why we see so many blockages of urethras and urine flow. Death from urine flow blockage has to be one of the most painful and pitiful deaths that any animal could suffer. I am not saying we don't have blocked urine flow problems in the intact or properly neutered animals, but the incidence rate is greatly reduced relative to early neuters. We have surgical procedures to correct blocked urethras in male cats and dogs, but if the urethra is infantile, there is very little to work with. In the female dog, the vulva will remain infantile and very small. This results in the vulva being covered and left in a pocket of folds of fatty skin. The dog urinates in this pocket, creating a place for infection which is

hard to deal with using the very best antibiotics and sanitation. We also see ascending vaginitis. There is a surgical procedure to correct this condition, but why should the dog have to be put through such surgery due to deception and malpractice?

4) There is increased incidence of diabetes with early neuter. Any time you have excess fat, you increase the possibility of diabetes.

5) There is increased incidence of cataracts. Cataracts go with diabetes.

6) Increased skin problems.

7) Increased heart problems.

8) When the animal becomes so obese that he or she will not play, the owner begins to neglect the pet.

9) Urinary incontinence in the female dog neutered at an early age is greatly increased.

10) Increased thyroid problems.

11) Improper development of the sheath in the male cat, so that it will actually grow onto the penis in some cases.

"Authorities" will tell you that based on studies of 32 dogs in one place and 200 dogs in another place, no ill effects have been seen from early neuter. They don't tell you that there was no follow-up done on these animals for long enough to

see what is going on. When these animals leave a neuter clinic, they are dumped or veterinarians in private practice to deal with.

I have done well over 20,000 neuters during a 36-year practice, and I know what early neutering will do to a dog or cat. I have lived with many of these animals through their lifespans and I have seen my problems from my own early neutering of dogs and cats.

To do surgery to an animal that will make the animal suffer health problems and a shorter life, and cause the owner frustration, heartache, and extra expense, is veterinary malpractice.

[*Dr. Johnston, a veterinarian since 1959, practices in Tulsa, Oklahoma.*]

Kind! by Leo L. Lieberman, DVM

Recognition of the problem of pet overpopulation with the euthanasia of millions of dogs and cats each year generated the concept of neuter-before-adoption. Thus shelters can avoid becoming a source of the problem they are trying to solve.

animal death—the automobile.

Dr. Johnston claims early-age neutering is cruel, inhumane, and sadistic, but it should be noted that many forms of major surgery including organ transposition are now routinely performed on one-to-five-

irresponsible or neglected care of a bitch spayed at any age. This condition does not occur in cats.

In 1972, JAVMA pages 208-211, M.A. Herron of Texas A&M reported that castration before puberty had relatively little

Puppies and kittens are the most attractive prospects for adoption from shelters. But veterinarians in the past have refused to do surgery at less than six or seven months of age. Some have even required the animal to pass one "heat" cycle. This has been traditional, and was taught at all schools of veterinary medicine despite the fact that until 1991 no scientific reports or evidence existed to indicate any age as preferable for this surgery.

In 1975 the Humane Society of the U.S. printed their policy statement holding that, "No animal should be adopted from any shelter without being spayed/castrated." In 1992, after weighing the available information as presented by a panel of experts, the American Humane Association issued a policy statement on early neuter surgery, "supporting this practice as a feasible solution to decreasing pet overpopulation."

The world's first controlled study of neutering was undertaken at the University of Florida and reported in the April 1, 1991 issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. Here is proven that the changes in the bitch spayed at seven months of age, the conventional time, are insignificantly different from the changes found in the littermate bitch pup spayed at seven weeks of age. Studies on cats and related issues are underway now.

Many shelters and colleges of veterinary medicine are now doing early-age surgery, some as early as six weeks. It was never intended to direct any practitioner to undertake surgery at a time other than of his or her own choice, but many veterinarians have found it advantageous to do neutering at younger ages.

Dr. Johnston fails to mention the many advantages of early neutering to the patient: there is no mammary cancer and no pyometra; there is markedly reduced prostate disease; there are no perineal hernias nor perianal adenomas; and these animals have a longer life expectancy because they have a tendency to stay at home, avoiding the most common cause of companion

day-old people.

Modern livestock practice dictates that pigs be castrated at two or three days of age, rather than the six weeks of 40 years ago, as suggested by Dr. Johnston. The same with calves. Yes, they are slaughtered young. But horses are also castrated as early as two to 10 days of age, and both horses and steers raised as oxen may live for 20 years or more.

Contrary to Dr. Johnston's allegations, fatness in animals is in proportion to the quantity and quality of the food consumed. Some breeds have a propensity for obesity and must be carefully monitored whether neutered or intact. Available knowledge and special diets can accomplish obesity control if the owner is willing to make the effort. Neutering is not the principal cause of obesity; excess food is.

Abnormal thyroid function can contribute to excess weight and should be treated. This is caused by dysfunction of the hypothalamus-pituitary-thyroid axis and destruction of the thyroid itself from thyroiditis or degeneration. This has no relationship to neutering at any age.

With regard to bone formation in early-age neutered animals, the slight elongation of the radius, ulna, and femur usually goes unnoticed, as there is no abnormal appearance, function, or fragility. (See the report by Salmar and Bloomberg in *JAVMA*, 4/1/91.)

It can be agreed that the genitalia of early-age neutered animals are reduced in size. This should be of no significance as long as there is adequate passage of urine. In very obese bitches, the globs of exuberant fat in the posterior aspect of the thigh misaligns the urine stream so that the patient soils herself. Combine that with the excoriating effect of alkaline urine from cystitis, and a very uncomfortable, smelly, miserable patient is presented with a reddened ulcerated perineum. Yes, sometimes surgery is indicated. If the cystitis were controlled and the excessive obesity were not allowed, the plight of these patients could be avoided. This is basically a case of

effect on the diameter of the penile urethra of cats. Some practitioners continue to attribute the occurrence of plugged urethrae of cats to castration at an extremely early age. However, this condition also occurs in uncastrated males, and to a lesser extent, in females. Veterinary urologist Carl Osbourne and veterinary nutritionist Lon Lewis in many publications have reported the plugged urethrae to be precipitated by excess magnesium and phosphate in the diet. Readily available prepared foods with reduced levels of magnesium and phosphate plus the capacity to acidify urine have reduced the incidence of plugged urethrae.

Ascending urinary infections of the females of any species (including humans) occurs more frequently than we like. Why it occurs in one patient and not in another is not clearly understood. It has nothing to do with neutering at any age. It is suspected that nature's arrangement of the female body orifices increases this propensity.

Urinary incontinence has been reported by Thrustfield (*Vet Record*, 1985, p. 116, 695) to occur in the spayed female more frequently than in the intact. But the condition does occur in the unspayed female fairly often, and also in humans. There are many recent reports on this subject. One "estrogen-sensitive" incontinence responds well to tiny doses of hormones administered by mouth or by injection. This has been incorrectly interpreted to indicate that the condition is due to the absence of estrogen in the spayed bitch. Experts agree that this is not true.

Early-age neutered animals have not been around in sufficient numbers for long enough for anyone to have adequate valid data on urinary incontinence, which is primarily a disease of the elderly. Our preliminary retrospective studies of the older early-age neutered animals we have been able to locate show no significant increase in this disease. There is a need for additional clinical research.

Diabetes mellitus is most often caused by relapsing pancreatitis. Cataracts of the eyes are a common and important

complication of diabetes. Obese animals are often the victims. But this has no relationship to neutering at any age.

The penile sheath of some castrated male cats adheres to the penis. Usually the penis can be easily exteriorized. Unless there is interference with urination, it is of little consequence, if the penis is retained. Lack of urination demands immediate surgery.

Dr. Johnston's comments on the relatively small (32) number of animals involved in the reported studies of early neutering are not valid. In the design of the study, statisticians were consulted. How many animals is an appropriate number? Should there be one of each sex and breed? Should there be 10, or perhaps 100 or 1,000? What is the cost of the procedures, tests, and maintenance? How much money is available? How long should the animals be confined? Each of these questions requires compromise. The study as performed has cost \$75,000, and continues with no funds available. Yes, it is expected that practitioners will eventually contribute data to an essential larger study. First, however, practitioners have to be convinced to do early neutering, as many are doing, both in shelters and in private practice. These animals should be watched and compared to other animals for a number of years. In time, the answers to all our questions will become self-evident.

[Dr. Lieberman, a veterinarian since 1935, heads the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Welfare in Port St Lucie, Florida.]

A fish named Alice

by Margaret Hehman-Smith

I have an unusual animal I'd like to tell you about: a fish named Alice who does tricks. You don't believe it? Everyone says that until they see my fish for real. Then they admit they have never seen a fish do that before; and then they don't know what to say or do. On the one hand here is a koi fish who performs learned behaviors on cue, and on the other, there is the suggestion that we should regard fish as intelligent, sentient beings, who don't belong grilled on a plate.

My Japanese Imperial koi fish is sleekly beautiful, pearl-white, 24 years old, about the size of a small dog. She lives in a 100-gallon tank in my den. She has been taught to ring a bell, go through a hoop, react to hand signals, push a ball, suck a baby bottle, and give me a wet kiss. When she rings the bell by pulling a marble on a string attached to the bell's clapper, she has fun, jerking it back and forth so hard that sometimes she almost pulls herself out of the water. She has even pulled the bell out of my hand and into the water a few times. She has excellent eyesight. When I pick up one of her toys and show it to her by the side of the tank, she watches intently. I can see her trying to figure out my next move: are we going to ring the bell? Are we going to play ball? Sometimes she moves before I do. Then we have to go back to the starting point because I'm too slow for her.

One of Alice's attention-getters is sucking water at the top of the tank so loudly it starts my dogs barking and running to the door. Or she'll slap the water with her tail when I walk into the den. If I ignore her, sometimes she splashes me. If I dance in front of her tank, she'll wiggly-tail back and forth almost in unison. I've been awakened abruptly in the middle of the night by Alice playing with her marbles. She'll suck up a marble, then spit it out, resulting in a loud clank on the tank bottom. Sometimes she sleeps with her eyes

of energy for short periods of time. Fish, Donald found, are not nearly as different from other animals as had been assumed. The only major difference, he concluded, is that fish live underwater and their physical characteristics have adapted to that environment.

During his initial research, in 1969-1970, Donald trained a koi to play poker with a human partner. Large playing cards were immersed in the water inside a plastic panel. The fish would swim wide around the tank, differentiate between the images, then come up and nose the desired cards to produce a food reward. In the early 1970s this koi, Old Gold, appeared on the television show *You Asked For It*, and played poker with host Jack Smith. The koi won because he was a sharp carp.

For thousands of years no one ever imagined that fish could exhibit the same level of intelligence as mammals and birds. Meanwhile fish have been killed by the billion for food, for sport, and for trophies. Most people who catch fish assert that their victims have few nerves in their mouths, and therefore don't feel any pain from hooks. But physiologists have demonstrated that this is false. And after watching Alice for ten years I have come to recognize a variety of physical expressions, including those of pain. One day several years ago she jumped out of her tank and fell five feet to the floor. She slipped out of my grasp three times before I could safely lift her back into the water. I thought she had scrambled her insides. She stayed in the middle of the tank, near the bottom, hardly moving. She had lost many scales and there was a cut above her eyes. Her mouth was tight; her expression was vacant as if she was in shock. If a fish could cry out, it would have been then. Her body functions shut down. With effort, she would occasionally glance my way, faintly finning. Expecting her to die, I stayed beside her. Late that night she began moving around a little. I threw her some food. She

open on the bottom, hardly moving a gill. When people see her this way, they think there is something wrong. Nope, just taking a nap. Spaghetti is a favorite food of hers, so when I cook pasta, I have to give her some. Al dente, no sauce, of course. In the evening I read with my chair located next to her tank. She's there staring at me. I wave with my hand; she waves back with her body. This can go on for hours.

Do you know anyone else with a fish for a pal? Of course not. You say, "Well, I've seen a bunch of fish come up at feeding time and almost eat out of my hand." This is a natural, unlearned fish behavior: they look for food. But whoever thought they could be trained to perform on cue?

Our folklore, which is what "everybody knows," claims that fish are non-thinking, unemotional animals who cannot learn from experience. Virtually every human being who ever lived would agree that fish are stupid. People say fish don't have feelings, that they feel no pain, that they are cold-blooded. These universally held assumptions are completely wrong.

Over 20 years ago my late husband, the noted animal behaviorist Donald Leon Smith, studied fish in large aquariums in his lab at Anaheim, California. He discovered that every fish he tested felt frustration and fear. They also experienced pain, fatigue, and hunger just as your pet dog might. Some species of fish appeared to be able to form strong emotional attachments to other fish—of the same species, of different species in occasional instances, and some fish responded similarly to their human caretakers. Donald observed the behavior of many fish who are even more intelligent than koi: Jack Dempseys, Clarius cats, comet goldfish, oscars. He concluded that the intelligence level of the brightest fish, the oscars, would easily compare to that of dogs or wolves.

Animal behavior is not determined by whether the animal lives in the air, on the ground, or underwater. Rather, it is determined primarily by how the animal makes a living. Specifically, an oscar and a wolf make their livings the same way: by stalking and killing game. Thus their behavior is similar. Donald learned that both oscars and wolves form strong emotional bonds. Their young are unusually playful, and their food-getting behavior involves sudden, intense output

came to the surface and took it. Soon her mouth began swinging up and down, back and forth. Her fins started flying, especially the two behind her gills, which work independently and paw the water like dwarf arms. Her body swung from side to side. Each of these is a set of behavior for feeling good and happy. The sparkle came back into her eyes, and eventually all her scales grew back.

I like the way philosopher Henry Beston expresses how we should associate with animals: "We need another and a wise and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. For the animals shall not be measured by man. They are not brethren. They are not underlings. They are other nations caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of birth."

I would like to include fish, who are so often and so thoughtlessly netted. Every time I see fish in a market swimming around in a tank waiting to die, or a fish already dead, I think of my koi with her beauty and intelligence. I stare with sadness at a doomed catfish and think, "I bet I could teach him to ring a bell."

Wildwear ad

Alice rings her bell. (Photo by Margaret Hehman-Smith.)

When a horse needs help

(continued from page one)

the first animals to receive legal protection. Organizations devoted specifically to horse rescue have been around at least since 1888, when Ryerss' Infirmary for Dumb Animals opened in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Yet a dozen years ago there were still just three horse rescue groups of more than local prominence—the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, founded in 1960; the American Horse Protection Association, founded in 1966; and the Hooved Animal Humane Society, founded in 1971.

Today there are more than 30. Horse rescue groups with a state-wide or significant regional mandate are active in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington. Both thoroughbred and standardbred racing organizations have become active in horse rescue, along with many individual horse breeders and trainers—partly to improve the image of their work, but obviously too because many people in the horse industry are motivated in part by genuine affection for the animals.

Conventional animal care and rescue groups are getting involved too. Meyer trains dozens of anti-cruelty officers to recognize horse abuse at annual AHA seminars. Most humane societies who respond to horse calls quickly learn that they need more training—and more help. As Meyer explains, "Humane societies really need to tie into the net-

work of horse groups, farmers, extension specialists, etcetera. A lot of these resources are willing to make themselves available, free for the asking. But humane society staffers who are plugged into the horse community are rare," in part because of mutual mistrust. Horse people tend to equate "animal protection" with "animal rights," and equate "animal rights" with organizations who on the one hand hold that riding horses is exploitation, and on the other have raised millions of dollars around issues first raised by the horse groups: for instance, government-sponsored massacres of wild horses and burros, the deliberate soring of Tennessee walking horses' feet to make them step higher, the drugging of race horses, and the overcrowding of horses on double-decked trucks taking them to slaughter.

Even as horse rescuers gathered in Santa Barbara, the Horsemen's Council of Illinois and the American Horse Council co-sponsored a day-long conference on "Defensive Strategies for Dealing With Animal Rights Activists."

Rescue groups who try to work with both humane societies and other horse people often find themselves caught in the middle.

How one group does it

"We'd like to get the idea across that large animal people *should* work with the humane societies," Janet Maugher of the Large Animal Protection Society told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Based in Parks-

Guest column

Stop the war on wild horses!

by Anna Charlton

A modern-day range war is underway on the vast prairies of Nevada. Unless there is drastic and immediate action, the casualty of this war will be the wild horse, whom ranchers and bureaucrats seem determined to exterminate.

