

Can we outlaw pet overpopulation?

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SACRAMENTO, California — Neuter your cat or else!

In legal language, "An owner of a cat over the age of six months shall have the cat sterilized by a veterinarian if the cat is permitted outdoors without supervision."

As drafted, California state assembly bill AB 302 admits no exceptions. Introduced in early February by assemblyman Paul Horcher, AB 302 sounds like a shelter worker's dream—but may be mainly symbolic, since it includes neither an enforcement mechanism nor specific penalties for disobedience. Due to the difficulty of identifying cats, some legal experts believe it could never be enforced without instituting a universal statewide system of

cat licensing, something never before attempted on any comparable scale, and almost certain to be opposed by many cat-keepers.

But AB 302 does have a good chance of passage, having received the endorsement of at least 24 organizations, ranging from conservative pet industry umbrellas to radical animal rights groups. There seems to be no united, influential opposition. By addressing only wandering cats, AB 302 has avoided flak from cat and dog breeders and breed fanciers, who have ardently opposed most other recent anti-breeding legislation.

Regardless of enforceability, AB 302 is among the loudest salvos yet in the ongoing struggle to secure by law

the fragile gains made against pet overpopulation during the past 13 years. Since 1980 the number of animals euthanized annually in U.S. pounds and shelters has plummeted from 20 million to approximately a third as many, mainly through the combination of public education with discount neutering. Yet the fecundity of cats and dogs is such that all the progress made thus far could be erased within two years if the cats and dogs who haven't yet been neutered are permitted to breed without restraint. Already there are signs that cutbacks in discount neutering programs in some communities are quickly producing higher euthanasia rates. Desperation has thus brought desperate tactics, including

(continued on page 7,

ANIMAL

News For People Who

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

ANIMAL PEOPLE CRACKS CASE

USDA halts sales of Canadian dogs and cats to U.S. labs

WASHINGTON D.C.—Confirming leads gathered by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton during a 13-year probe, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in mid-April sealed the Canadian border to imports of dogs and cats for laboratory use. All Class B animal dealers known to have imported dogs and cats from Canada were advised in writing that such animals cannot be certified as to origin in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.

As many as 2,000 dogs and 6,000 cats have been imported from Canada each year for resale by Class B dealers. Most come from privately operated pounds that hold municipal animal control contracts—the majority in Quebec. Rural auctions are another significant source, and still other dogs and cats are stolen.

"This is a permanent halt," a top USDA undercover investigator told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "We need confirmation that these animals were born and

bred on the site that they came from for them to be certifiable under the Animal Welfare Act, and because we don't have jurisdiction in Canada, we aren't ever going to be able to get that confirmation. We see no likelihood of this ever being reversed by the U.S./Canada Free Trade Agreement," the investigator added, "and we don't think the law will be amended to permit these imports to resume."

Clifton became aware of the international traffic in dogs and cats for lab use while working for a number of small papers in both southern Quebec and northern Vermont in the early 1980s. Every yard dog in one village would vanish overnight; then every cat in another. Descriptions of strange vans seen cruising the streets often matched the descriptions of vehicles used in deer poaching incidents. Pursuing a variety of confidential tips, Clifton and other part-time sleuths gradually identified the principal members of a shadowy pet theft network.

"I put some of the pieces together," Clifton remembers, "but Montreal-area humane investigators

(continued on page 13)

(Photo by Robert Harrison.)

There's no sign of Mother Goose, but the rest of the gang are all here.

Aerial survey of Alaska finds few wolves— and too many moose for habitat

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—Predictions that wolves and grizzly bears would devastate Alaskan moose and caribou over the winter were "a gross exaggeration," world-renowned wildlife expert Gordon Haber told media April 26. Thus there is no need for predator control, contrary to the claims of the Alaska Board of Game, which suspended a proposed aerial wolf massacre in January under threat of an international tourism boycott, but is expected to re-recommend killing wolves and grizzlies to protect the ungulates, prized by trophy hunters, at meetings scheduled for July and October.

To verify their data, Haber and bush pilot Buck Woods overflew 35,000 square miles

of interior and south-central Alaska between April 3 and April 18, adding 87 hours of air time to their combined total of more than 5,000 hours of aerial surveying and more than 10,000 hours of wolf observation. Haber is a 27-year veteran of wolf research in Alaska, British Columbia, and northern Michigan.

Flying conditions were ideal, Haber said, with no recent snow to conceal carcasses. Nonetheless, the team found only one wolf kill and only 18 to 20 moose and caribou dead of any cause. Few of the carcasses had been disturbed by wolves. By contrast, they found eight wolf carcasses, including the remains of two

(Continued on page 14)

INSIDE

New Yorkers react to ASPCA pound pullout

**NORTH SHORE CEO
NOMINEE SURVIVES
MUDSLINGING**

*More upheaval at
Animals' Agenda*

**New tricks for old dogs
and cats**

**EX-HUNTER BECOMES
HUMANE RESCUER**

**Did Animalwatching
author research new
book blindfolded?**

Editorials

Welcome, brother or sister. Come on in.

A recent study by Western Carolina University psychology professor Harold A. Herzog Jr., published in the *Journal of Social Issues* volume 49, #1, concluded after interviewing 23 grassroots animal rights activists that there are "several parallels between an involvement with the animal rights movement and religious conversion." In particular, Herzog discovered that "animal rights activism," for his study subjects, "usually entailed major changes in lifestyle," including both subtractive changes such as giving up eating meat, hunting and fishing, and wearing fur, and additive changes such as becoming politically active: writing letters, carrying petitions, giving speeches, picketing, proselytizing. Herzog's findings probably surprise neither committed activists nor critics of the animal rights movement, many of whom frequently disparage the overt missionary zeal of some activists (especially new converts). A few opponents of animal rights have even called the cause a new religion. At least one member of the fur trade press has warned that animal rights threatens the fundamental premises of Judaism, while several prominent anti-animal rights authors have claimed the idea challenges Christianity.

Quite a number of prominent religious thinkers disagree. In truth every major religion has a tradition of concern for animals, maintained by leaders of the stature of Isaiah, Mohammed, St. Francis of Assisi, and within our own century, Gandhi and Albert Schweitzer—to name just a few whose ideas many of us have adopted.

But the animal rights movement is only one component of the humane movement, and if Herzog had looked farther (which he may do in the future), he might have found even stronger parallels, which in part explain another of his major findings: "a surprising degree of diversity in attitudes and behavior of the activists."

That's another way of saying we don't all believe the same thing, which in turn is a means of distinguishing a legitimate broad-based shift in societal values from the growth of a cult. Cults may become influential, but because their central tenets tend to be exclusionary, pitting the faithful against the sinners, they tend to be self-limiting. Only when ideas become separated from dogma and achieve heterogeneous interpretation do they become truly integrated into culture. To the cultist, this is a corrupting process. To the rest of us, it's a matter of making the product user-friendly—like when computer manuals were first written in semi-simple English, and one no longer needed to learn calculus to integrate computer use into daily life.

Somewhere between the pursuit of impossible purity and the practice of cynical hypocrisy, most movements to make us better people require occasional rejuvenation:

A little over 40 years ago, there was still just one humane movement, led in the U.S. by the American SPCA and the American Humane Association, who had little disagreement over philosophy and carried out similar educational and political programs. Vivisection issues were left mainly to specialized antivivisection societies, which though founded by many of the same people in the late 19th century, largely maintained a separate existence thereafter. The equivalent of the Protestant Reformation came during the 1950s, as the Animal Welfare Institute, the Humane Society of the U.S., and the Catholic Humane Society (now the International Society for Animal Rights) one by one broke away—primari-

Our rented headquarters.

field today is as diverse as religion, for many of the same reasons. In humane work as in the practice of religious belief, we have teaching and rescue organizations, organizations whose activity is more philosophical, evangelical groups who may or may not be fundamentalists, and fundamentalists who may or may not evangelize.

The importance of all this is that humane concerns are now broad enough, ubiquitous enough, that at least a large portion of the U.S. population contributes money and time toward helping animals. Some animal protection organization exists to represent the beliefs and insights of almost anyone whose consciousness includes either recognition of kinship with animals—spiritual or physical—or recognition that animals suffer.

Most problematic to many humane people, at the periphery of the cause there are organizations of laboratory researchers who hope the animals they experiment on can be spared pain; animal fanciers who raise the occasional litter, but also do breed rescue agribusiness consultants who try to minimize the stress of livestock; and even hunters for whom lugging a gun they no longer shoot is a macho pretext for taking a nature walk including many of the volunteer wardens who are still the first line of defense against illegal wildlife slaughter across much of North America. We may find some of the deeds of these individuals repugnant. We may even find them repugnant. Yet it is worthwhile to remember that our own consciousness may have evolved from similar places, that we too are prob-

ly over vivisection-related issues such as pound seizure. The animal rights movement emerged in the 1970s from the confluence of concerns addressed by the antivivisection groups and the newer organizations, some of which brought antivivisection work back into the mainstream of humane activity while others opened up new directions both in topics and in tactics.

There is still sufficient commonality in many respects that one can speak of "the humane movement" in a broad sense, or of "the animal rights movement" with slightly more specificity, but by now such discussion must be tempered by the recognition that there are also very deep differences even as to what "humane" and "animal rights" may be. Further, while the policies of various humane, antivivisection, and animal rights groups may overlap at times on particular issues, an overlap here is often offset by sharp disagreement there. Certainly, it is a serious if common error to identify any one group as "the leader" or "driving force" behind any of the major branches of humane work. The humane

ably still far short of perfection, and that the individual who becomes involved in an especially objectionable activity before recognizing what is wrong about it may have a much harder time becoming disengaged from it. The activity may be a job that feeds a family, or involve a lifestyle shared by all one's family and friends. For such a person the mere act of questioning vivisection or eating meat or hunting may in itself require considerable moral courage. While missionary fundamentalists win some converts with railing sermons and figurative baptisms of the abruptly enlightened and repentant, other approaches are equally necessary, including accepting baby steps from those who must become stronger and braver to make great leaps of faith. In such a situation, the most effective influence may be simply setting a good personal example.

To the person of humane impulse but perhaps incomplete understanding of how to translate it into a liveable daily life, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** says, "Welcome, brother or sister. Come on in. See what we do, how we dress, what we eat. Have a bite. We'll just go on about being who we are, and if you want, we'll show you how to share in what we're doing. If not, we're still pleased to have you visit. Come again any time you like."

Our firmest belief, in either religion or working to help animals, is that we don't all have to do or believe the same things. We just have to remember that the often errant quest of all the great religions, as well as of humane work, is simply to find a way for we imperfect humans to live and let live.

Where there's a will, there's a way

Quite a number of items in this issue have to do with provisions for life after one's own death, and not in the spiritual sense. Though we die, our animal companions and organizations may live on, not necessarily as we'd have chosen. One of our major investigations this month involved conflicting interpretations of an ambiguous will that eventually resulted in a protracted legal battle, during which the lawyers for the opposing sides may have gotten more of the bequest than the cause it was intended to aid. A page of features describes contrasting arrangements the North Shore Animal League and Texas A&M University offer for the orphaned cats and dogs of deceased humans—alternatives costing nothing but perhaps a small donation on the one hand, and \$25,000 on the other. An obituary notes the death of a lady who left a fortune to her local humane society. If space allowed, a longer item could further describe the two-month search for her will. But for luck, her intended bequest might never have been delivered.