The wild horse is an enduring symbol of the American west. The sight of a herd of these magnificent, proud animals thundering across the open range evokes the image of freedom. Responding to public outrage over the slaughter of wild horses, Congress in 1971 passed the Free and Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act, which calls for the protection, management, and control of all wild horses and burros on public land. But despite this legislative protection, wild horses are still shot, poisoned, and rustled. The greatest threat to their survival, however, comes from the Bureau of Land Management—the agency Congress entrusted as their guardian. The BLM appears intent upon "managing" wild horses out of existence, to increase the profits of cattle and sheep ranchers.

Approximately 530,000 cattle and 250,000 sheep compete with wild horses for the scant forage on the 48 million acres of public land in drought-stricken Nevada. Each steer eats *six tons* of plant range material before going to slaughter. Yet the BLM has decreed that wild horses, whose numbers they set at 30,000, are chiefly responsible for the depleted state of much of the shared range, and so must be removed. If present herd management practices continue, the wild horses may disappear from Nevada in a very few years.

The Rutgers Animal Rights Law Clinic has responded by becoming legal representative for the Public Lands Resource Council, a small group who recently undertook an independent aerial count of Nevada's wild horses, to show the public that the size of the wild horse herds has been seriously and intentionally misrepresented by the BLM. The PLRC spokesperson is Michael Blake, author of the award-winning novel and screenplay *Dances With Wolves*. Blake, who has personally adopted two wild

methods is a difficult process. The basic problem is the power of Nevada cattle interests. The number of cattle who can be grazed on public lands is determined by Animal Unit Months, a formula that determines how many animals an acre of land can support. The wild horse and burro legislation requires these Animal Unit Months to be allocated between wildlife and the number of cattle the holder of a grazing permit wishes to graze. As wild horses are included in the assessment of how much wildlife an area can sustain, there is a direct conflict between the number of wild horses and the number of cattle a permit holder is allowed to place on the land. Among the Nevada permit holders and cattle owners are some of the most powerful corporations and most politically well-connected individuals in the nation.

The BLM has taken extraordinary steps to insure that the public does not have a voice in the round-up decisions. Until recently, the round-up plans were circulated to interested parties for comment. Once the comments were reviewed, the final decision was made. Persons who objected to the round-up proposals were allowed to file administrative appeals of the final decision, and round-ups were halted pending the outcome of the process.

The BLM is now following a tighter procedure that has virtually excluded public input—facilitating the slaughter of wild horses while making themselves effectively unaccountable. Now, after the initial comment period, the round-up decisions are signed by the Interior Secretary or his subordinates. When the Secretary signs a round-up decision, the regulations do not allow aggrieved parties to bring administrative appeals. Their only avenue of protest is to file a proceeding in federal court. The BLM is well aware that most people who are interested in wild horses do not have the resources or expertise to initiate federal lawsuits. Such actions take time, considerable amounts of money, and the services of a lawyer.

Moreover, and perhaps most damaging, BLM district managers have been granted new powers. Last year, regulations were approved under which the round-up deci-

sion to round up horses, the round-up will be complete; round-ups will no longer be halted while an administrative appeal or lawsuit is pending. This leaves the public without a remedy if an appeal is successful. In such a situation, the BLM simply promises it will take fewer horses next time, which means nothing if none are left.

Concerned individuals have challenged the BLM before, but have lacked the legal training and hard figures on horse numbers to be successful. Now we are in a different situation. We are marshalling the resources of the Animal Rights Law Clinic, and we have accurate data from the PLRC aerial count. We will oppose every round-up plan and appeal every round-up decision. We also are preparing challenges to the whole system by which the BLM manages wild horses in Nevada. We will contest the BLM wild horse count, and argue that no round-ups should take place until the vast discrepancy between the BLM count and the PLRC count is explained. We further will seek to invalidate the Secretary of the Interior's "full force and effect" powers, to insure that the public has a true voice to object to management plans that threaten to wipe out the wild horse herds.

We ask a moratorium on wild horse removals pending an accurate count by an independent census firm; full support for study of controlling wild horse populations by the use of immunocontraceptives; a Congressional investigation of possible fraud by the Department of the Interior and elected officials with regard to wild horse counts; and an end to the artificially low grazing fee structure on public lands, with a return to competitive bidding for grazing rights.

Meanwhile, we need the help of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** readers to convince Congress that policy toward wild horses must change, before they are destroyed forever. Please call us at 201-628-5989 for information on how you can help, or request fact sheets and a postcard to send to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, from the Rutgers Animal Rights Law Clinic, 15 Washington St., Newark, NJ

horses, has witnessed for himself the torment, humiliation, and abuse these creatures endure in roundup and capture.

The BLM "counts" the wild horse herds to decide how many must be removed from the range each year to "protect" the forage. It has become clear to longtime observers that the number of horses has been greatly exaggerated to rationalize large horse removals. This year, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada estimated there were 75,000 wild horses. The Secretary of the Interior said that 60,000 remained. The BLM's own count found 33,000 horses. But the PLRC, with the help of individuals who formerly helped count wild horses for the BLM, found only 8,231 wild horses left in Nevada. The BLM, meanwhile, has scheduled 14,000 for removal. This means they could be removing every surviving wild horse, in direct violation of the 1971 federal law.

BLM horse management methods reveal their disinterest in the wellbeing and preservation of wild horses. The persons doing the round-ups are paid according to the number of horses they remove. The conflict of interest inherent in entrusting the census of wild horses to persons who will profit from overestimating the horse population should be obvious.

Challenging the BLM's round-up decisions and

sions of the district managers may be given "full force and effect." By the time a challenge can be made to the deci-

07102.

(BLM photo)

(Mustangs)

burg, Pennsylvania, LAPS "has been doing horse rescue and cruelty prosecution for four and a half years," Maugher explained. "Our local SPCA wanted to work with horse people only as a potential funding source. They didn't see horse tooth and foot care as a priority." That turned horse people off, and then the humane society bungled its first attempts to do horse rescue. "After one rescue," Maugher said, "the horses were tied up to stanchions meant for cows, so that they couldn't lift their heads. If the case had ended up in litigation, the horses might have been left there that way for a year." Instead, "they were adopted out to people who returned them to the original owners. Our objective was to show the humane people that there is a credible, economical way to do horse rescues. From that, we graduated into finding volunteers, setting up auxiliaries with law enforcement powers, and setting up a horse rescue network across the state."

Although LAPS also rescues other large animals, ranging from calves to lla-

mas, horses are still the focus. "The bulk of our cases involve neglected backyard horses and ponies," Maugher confirmed. "We're in the Poconos," a scenic area within an easy drive of New York City. "People come up here and buy four acres or eight acres and think they have a farm. They get the horses and the goats and maybe throw in a few potbellied pigs. They ride the horses on the weekend, then expect them to find enough to eat on their little patch of land to survive unattended the rest of the week."

LAPS now works with several shelters to educate cruelty prosecutors about such cases, chiefly by providing expert witness testimony. But Maugher emphasizes that her group tries to avoid prosecutions. "We do not go out to take horses," she states. "We go out to get veterinary care and proper feeding. Most of what we see is passive abuse. Some of the worst offenders are well-educated, well-off people, who just don't know about hay and worming. We always go back at least once. We always get a veterinarian to give medical opinions.

We might keep an eye on a horse for two or three years. There's a lot of mileage and a lot of work involved. In one case, it took us two years to confiscate three horses."

And many of the 200 calls Maugher takes each year turn out to be false alarms. "We get a lot of calls about the Amish workhorses in summer, especially about people using horses in heat. Those horses are usually fine. We end up educating the callers. The problem we have had with the Amish is when they fence horses and cows away from water." Similarly, Maugher dismisses many calls she receives about carriage horses. "You have to look at the individual horse," she points out, "before you judge whether a situation is cruel. If you have a poor former race horse out there pulling a carriage, who's half nuts already from the track, everything upsets it. A big, phlegmatic Percheron isn't upset by cars or much of anything else. We haven't had one recent problem in Philadelphia," she says.

In some respects, Maugher's work

is much like that of other humane workers—especially when she comes up against serious abusers. "We used to publish our address until one man showed up half-drunk, wanting his horse back," she notes. "He threatened to shoot the lady who owned the property where the horse was being boarded. One of our anti-cruelty agents was threatened with being bashed by a bucket. Another agent and myself had a man standing over us with a shotgun all the time we did an investigation."

On the following pages, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** profiles a number of other unique and energetic horse rescuers. We chose to spotlight Gene and Diana Chontos and Steve and Sharon Jackson because of their records of combining concern for people with concern for animals, and because at comparable ages they have arrived where they are from extremely different backgrounds. Chris Larter's career, meanwhile exemplifies dedicated outreach. There are many others we hope to profile in the future as opportunity permits.

Gene and Diana Chontos:

Reduce photo of Gene and Diana Chontos by 24%, to 76% of original size.

Helping the tough and stubborn

"Talking to someone about myself beyond my life with burros seems abstract to me now," Diana Chontos told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "since my life has become burros and their continued survival. I am a daughter of the pioneers of Washington, and continue to live by many of the same values as my great-grandparents, except that during my childhood I found the practice of slaughtering and eating animals abhorrent. As soon as I possibly could, I became a vegetarian." Her first animal rescue may have been at age 13, when, "I rode my horse, galloping bareback, between a gun-happy bounty hunter and a beautiful coyote I had been watching as she caught and ate grasshoppers."

Gene Chontos, Diana's partner of 18 years, came to animal rescue later in life, but no less dramatically. "I was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1937," he remembers, "son to Hungarian immigrants. My father and all his kin served the Bethlehem Steel Company as cheap labor and resided in lower class poverty, replete with ethnic prejudice, hatred, and violence. I escaped at age 17 through a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps." Working his way through college by tending bar, Gene

became "radicalized at U.C. Berkeley, 1966-1969," while earning an M.A. in criminology. "At that time," he states, "I decided to live a minimum impact lifestyle, which included organic gardening, very basic living, protection and enhancement of wildlife, and overall environmental awareness. I dedicated my professional skills to helping victims of personal abuse and institutionalized injustice."

Like Diana, Gene became an outspoken ethical vegetarian. He focused, however, upon assisting disadvantaged people. "My approach to psychotherapy and treatment was uncompromisingly humanistic and democratic," he says. "My style was to establish emotional bonding with people in crisis and to become their role model for change. During this process I found it necessary to bring them into my space and reality," which for 15 years meant bringing convicted felons home for extended visits, "in order for them to experience a secure and healthy existence."

Gene became directly involved with animals circa 1973-1977, while directing a unique rehabilitation project for 30 drug abusers—20 men and 10 women—selected from Washington state prisons. With a staff of 12, a budget of

\$300,000, and a building provided by Western State Hospital for the Mentally Ill, Gene "went all out" to advance the idea of "treatment rather than punishment knowing," he admits, "that it was a one-time only opportunity, destined to produce a backlash of conservative punitive response." To his surprise, he discovered the best treatment came through "the involvement of the staff's pets with the convict clientele. My two German shepherds Frank and Mellow, spent 80 hours a week with me at the project, and soon the dogs and the convicts were inseparable. Frank and Mellow were a team with enough intelligence, curiosity, and energy to provide continuous and often very dramatic interactions."

Burros became part of the Chontos' lives in 1985 when Diana learned "of the mass removal of wild burros from Death Valley National Park." They began by adopting four burros. Then, in 1988, Diana recalls, "We sold our little lakeside cabin and moved to an undeveloped piece of land in the Cascade foothills. We salvaged an old rotting pole barn that was almost entirely covered with gigantic blackberry vines, and we all moved in. We had a dream: to

Colorado Horse Rescue

by Marcia King

In the cold, fallow, debris-riddled pastures of a Rocky Mountain farm, 20 horses searched desperately for food. Two others lay dead of starvation; a third had impaled herself on a metal stake and died, slowly. Thin, rope-scarred, the group included one yearling, two pregnant mares, seven nursing mares with little milk, and ten foals, three of whom were "orphaned" a few days earlier when their owner leased their mothers to an outfitter.

Impounding the horses would be a logistic nightmare, requiring the use of several big trailers and the aid of experienced personnel. In addition, the horses not only needed suitable stabling, nourishment, and veterinary care, but also plenty of hands to provide daily exercise sessions ("turnouts"), grooming, and monitoring, plus around-the-clock feedings, nursing, and intravenous connections for the motherless foals—demands far beyond the physical and financial capabilities of most animal shelters.

But the law enforcement agencies where this rescue took place, near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, knew just who to call: Sharon Jackson of Colorado Horse Rescue. Notified of the impending impound, Jackson and CHR volunteers met authorities at the owner's property with five trailers, provided all of the labor and know-how for removing the horses, handled all the follow-up care, and covered all the horse care expenses.

For CHR, the impound was neither unusual nor new. Since 1988, CHR volunteers have handled all of Colorado's impounds. Prior to the formation of the CHR, such impounds rarely occurred. Explains Jackson, "The state had nowhere to take horses, no funds, and no way to enforce the law."

Mennonites

Jackson, 57, and her husband Steve, a 47-year-old municipal electrical engineer, claim a strong-rooted background of religion, compassion, and tradition. "We both come from farming communities and are Mennonites," Sharon says, "who by culture and tradition are heavily involved in helping services. We grew up caring for animals." Settling near Denver, they raised eight children, seven of whom were in 4-H horse programs, maintained a small leased farm, and donated to various shelters and rescue groups. When an injury caused Sharon to take early retirement from her job with an anti-poverty program, in 1979, she decided to take up horse rescue.

She began by visiting local horse auctions. Each time she would buy a cheap, thin horse and take the animal back to her farm for special care. "I couldn't stand the idea that these thin horses would go off with the slaughterhouse buyers," she says. After each horse regained good weight and health, usually within four or five months, Jackson would contact a local 4-H leader, place the horse with a child, and begin her project anew. Gradually, she got friends involved.

Within three years, though, buying cheap horses at auction became difficult. "Between 1980 and 1983," Jackson remembers, "packing house buyers weren't paying much. I paid only \$35 for my first auction horse. But with the increased demand for horsemeat in Europe and Japan, the killer buyers began grabbing every horse they could. We'd have to pay \$800 or \$900 to outbid the killers, so it became harder and harder to buy one."

Meanwhile, as slaughter prices rose in the mid-1980s, other horse markets collapsed. People trying to sell horses often found the killer buyers were the only takers. Unwilling to sell horses to their deaths, many would-be sellers contacted Jackson instead. "They usually asked if we were nonprofit, so they could donate the horse for a tax write-off," says Jackson. Securing nonprofit status in 1986, Jackson started taking in so many unwanted donated horses that she could no longer accommodate horses bought at auction. She accepted horses of any age or condition except for those who were crazy, dangerous, terminal, or otherwise permanently unrideable. "We went from having nine or ten horses a year to having 45," she explains.

Simultaneously, the deflated horse market produced a rise in equine neglect and abuse. "But in Colorado," observed Jackson, "there was no money appropriated to impound horses, and no place to take them, even if there were funds. So in 1985, Steve and I went to the state Department of Agriculture and said, 'We'll shelter the animals for free. We'll get a kitty going to cover the medical bills. Just impound them.' At first they thought we were crazy, but in 1988 they had a big impound that they had to do something about: a group of seven starving horses with one dead, starved, on the property. They called and asked if we were serious about sheltering the horses."

CHR removed the horses from the property, including one so weakened he had to be supported by a

body sling inside the trailer to keep him from falling. They placed the horses in various safe homes, covered the horses' maintenance costs, paid the vet bills, and nursed five of the seven back to health. Says Jackson, "We did such a good job—no muss, no fuss—that the state sent more impounds, one here, two there."

The impounds attracted considerable media attention. Horse lovers throughout Colorado sent money. Many asked to become volunteers. Soon Jackson's project became recognized and respected statewide.

With a little help from their friends

CHR now handles about 150 horses a year, leases a 210-acre farm, operates three emergency shelters and an adoption center, and makes use of 55 emergency foster homes. CHR funds the shelters and adoption center, while the foster homes receive no compensation beyond a tax write-off for their expenses. Help comes from nearly three dozen volunteers, one part-time paid staffer, and a waiting list of 610 potential adoptive families. All of this is supported by a paid membership of about 600, who generate annual revenue of about \$45,000 via dues of \$10/year, adoption fees, donations, and fundraisers.

As recently as 1989, the Jacksons and a number of friends were still sheltering 90 horses a year on their own farms, but in 1990 they obtained a low-cost lease on their present headquarters from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Steve Jackson and the CHR volunteers worked nights to repair and convert the dilapidated farmhouse into a residence/office, which the state requires them to occupy. Steve Jackson also manages the farm, while Sharon perseveres with the hands-on care of the horses, coordinates impounds, and manages the office, publicity, and inquiries. A senior citizens' group repaired the barn; a hospital funded the repairs of a second house on the farm for live-in veterinary staff; and members of local Mennonite churches, the Future Farmers of America, the Colorado Draft Horse Club, and the Farm Bureau tilled and planted the farm's fields with seed donated by Agland of the Rockies.

Jackson points out that such networking makes the organization possible. Networking also enables CHR to avoid the conflict of limited resources but unlimited need that plagues most humane groups. This is one sheltering operation that always—so far—has adoptive homes

walk away into the mountains and not return. We would travel with our burros and people would be able to see what wonderful animals these wild ones are. We could educate people about the issues and prove to many that wild burros should *never* be shot as a method of 'management.'

"This we did." In July 1990, Gene and Diana set out with six burros on a two-year trek through the Washington and Oregon high country. "People were forever amazed," Diana continues, "that our burros had once been wild, that we had gentled them and that they loved us beyond all reason, carried our belongings, and shared every aspect of our lives with us."

They spent the winter of 1990-1991 at The Wild Horse Sanctuary near Mount Lassen, California, a 5,700-acre facility maintained by Jim and Dianne Clapp—and that changed their direction in more ways than one. "We spent five months caring for and feeding over 200 mustangs," Diana explains. "We participated in the rescue of 123 mustangs from Oregon, and looked after them all upon their arrival at the sanctuary. We milked tamed mustangs to provide milk to rejected newborn foals," since, "when young mares are traumatized by capture and transportation, they often are confused, especially if the foal is their first," and abandon their offspring. Losing some foals, both believe, "was the hardest part of the entire trek experience."

Ready to resume their trek toward New Mexico in March 1991, Gene and Diana learned that "a herd of wild burros had been rounded up and were being held in northern Nevada, awaiting slaughter. Faced with the choice of saving the burros and taking them to our home in Washington, or continuing our trek, we saved the burros, and committed our lives to providing an option other than death for wild burros living on non-protected lands."

Though the Chontos' rescue facility is modest, it nonetheless took "much work and our entire savings," Diana admits. "We live in the barn with our burro friends, heat with wood, grow a garden, can and dry much of our own food, and have no electricity, running water, or other modern conveniences. Thirty-two of our 42 acres of forest, wetland, and pastures are protected as wildlife habitat."

Now in planning, according to Gene, is a therapy program involving burros and "children with special needs," modeled after a similar program administered by Elizabeth Svendsen via the Donkey Sanctuary of England. A pioneer of burro rescue, Svendsen "has rescued in excess of 4,000 donkeys," Gene states. Many are used to assist children who suffer from either physical or emotional disabilities.

Gene and Diana understand that no matter how many burros they personally gentle and adopt out, and no

Where horse rescue gets hot

by Sharon Cregier

AMMAN, Jordan — The sound of a stick on hide summons Chris Larter to her second-story balcony. "It's the donkey-beaters," Larter explains. Below, a mare, foal at foot, plows a stony verge. Sheep and shepherd dodge four-lane traffic to graze the edges of construction projects. And of course there are boys driving donkeys. "Last time they were trying to cut a donkey's ears off," Larter continues. She recalls braving a hail of stones to take photos, locating the parents of the donkey-boys, and pleading for the donkey's welfare.

Today, courage requires police reinforcement. Obtaining backup, Larter partially unloads a staggering donkey, obliging the donkey-boys to make multiple trips to finish moving their cargo.

Larter is field supervisor, publicity officer, and photographer for the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals, sponsored by the 70-year-old Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa. Based in England, SPANA is among the last and most popular remnants of the British occupation of Jordan, 1920-1946.

Larter has been working for animals since 1954, when she took her first job, as a horse groom. Her most memorable assignments have included transporting horses for the British military and Olympic equestrian team; sailing as an observer aboard a freighter taking 36,000 sheep to Libya, as the only woman among a crew of 44 men; and investigating illegal wild horse slaughterhouses in the Australian outback. Discovered by the horse-killers, Larter outdrove a hot pursuit to avoid "disappearing" in a horse-sized meat grinder.

She arrived in Jordan in September 1987, to oversee the construction of the Princess Alia Clinic for tourist horses in Petra, a project of the London-based Brooke Hospital for Animals. The Brooke serves the southern third of Jordan, while SPANA serves the northern two-thirds. Larter worked for both until March 1992, when she left the Brooke due to policy differences with new management. But she never thought of leaving Jordan. "Working here is more rewarding than working in England, Europe, or Australia," Larter says. In her view, "Jordan is probably the safest place in the world for women," because of the Bedouin code of chivalry. Larter

Chris Larter relieves a three-month-old donkey of a spiked halter, used to keep him from suckling his mother. (Photo by Mazin Qaisi.)

Her Majesty's Noor al Hussein Foundation is now helping the widow. The JSPA technicians tided her over with rice."

Because the entire nation of Jordan is in effect a no-man's-land between Israel and Iraq, Israel and Syria, and Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Larter frequently finds herself in militarily sensitive areas. Six weeks after the Persian Gulf War concluded, she was "interrogated by two lots of military officers, police, and security guards," for inadvertently taking her camera into one such area while arranging to euthanize a donkey with a badly broken foot.

Administering euthanasia can be problematic anyway, because often the sick or injured animal has been essential to the support of a desperately poor family. "At times it is infuriating," Larter admits, "not to be allowed to destroy a badly injured animal. They say,

matter how many are gentled and adopted out by other rescue groups, many of them much better established, the wild burro "problem" won't be solved without a substantial change of philosophy in Washington D.C.

"National Parks and wildlife preserves want them totally removed from most areas," Diana explains. "These are the places we go to rescue burros. The Bureau of Land Management has had its adoption budget cut dramatically over the last several years, closed several adoption centers, and cannot meet the demands of people who would like to adopt a burro, due to lack of funding for the adoption program. At the same time, many private land owners and ranchers are shooting burros on sight!

"Death Valley National Park in California hires specially trained rangers to shoot burros at six out of the nine springs where they must go for water," Diana continues. "Last year, park rangers shot 40 burros within park boundaries, and they hope to increase the 'direct reduction' in 1993." A few hours' drive away, "Lake Mead Recreation Area wants zero burro population," to keep the animals from causing shoreline erosion as they seek water." She quotes Lake Mead Recreation Area superintendent Alan O'Neill:

"We treat burros as an alien species. If the world were perfect, we would prefer not to have any burros within our recreation area."

Diana believes that, "As many as 1,600 burros could be affected in the Lake Mead area alone by upcoming management decisions." Burro eradications are also tentatively scheduled for the Sheldon-Hart Mountain Antelope Preserve, BLM lands in northern Nevada, "and many other parks and preserves throughout the southwest. As many as 600 wild burros could be eradicated by passage of the California Desert Protection Act," Diane adds; though the act would preserve habitat for native species, burros are considered non-native threats to some endangered plants. "This bill is currently held up in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee," she warns, "and will probably reach the Senate floor in early 1993." She asks concerned citizens to appeal to their U.S. Senators on the burros' behalf.

Gene and Diana Chontos of Wild Burro Rescue may be contacted at 665 Burnt Ridge Road, Onalaska, WA 98570; 206-985-7282.

Steve and Sharon Jackson of Colorado Horse Rescue may be reached at P.O. Box 1510, Arvada, CO 80001-1510; 303-423-9433.

usually receives a warm welcome from village *muktars* (leaders), who often invite her to attend weddings, wakes, dances, and feasts.

Together with JSPA director Dr. Basel Arafat, who is a veterinarian, and a number of British-trained veterinary technicians, Larter covers thousands of jolting miles annually in a convoy of two Land Rovers, dodging washouts, rock slides, flash floods, and unguarded cliffs, thousands of feet above sea level. Lacking a shelter and permanent headquarters, the JSPA goes wherever the animals are. According to Arafat, the team treated 9,469 animals in 1992, among them 5,251 donkeys, 2,559 horses, 823 mules, 777 camels, and 59 dogs. Operations included worming, hoof trimming, eye repair, skin and wound care, setting broken bones, and sometimes euthanasia. The service is free. And it includes help to people in distress when necessary.

"We came across one poor man," Larter remembers, "wracked with coughs, stretched beneath a shelter of branches. We fed his two remaining horses, wormed them, and are trying to teach the children humane care.

'Allah will let it die when he wants,' and it invariably does, after days or weeks of unnecessary agony, even though the dressers sometimes quote lines from the Koran which say people must not be cruel to an animal. In odd cases, we go ahead and do it anyway."

However, Larter's help is much more often welcomed than refused. "In Jordan there are very few fences," she explains, "which means that animals are usually tethered and are not running loose, so that we can reach them more easily. The one thing that always amazes me is how owners don't seem to mind our walking up to their animals and doing something to them such as firing an antiseptic spray, untying a tight leg cord, even removing rotten headgear. Anywhere else one would quickly be told to disappear. Now the 'regulars' know we are helping them, and some bring their animals to us when they see our Land Rovers coming. Sometimes owners expect miracles," she notes. "We will be shown an animal who has broken a leg weeks or months before—a year in the case of one old mule who should have been destroyed immediately. They think we can mend a broken leg in minutes."

Larter places particular emphasis upon outreach to children. "Just six or seven miles from the center of Amman," she notes, "children who live in goat-hair tents ride their donkeys to school. We find them tied up outside, usually with their padding still on and ropes cutting through. When we take it all off, we find raw backs." The JSPA has recently introduced humane education to Jordanian schools, modeled upon a program developed by SPANA chief executive Jeremy Hulme during his years as a representative in Morocco. "We are always trying to educate people and children not to throw rocks at dogs, and sometimes horses, donkeys, and mules," Larter continues. "We have found quite a significant number with an eye missing as a result, and one cat who was flattened to the ground."

The JSPA is getting help from several other groups. World Farriery Association president Walt Taylor and veterinarian Tina McGregor have conducted three seminars on equine foot care in Jordan during the past two years, co-sponsored by the International League for the Protection of Horses. In addition, "The Amman Rotary Club has provisionally promised two sun shelters and two water troughs at the Dead Sea for the dehydrated tourist horses, which mainly belong to very poor families," Larter says. "Imshallah!" (God is great!)

[The JSPA may be contacted at P.O. Box 140508, Amman, Jordan. SPANA may be reached at 15 Buckingham Gate, London SW1F 61B, England.]

Dressers Nidal and Mazin and veterinarian Dr. Ghazi treat a donkey for mange. (Photo by Chris Larter.)

Diet & Health

Responding to public panic over tainted meat, President Bill Clinton on February 11 ordered the USDA to hire 160 more meat inspectors, while Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy promised a complete overhaul of the meat inspection system—which the Ronald Reagan and George Bush presidential administrations had streamlined by reducing the number of inspectors. The panic began in December when a six-year-old girl in San Diego County, California, died after eating a tainted Jack-in-the-Box hamburger, and escalated January 22, when a two-year-old boy died in Seattle, Washington, from the same cause. More than 400 people who ate Jack-in-the-Box hamburgers developed *E. coli* 0157:H7 bacterial poisoning; 21 required emergency dialysis. Jack-in-the-Box stock fell 30% in five weeks.

Magainin Pharmaceuticals of Plymouth Meeting, Massachusetts, has found a way to synthesize squalamine, a powerful natural antibiotic found in sharks, without killing sharks. The discovery may have come just in time to save whole shark species. Shark prices have soared in recent years due to increased medicinal demand both from the Orient and the U.S. "natural health" industry—but the shark catch in U.S. coastal waters is down from 488,000 in 1989 to 370,000 in each of the past two years because the slow-reproducing fish have been critically depleted. Twelve of the 22 shark species native to U.S. coastal waters now receive federal protection.

A recent conference of more than 200 nutritionists sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Oldways Preservation Trust produced consensus that vegetarianism may be most easily sold to the public as a "Mediterranean" diet. Harvard economist Theodore Panayotou worried that widespread acceptance of the Mediterranean diet "would dis-

locate agriculture from the Middle West to either coast," while Columbia University nutritionist Joan Gussow suggested, "it would be a total disaster, agriculturally and economically." However, if farm land along the coasts had a higher agricultural value, protecting green belts and wildlife habitat against urban sprawl would be easier, and less emphasis on agriculture in the Middle West would permit the growth of a more diversified economy, as well as the recovery of badly depleted topsoil.

Eating meals rich in cholesterol increase the risk of heart attack not just cumulatively but also within the next six to seven hours, according to Dr. George Miller of the Medical Research Council in London, England. His findings verify National Institutes of Health findings.

The Detroit News recently saluted community activist Tom Milano, 44, a former Hare Krishna whose accomplishments include founding an acclaimed vegetarian soup kitchen called Project Food First.

A new edition of Pamela Teisler's brochure, 101 Reasons Why I'm A Vegetarian, is \$1.00 from the VivaVeggie Society, P.O. Box 294, Prince Street Station, New York, NY 10012. Fifty copies are \$20; 100 copies are \$35.

The Seventh International Vegan Festival, coming July 17-24, will be held at Tossa del Mar, Spain. Room and board for the week is \$400 (U.S. funds). Get details from Francisco Martin, A.P. 38.127, 28080 Madrid, Spain; telephone 34-1-331-99-60.

Beyond Beef seeks volunteers to assist in picketing McDonald's restaurants on April 17 to urge the firm to offer a vegetarian burger—already sold in The Netherlands. Get details from 1130 17th St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036; 202-775-1132.

CHILDREN & ANIMALS

\$40 million in public funds are used to teach "hunter education" to 700,000 U.S. school children a year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service puts up \$32.2 million, while the balance comes from the states; all 50 states participate. "They're teaching hunting as 'gun safety,' 'physical education,' and any other excuse they can think of," says Katherine Trimnal of Columbia, South Carolina, who has been investigating the program for some time. This program is completely separate from Project Wild, which also promotes a pro-hunting message at cost of \$23 million a year.

Scalding a puppy to death is not a violent crime, a youth counselor ruled December 30 in Brooksville, Texas, thereby preventing police from sending the 12-year-old suspect to a juvenile detention center—even though he showed no remorse and police believed "very strongly" that he was likely to commit another similar offense. The boy was charged with a third-degree felony. "To me, that's a violent crime," said police Lt. Terry Chapman. "If this had been an adult, he would have been booked into jail." The counselor was not identified.

Chris Schmindlin, 17, of Harrison Township, Michigan, risked rush hour traffic January 18 on I-94 in Detroit to rescue a kitten he saw someone throw from an overpass. The badly injured kitten was treated by the Humane Society of Macomb County.

The children's magazine Stepping Stones seeks submissions of stories, poems, and art from children about "your insights, instincts, and experiences relating with animal beings" for a June special feature. Deadline is May 1. Address P.O. Box 3939, Eugene, OR 97403.

Amway and Newsweek on January 14 honored the students of eight elementary and middle schools for outstanding efforts to protect wildlife and habitat. Winners included Barnett Shoals Elementary, of Athens, Georgia; Jacksonville Elementary, of Jacksonville, Oregon; the San Diego County School District, of San Diego, California; Treasure Mountain Middle School, of Park City, Utah; St. Bernadette School, of Lancaster, Ohio; Harry P. Andersen Middle School, of Omaha, Nebraska; Georgia Middle School, of St. Albans, Vermont; and Northwilde Junior High, of Jennings, Louisiana. Each school received \$7,500 to underwrite environmental education. For further information on the program, contact Amway, Public Relations Dept., 7575 Fulton St. East, Ada, MI 49355-0001; 616-676-7196.

New Mexico state representative Jose Abeyta reportedly plans to introduce a bill to redirect into education the \$800,000 a year the state budgets to assist the federal Animal Damage Control program. State Land Commissioner James Baca evicted ADC trappers from state property last November, because they wouldn't check their traps more often than once every 72 hours. Support Abeyta c/o State Capitol, Santa Fe, NM 87503.