A couple of years ago Helen Jones, Henry Mark Holtzer, and Erika Holtzer outlined a number of other cases that should have caused anyone planning to leave money to animals, his or her own or in general, to re-examine his or her will and rewrite to eliminate any ambiguities, preferably with the help of a legal adviser who specializes in wills. In the most memorable instance, an attorney unfamiliar with the language required to establish a charitable foundation inadvertently included language that allowed state-appointed trustees to redirect millions of dollars away from animal work and into other philanthropic activities.

Even if your will does exactly what you want it to do now, and even if your executor knows where to find it, you should still reviewed it at regular intervals. One's dependents and heirs change, one's property changes, one's companion animals change, and the organizations one wishes to support change. Chances are, if your will is more than a few years old, it needs revising and updating. If it's more than five years old, it almost certainly does.

Finally, and with the hope that none of our friends and supporters are ever to die **ANIMAL PEOPLE** would appreciate your remembrance. We'll gratefully make good use of anything from a rent-free headquarters to a small memorial contribution.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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Letters

Henry Spira

Thanks for your generous April editorial—hope it encourages activists to focus on results, on most rapidly reducing the universe of animal pain and suffering.

For the record: as I'm sure you know, everything we've achieved has been the result of a team effort, a network, a loop of organizations and committed individuals, bringing together different talents, resources, and expertise—joining their energies toward a common goal. I'd be remiss if I didn't say so.

Again, thanks and best wishes to you.

—Henry Spira, New York, N.Y.

Your magazine is great. I have especially enjoyed your editorials. I feel that one major problem with the animal rights movement is that everything is so black and white. The movement scares many people away—people who really love animals, but are turned off or overwhelmed by all the issues.

I admired your January/February editorial on how to handle politicians. I agree that you should always be nice to them, even though they may not always vote in favor of animals.

I also was glad to see that Henry Spira granted an interview to the pro-vivisection Foundation for Biomedical Research. I would also like to see you interview former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. I think it is important that both sides communicate.

Good luck in the future with whatever you do.

—Margaret Lloyd, Melrose,

John is right. We do have the numbers. What we need is a grassroots response. If the national groups have become too self-interested and myopic, perhaps **ANIMAL PEOPLE** will publish the names of those grassroots groups willing to form a coalition to disseminate information regarding target projects.

—Jean Laurin, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

We do publish those names often, as groups write to tell us about their activities and seek colleagues working on similar matters. However, at risk of seeming excessively cynical, the inherent risk in coalition-building is that often as much energy goes into that as would be necessary to accomplish the ends if one continued working alone. Then, if the coalition succeeds, eventually someone sees the chance to pick up prestige and perhaps even a salary by becoming head honcho. Ultimately coalitions are no more effective than the individuals in them, and effective individuals are usually going to be effective no matter what they have to work with.

FoA ad

The front line vs. the bottom line

Best of luck to you. Why is it that so often when a group gets big enough to make a difference, it is gutted by cowards who don't want to ruffle feathers and the bottom line becomes more important than the front line?

Our tiny humane society received its charter in 1989 and rescues over 600 domestic animals each year, plus another 200 wild creatures. We convinced the veterinarians in this area to provide to low or fixed income persons low-cost neutering (\$12.50 for a cat neuter to \$30.00 for a dog spay), and we raise monies to subsidize this even further.

The only time we will euthanize is when it is in the best interest of the animal and humans, which happens only 20-30 times a year.

We write a local column, do radio shows, provide pet care education in elementary schools, take owned animals to all local nursing homes, lobby, and rehabilitate wildlife, all with a handful of volunteers.

We have those who would like us to stay popular by not taking

Early neutering

Three cheers for Dr. Leo Lieberman for challenging the status quo and for giving us all some hope. I know he's had a battle with the veterinary community over the years and that he has fought long and hard over this issue. His retirement years have been devoted to early neutering, and there are really so few like him.

Neutering before adoption is the only practice that makes any sense when we have a companion animal overpopulation problem lead-

stands against hunting, fur, and animal use in research. But something a very wise man once said to me always repeats itself loudly: "You fail because you become so focused on the little dog or cat at your feet, that not looking up, you fail to see the nation of animals who are suffering."

—Terry Stanley, President
Northwoods Humane Society
Hayward, Wisconsin

ing to the death of millions of dogs and cats each year. Neutering before adoption is the only 100% certain means we have of guaranteeing that a dog, cat, puppy, or kitten will never add to that awful problem. Deposits meet with limited success. Contracts meet with limited success. Animals get lost. People move. People change their minds about compliance.

Early neutering is a godsend and to date nothing horrific is known to occur as a side effect. The presence of immature genitalia and the delayed closing of long bones are not horrific side effects, but the constant killing of masses of dogs and cats year in and year out is. Neutering, not killing, is the best animal control.

—Petra E. Murray
New Jersey Pet
Overpopulation Solutions
Howell, N.J.

Massachusetts

Koop, anathema to some because of his blunt defense of the use of animals in biomedical research, is now teaching at Dartmouth, and has invested a significant amount of his own money in developing a computer-simulated human cadaver, which could potentially replace thousands of animals in surgical training. We've sent him an extensive list of questions, to which we hope he'll respond.