United Nations Children's Fund staffers who reached Parayang, Sudan, in late January found only 20,000 people left of a population numbering 85,000 10 years ago, when outsiders last visited the area. Warfare had driven residents into the surrounding forest, where parasitical flies killed as many as 75%—most of whom could have been saved if a vaccine costing about \$15 per person had been available.

Events & Deadlines

The New York State Humane Endangered Species Act at the Upper

**Could your
animal-based
non-profit organization
use an extra
\$5,000 - \$15,000
every month?**

**Do you have a current staff member
or volunteer who would be willing
to work 50 hours per week,
if we paid that person
\$3,000-\$5,000 per month?**

- 4 No cost to the organization
- 4 No products to handle
- 4 No money to handle
- 4 Large organizations
- 4 Small organizations
- 4 No selling
- 4 No telephone solicitation
- 4 Currently working in other humane societies

Powell & Associates
Organizational Fundraising

Association will host a workshop addressing *Animal Euthanasia: the human factor*, on March 11 at the Ulster County SPCA in Kingston. Registration is \$35. Get details from 914-331-5377 or 255-7099.

The Vermont Federation of Humane Societies and Vermont Police Academy will present a day-long seminar on stress related to animal control on March 22 in Killington. Registration is \$25. Get details from 802-375-2898.

Jacquie Lewis will teach a six-week course on "Animal Rights and Human Obligations" at Daley College in Chicago, starting March 24. Get details at 312-925-8227.

The Ohio Endangered Species Coalition is offering a free workshop on how to help secure renewal of the

Arlington Public Library on April 3. For info, call 614-847-9211.

United Poultry Concerns will hold its third annual Spring Mourning Vigil for Chickens on May 1 outside a battery cage laying hen complex in Maryland. Get details from P.O. Box 59367, Potomac, ME 20859; 301-948-2406. UPC also urges readers to ask their Congressional representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 649, the *Humane Methods of Poultry Slaughter Act*, introduced by Andy Jacobs (D-Indiana).

The sixth annual Pet Care Fair and Carnival for the Animals will be held May 2 at the Scout House on Walden Street in Concord, Massachusetts. Get details from 508-369-1875. Proceeds benefit The Animal Umbrella, the Abandoned Cat Club, and Adopt-a-Cat.

FARM ad

Dog logo

The Watchdog

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

Hirings and firings

The World-Wide Fund for Nature, known in the U.S. as the World Wildlife Fund, announced January 22 that Prince Philip of Britain would remain president until 1996. Philip, whose term was to end in 1994, was president of the British branch from its founding in 1961 until 1981, when he took his present post. An avid participant in blood sports, Philip has led WWF in frequent alignment with trophy hunters and wildlife traffickers, opposing most other animal and habitat protection groups.

Cutting program costs and consolidating authority, the National Anti-Vivisection Society has closed its Washington D.C. office; former Washington D.C. director Donald Barnes now works for NAVS from his home in San Antonio, Texas. NAVS also dismissed Michael Bello, who had headed the International Fund for Ethical Research, a subsidiary group. Bello was replaced by NAVS board member John Hughes, who sold the Knights of Columbus newspaper he had been publishing but brought along the editor, Tom Joyce, to become the new NAVS deputy director. Joyce replaces Reed Millsaps, who quit in protest over financial practices last August. Donations to NAVS fell last year, after **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton published a series of exposes based on documents provided by current and former NAVS staffers. The exposes revealed that president Mary Margaret Cunniff and her husband Kenneth together draw \$172,000 a year in salary and benefits, drive a luxury van provided by NAVS, and enjoy other costly perquisites, while at least four of their relatives are paid to serve on the eight-member board of directors. More relatives are on the payroll. Kenneth Cunniff main-

What's next for the Canadian SPCA?

FORMER STAFFERS STRENGTHEN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

MONTREAL, Quebec — Embattled Canadian SPCA president Joan Clark has pledged to resign at the organization's next annual meeting, to be held in June, but observers aren't betting heavily that Clark will be replaced, or even that the CSPCA will remain open.

Founded in 1869, the CSPCA is Canada's oldest humane organization, but has rarely exercised national leadership during more than a decade of internal turmoil marked by a declining donor base, and has no staff or programs outside the province of Quebec. Although more than 80% of the Quebec population is French-speaking, the CSPCA directors and senior staff are primarily English-speaking, contributing to a image of isolation from the community that the organization has done little about during a series of protracted power struggles.

Now, more than 120 years after the founders declared their intent to seek humane legislation, the Quebec government has just begun the process of adopting the province's first law forbidding cruelty to animals, to replace weak and antiquated provisions of the federal criminal code—but the CSPCA probably won't be a major player in the debate because it is on the verge of bankruptcy, an estimated \$1 million in debt according to board members who spoke with **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and CFCF/CTV television news. At least 11 members of the 27-member board have resigned to avoid financial liability. Over the past three years many well-regarded staffers have quit or been fired, including former coordinating director Cynthia Drummond, investigators Robert DuMarsh, Louis McCann, and Marcel Duquette, wildlife rehabilitators Marc Andre Fortin and

ences in a democratic fashion; and for allowing members to pay themselves for work done on behalf of the CSPCA raising potential conflicts of interest. But Reilley saved his strongest words for Clark. "It is not that your current president does not deeply care about animals," he wrote. "It is not that she has served for 17 years...It is that she is manipulative, does not respect her current board members, does not value diversity, does not engage in reciprocity, either does not understand or respect the difference between governance and management, does not provide effective leadership, and has in two terms as president and in the intervening years allowed if not caused the organization to reach the critical state" it is now in.

Among other bizarre instances of board meddling staff were obliged to euthanize a highly endangered golder python they had spent six weeks rehabilitating, because a board member objected to feeding the python freshly euthanized mice and hamsters (who were received as abandoned former pets). The board subsequently adopted a policy requiring that wildlife could be fed tinned food only. This effectively precluded rehabilitating wild carnivores.

"As a vegan for 10 years," said Schleiffer, "I know what their point was, but wild animals have to know what food is in the wild."

Former staffers move on

The disintegration of the CSPCA has fortunately strengthened humane activity in the Montreal area, as former staffers have gone on to find new venues. Schleiffer

tains a separate high-profile law practice. The exposes also revealed that NAVS had substantial holdings in firms that perform and/or promote vivisection, including U.S. Surgical, which heavily underwrites the pro-vivisection groups Americans for Medical Progress, Connecticut United for Research Excellence, and Educators for Responsible Science. The U.S. Surgical Stock was reportedly sold for more than twice the purchase price of \$46,745.

Rebecca Taksel has been named executive director of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society, replacing Frank Cullen, who retired to focus upon his writing career.

Lawrence Carter, one-time cerebral palsy poster child, was named program director for the American Anti-Vivisection Society on January 14.

Connie Howard, formerly with the New Hampshire Humane Society, was named executive director of the Central Vermont Humane Society on January 18.

Ellen Forsyth was named director of programs for the American Horse Protection Association on January 8. Forsyth formerly served as an animal control officer in Loudun County, Virginia. On February 5, the AHPA announced the appointment of 52 state representatives. The list is available from 1000 29th St. NW, Suite T-100, Washington, DC 20007.

Harriet Schleiffer, and humane educator Lynn Gordon. At deadline the CSPCA reportedly had no shelter manager, no chief accountant, no fulltime executive director, and no chief inspector. The CSPCA had spent an estimated \$200,000 on severances, and had been forced to pay new employees more, in most instances, than the people they replaced.

Montreal media reports may, ironically, have delayed reorganization by stimulating donations from people concerned about the quality of care provided to the 60,000 to 70,000 animals a year who arrive at the CSPCA shelter, which holds the pound contract for the Montreal Urban Community.

Marin (California) Humane Society executive director Diane Allevato and management consultant Dennen Reilley, of Applied Research Associates, agreed in recent investigative reports commissioned by the CSCPA board that the immediate needs of the organization are, in Allevato's words, "the hiring of a capable animal care administrator, and the training of the board, management, and staff to do their respective jobs." Reilley's unusually blunt report criticized the board for meddling in management instead of concentrating upon fundraising and policy matters; for failing to accommodate philosophical differ-

after leaving the CSPCA, stepped up her activity with Urban Animal Advocates, a 10-year-old group also including Drummond and longtime Montreal humane activist Andre Malouf. Although UAA has no central facility, Malouf told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, more than 100 trained volunteers assisted in rehabilitating 530 animals in 1991, and more than 900 in 1992. Schleiffer handled 103 raccoons, while Drummond helped rehabilitate nearly 100 young rabbits.

Malouf himself is primarily involved in a separate area of activity, "counseling tenants who have problems with their landlords about keeping pets. We have very good laws here in Montreal," he explained, "but tenants often are not assertive enough."

McCann, meanwhile, works now for the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council-Canada, a group many humane activists have long considered part of their opposition. Not so, says McCann, and former CSPCA colleagues back him up. While still with the CSPCA, McCann drafted a proposed captive wildlife act barring private ownership of exotic cats, venomous snakes, and primates, with an exemption for those already in private homes, who must be identified with microchip implants. In addition, the vendors

(continued on page 12)

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Woofs and growls...

Fed up with nonprofit executives who hide the size of their salaries by dividing them among related groups who file separate returns, the Internal Revenue Service asks on the 1992 Form 990, "Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee receive aggregate compensation of more than \$100,000 from your organization and all related organizations, of which more than \$10,000 was provided by the related organization?" If the answer is yes, detailed explanations are required.

The Senate Select Committee on Prisoners of War and Missing In Action Affairs has recommended that the IRS should crack down on charities who report fundraising costs as "educational" program expenses. This would affect many animal-related charities; see the notes accompanying the financial tables on over 60 national groups published in the December 1992 and January/February issues of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. (Copies are still available at \$2.00 each.)

1991 tax filings received after deadline for publication in the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** tables on opposition groups show that \$980,000 of the \$985,928 raised by Americans for Medical Progress came from U.S. Surgical Corporation. AMP spent \$1,014,134, for a net loss of \$28,000, had assets of \$33,323, and paid no salaries to directors and executives. The National Trappers' Association meanwhile raised \$449,348, spent \$472,138 for a net loss of \$22,790, had assets of \$117,976, and paid no salaries exceeding \$30,000.

Humane Society of the U.S. vice president for laboratory animals Marty Stephens says he was quoted out of context as saying that animal research is "a justified and necessary evil" in the January 18 edition of *People*. According to Stephens, he was attempting to outline the biomedical research industry point of view for the reporter, not giving the HSUS view.

The fall 1992 edition of Muckraker includes a comprehensive report on physical attacks on environmental activists, including arsons, rapes, shootings, and torture killings of dogs and horses. Compiled by Jonathan Franklin, the report is available from the Center for Investigative Reporting, 530 Howard St., second floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3007.

Zimbabwean member of Parliament Benjamin Moyo, a member of the ruling party, drew five years at hard labor on February 13 for illegal possession of two black rhinoceros horns, only five days after being arrested. Zimbabwean authorities eager to lift the global ban on traffic in elephant ivory presented the case as proof of their will to stop poachers—who have killed about 1,200 of the 2,500 black rhinos who lived in Zimbabwe seven years ago.

The anti-animal group Putting People First says it has an anonymous donor who will match all gifts up to a total of \$1 million. PPF had a 1991 budget of just over \$60,000. The announcement came days after PPF and the *Foundation Internationale Pour la*

Animal Health & Behavior

Studying the relationship between brain evolution and the death of fetal cells, University of Tennessee researcher Dr. Robert Williams has discovered that cat species seem to have an unusual capacity for fast biological adaptation to suit their circumstances. All mammals seem to select adaptive capabilities through the death of up to half of their neural brain cells just before birth, enabling the remainder to grow, but cats shed as many as 80% of their fetal neurons—and this explains the key differences between domestic cat brains and those of Spanish wildcats. Williams studied the brains of domestic cats and Spanish wildcats who had been euthanized due to illness and/or injury.

Rio, a seven-year-old sea lion kept by the University of California at Santa Cruz, has convincingly displayed use of logic in categorizing silhouettes, according to animal behaviorist Ronald Schusterman. Washington State University researcher Michael Moore has meanwhile confirmed that a four-year-old dalmatian named Juliette, born deaf, has learned a significant American Sign Language vocabulary from her humans, Jody and Michael Eisenman of Spokane, Washington. Both findings greatly raise estimates of nonhuman intelligence.

Chevron, Dupont-Delisle, and First Chemical Inc. have donated a \$16,000 aviary to Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Preservation Inc., of Pass Christian, Mississippi. According to WRANPS president Christina Morse, the group treats about 600 birds per year, mostly suffering "the results of gunshot wounds."

Wild Canid Survival and Research Center administrative director Vicki O'Toole and veterinarian Marlene Drag have resigned following a probe of health conditions at the sanctuary by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Located in Eureka, California, the facility is adjacent to Washington University's Tyson Research Center, and houses 14 Mexican wolves, 40% of the entire Mexican wolf population in the U.S., along with nine wolves of other species. The wolves were reportedly fed only every other day to cut costs.

European Community internal market commissioner Raniero Vanni d'Archirafi is trying to develop a pet passport to ease the six-month quarantine now placed on dogs and cats brought to Britain and Ireland.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has recommended to the American Kennel Club that mention of cropped or trimmed ears should be deleted from official breed standards, and barred from show competition. The AVMA reportedly also favors a ban on tail-docking. The British Kennel Club recently banned ear-cropping under pressure from the British Veterinary Medical Association.

A Vanderbilt University team led by pediatrics professor Dr. Kathryn Edwards believes it has discovered the cause of cat scratch fever, a bacterium called *rochalimaea*. This could lead to finding a cure.

The mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic is reportedly waning in New England, but spreading into the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—following a 15-year pattern of decline where raccoons are not heavily trapped and hunted, and of spreading most rapidly where hunting and trapping pressure is strongest.

Progress for animals used in entertainment

The Green Mountain Race Track in Pownal, Vermont, the only greyhound track in the state, announced December 30 that it would not reopen due to financial losses.

January 24, villagers at Manganeses de la Polvorsa dropped a goat only 30 feet rather than from the full height of the church tower during one of Spain's most notorious religious festivals. "This is not a victory," said longtime protester Vicki Moore.

Marine Mammals

"EAT WHALES," SAYS JAPAN

TOKYO, Japan — The Japan Fisheries Agency and 25 Japanese fishing organizations on January 29 launched an aggressive media campaign urging Japanese citizens to eat more whale meat. The goal is to generate pressure on the International Whaling Commission to rescind the six-year-old global ban on whaling at its annual meeting in May, to be held in Kyoto.

The blitz includes radio and television spots touting whale meat as a cure for asthma and acne, and distribution of

Sauvegarde de Gibier filed suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, claiming the Argali bighorn sheep is improperly listed as an endangered species. Former Texas governor Clayton Williams, then running for the office, was embarrassed in 1988, along with former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adviser Richard Mitchell, when USFWS agents seized the pelts of four argalis Williams shot in China while accompanied by Mitchell. The pelts were eventually returned, under pressure from the George Bush administration and pro-hunting groups including the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America and Safari Club International (to which both former president Bush and former vice president Dan Quayle belonged). Mitchell, however, was indicted in June 1992 for smuggling, tax fraud, and conflict of interest. He faces up to 30 years in prison and fines of up to \$1.12 million.

The American Hunting and Fishing Ethics Bureau, a new pro-hunting group founded by J.C. VanKirk of San Antonio, Texas, has persuaded the Target department store chain to cease selling a children's book called *Will We Miss Them? Endangered Species*, because it identifies the role of hunters in wiping out species. The publisher, Charlesbridge Inc., is reprinting the book without the reference to hunting. VanKirk claims the support of PPF, SCI, WLFA, and Ted Nugent World Bowhunters.

Mike Wallace defended biomedical researcher Michael Carey's cat-shooting experiments at the University of Louisiana for 13 minutes on the January 25 episode of the CBS news program *60 Minutes*, discrediting a witness who retracted a claim that she heard cats screaming in pain, but ignoring a General Accounting Office report that established the cats suffered pain and found the whole \$2.1 million project pointless. The cat-shooting experiments were cancelled in 1991. Other *60 Minutes* reporters, including fur opponent Andy Rooney, have done many stories friendly to animals.

Micah Publications

Bunny Huggers' Gazette ad

Salvation Army denies link to Sportsmen Against Hunger

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia — Trying to boost the image of hunting, Sportsmen Against Hunger again this winter urged hunters to donate kills to soup kitchens, prominently mentioning the Salvation Army.

But Salvation Army national communications director Colonel Leon R. Ferraez reiterated February 4 that "The Salvation Army does not have an agreement with Sportsmen Against Hunger. The organization has misrepresented that fact a number of times. "Sportsmen Against Hunger has assured us they are not using the name of the Salvation Army, but we continue to receive reports that they do use our name, then deny it later. We have tried to overcome this problem for a number of years," he added, "including with the threat of legal action."

CSPCA, continued—

of any exotic animals are required to provide pamphlets on care and feeding to the buyers. Zoos must meet annual permit requirements for possession of exotic species, and must account for the disposition of every animal. The act has been enforced by the Quebec ministry of wildlife since August 4, 1992.

In his new capacity, McCann has authored the official pamphlets covering eight categories of birds and reptiles.

"We have a message for retailers," McCann told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "We're saying to them, 'You're not going to market your stores by offering the weirdest animal possible.' We're stressing follow-up and customer satisfaction now."

McCann is also setting up a certification program for PIJAC-Canada member stores. "It's not going to be just self-regulation," he promises. "There will be inspections." Standards already drawn up and approved by the PIJAC-Canada board include a pet warranty, "which commits the pet owner to providing good care as well as the store to selling healthy animals," McCann says, adding that member stores are enthusiastic.

100,000 comic books depicting the history of the Japanese whaling industry. The history is likely to be inaccurate: contrary to the industry claim that whaling is part of Japanese cultural tradition, historian Fujiwara Eiji documented in 1989 that Japanese commercial whaling actually began in 1909, when a man named Oka Juro brought the concept and techniques from Norway. His activity was so detested by traditional fishers that some of them burned his facilities in 1911.

Norway is also pushing to scrap the ban on whaling budgeting \$817,000 for publicity during the first half of 1993 to counter any boycotts of Norwegian products that may be called as a result in Germany, Great Britain, and the U.S., the nation's most important customers.

The Royal SPCA asks readers to urge the U.S. to stand firm against resumption of whaling, c/o Dr. J. Knauss, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Room 5128, U.S. Dept of Commerce, 14th & Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Marine mammal briefs

The National Marine Fisheries Service took California gray whales off the endangered species list on December 31, 1992—the first species to be pronounced recovered. There are now about 21,000 gray whales, roughly equal to the estimated population in 1846. The whales remain safeguarded against hunting by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

An \$8 million biological mapping project in the Gulf of Mexico, sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service has discovered 21 species of marine mammal residing there including orcas, Fraser's dolphins, melon-headed whales, and pantropical spotted dolphins, all highly endangered and none previously known to be there.

Investigators suspect the pesticide aldicarb may have killed hundreds of bottlenosed dolphins who washed ashore in Aransas and Calhoun counties, Texas, last year. Spring flooding apparently washed the pesticide into coastal waters shortly after it was applied to fields.

One World Coalition ad

The unconventional case for the North Shore Animal League

(continued from page one)

Greenville Humane Society in Greenville, South Carolina, thinks it's time other people did speak up for North Shore—not just in fairness to the organization, but because, in Freed's experience, the unconventional North Shore approach works. Recovering from surgery and wishing to spend more time with his family, Freed is retiring at the end of March to run a grooming and boarding business. When he became executive director in June 1988, GHS was taking in 10,500 animals a year, euthanizing 8,000 (76%) for lack of adoptive homes. A year later, Freed began borrowing from the North Shore book with a "Bring us your animals" campaign.

Bring us your animals

"The dogs and cats were always out there," Freed says, "but they weren't coming to us. They were being passed along from family to family and not getting neutered and having litters, and some were ending up in pet stores or puppy mills and with bunchers for laboratories because we weren't part of the loop. Instead of being left out and cutting our euthanasia rate by not getting the animals, we got ourselves into the loop. We promised we'd find homes for the puppies and kittens, and people who didn't want to have anything to do with us before because they thought we were just going to kill the animals suddenly started coming in. That gave us a chance to talk to the people who were letting these animals breed, and to try to convince them of the advantages of having their pets neutered."

The euthanasia rate didn't start dropping immediately, Freed explains, since the advertising campaign dramatically increased the traffic into the shelter. His response to that was to promote adoptions not only through advertising, but also by eliminating all but the most minimal pre-adoption screening—as North Shore reputedly did at one time, although North Shore screening now, according to Freed, "is the most stringent I've seen anywhere." At the same time, Freed offered GHS animals to local pet stores.

Freed admits the humane establishment all but burned him for heresy. "I really got hell from the Humane Society of the U.S. and the American Humane Association," he remembers. "But think about this: the people who think about getting a pet enough to come to a humane shelter in the first place are the people you really want to have the animals. They're coming to you instead of going to a pet store

more, reaching far into the Piedmont mountains, whereas six years ago it served only the immediate community. The euthanasia rate, however, was sharply down. In 1991, GHS took in 21,000 animals, euthanizing 14,000 (67%). In 1992, GHS received 22,000 animals, but euthanized only 11,000 (50%). And now the total number of euthanasias is dropping below the pre-advertising norm, too.

"December 1992," Freed says proudly, "was the first month in 15 years when we euthanized fewer than 500 animals. January 1993 was the second month, and in February it's going to be the same thing. By getting out there and getting to these people who had been letting their dogs and cats breed, we've begun to make a real head start toward solving this whole overpopulation problem. Along the way, we've put a lot of commercial breeders out of business. It's all a matter of managing market forces: supply and demand. If you don't supply the demand for pets, someone else will, and there's going to be profit in it. By promoting these homeless animals, we've taken the profit out of the puppy mills. North Shore is doing exactly the same thing, on a much bigger scale. They've put puppy mills out of business all over the country, because there's not so much money any more in breeding animals to be sold in New York City."

"We offer to neuter the mother for free."

With an additional \$98,000 from North Shore, GHS opened an in-house neutering clinic. "In 1992 we neutered 13,000 dogs and cats," Freed says, "half of them for free. This year we're on pace to neuter 20,000. We advertise for litters, and when people bring them in, we offer to neuter the mother for free. Most people, we find, are pretty receptive to that kind of a deal."

In 1991, North Shore funded \$1.6 million worth of advertising for 31 humane shelters in the U.S. and Canada, and funded \$610,000 worth of neutering facilities at six humane shelters. North Shore also spent \$5 million on advertising adoptions at its own facility, along with \$2.9 million for in-house neutering.

Historically, one of the biggest raps against North Shore was that it allegedly didn't enforce any neutering requirement. Activists in the New York metropolitan area continue to circulate literature alleging that North Shore is responsible for pet overpopulation because it adopts out animals who breed. But financial records indicate that over the

Kitten in cage

Photo by Merritt Clifton

a good chance of adoption even if healthy, many of whom remained in adoptive homes for several years before they wound up back on the street.

North Shore has come under additional fire for not accepting unadoptables and not doing traditional animal rescue, while advertising that "We will not destroy—even if the pet is blind, elderly, deaf, or otherwise handicapped." It is a fact that there haven't been many blind, elderly, deaf or otherwise handicapped animals at North Shore in at least a decade, and it is a fact, too, that North Shore evades the necessity of euthanizing animals who cannot be placed by referring them to other shelters, principally the ASPCA and the Humane Society of New York, which serve overlapping territories. However, North Shore isn't exactly raising funds as a no-kill while leaving others to do the dirty work without compensation, as some critics have claimed. North Shore rewards the ASPCA and HSNY handsomely with annual grants—\$225,000 and \$100,000, respectively, in 1991.

As Kullberg explained when the ASPCA began

because they already appreciate the pet overpopulation crisis, and they usually know about neutering and the other things you want them to know about. You don't want to turn those people off by telling them they can't have the pet they want because they don't have quite the right living situation, from the way they explain it to you in maybe five or ten minutes. You want to give them an animal, a neutered animal, and that way, even if you make a mistake, they're not getting an unneutered animal from a pet store and breeding litters by accident. Every animal we adopt out," he emphasizes, "is neutered before leaving our building."

As to promoting adoptions through pet stores, Freed explains, "This is now an accepted technique. People are doing it everywhere. And it's very simple. Pet stores do the biggest volume business in dogs and cats. When we go in the door as their supplier, all their business becomes our business—and all the animals they place who come from us are already neutered."

Freed's approach attracted funding from North Shore, beginning in October 1990 with a grant of \$11,076 to underwrite television advertising. "That made the biggest change in our operation," he states. "People didn't imagine the change that could create. Before we got that grant, I never could have gotten our board of directors to approve spending the money for television advertising. But it turned out to be everything and more that North Shore said it was. In 1989, we did 2,800 adoptions. In 1990 it was 3,100. In 1991, our first full year of advertising, it was 4,200. Last year it was 5,650, and in 1992 we're on a pace to adopt out 8,000," or as many animals as GHS was euthanizing six years ago.

Of course GHS for several years was also euthanizing more animals—because it was taking in dramatically

past four years North Shore has spent more than twice as much money on neutering as any other national organization, and has consistently neutered several times more animals than it adopts out. During the 1980s, North Shore promoted neutering chiefly by issuing certificates redeemable for the surgery at the time of adoption—the same practice followed by most other shelters in the U.S. that have a neutering requirement. According to Freed, the redemption rate was around 70%, considerably better than the national average of 60%, but still not good enough. Expanding in-house neutering facilities and beginning to perform early neuters, North Shore is now neutering the majority of animals it adopts out on site.

Many other charges against North Shore are likewise based upon old or incomplete data. Another, often cited, is that North Shore animals are often unsuitably placed, because of the organization's aggressive adoption promotions, which include merchandise premiums as well as extensive television and newspaper advertising. While North Shore contends that the giveaway items help it to compete with pet stores, critics charge that they just attract adopters who mainly want the cheap watch, gym bag, or other giveaway item, rather than the animal. Purportedly in consequence other pounds and shelters on Long Island are deluged with former North Shore animals, whom North Shore refuses to take back. However, nationally, about five to six percent of all animals who are adopted out somehow end up back in shelters, after running away or being abandoned. Since North Shore is adopting out close to 43,000 animals per year, it could be responsible for 2,000 to 2,500 failed adoptions per year and still have a record no worse than the national average. In fact, North Shore has a record much better than average: a failed adoption rate of under 4%—and North Shore does reclaim about 90% of those animals, an average of about 1,200 a year. Most of the 200 to 400 North Shore animals who are not reclaimed are euthanized by the receiving agency due to illness or injury. They tend to be animals who would no longer have

accepting North Shore funding, North Shore is chartered as a no-kill shelter. Legally, it cannot perform euthanasia except in medical emergencies. It is set up to arrange adoptions in high volume, and by specializing in adoption, it manages to place approximately 5,000 animals per year or behalf of the ASPCA, thereby relieving the ASPCA of the necessity of euthanizing more animals than it otherwise would have to. The ASPCA does send North Shore many of the most adoptable animals it receives, who might otherwise be placed through ASPCA facilities—but being located in Manhattan rather than on Long Island, the ASPCA doesn't have easy access to a suburban clientele, who typically adopt far more animals per capita than residents of urban high-rises.

Euthanasia down in New York, too

Kullberg credits North Shore's adoption assistance and neuter promotion with helping cut the number of animals euthanized at the ASPCA by 34% in six years, from 54,575 in 1986 to roughly 36,000 in 1992.

Such results are not unique. According to the statement of program service activities North Shore files annually with the IRS, the 31 shelters participating in North Shore's International Shelter Adoption program have averaged an increase in adoptions of 32%, while cutting euthanasia rates. For instance, the Bridgeport Animal Shelter in Bridgeport, Connecticut, has cut euthanasias by 30% in the three years since it began sending puppies and purebreds to North Shore, even though animal pickups have increased 33% over the same period. A vigorous local fostering program called New Leash on Life also deserves credit. However, North Shore was also among the organizations who introduced the idea of fostering to humane work. North Shore program services statements annually record that 35 to 38 off-premises foster homes have cared for about 3,500

Corrections

A passage in our January/ February cover story, "Ethnic minorities and the humane tradition," stated that "Since former American SPCA public relations director Jeffrey Hon departed two years ago, there are apparently no Asian-Americans prominent in any aspect of animal protection in the United States." True enough, but this was also true while Hon remained with the ASPCA, since he is not Asian-American. Our apologies.

Apologies too to WDIV-TV news anchor Carmen Harlan, who was misidentified as an entertainer in the same article.

Apologies also to Sue Clark of South Bend, Indiana, who was misidentified as a resident of Waterloo, Iowa, on our Jan/Feb letters page.

Kantanen

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The scale of North Shore amplifies grievances

(continued from page 13)

"mistreated, problem, and pregnant animals" during the preceding 12 months.

The most controversial North Shore practice at present is importing animals from other regions to adopt out from Port Washington. Most of the animals are puppies and purebreds. The 31 shelters participating in North Shore's International Shelter Adoption Program are required to solicit turn-ins of litters through newspaper and television advertising. North Shore then collects the most adoptable animals with a fleet of six 15-passenger vans, each of which holds 31 fibreglas cages. "Only small littermates will share cages," says Freed, who has made the trip up to New York from Greenville on many occasions. "They have an attendant present at all times. They get regular water and exercise stops." Animals traveling from farther than one night-long drive away are air-freighted to New York—much like animals headed to pet stores, but under much better conditions. USDA inspectors have recently seized vans similar to North Shore's that contained as many as 120 animals, typically packed four to six to a fibreglas cage.

Pick-ups from other shelters now account for more than 80% of the animals North Shore places. Critics contend that the ads soliciting animals encourage breeding because North Shore provides a convenient place to dump unwanted litters. They also argue that the puppies and kittens North Shore provides compete for homes with the adult animals the ASPCA and HSNY must euthanize for lack of placement.

"Our experience runs completely counter to the idea that North Shore is encouraging breeding in any way," says Freed, citing the Greenville statistics. "And it's nonsense to say that the puppies and kittens North Shore adopts out or that we adopt out or than anyone adopts out are taking homes away from older animals. Most of the people who adopt a young animal *want* a young animal. They know what they want. They may be misguided in that, and we can try to educate them, but that is the reality of the market. If North Shore or another shelter doesn't provide those puppies and kittens, neutered, with their shots, the puppy mills and catteries will, and the people who want young animals will be going there. The way to get all those adult animals out of our shelters without having to euthanize

tion media, has received many letters of complaint from people who have picked up North Shore animals as strays had unpleasant experiences with animals they adopted, or had conflicts with staff. But the letters are not different in character from others received about dozens of other shelters, many of which enjoy excellent reputations. Every shelter, like every business, inevitably fails to please a small percentage of the people it comes in contact with. If that percentage is one tenth of 1%, a typical shelter may upset 10 people per year. At the same ratio, North Shore could be upsetting 1,000.

Many of the critics of North Shore, as of other shelters, are highly credible people, with noteworthy records of compassionate action on behalf of homeless animals—and also greater sensitivity toward problems. That they perceive problems, however, doesn't necessarily mean a shelter is bad. More often, it simply means that a good shelter isn't quite good enough to live up to the expectations of those who expect the most.

Money

Then there's money. The North Shore Animal League is by far the richest animal protection organization in the world, with assets worth over \$59 million, including more than \$42 million in cash and securities. Ganz makes \$216,000 a year, more than any other animal protection organization executive. North Shore spends nearly \$8 million a year just on fundraising, more than the *total* budget of any animal protection groups other than the ASPCA, the Massachusetts SPCA, HSUS, and PETA. The North Shore fundraising apparatus includes sweepstakes appeals, a method under frequent scrutiny from both government and private watchdogs, because of recurring allegations that people are encouraged to make donations in the belief that they will then receive a valuable prize.