ASPCA

Regarding the City of New York taking over dog control, they don't do a good job with the homeless people; how can they tend the animals? I asked if the Board of Health will be involved, and I was told somewhat. I asked because they have taken over the dog licenses, and have made a mess, to put it mildly.

—Mary Bloom, New York, N.Y.

Unity

Re: Let's have the sense to come out of the rain (April), J o h n Vermeulin's letter should not be dismissed because the Summit for the Animals failed. If we are to gain any success, it's imperative that we form coalitions with groups that have similar objectives. It isn't necessary to nitpick on every detail. We simply have to agree on which issues we can cooperate.

ANIMAL PEOPLE informs us about all the injustices, abuses, and exploitations. This information eventually overwhelms and disheartens many well-intentioned readers unless they can experience a successful resolution of a specific problem.

Back yard breeders

Looking to buy an American Kennel Club-registered puppy, where do you look? Most people go to the want ads of their local newspaper. Lots of ads are run advertising to sell puppies and kittens. A prospective buyer goes to the seller's home and buys the puppy directly out of the seller's back yard. The seller calls this a hobby. But in truth it is BIG MONEY! Last year alone just in the Dallas city limits, almost 1,000 ads were placed in the *Dallas Morning News*. The average price per animal was \$150. Dogs have anywhere from two to three litters a year. The average litter produces six offspring. One person can easily make around \$2,000 a year. Some do it out of their homes year-round, making an average of \$20,000 a year.

Who monitors these profits? The city of Dallas is looking into this. When they first saw all the ads and the profit being made, they were amazed. The back yard breeder avoids sales tax, zoning laws, the occasional sales ordinance (governing yard sales), and possibly other existing ordinances. These back yard breeders collect over a million dollars a year, while the city of Dallas spends over \$1 million to euthanize the unwanted dogs and cats.

How about the Internal Revenue Service monitoring these sales? Recently I visited the Dallas IRS office. The person I spoke with had never seen nor thought of all the ads and profits. I left feeling the IRS will probably do nothing. I would be curious as to how many people paid the IRS for selling dogs and cats. If at least a thousand people in the Dallas area made a profit, think of the thousands of people across the country making millions right in their back yards. If the cities are not monitoring sales tax, how is the IRS keeping up with tax on the profits of selling these dogs and cats?

Breed rescue

Someone needs to check into the AKC and other registries. How many dogs and cats are being registered each year? Far too many and far too easily. For each registered dog or cat, more offspring are produced, thus continuing the cycle of pet overpopulation, which exists even with purebreds.

It is my hope the media and government take a step into this issue. It is unlawful not to pay taxes, so why are these backyard breeders getting away with this? Breeding and selling is a business, not a hobby. Notice the ads that say cash. Some of these breeders cannot even be traced though the crisscross to find out their names. They have a hidden tax shelter right in their back yard. I hope a reporter is assigned to investigate. As one of my sister's friends told her, "I used to sell drugs, but I switched to selling puppies. I still make \$20,000 a year without paying taxes, but I know the government doesn't go after dog breeders like drug dealers." Something must be done.

—Tawana Couch-Jurek
Dallas, Texas

We're sending a copy of your letter to the personal attention of AKC president Wayne Cavanaugh, and would welcome input from other people in the breed-fancy community as well. We know a lot of fanciers also proclaim vehement opposition to backyard puppy mills as well as the big commercial kind. What we don't know is just what any of these organizations and individuals are doing about it. Breed rescue helps back yard-bred animals after the fact. What's going to prevent their births, short of the enforced breeding bans the fanciers hate? Practical answers, please.

Dogbites

After reading your April 1993 article "Dog and exotic pet bite statistics," I was enraged. Keeping statistics on bites via press accounts is absurd and then to pass it off as a legitimate study is outrageous. I have worked for Minneapolis Animal Control for over five years. This city averages 600 animal bites a year. For you to publish a story that covers 10 years and only involves 184 bites leads me to believe you wanted this article to be biased against pit bulls.

Statistics kept for the City of Minneapolis for over 10 years shows that bites by German shepherds outnumber pit bull bites by a 5:1 margin. Naturally with all the public hysteria over pit bulls, any attack by them will generate media attention. Although they didn't merit media attention, the worst bites during the last two years in Minneapolis were caused by German shepherds. One in particular was a woman who received over 150 stitches in her arms, chest, and neck from her own shepherd.

I am enclosing statistics kept by our department to show that even with the increased population of pit bulls in our city, the bite ratio still overwhelmingly shows German shepherds as the primary biters. I would appreciate it if you would solicit statistics from other cities and publish a more scientific report.

—Monica Fourre, Assistant Supervisor
Minneapolis Animal Control
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Actually, we don't really have any argument, because your numbers were compiled to count total bites whereas ours were compiled to count only bites by dogs kept as pets that caused grievous harm: deaths, maimings, and prolonged hospital stays. While it's true that only a small percentage of dog bites make the papers, it's also true that deaths and maimings usually do, no matter what sort of animal is involved—and because our newspaper accounts have come from a national network of correspondents, our survey is relatively free of regional bias.

Of the breeds in your table, German shepherds and shepherd mixes together comprise an estimated 14% of the U.S. dog population, and are overwhelmingly the dogs of preference for sentry duty. Thus it isn't at all surprising that they account for 20.9% of the bites in any given community. What is surprising, given the frequency of German shepherds

Correction

An item in our April issue incorrectly described the new *Project BREED Red Book Edition* directory as including all of the 1,500 rescue contacts from the 1989 *Yellow Book Edition*, as well as 1,400 new contacts. In fact, it is necessary to purchase both editions, at \$28 and \$19, respectively, to get all 2,900 contacts. Address Project BREED at 18707 Curry Powder Lane, Germantown, MD 20874-2014.

MINNEAPOLIS DOGBITES, 1977–1992
(1990–1991 UNAVAILABLE)

Total dogbites: 8,133

German shepherd:	1,649	20.3%
German shepherd mix:	536	6.6%
Doberman:	401	4.9%
Small terriers :	461	5.7%
Lab retriever:	391	4.8%
Pit bull:	350	4.3%
Poodle:	228	2.8%
Rottweiler:	77	.95%
Cat bites:	1,709	

Thanks to Gina Spadafori for an inspiring article on breed rescue in the April **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Seven years ago I adopted a purebred sheltie named Casey from the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society, a Detroit inner city animal shelter. As a result of that adoption, I became more and more involved in volunteer work for MACS. I am now on the MACS board of directors.

I was not looking for a sheltie when I adopted Casey. Casey is the first purebred animal I have ever had. He was turned into the shelter when he was two years old because he "barks too much." He was debarked when he was eight months old. The shelter manager was very concerned about Casey's future. She wanted to make sure that whoever adopted him understood the habitual barking problem. This was an exceptionally beautiful dog whom anyone would be proud to have, but he needed a special home with someone who would be patient and work with him.

Since getting Casey, I understand why someone would want a purebred dog. With a little training and modifications to my house, so he couldn't see out the front window onto the street, I was able to control his barking. Adopting another dog, a quiet mixed breed, also did wonders to focus his attention away from barking, much of which was the result of boredom when left alone.

Although I do not consider myself a breed rescuer, I very much appreciate the various breed rescue groups in the Detroit area. Many are big supporters of MACS, and through them we have been able to find homes for dogs who otherwise might have been euthanized.

—Marilyn Iskra, secretary
Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society
Detroit, Michigan

I was happy to see a page devoted to breed rescue in your April issue. I hope shelters who do not send purebreds to such groups rethink their position. When a purebred dog arrives at the Animal Rescue League of Fall River, we immediately check the breed rescue list unless we have an adopter who is already approved and is considered a good match for that particular dog. Often a volunteer comes right down to get the dog and moves him or her to a foster home. This frees up our limited space, and when we are full, as we usually are, may save us a decision on whom to euthanize when the next dog comes in. We don't use all breed rescue groups. They must have strict adoption and neutering standards.

Personally, as a member of a dachscund rescue group, I usually have at least one dog being fostered in my home. As a former breeder and exhibitor, before I saw the light, I feel this is one way I can give back to the breed I have been partially responsible for propagating. Also, I have knowledge of the breed that no all-breed rescue group could ever learn, because they don't have the time. Finally, I can hold one or two dogs in my home far longer than an all-breed shelter, and the possibility of the dogs getting adopted rather than euthanized vastly increases.

The purists must face reality and realize that purebreds are here to stay. They are no less or more deserving than mongrels of happiness in a new home. The formation of breed rescue groups has done much to educate breeders about the consequences of breeding and about their responsibilities to the puppies they bring into the world.

My one regret is that cat people do not have the same type of rescue network. In the past year we've had Siamese, Persians, a Scottish Fold, and a Maine Coon cat come into our shelter. It would have been nice to send them to purebred rescue groups, too.

—Carolyn L. Smith
Executive Director
Animal Rescue League of Fall River,
Fall River, Massachusetts

bites, is that pet shepherds have apparently caused only two fatalities in the past decade in the U.S. and Canada combined. Elementary knowledge of German shepherd behavior explains it: they usually bite to hold, not to kill or injure.

Pit bulls, on the other hand, make up no more than 3.1% of the dog population (estimating from a variety of metropolitan animal control department records), and the most common estimate of pit bull numbers is circa 500,000—under 1%. Thus even your numbers show that at best, pit bulls bite with about the same frequency as German shepherds; at worst, they bite more than four times as often. Thus it is no surprise at all that our numbers show pit bulls—pets, please note, not fighting dogs—accounted for 56% of the total attacks causing grievous injury that we have on record, including 44% of the attacks on children, 87% of the attacks on adults, and 56% of the fatalities.

Rottweiler statistics are equally alarming. Rottweilers account for about one third of one percent of the U.S. dog population, but your numbers indicate that they account for almost a full 1% of the bites, and ours show they account for nearly 10% of the attacks causing grievous injury.

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Editor's note:

The American SPCA's announcement in late March that it was giving up the New York City animal control contract came literally as our April issue was going to press. We got on the telephone and fax, got the essentials, bumped a feature to this issue, and got the story out, but there was unfortunately no time to get response from concerned citizens. We're pleased now to offer perspectives from two of the most energetic companion animal rescuers in New York City. Elizabeth Forel is former co-director of New Yorkers for Companion Animals, author of numerous articles and published letters concerning companion animal welfare, a frequent critic of the ASPCA, and occasionally, a defender of the 'A' when she feels it is unfairly maligned. Garo

Alexanian heads the Brooklyn-based Companion Animal Network, and edits Animal Crisis News, an often strident but seriously researched newsletter dedicated to exposing what he terms "the New York Pet Scam," contract by contract and case by case. (The address is P.O. Box 05094, Brooklyn, NY 11205.)

Marty Kurtz of the New York City Department of Public Health, who is an ANIMAL PEOPLE reader, and has inherited a big piece of the responsibility for setting up an animal control system to replace the ASPCA, has asked us to let readers know he welcomes practical suggestions c/o 125 Worth Street, Box 66, New York, NY 10013.