Until 1984, North Shore's wealth was not generally known. The organization was recognized mainly as the avocation of the late Alex M. Lewyt, who made his fortune as inventor of the clip-on bow tie popularized by big-band musicians during the 1940s and 1950s. Then, however Richard Morgan of Mobilization for Animals obtained and published information on the assets and incomes of the wealthiest animal protection groups he knew about. He

John Kullberg: defended North Shore

More problematic than North Shore's arrangements with other animal shelters is the organization's alleged relationship with dog dealer J.J. O'Neill—a relationship, however, which probably never existed in any formal sense. For many years, O'Neill has advertised for puppies in northeastern and midwestern newspapers, paying a few dollars apiece for them: not enough to encourage deliberate breeding, since the price isn't equal to the cost of feeding a litter for long, but perhaps enough to discourage neutering in some impoverished rural neighborhoods. Though suspected of supplying animals to vivisection laboratories and laboratory suppliers, he has not been caught doing it, despite several investigations by the USDA and a variety of animal protection groups. Instead, O'Neill insists, he sells most of the puppies through his New Jersey pet store. The remainder, he told the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* in 1990, about 35%, go

so many is to make sure there are fewer animals out there breeding. If you make sure that the people who want puppies and kittens are getting neutered animals, you are making sure that there won't be so many adult animals being euthanized several years up the road."

Freed points out that numerous other shelters are also now soliciting puppies and kittens from outlying areas—especially puppies, who are now in "intermittant shortage" for adoption in most regions where neutering drives have been successful. (Kittens remain in abundance because of the greater fecundity of cats and the vastly greater number of homeless cats, as many as 35 million, relative to the number of homeless dogs, usually guesstimated at two to four million.)

So far, only one shelter ever admitted to the North Shore adoption program has become sufficiently disenchanted to drop out. In 1990, the Kaaterskill Animal League severed a seven-year-old arrangement with North Shore that placed approximately 2,800 animals a year, because Kaaterskill executive director Sylvia Garcia believed North Shore tactics were encouraging breeding. Kaaterskill had received \$64,150 from North Shore in 1989. Without that money, the shelter struggled in 1990. Reconnecting with North Shore in 1991, it got another \$24,000, but nonetheless closed, owing creditors. At last report it was still reorganizing.

to North Shore. This brought suspicion that North Shore might be purchasing puppies outright from O'Neill and perhaps other dealers, maybe even breeders. North Shore refused to respond to media inquiries on the subject, further stoking concern. As Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral put it, after putting a private detective on O'Neill's trail for some time to find out where the puppies were going, "David Ganz, by refusing to talk, is his own worst enemy."

But while O'Neill may have been dropping puppies off at North Shore, he told the editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** at the time that he wasn't getting paid for them. Further, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** hasn't found any line item to account for such purchases in the North Shore financial records. Ganz, typically, refused to talk with **ANIMAL PEOPLE** about O'Neill, but Freed, who hadn't heard of the rumored O'Neill connection, agreed to approach Ganz about him for us. A week later, Freed reported, "Ganz told me North Shore is not buying animals from J.J. O'Neill, and has never bought animals from O'Neill or any other commercial dealer."

If O'Neill was just dumping surplus on the nearest shelter, he wouldn't be the first pet dealer to do so; the animals would be getting one more chance at life; and 35% is, though high, within the normal range for unsold pets.

The scale of the North Shore operation amplifies grievances. **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, like other animal protec-

coupled the information with a demand that the ten groups share their wealth with younger, struggling activist organizations. Complaints about North Shore from unhappy clients and objections to unconventional practices were soon grafted to the financial issue. In particular, critics claimed that by raising funds all over the U.S. to support a single Long Island no-kill shelter, North Shore was undercutting the fundraising efforts of other shelters everywhere.

A similar accusation has long been leveled against HSUS, supported by stacks of letters received by shelter directors in response to fundraising appeals, stating that the potential donors "already gave to your national headquarters." In fact, HSUS does no hands-on animal work, and does not share funds with shelters.

North Shore does, Freed points out. What's more he argues, the North Shore sweepstakes appeals go well outside the usual sweep of humane fundraising to pull in people whose main motivation may be greed, rather than compassion, who wouldn't give a nickel to anyone else. And, he claims, "From my perspective, North Shore direct mailings telling people about pet overpopulation only soften up the audience for when they get my appeals. Our fundraising success keeps going up. North Shore isn't hurting us one bit."

Morgan, a Marxist, argued that the rich got rich on the backs of the poor. Freed, a free marketer, counters that by continuing to raise funds at maximum capacity, North Shore is only increasing the resources available to the cause. And the money isn't just building ever greater cash reserves. In fact, the North Shore cash and securities reserves have declined from more than \$46 million to just over \$42 million during the past three years, coinciding with construction of a new neutering facility that has in turn upped the value of the organization's fixed assets—as well as its capacity to help animals. Further, annual revenue from the cash and securities amount to approximately \$3.2 million, close to the entire annual budget of such organizations as the American Humane Association, Friends of Animals, the Fund for Animals, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. It is also close to the amount that North Shore annually grants to other shelters. Freed argues that North Shore's cash and securities reserves are what give it the stability to undertake programs on the scale that it does.

"While we don't claim to be perfect," Ganz admits "we are doing our best to help save as many animals' lives as we possibly can."

—Merritt Clifton

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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ANIMAL CONTROL & RESCUE

Los Angeles County on January 5 became the largest and most populous jurisdiction in the U.S. to require cat licensing. Cats must wear either collar identification or ear tags. The new ordinance is modeled after ordinances already in effect in Carson and Lomita, California, but enforceability remains in doubt. The ordinance was passed at the urging of Citizens for Sheltered Animals, who argue that it will reduce the euthanasia rate for cats picked up by animal control: 39,000 of 42,000 in 1992.

Zoocheck Canada seeks letters supporting passage of the Ontario *Animal Welfare Act*, eight years in development, "which would license and set standards for the care and keeping of animals in zoos, aquaria, wildlife displays, pet stores, pounds and shelters, breeding and boarding establishments, and native wildlife rehabilitation centers." Address Bob Rae, Office of the Premier, Legislative Bldg., Room 281, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1.

"**The Animal Rights Coalition, Ramsey County Humane Society, and Friends of Animals and Their Environment** are preparing a humane pigeon control seminar as a joint venture with the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis," says ARC president Mary Britton Clouse. St. Paul suspended plans to trap pigeons for sale to shooting galleries last fall, but, Clouse said, civic officials are still getting protest mail in response to a mention of the situation in the November **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The SPCA in Basel, Switzerland, has cut pigeon numbers from 20,000 to 10,000 since 1988 without killing any. Methods include public education to reinforce the city's 1978 ban on pigeon-feeding; maintaining nine public lofts where pigeon lovers can feed the birds on a controlled basis; and removing about 1,200 eggs per year from the lofts. The goal is to stabilize the pigeon population at 5,000.

Urban County, Kentucky, on February 2 allocated \$15,000 to poison crows and blackbirds, despite years of evidence that poisoning campaigns are ineffective, alternative ideas presented by Kentuckians for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and ridicule from the *Lexington Herald Leader*. The county council was motivated by testimony from a resident who claimed she suffered histoplasmosis from exposure to bird droppings.

Adoptions on wheels

Interior of van

The Pennsylvania SPCA, of Philadelphia, and the Animal Protective League, of Cleveland, have joined the growing numbers of shelters who operate mobile adoption units. At deadline, each shelter credited its mobile unit with arranging about 200 adoptions. Some critics worry that mobile units might lead to impulse adoptions. Not so, says Charlene

Peters, public relations director for the PSPCA. "Before we attempted the mobile adoption program," she says, "we conducted a nationwide survey of other organizations who already had mobile adoption programs. We found that if the unit is parked at specific predetermined places on a set schedule and adoption interviews are arranged, the chance of impulse adoptions would be small. We have not seen an increase in the number of animals returned."

(PSPCA photos.)

Exterior of van

might suggest, too, that tolerating natural predators such as coyotes, foxes, and owls could achieve the same end.

Trying to control the feral cat population along the waterfront in Newburyport, Massachusetts, the Merimac River Feline Rescue Society neutered 300 cats in the last six months of 1992, with aid of three volunteer veterinarians, and expects to neuter about 100 more to finish the job, according to cofounder Dorothy Fairweather. The effort is one of the most concerted tests of neuter/release yet.

The Streetcat Rescue Team provides neutering, vaccination, and daily care to homeless cat colonies in the San Francisco area. Cats who respond to socialization are put up for adoption. Get details from Joan Bush, 136 Marsilly St., San Francisco, CA 94112; 415-239-8365.

The Spayed Club (P.O. Box 1145, Frazer, PA 19355) raised and spent \$30,515 during the first 10 months of 1992, neutering more than 1,100 animals to prevent more than 4,000 births in 1992 alone.

The Honolulu City Council, Hawaii State Senate, and Hawaii House of Representatives are all "considering a proposal to establish a mandatory spay/neuter

Honolulu, HI 96813; and for the Honolulu ordinance to Councilman Gary Gil, Honolulu Hale, 530 S. King St. Honolulu, HI 96813.

Friends of Animals and the Voice of Nature Network have produced a new series of television spot commercials on pet overpopulation, ranging in length from 15 to 60 seconds. The set sells for \$35, including copies in both station and home video format. Get details from FoA 203-866-5223, or VNN at 203-452-7655.

The Geauga County Humane Society, a no-kill shelter in Chardon, Ohio, now offers free neutering of adopted animals.

District justice Anna Marie Scharding fined the Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania \$900 on February 5 for failing to provide veterinary care to two injured dogs and an injured raccoon. The charges were brought by Tri-County Humane Protection.

Petition drives to strengthen California humane laws are led by the Humane Task Force, P.O. Box 2074, Winnetka, CA 91306, and the California Pet Initiative Fund, 4470 Sunset Blvd., Suite 432, Los Angeles, CA

Effective February 1, all pit bull terriers in The Netherlands must be neutered and licensed; pit bulls may not be imported; and they may not be sold. The definition of a pit bull is based on a detailed description of configuration. The pit bull ban resulted after several children were fatally mauled.

Ohio representatives Frank Sawyer (D-Mansfield) and Tim Greenwood (R-Sylvania) are co-sponsoring a bill to regulate exotic animal ownership within the state, opposed by the Ohio Association of Animal Owners, essentially a coalition of exotic game ranchers.

The computer firm PeopleSoft Inc. has given the Oakland (Calif.) SPCA \$500,000, to finance construction of a new shopping mall-style shelter and adoption facility.

A rush of donations won a reprieve January 11 for the Harbor Animal Shelter in San Pedro, California, which was to be closed last October as a cost-cutting move by the Los Angeles city council. Tentatively, the shelter will now get essential renovations and be kept open, at least until completion of a study on the feasibility of contracting out animal control to private enterprise.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's advice line tape #3901, Mouse and Rabbit Control on Fruit Trees, "suggests that dogs and cats be permitted to pursue and kill the mice and rabbits," according to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** subscriber Cecily Westerman. Point out the risks (and illegality in many areas) of allowing pets to run at large to Peter Raven, Director, 4344 Shaw, St. Louis, MO 63110. You

Evolution ad

program," according to spay/neuter campaign coordinator Joyce Salmon. Address support for SB 672 to Sen. Andy Levin, State Capital, Room 508, Honolulu, HI 96813; for HB 1369 to Jackee Young, State Capital, Room 1309,

Dogs & Cats

Fire chief John Dugan, of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, credited a cat named Puff for saving the lives of Charles and Sandra Bergenstock on January 18 by waking them up and alerting them to thick smoke. "There's no question about it," Dugan said. "They had no smoke detectors."

SEPTA, the Philadelphia public transit system, on February 4 suspended the use of dogs to evict homeless people from subway passages—one day after city council member Jannie Blackwell was allegedly roughed up by transit police while investigating allegations that dogs were being used to attack the homeless.

Sue Turkington, 32, of Austin, Texas, told reporters she plans to use some of the \$7.2 million she won in the January 15 Texas lottery to "start breeding dogs."

Shar-Pei dogs competed at the Westminster Kennel Club show in New York for the first time in February. There are now nearly 90,000 Shar-Peis in the U.S., bred from just eight who were imported from Hong Kong circa 1974. The breed was formally recognized by the American Kennel Club last August.

Global Vision ad

90027. HTF wants to set up statewide cat and dog licensing including substantially higher fees for unaltered animals and a special permit for feral cat feeder/rescuers. CPIF wants to put a breeding control law on the next state ballot.

Have ad

Heartland Products ad

COURT CALENDAR

Humane Enforcement

Houston police and animal control officers on January 2 seized 16 pit bulls at the scene of a dogfight—the fourth big dogfighting bust in the U.S. in two months.

Simultaneous raids on January 17 netted 35 spectators at a cockfight in Mossy, West Virginia, and five alleged cockfight organizers in Gilroy, California, where more than 500 fighting cocks were seized. About 20 to 25 people evaded the police in West Virginia, and an estimated 60 got away in California.

New York state police are probing the alleged poisoning deaths of 127 dairy cows circa January 1 at the Eagle Rock Dairy, near Oneida.

Scotland Yard is seeking a knife-wielding "pervert, psychopath, animal hater, or someone with a grudge," who has sexually mutilated 30 horses in southern England during the past nine months. The case parallels the plot of the 1973 play and film *Equus*, based on a similar true story.

The Maryland Court of Appeals on February 8 suspended attorney Stanley E. Protokowicz for microwaving a kitten who belonged to a client's estranged wife. Protokowicz was convicted of cruelty in 1992.

In recent animal collecting cases, the Geauga County Humane Society in Newbury Township, Ohio, was called upon February 4 to rescue 80 cats left behind when an elderly man was hospitalized; the New York State Humane Association and Mohawk-Hudson Humane Society rescued 16 cats, five dogs, and 24 birds from a mobile home owned by Myrtle Janet Dunham, 71, of Petersburg, N.Y.; and the Humane Society of North Texas seized 31 starving and sickly dogs from a mobile home

Crimes Against Humans

Anti-stalking laws now in effect in 31 states are expected to give humane enforcement a big boost by enabling police to charge animal serial killers with a criminal offense against humans in any instance where the killing may be construed as an attempt to intimidate.

Gloria Lynn Trotter, 30, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, pleaded no contest to manslaughter on January 5 for failing to control her two pit bull terriers, who fatally mauled her nephew, Derrick Goree, on February 23, 1992. Trotter then said she would challenge the constitutionality of the 1989 state law that provides criminal penalties for owners of dangerous animals, on grounds that the law requires no proof of criminal intent.

Maricopa Superior Court in Phoenix, Arizona, heard testimony February 10 that *Arizona Republic* reporter Don Bolles was killed with a car bomb in 1976 for writing about dog-racing scandals involving the late liquor magnate Kemper Marley. Marley resigned from the Arizona Racing Commission six months before Bolles' murder. John Harvey Adamson, serving a 20-year sentence for planting the bomb, claims he received \$7,800 payment from Max Dunlop, 63, an associate of Marley's. Dunlop and co-defendant James Robison are on trial for the second time for their alleged part in the killing.

In a case watched across the U.S., New Jersey authorities are trying to decide what to do about Donald Chapman, of Bergen County, a trapper alleged to have a long history of torturing animals, who was released from a psychiatric prison on November 17, 1992, after serving 12 years for kidnapping, raping, and torturing a 23-

Zoos & Aquariums

The proposed marine mammal exhibit at Colorado's Ocean Journey, a theme park planned for Denver, took a blow January 20 when Animal Rights Mobilization revealed that two veterinarians involved in the project have records of violating marine mammal care standards. Dr. Gregory Bossart was the veterinarian of record at Ocean World in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1987-1991, when it was cited repeatedly for dolphin care violations, while Dr. Jay Sweeney was barred from practicing in Florida for his part in the illegal capture of two dolphins for the Baltimore Aquarium. The Colorado Aquarium, a rival to Ocean

Journey in development at Arvada, meanwhile announced that it won't include marine mammals.

Friends of the Dolphin and Marineland at Niagara Falls, Ontario, are disputing over the condition of Duke, an aging performing dolphin who has spent 22 years in captivity. According to Rol Laidlaw of Zoocheck Canada, "He's in pretty bad shape." Experts differ as to whether relocating Duke would help.

The Dolphin Project asks readers to protest plans by the Shedd Aquarium, in Chicago, to capture three Pacific white-sided dolphins in Monterey Bay, California later this year. Address the National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East-West Highway Room 7324, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Montreal mayor Jean Dore pledged recently that beluga whales will not be included in the Biodome, whose director has promised to have belugas by 1994. Thank Dore c/o Hotel de Ville, Montreal Quebec, Canada.

Claiming the word "zoo" has bad connotations, the New York Zoological Society on February 4 renamed the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, and Prospect Park Zoo, to howl of derision from local media. The sites are now called "wildlife conservation parks."

Timmy the gorilla, whose 1992 relocation from Cleveland to the Bronx Zoo brought a storm of protest, has reportedly impregnated one member of his three-member harem. His genes are considered a vital addition to the captive gorilla gene pool.

The Philadelphia Zoo, with a record of successfully breeding rare birds from Pacific islands, has received funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to capture and breed three endangered species native to the Marianas Archipelago.

An Andean condor and four

Block pleads guilty

Miami animal trafficker Matthew Block pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy February 9 for his role in the 1990 Bangkok Six case, in which six desperately ill baby orangutans were intercepted in Thailand en route from Malaysia to Moscow via Yugoslavia in a crate marked "birds." Three of the orangutans died. The deal was arranged in violation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; the U.S. prosecutor indicated it was initiated by the KGB, which hoped to resell the orangutans after they reached Moscow to raise hard currency. The guilty plea came two months after U.S. District Judge James Kehoe on February 9 refused an attempted plea bargain. Still under indictment in the case are Belgrade Zoo director Victor Buljovic; Dutch animal dealer Kenny Dekker; and animal dealer James Lee, of Singapore. Block was credited with cooperating with the prosecution, including arranging the January 26 arrest of Victor Bernal, director of zoos and parks for Mexico D.F., Mexico, as he allegedly tried

they shared with an 87-year-old woman and her daughter near Venus, Texas.

Former Illinois wildlife rehabilitator Russell Rose on January 6 drew a year on probation, 30 days work-release jail time, 75 hours of public service, a \$200 fine, and was ordered to pay court costs for keeping wildlife after his permit renewal was denied. The Illinois Department of Conservation has cancelled the permits of 140 wildlife rehabilitators in just two years, leaving only 170 authorized rehabilitators in the state. Illinois DOC spokesperson Carol Knowles said most of the cancellations involved people who used their permits as a pretext for keeping wild animals as pets. Illinois requires rehabilitators to turn permanently disabled animals over to "public or state scientific, educational, or zoological institutions."

Craig Eugene Leista, 31, of Vista, California, drew a year in jail on February 11 from Superior Court judge Ronald Prager for stomping a kitten to death. Vista prosecutor Kelly Rand, 34, was profiled January 24 by the Escondido *Times-Advocate* for her emphasis on forcing animal abusers into long-term counseling via stiff sentences and long probation.

Activism

Chicago Animal Rights Coalition cofounder Steve Hindi was charged with criminal trespass February 7 for allegedly trying to videotape a deer slaughter at the Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, in DuPage County, Illinois. State game wardens are trying to kill 250 to 400 deer they blame for damaging trees, by luring them to baited sites, entangling them in rocket-propelled nets, and then shooting them with captive-bolt guns. CHARC members have been sabotaging the baiting sites since January 24. Earlier in the week, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania rejected private complaints of assault brought by Steve and Greg Hindi and fellow activist Carol Seiler, after they were roughed up while protesting against the Hegins Labor Day Pigeon Shoot in 1990.

year-old woman. Chapman is under constant police surveillance for a variety of behavior indicating interest in repeating his offense. As a juvenile, in 1973, Chapman was convicted of kidnapping and sexually abusing three girls, ages nine and ten. Superior Court judge Peter Ciolino on January 21 sent Chapman to a mental hospital for 20 days, to be evaluated for possible permanent commitment, but that outcome was considered unlikely because Chapman does not display classic symptoms of mental illness.

Charles P. Rourk, 33, charged with kidnapping, robbing, and setting an Afro-American man on fire January 1 in Tampa, Florida, had a record for cruelty to animals in Will County, Illinois. In May 1991, Joliet Animal Control seized four dogs from Rourk; one died of starvation within hours, while three others, all pit bulls, recovered from near starvation and were adopted out. Neighbors told the Joliet Herald-News that Rourk bragged of breaking puppies' necks with his hands and of feeding live mice to pet piranhas.

Thomas Lee Dillon, 42, of East Sparta and Pike Township, Ohio, pleaded not guilty February 9 to committing two of the five murders he is believed to have committed in Ohio between April 1989 and April 1992. The prosecutors said they would seek the death penalty, while the FBI indicated more indictments would follow, possibly in connection with two murders in Michigan in 1990, one in Indiana in 1991, and two in Ohio in 1980 and 1983. Dillon, who boasted of thrill-killing at least 1,000 dogs, cats, and cows, is also suspected of setting more than 100 arson fires since March 1986. Dillon disguised the human killings as hunting accidents; eight of the 10 alleged victims were fellow hunters.

Alleged Mafia boss Anthony Casso, a noted pigeon shooter in his teens, was arrested by the FBI on January 20 in Mount Cassio, New Jersey, ending a 32-month flight. Now 52, Casso is charged with commissioning 11 murders.

to smuggle a gorilla to replace the recently deceased gorilla at the Toluca Zoo. Bernal purportedly paid Block \$92,500 to arrange the deal. The arrest was completed by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent who wore a gorilla suit to pose as the animal being smuggled. Block faces a maximum sentence of five years in jail and a fine of \$250,000, but according to Shirley McGreal of the International Primate Protection League, who had a leading part in cracking the case, he is likely to get only 18 months.

other rare raptors were stolen from the Warsaw Zoo in Poland in a series of three break-ins, January 23-25.

The Detroit Zoo marked the New Year by adopting a young lioness whom an anonymous benefactor rescued from a crack house and turned over to the Michigan Humane Society.

Bert, a Cleveland Metroparks Zoo giraffe, broke his neck January 28 and died while trying to reach a female in heat. His ninth offspring was born nine days later.

If you know a radio station willing to run this antifur commercial, please give us a call. It sure isn't doing any good running in this newspaper.

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Fur

The U.S. Technical Advisory Group on "humane trapping standards," a group representing regulatory bodies and the fur trade, has selected Tom Krause, editor of *The American Trapper*, to cast the U.S. vote when the International Organization for Standardization sets forth the standards that fur exporters must meet by January 1, 1995, in order to sell fur to members of the European Community.

Though often depicted in a raccoon skin cap, Daniel Boone hated fur hats, according to John Mack Faragher's authoritative new biography, *Daniel Boone: the Life and Legend of an American Pioneer* (Holt, 429 pages, \$27.50.)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to take red, western gray, and eastern gray kangaroos off the threatened species list, which would mean their pelts could be imported in greater numbers. Protected since 1974, the Australian kangaroos now number about 18 million, up from 10 million in 1984, and are killed for pelts at the rate of about 5.2 million a year. Public comments will be received until March 22. Address Office of Public Affairs, USFWS, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

The United States Mink Export Development Council, funded from tax dollars by the USDA, has \$1,759,500 to spend on fur promotion during 1993. The money is granted to cover up to 50% of what U.S. firms spend to tout fur in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, France, Switzerland, Mexico, and Russia. Protest to your Congressional reps.

Fur trade bankruptcies have cost U.S. banks \$60 million since 1988.

A rare Amur tiger killed a Russian fur poacher on January 30.

Chadwick's of Boston has ceased the sale of fur-trimmed garments. Thank the firm at 35 United Drive, W. Bridgewater, MA 02379-1026.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals offers trapline photos and video footage to antifur groups at cost. Get details from 2235 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5N 4B6.

HUNTING

The 1992-1993 hunting season closed with a spate of killings by hunters apparently desperate to shoot anything. Victims included three rare trumpeter swans, shotgunned January 1 on the Winterthur Museum grounds in Wilmington, Delaware; a tame deer slain at the St. Clair County Humane Society in Port Huron, Michigan, January 4; 13 cows killed in Clay County, Missouri, between Christmas and New Year's Day; and three dairy cows killed near Warsaw, Ohio, on January 16. Michael Adamson, 20, of Barberton, Ohio, and a 17-year-old companion face charges in the latter case. Ronald Smith, 30, and his infant daughter escaped injury December 30 when hunters trying to jacklight rabbits—after midnight—sprayed the baby's bedroom with gunfire. Charles W. Tipton, 44, of Lorain, Ohio, was charged in the incident. Ohio ended the hunting season with only 66 game wardens on duty, down from a quota of 88 (one per county). Sixty of the wardens were involved in the February 11 roundup of nine suspected poachers from Toledo. The nine, who called themselves "The Clan," were charged with committing more than 250 illegal acts while killing 97 deer in five months.

Wardens in Quebec's Eastern Townships recorded 1,300 poaching complaints during the 1992 deer season—more than one case for every five deer killed legally.

Charges were filed in 266 cases.

Seeking foreign currency, South Africa now allows bowhunters to attack lions, leopards, buffaloes, elephants, hippotamuses, and rhinoceroses in Transvaal province.

Bowhunting rock-and-roller Ted Nugent was fined \$1,000 on January 12 for shooting two flaming arrows during a Cincinnati concert.

Green Mountain Animal Defenders asks nonresidents of Vermont to protest a proposed moose season to Gov. Howard Dean (State House, Montpelier, VT 05602) and the Vermont Division of Travel and Tourism (135 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602). For further details, contact GMAD, 61 Industrial Ave., Williston, VT 05495; 802-865-2443.

Legislation In Support of Animals asks that letters opposing hunting in the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, near New Orleans, be sent to the public opinion consultants Cashio, Cochran, Torre / Design Consortium Ltd., 5005 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70115-1795.

The California legislature is considering both a bill introduced by Senator Nicholas Petris to ban bear hunting with hounds (which is cruel not only to bears but also to any hounds who get within paw range), and the so-called "California Houndsmen for Conservation Bill," to exempt bear hounds

Vivisection

Physicians for Human Rights on February 6 asked the American Medical Association to lead a probe of how German medical doctor Hans Joachim Sewering, 76, became president elect of the World Medical Association. Sewering, a member of the Nazi SS from 1933 until 1945, is accused of complicity in sending 203 people, including children, to their deaths at Eglfing-Haar, a euthanasia site for the disabled. Ironically, the WMA was formed in 1947 in response to Nazi medical

American AV ad

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abuses.

An audit by the Department of Veterans Affairs has reported that human subjects of drug testing were "unnecessarily placed at risk" from January 1987 through March 1991 at the New Orleans Veterans Administration Medical Center, due to poor supervision. Sixty-six inpatients and 75 outpatients may have participated in the experiments without their consent.

An unidentified 62-year-old man who on January 10 received the world's second baboon-to-human liver transplant died of an infection February 5 at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Maureen Martin of the Pittsburgh transplant team has meanwhile joined the University of Iowa medical faculty, where she heads a team investigating the possibility of growing human-like organs in transgenic hogs for eventual transplant into humans,

The U.S. Patent Office on December 29 issued patents on genetically altered mice to Harvard, GenPharm International, and Ohio University—the first patents on new life forms granted since 1988.

The USDA is reportedly considering adopting a "pain scale" to measure animal suffering during experiments. The scale would replace the present definitions of "no pain," "relieved pain," and "unrelieved pain."

The American Anti-Vivisection Society will host its third annual vivisection seminar May 15-16 in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Registration is \$85 until March 31, \$100 later. Get details from Zoe Weil, AAVS, 801 Old York Road, #204, Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685; 215-887-0816.

American AV

John Quinney, owner of the Seventh Generation ecology store in Burlington, Vermont, stocks brushtail possum furs, claiming they are "ecological" because, though protected in Australia, the possums have overpopulated in New Zealand after being imported and released by trappers, and allegedly endanger some native birds. This is essentially the same argument the fur trade uses to defend trapping muskrats, raccoons, and coyotes here, and has a false premise, since as Harvard mammologist John Kirsch has explained, "It is nearly impossible to depress permanently a population by means of trapping." Some scarce top predators can be trapped out, but most species simply breed back up to the carrying capacity of the habitat. Address Quinney at 176 Battery St., Burlington, VT 05401.

Wolf-killing underway in Yukon

(continued from page 1)

ing wolves in the far north.

His appeal was answered by the Canadian Wolf Alliance, Friends of the Wolf, the Animal Defense League of Canada, International Wildlife Coalition Canada, the International Society for Animal Rights, and Hunt Enders, who all called boycotts of the Yukon during the last few days of January.

George Clements of the Vancouver-based Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals meanwhile pointed out that the Yukon isn't the only part of Canada with active anti-wolf policies. "Wolf-killing continues as usual in British Columbia," Clements told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "and the government wildlife branch has just received another five-year permit to poison more wolves and coyotes, using Compound 1080 (banned from most uses in the U.S.) in livestock-related situations. British Columbia government wildlife officers kill about 150-200 wolves annually. The B.C. government loans out at least 500 huge, powerful leghold traps to ranchers and trappers to encourage more wolf-killing." Further, Clements noted, the official estimate of the B.C. wolf population is based on guesstimates more than a decade old, and the government admits the population could number anywhere from 2,500 to 11,000 wolves.

A similar situation prevails in Alberta, where government agents use strychnine to poison wolves alleged to have attacked cattle. Strychnine causes such a slow, agonizing death, and is so likely to be picked up by non-target animals that use of it to control feral dog populations has long been abandoned almost everywhere it was ever used. Continuing use in Israel is subject of international protest led by Concern for Helping Animals in Israel.

January 25, Friends of Animals, the North American Wolf Foundation, and **ANIMAL PEOPLE** endorsed the boycott of Yukon and extended it to British Columbia and Alberta. The B.C. tourist centers of Vancouver and Victoria were exempted as a goodwill gesture until Good Friday, April 9, pending a positive response from the B.C. government. At deadline, the B.C. government had only denied the existence of anti-wolf policies.

In Defense of Animals called a similar boycott of the Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta later the same day. Project Wolf USA had already been boycotting all three jurisdictions.

The initial Canadian media response to the boycott was encouraging. The *Yukon News* even urged the territorial government to cancel the wolf kill. There was little response, however, from U.S. media, and perhaps consequently, little

commitment from other U.S. groups who had been involved in the boycott of Alaska. Clements warned **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that the B.C. government rode out boycotts over wolf-killing in the mid-1980s, and may take the non-commitment of such high-profile groups as the Fund for Animals and the Humane Society of the U.S. as a sign that this boycott, too, lacks the energy to succeed—even though the high-profile groups likewise held back from joining the boycott of Alaska until success seemed assured.

Alaska

Although the boycott of Alaska is now suspended, it may be on again before the year is out. January 29, the Alaska Board of Game formally rescinded the plan to kill wolves to benefit big game hunters that it adopted on November 17, 1992. However, the Board of Game also rescinded protection of wolves in many areas, including a 10-mile-wide buffer strip east of Danali National Park. In addition, the Board of Game booked a meeting on wolf control to be held in Juneau, the state capital, from June 26 through July 1. At that meeting, the Board of Game is expected to recommend the re-establishment of land-and-shoot recreational wolf-killing, which would allow hunters to spot wolves from aircraft, so long as they were only shot from the ground. A previous land-and-shoot season was cancelled only two years ago, under threat of legal action by groups who argued that land-and-shoot violates the 1971 federal Airborne Hunting Act.

Warned Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral, "If there is a new move to start killing wolves, we shall respond vigorously, and with a much improved understanding of the situation and of our options."

Board of Game members made plain that they rescinded their plan to strafe

Reindeer wasted

While Alaskan officials pretended wolves had to be massacred so that there would be enough caribou to feed natives, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in December quietly massacred 790 reindeer on Hagemeister Island, a wildlife refuge 300 miles south of Anchorage. Introduced by an Eskimo rancher in 1965, the reindeer were endangering native lichen. Nome medical doctor Donald Olson (also an Eskimo) hired a team to fly another 120 reindeer to safety at an abandoned dairy farm. Natives were given 172 reindeer carcasses; the rest were left to rot. "It's the worst wanton waste case since the buffalo," said tribal elder Moses Kritz. At deadline, another 193 reindeer were slated for killing.

system to produce more animals for hunters," Fish and Game Department supervisor Ken Pitcher admitted, pointing out that 14,000 sport hunters applied for only 5,000 licenses to shoot caribou in the Nelchina Basin last year.

The Board of Game, however claimed the wolf-killing was to help native people, even flying delegates to the village of Minto—well outside the wolf-killing area—to meet natives who hunt for food.