An open letter to the ASPCA and New York City legislators

by Elizabeth Forel

The American SPCA's recent decision to get out of the business of killing homeless cats and dogs leaves many unanswered questions. The killing will continue, only now it may be done behind doors closed even more tightly than before, since the New York City government will most likely but not willingly assume the responsibility. New York City could become the biggest, most horrendous slaughterhouse dog pound in the nation.

Will the ASPCA don white gloves and join with every other shelter and humane society in the greater metropolitan area, calling themselves a "no kill" shelter but closing their eyes to the continuing slaughter of precious healthy animals whose only crime was homelessness? Or will the ASPCA accept the moral and ethical imperative and speak out loudly and effectively against the slaughter, using their newly released energy and financial strength to educate relentlessly against the obscenity of breeding and killing? Their past record does not offer much hope.

The transfer of killing animals to a city agency presents a potentially explosive situation. As with most large cities, the New York City government is out of control, with profound problems in virtually every sector—from school boards to the police department and the housing department, all of them plagued by inevitable and ubiquitous drugs and crime. It is doubtful that legislators will listen to the plea for companion animals; animals are not high on their priority list, since defenders of dogs

must be modeled after similar transfers of authority in other large cities where it has been accomplished in a sensitive, intelligent way, with the highest humane standards and scrupulous safeguards. There needs to be a well thought out plan toward a zero killing goal. This means an independent review board set up to monitor the animal pounds, with continuing oversight—made up of people with proven records in exhibiting compassion for animals. Let there be no political connections or vested interests here; otherwise it will be a failure. We need to look toward cities like San Francisco, where a successful transfer of pound duties to city government has been carried out, and to Seattle, where the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (while still doing the killing) has developed an aggressive community outreach program which stigmatizes breeding and has resulted in less animals killed.

The key to stopping the killing is relentless public education. Educating people about neutering is at the core: less births, less animals, less kills. Overpopulation occurs one litter at a time. The public must be held accountable for perpetuating the killing, and must be made to see the direct connection between this and the mindless breeding of more cats and dogs. And if they have lost their innocence and can no longer be reached by compassion, then it is incumbent upon all of us to remind them that the \$4.5 million the killing work costs New York each year comes from everyone's taxes.

and cats have proven less vocal than most other lobbying groups. All of this is exacerbated by a mostly unsupportive populace, more interested in following the true-life soap operas of Amy Fisher and Woody Allen/Mia Farrow than in saving animals from death.

Regardless of all these obstacles, this transition

The ASPCA will now have the unique opportunity to carry out the mission and vision of its founder, Henry Bergh: to truly work toward "alleviating pain, fear and suffering among animals," and to affirm, rather than to destroy the sanctity of life. It's a big job, but let's hope they heed the call.

Coby, rescued by New Yorkers for Companion Animals. photographed by NYCA director Patty Adjamine. "Blind in his right eye and incapable of vocalization, he nevertheless has evolved into an extremely loving, devoted, intelligent and happy, well-adjusted dog," she tells us.

Is the ASPCA a dog-in-the-manger?

by Garo Alexanian

Last month's historic announcement from the American SPCA that it would no longer bid for the \$4.5 million contract for operating a pet-killing facility for the City of New York was apparently motivated by the introduction of Assembly Bill 5376A just three weeks prior.

This bill would finally bring New York City's counties (boroughs) parity with all the other counties in the state with respect to the formation of county-wide Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Whereas almost all other counties in the state have the right to have their own county-wide SPCA, the boroughs of Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, and Brooklyn are prohibited from so doing by state law. An SPCA is basically a volunteer police force for animals. Functional SPCAs are essential to shape the public's attitude, behavior, and compliance with responsible pet ownership laws. SPCAs help determine which animal crimes get investigated and prosecuted, and more importantly, *who* gets prosecuted. If it chose to, a borough SPCA might bid on any or all of the \$4.5 million contract the ASPCA has relinquished.

In his TV news appearance, ASPCA President Roger Caras admitted that the ASPCA had "strayed" from its mission and purposes in the 1890s, when soon after founder Henry Bergh's death in 1988 the ASPCA began to kill New York City's unwanted pets. In the written news release, however, Caras claimed that the \$4.5 million animal control contract had "sapped" the ASPCA's financial resources. This is misleading, as the ASPCA *increased* its annual income from \$10 million in 1985 to \$22 million in 1991, over a 100% *increase* in just seven years! The news release further implies that the ASPCA's "sapped" resources are the reason for the well-known problems within the virtually non-existent humane law enforcement division. Mr. Caras asserts that the ASPCA will now "continue to employ as many of our workers as possible, placing them in our expanded humane law enforcement." No less than four times in the three-page release, the ASPCA proposes to

now "expand" and "increase" law enforcement.

But if increased law enforcement is what the ASPCA concedes to be necessary, why is it vehemently opposing the creation of additional SPCAs in New York City? Why is it opposing AB 5376A? It appears plausible that the ASPCA made this "historic" announcement at this time not for any of the reasons cited on the TV news, nor in their news release, but rather as a strategic maneuver in their opposition to 5376A. The ASPCA can now contend to the legislature, the city, and the public that the ASPCA's resources will no longer be sapped by animal control, and that their increased and expanded humane law enforcement precludes the obvious need for county-wide SPCAs in New York City.

Moreover, in a recent ASPCA mailing, ASPCA president Roger Caras states their recommendation that the Legislature create a New York Animal Control Authority. Surely Mr. Caras will admit to what virtually every citizen in New York City knows to be true: that a public authority's handling of animals would be no better than the ASPCA's own past record. The Transit Authority, the Housing Authority, and the Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority are examples of the debacles of the Public Authorities Law. Do we *really* want another impersonal, incompetent, and intransigent public authority loose in New York City? Especially when the services to be provided are so complex, very diverse, and require organization, cost-efficiency, expertise, *and* compassion? No public authority yet has possessed *any* of these qualifying criteria. To anticipate the creation of the first for animals is preposterously humorous and unrealistic.

In proposing such an obviously misguided approach, I question whether the ASPCA's motive for opposing 5376A isn't their concern that the competition between neighboring borough-wide SPCAs might actually result in competent and cost-effective community-based services, and perhaps even end euthanasia, leaving everyone

to wonder why the ASPCA was not able to control this problem during their 100 years of experience. The ASPCA has blamed the city, the unions, the legislature (for failing to put an additional tax on pet food to pay them additional monies for animal control), the district attorneys (for allegedly failing to prosecute animal crimes), and the public at large for the existence of the animal crisis within New York City and state. Yet when numerous ASPCA members including ASPCA board members, and other animal organizations sued the ASPCA in 1945, 1952, 1960, and 1975 for allegedly violating its purposes, the ASPCA did not budge, let alone admit to straying. Despite founder Henry Bergh's vehement opposition to the use of animals for vivisection, the ASPCA once had contracts for supplying animals for vivisection. The ASPCA further fought to retain the Metcalf-Hatch Act, which permitted pound seizure. The ASPCA has resisted all legal attempts to force the restoration of its bylaws to their original form, which allowed *all* board members to be elected by the general membership. The ASPCA is now fighting to keep a bill to authorize unnecessary and cruel cat intubation alive for yet another city contract. (The bill would authorize paramedic trainees to practice intubation on cats who are anesthetized at the ASPCA clinic for neutering.) It is also fighting to prevent the creation of desperately needed additional mechanisms for protecting animals in New York City by opposing 5376A.

The ASPCA has no right to blame anyone other than its own five lifetime board members, who under the bylaws as amended in 1900 and 1907, cannot be replaced by the membership, regardless of anything they do or don't do. And we thought that nobody could "own" a charity.

Editor's note: Of the 21 members of the ASPCA board of directors, Bernard McGivern, Harold Finkelstein, James Stebbins, Thomas Tscerepine, and board chairman Thomas McCarter never stand for election, and are permitted to select their own successors.

"*The San Mateo ordinance is a failure.*"

—breeder

(continued from page one)

aggressive anti-pet breeding ordinances recently passed—with some amendments—in San Mateo County, California; King County, Washington; and Montgomery County, Maryland. Similar ordinances have now been proposed in several dozen other communities, from Hawaii to Massachusetts. Most have met intense opposition from breeders and breed fanciers, who feel unjustly singled out. Statistics generally don't support the claim that purebred enthusiasts are responsible for more than a fraction of the pet overpopulation problem, but anti-breeding ordinances tend to target the dog and cat "fancy" because fanciers can be identified and regulated much more easily than people who simply let unaltered animals roam. Anti-breeding ordinances have thus predictably driven a contentious wedge between fanciers and humane workers, who previously were often longtime allies. On the one hand, the threat of costly breeding regulation may have stimulated an explosion of interest in breed rescue and fancy-sponsored neutering drives: since 1989, the number of breed rescue groups indexed by Project Breed has nearly doubled, while virtually all fancy clubs now recommend that dogs and cats not intended for use as breeding stock be neutered. On the other hand, the dog and cat fancies are rife with unsubstantiated rumors of "animal rights activists" releasing show animals from cages, or even purportedly poisoning them. American Kennel Club president Wayne Cavanaugh has repeatedly denied that any such incidents have ever taken place, and at least three media probes have found no evidence to support the rumors, but they pop up wherever anti-breeding ordinances are under discussion.

Not that sensationalism is limited to the more anxious elements of the fancy community. Kim Sturla, then

(puppy & kitten)

County ordinance, which director Kathy Savesky credits with helping reduce the number of euthanasias the society performs from circa 10,000 in 1990 to circa 8,500 last year. Still, the popularity of strong-sounding legislation and practicality are often two different matters.

On March 18, the Humane Society of the U.S. tried to please everyone by simultaneously endorsing the concept of anti-breeding legislation and asking breeders to respect a voluntary nationwide breeding moratorium—the success of which, supposedly could forestall the passage of mandatory breeding moratoriums, such as were included in the original drafts of the San Mateo and King County ordinances, but were removed through amendment before they took effect. The HSUS position is likely to be popular within the humane community, but unlikely to be endorsed by breeders, some of whom depend upon breeding for income, while others have substantial investments in show animals whose prime breeding years are few—even though they may be capable of producing some offspring for a decade or more after passing their exhibition prime.

pets at home and promoting the idea that all pets deserve lifelong care. Second, homeless animals were offered for adoption. Third, it introduced the use of a carbon monoxide gas chamber, to replace the old, slow, painful practices of clubbing animals to death and/or drowning them in iron cages. All three approaches—education, adoption, and euthanasia—were promptly advanced nationwide by the American Humane Association, founded five years later. They remained the mainstays of pet population control for more than a century. Until affordable spaying became widely available in the 1950s, little else could be done: castrating male animals had little effect, so long as any fertile males remained at large.