Tanana Chiefs Conference president Will Mayo didn't buy the ruse. "The proposals before the public will not positively affect rural subsistence users," Mayo told readers of the Fairbanks *Daily News Miner* on January 17, "because the problem faced by villagers in these areas is not a shortage of game...The problem is a failure of the state to place controls on urban users who are in direct competition with villagers." Mayo also pointed out that the Board of Game had arbitrarily decided to increase the Nelchina caribou herd from 38,000 to 60,000 without determining first if the habitat could support the increase, and that

New Generation ad

Wildlife

The 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill continues to kill Alaskan wildlife, researchers revealed February 5 at a symposium hosted by the University of Alaska and the American Fisheries Society. Among the victims are 14 orcas, who disappeared and are presumed dead; 300,000 murrelets,

a bird species that hasn't nested successfully since the spill; and sea otters and ducks, who are still being poisoned by mussels who in turn have been poisoned by oil.

Zimbabwe is trying to raise \$2 million to spend on culling 5,000 elephants from a national herd officially estimated at 80,000.

New federal rules to protect the California spotted owl from old growth logging take effect March 1. The California spotted owl, of which about 2,000 remain, is officially considered a "sensitive" species, not yet either "threatened" or "endangered," and is a cousin of the threatened northern spotted owl.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on February 11 ordered a hearing before an administrative law judge to determine if former president George Bush and staff violated the Administrative Procedures Act in pressuring the Endangered Species Committee to permit 13 timber sales during May 1992 that might have jeopardized spotted owl habitat.

Three hikers claim to have seen and photographed a moa on January 24 in the Craigieburn Range of New Zealand's South Island. The huge flightless birds are believed to have been hunted to extinction by the Maoris about 500 years ago.

An Australian amateur herpetologist recently rediscovered the pygmy blue tongue lizard, believed extinct since 1959. Graham Armstrong found remains of one of the lizards in the stomach of a roadkilled snake, searched the area, and found a thriving colony nearby.

Defenders of Wildlife has filed 60-day notice of intent to sue the U.S. Department of the Interior for permitting the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers to help China build one of the world's largest dams on the Yangtze River—threatening habitat for endangered river dolphins, alligators, birds, and giant pandas.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Commission is planning to mate highly endangered Florida panthers with closely related Texas mountain lions to combat severe inbreeding.

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wolves only because of pressure from elected officials, who feared that a tourist boycott could cost the state as much as \$80 million. Adding weight to the boycott appeals of activist groups, the Seattle-based Holland-America Line Westours Inc. promised it would stop tourist excursions to Alaska if a wolf cull proceeded, costing the state 109,000 visitors per year and 2,000 jobs. (Thank Holland-America Line Westours at 300 Elliot Ave. W. Seattle, WA 98119-4199.)

Democracy in action

"The political process fouled up the whole system for us," stated Board of Game member Al Franzmann. Alaska separatists, including Governor Walter Hickel, a member of the Alaska Independence Party, seized upon the wolf issue as an example of how "Foreign tourism interests continue to hold Alaska hostage," although tourism is the state's third largest source of income. A full-page ad in the *Daily News Miner* on January 17 charged that protest over wolf-killing amounted to "extortion."

Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation director David Kelleyhouse, a trapper, suggested that wolves could be kept from attacking caribou and moose calves by air-dropping meat to them during the calving season. This, Kelleyhouse argued, might be acceptable to tourists. Then trappers could kill the wolves later.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is already urging trappers to kill more wolves. The state and the Alaska Trappers Association have co-sponsored an annual seminar on wolf-trapping since 1990.

At a "wolf summit" held in Fairbanks, January 16-18, Alaskan officials resisted suggestions that the predator/prey balance among wolves, moose, and caribou might be already be at the optimum level for the habitat. The principal areas involved are the 28,000-square-mile Nelchina Basin, between Fairbanks and Anchorage, and the Fortymile region, east of Fairbanks.

"We're trying to manipulate the

bears, not wolves, account for an estimated 40% of summer moose calf kills.

Anchorage *Daily News* hunting columnist Craig Medred also challenged the Board of Game position. "Despite some claims that the Fortymile caribou population numbered 500,000 animals in the 1920s," Medred wrote, "I'm not sure a population over 50,000 is a reasonable expectation...Any number of crashes in moose populations can be traced back to Fish and Game efforts to hold populations at or near all-time highs."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researcher Vic VanBallenberghe argued that Nelchina Basin moose already show "physical signs of malnutrition and limited food supply," predicting a population crash for the next winter with deep snow.

Feral meanwhile spent three hours flying with Thomas Classen, a bush pilot who has participated in the official state wolf counts. In one of the killing zones where there were supposed to be 292 wolves, Classen and Feral found only four—and only one wolf kill site. They did however, find extensive evidence of heavy hunting and trapping pressure. It is probable that poachers kill more moose and caribou in the areas in question than the 500 to 1,500 believed to be taken by wolves.

Letters

Protest the Yukon wolf-killing (with separate letters) to John Ostachek Government Leader, and Bill Brewster Minister of Renewable Resources, Yukon Territorial Government, Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 2C6 Shelda Brown, Tourism Industry of the Yukon, 203-208 Main St., Whitehorse Yukon, Canada Y1A 2A9; and Art Pearson, President, Yukon Chamber of Commerce, 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse Yukon, Canada Y1A 2C5.

Protest the British Columbia wolf-killing to Bill Reid, Minister of Tourism Room 248, Parliament Bldg., Victoria British Columbia, Canada V8V 1X5.

Animal Rights Human Rights: Ecology, Economy and Ideology in the Canadian Arctic, by George Wenzel. 1991. 206 pages, paperback. University of Toronto Press.

Animal Rights Human Rights author George Wenzel, says the back cover, "is an anthropologist and geographer," who has been working among the Inuit (Eskimos) of Baffin Island since 1972. His book "is both a careful academic study and a disturbing comment on how environmental activity may oppress a whole society." To wit, Wenzel supposedly shows how anti-seal hunt protesters' "own cultural prejudices and questionable ecological imperatives brought hardship, distress, and instability to an ecologically balanced traditional culture."

But there are really two books here: Wenzel's most recent of many impassioned arguments that Inuits should be allowed to sell as many seal pelts as they wish, a case he has pursued since 1978, and the body of evidence he assembles as a scholar and historian. The body of evidence suggests that Wenzel the analyst is heavily biased by personal identification with his subjects, to the point of displaying cultural bias at least as extreme as that of the

BOOK REVIEWS

activists he lambastes. While Wenzel accuses animal rights advocates of first lauding a native lifestyle they don't understand and then turning against it because of squeamishness about killing animals, it is he himself who most clearly misrepresents the native lifestyle. He documents that far from being ecologically balanced, the Inuit economy has been in flux for at least as long as Caucasians have been involved, due to shifting demand for pelts, changing government policies, and the arrival of new technology. He establishes that the Inuit rarely hunted seals for money before the mid-1950s, and that commercial sealing evolved mainly as a means of getting the wherewithal to buy and maintain rifles, snowmobiles, and power boats. Then he argues that a sealing-centered cash economy not even 40 years old is "traditional," because the Inuit have traditionally hunted seals at some times of year for meat. He ultimately draws his definition of a traditional lifestyle so broadly that it could equally apply to the life of an English factory worker, whose ancestors participated in the Industrial Revolution at about the same time the Hudson's Bay Company came to the Arctic.

Along the way, Wenzel pointedly ignores how despite the efforts of anti-seal hunt leaders to avoid harming native who hunt adult ringed seals for food, a total ban on sealskin imports by the European Community became necessary to stop the slaughter of baby harp seals in Atlantic Canada because the Canadian government insisted on hiding behind native need in attempting to perpetuate harp sealing. Similarly, the Canadian government has tried to defend the entire fur trapping industry as essential to the native economy, though natives account for only about 5% of Canadian trapped fur production, and the Yukon and Alaskan governments still try to camouflage wolf massacres undertaken to benefit trophy hunters as projects to help natives to feed themselves. Natives including Inuit are hit by economic shrapnel because they allow themselves to be used. Fortunately, as Wenzel also documents, job creation in the Arctic is at last moving away from wildlife exploitation. More Inuit are getting an education. Perhaps eventually the Inuit will achieve overdue economic justice: a fair share of the benefits from oil and mineral development, Arctic shipping, and satellite communication stations. One suspects though, that it won't be with any help from Wenzel, who will still be trying to keep them in a frontier limbo between prehistory and the present. —Merritt Clifton

Felidae, by Akif Pirincci. 1993. 290 pages, paperback, \$19.00 (\$24.00 Canadian). Villard Books (a division of Random House), 201 East 50th St., New York, NY 10022.

Felidae is a murder/detective story told from a cat's viewpoint. Francis has just moved into a new neighborhood with his owner, and immediately begins finding the corpses of other cats. Being an intelligent feline with a taste for puzzle-solving, he embarks on his investigations to find out who or what is dispatching the neighborhood cats in such a gruesome manner.

If all this sounds just a bit precious, the narrative quickly dispels any hints of this becoming an anthropomorphic piece of fluff. It's more a cross between Stephen King and Agatha Christie, and not a pleasant read, since animal torture and vivisection are described in detail.

The clever Francis inevitably tracks down the killer, indulging in the requisite sex and violence scenes without which a mystery would be incomplete. Thus *Felidae* is an essentially mainstream story, even with the odd twist of having a feline cast, in a world where humans figure at best as can-openers and at worst as maniacal torturers. Yet there is considerably more going on beneath

the surface. Turkish-born author Akif Pirincci is now a German citizen. As newly resurgent German neo-Nazis vent against ethnic Turks the hatred they once reserved for Jews, Pirincci confronts the violence with an allegory involving Nazism, eugenics, and the attempt to create a master race. Philosophical discussion of breeding programs are the real heart of *Felidae*. Pascal, Francis' brilliant but twisted nemesis, has developed his own complex eugenics program in an attempt to create a super-cat who will eventually take over the world, succeeding mankind and placing other animals under subjugation. Pirincci depicts the quest to create a master race, of any species, as a quest to turn back the clock to a mythical time when genetic strains were powerful and undiluted (in complete disregard of evolution, which indicates we all came from common ancestors).

Francis' world is a sad, dark, dirty place, filled with terror, pain, and loss, much of which occurs through the degeneracy and irresponsibility not only of the human race, but of his own as well. There is no such thing as culture, only the intercourse of pathetic souls tenuously linked by economics or transient passion; there are no leaders except the demonically crazed; there is no vision except that of rationalized mass murder and utter control by a dic-

tator. Small wonder, then, that the inhabitants yearn for an idyllic past. As Hitler yearned for the world of Siegfried, Pascal yearns for the Egyptian strain of *Felidae*, the cats who were gods.

It is a truism that those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it. Eugenics programs have not been abandoned, only restructured to take more subtle forms, claiming to reflect economic science now rather than genetics. Collective longing for the simplicity and security of a past that never existed continues to warp our social and political consciousness, hampering our progress much as it hampers Pirincci's cats, threatening us with eventual regression into Nietzsche's feral and consciousnessless race.

This is a rather complex revelation to be packed into a mainstream mystery, and it is fair to wonder if Pirincci himself meant it in quite this way. Still, for all their sophistication and clever dialog, these cats remain catty enough to provide an uncanny reflection of our own impoverished souls.

—Pamela Kemp

[Pamela Kemp is a social worker in Victoria, British Columbia.]

Care of Reptiles and Amphibians in Captivity, by Chris Mattison. 1992. 317 pages, paperback. \$17.95 (\$23.95 Canadian). Blandford, distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016-8810. If you run an animal shelter, inspect pet stores, rehabilitate wildlife, or answer nuisance animal complaints, you're going to need this reference. You may never pick it up until you find an unidentified lizard in your overnight dropoff box, or get a call about a python in a chimney. Then it'll be a lifesaver, for you and the reptile.

Books In Brief

Fold Your Own Dinosaurs, by Campbell Morris. 1993. 48 pages. \$7.95, paperback. Perigee Books, c/o Putnam Publishing Group, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. Folding paper dinosaurs doesn't normally get a high priority here, but this was an immediate hit with Wolf, age two and a half, and he isn't even old enough to make any of the dinosaurs yet!

Into The Blue, by Virginia McKenna. 1993. 144 pages, \$30 U.S. (\$40 Canadian), hardback. Harper Collins Publishers, 1000 Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18512-4621. Lavishly and lovingly illustrated, *Into The Blue* will be acceptable on any coffee table or in any library collection, but nonetheless makes an emphatic case against dragging dolphins in from the wild to be held as performing captives at glorified amusement parks.

OBITUARIES

Silvia E. Vitale, late of East Arlington, Massachusetts, has been memorialized by the foundation of Animal Umbrella, an anti-pet overpopulation group whose projects include arranging discount neutering for people on limited incomes and assisting local neuter/release practitioners. Get details from Joanne Bruno, Box 1324, East Arlington, MA 02174; 617-648-0934.

Robert L. "Travis" Beekman, 61, a homeless man noted for having rescued a drowning dog from a frozen pond in Central Park, New York, was found dead of a heart attack in the Central Park boathouse on December 29. Well-liked by park visitors, who set up a memorial fund, Beekman will be remembered with a drinking fountain for dogs, a kiosk for community notices, and a model boat event for children.

Margaret A. Tavani, 77, long active in spay/neuter, anti-vivisection, and anti-fur work, died recently in Havertown, Pennsylvania.

MEMORIALS

In memory of the Rev. Craig Jessup, who taught by his example that the strongest men are gentle. —R.B. & M.C.

In memory of Butterscotch Martin, beloved cat of Cheryl and Fred Martin. —Judy Meincke

Al-Hafiz Basheer Ahmad Masri, 78, who died July 12, 1992 in England, was recently remembered by colleagues. The leading authority on Islamic teachings about animals, Masri retired as Imam of the Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking, England, in 1968. He went on to write two influential books, *Islamic Concern for Animals* and *Animals In Islam*, demonstrating that the Prophet Muhammed considered kindness to animals a sacred duty, and opposed vivisection, factory farming, and ritual slaughter, which Masri equated with animal sacrifice. Masri also narrated a video, *Creatures of God*, for the International Network for Religion and Animals.

CLASSIFIEDS

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COMPASSIONATE BAKING COOK-BOOK—Totally vegetarian recipes from the Manitoba Animal Alliance. \$5.00 each plus \$2.00 postage. P.O. Box 3193, Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada R3C 0K2.

NATURE'S CALL GIFT CATALOG \$2.00. Limited edition animal art for the collector/environmentalist. Note cards, buttons plus much more. Meyer, 10991-55 San Jose Blvd., #149, Jacksonville, FL 32223.

FEMINISTS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS Send SASE for information and list of buttons, t-shirts, books, etc. Feminists for Animal Rights, POB 694, Cathedral Station New York, NY 10025-0694.

THE ICONOCLAST is for independent hearty readers who find life both absurd and profound. Essays, stories, poems, reviews art. Sample: \$1.25. Subscription: \$12/10 issues. Phil Wagner, 1675 Amazon Rd. Mohegan Lake, NY 10547.

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**America's wild horses
are an endangered
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If the federal government has its way, there will be no more wild horses thundering across the Nevada plains. Millions of grazing cattle and sheep are destroying the public lands, yet the government and the ranchers insist that it is the fault of the few thousand wild horses. They will stop at nothing to destroy the horses so that they can produce more meat.

So the government has lied. It says that there are 60,000 wild horses and it must remove over 14,000 horses. But an independent count found only 8,000. In the next year, the wild horse could disappear like the buffalo and the wolf.

Despite a law passed in 1971 to protect these wild horses, the government has participated in a campaign of extermination where horses are shot and poisoned and captured by the thousands. Many end up in slaughterhouses. Others are "broken" in prison inmate programs. The rest spend their lives in confinement.

We can stop it, and we must. But we desperately need your help. The Rutgers Animal Rights Law Clinic is committed to a massive campaign of litigation and negotiation to protect the freedom of these creatures. Unless we act now, and force the new Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, to halt this massacre, our wild horses will be only a magnificent memory.

Gary Francione
Professor of Law
Director, Rutgers Animal Rights Law Clinic

**Please send me fact sheets about how I can help to save the wild horses,
and a postcard to send to Secretary Babbitt demanding that the captures stop.**

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