But the traditional approaches were never very effective. Adoption campaigns helped to more than double the number of dogs and cats in homes between 1960 and 1980, but since most of these animals were fertile, the number of animals who were euthanized from lack of homes increased even faster. According to AHA figures, there were 33.6 million pet cats and 32.6 million pet dogs in the

(Photo by Mary Bloom.)

executive director of the Peninsula Humane Society, introduced the first draft of the San Mateo ordinance to the public in October 1990, by euthanizing a number of homeless animals on camera and showing the film crews the barrels of animals killed earlier in the day. That tactic succeeded in drawing media attention to the pet overpopulation problem. Sturla today is companion animal programs director for the Fund for Animals. Based in Vacaville, California, a short distance from the state capitol in Sacramento, Sturla now promotes anti-breeding ordinances throughout the U.S., and is among the most prominent supporters of AB 302. In this capacity, Sturla recently circulated a "fact sheet" claiming that "only 55% of companion cats are sterilized," while some studies cited by animal behaviorist Desmond Morris in his books *Catwatching* and *Catlore* (see reviews, page 19) put the percentage who are sterilized as high as 91%. Sturla argued that the U.S. feral cat population is 50 to 60 million, well above the highest published scientific estimate of 35 million. And Sturla charged that, "Every day, 4.4 million birds are killed by companion cats," whereas the only systematic study of bird predation by cats, done in 1989 by John Lawton and Peter Churcher in suburbs of London, England, would indicate that the highest U.S. toll would be 636,000 birds per day.

Margaret Anne Cleek, a member of the Alaska Malamute Club of America, hit such exaggerations hard March 13 in a guest column for the *Sacramento Bee*. She noted that proposed anti-breeding ordinances are frequently said to be based on "successful" ordinances in effect elsewhere, before the prototypes have been enacted long enough to be judged. "The ordinance in King County, Washington, for example, was predicated on the alleged success of the San Mateo ordinance," Cleek charged. "Sacramento, in turn, was urged to adopt an ordinance similar to the 'model' King County ordinance. Now Stanislaus County (Calif.) is being lobbied to adopt a spay/neuter ordinance that's supposed to be like Sacramento's," although the ordinance proposed in Sacramento was watered down to a conventional requirement that animals adopted from pounds and shelters must be neutered before it achieved passage.

"In fact," Cleek continued, "the San Mateo ordinance is a failure both in terms of fiscal and humane impact. After nine months in operation, members of the county task force there reported that only 18 breeding permits had been sold, enforcement costs totaled \$33,920, and revenues from dog licenses had fallen \$18,000," apparently as result of widespread noncompliance with the registration requirements. Cleek's judgement may be harsh; the Peninsula Humane Society remains enthusiastic about the San Mateo

"...although the practical result of humane animal population control may be to solve problems for humans, the moral objective is to prevent suffering."

The search for humane solutions to pet overpopulation dates back at least to 1872, when the Women's Humane Society of Philadelphia became the first animal protection group to assume the management of a municipal dog pound—and voluntarily began taking in stray cats as well. In so doing, WHS articulated the basic understandings that have underscored humane efforts against pet overpopulation ever since. Most significantly, WHS recognized that although the practical result of humane animal population control may be to solve problems for humans, the moral objective is to prevent suffering. Then, as now, animal control legislation tended to focus upon preventing the formation of roving dog packs, which pose a more apparent threat to public safety than half-starved feral cat colonies. Thus funding for animal control was and is directly tied to human needs. By stretching the available funding and the political mandate to try to help cats as well as dogs, WHS acknowledged that humans have a duty to humanely respond to all homeless animals, especially since the problem is caused at least as much by human behavior as by animal nature.

This is more than just a matter of irresponsible pet keepers letting animals run loose. In North America, the most comparable wild cousins of our domestic dogs and cats are coyotes and bobcats, each of whom typically maintains a territory of up to several square miles. By contrast, counting only pets, there are now approximately 15 dogs and 17 cats per square mile of land surface in the continental U.S., plus as many as 10 feral cats. Animals instinctively breed up to the carrying capacity of the habitat, but it is humans who have boosted the carrying capacity of North America exponentially beyond natural limits by making food and shelter relatively abundant, predators and competitors relatively few, while concentrating dogs and cats to such an extent that the search for a mate may take them minutes rather than weeks. There isn't enough food and shelter available to support the whole dog and cat population, but there is enough to support a breeding population capable of sustained rapid growth, where in nature most species are only able to maintain their numbers.

WHS introduced three basic approaches to the homeless pet problem. First, it began a vigorous humane education program, stressing the importance of keeping

U.S. circa 1971-1973, while 13.3 million homeless dogs and cats, 17% of the total, were euthanized in pounds and shelters. By 1985, surveys found as many as 56 million pet cats and 54 million pet dogs, but the number of animals euthanized in pounds and shelters was up proportionately to 17.7 million, still 16% of the total.

Finally, after being around for over 30 years spaying began to gain popularity—at which point neutering male animals also started to have an impact upon dog and cat numbers. Humane societies not only pushed neutering of both sexes; many also opened their own in-house, low-cost neutering clinics, and many more began to require that any animal adopted out be neutered. This requirement was and is typically enforced by collecting a deposit, refundable upon presentation of proof that the animal has been sterilized. Municipal governments cooperated by instituting differential licensing, now nearly universal, which gives owners of sterilized animals a substantial discount. In Los Angeles, one of the first communities to try differential licensing, only 5% of the licensed dogs were sterilized as of 1970, but 54% were by 1979.

As of 1987, there were 58 million pet cats and 55 million pet dogs in the U.S., but the number of animals euthanized in pounds and shelters declined for the first time to 12.2 million, about 11% of the total. A year later, in 1988, there were 59 million pet cats and 56 million pet dogs, but the number of animals euthanized in pounds and shelters edged down to 10.1 million, just 8.8% of the total.

Indications are, however, that the neutering drive has already done almost all it can do without reinforcement. There are now as many as 61 million pet cats and 56 million pet dogs, while the 1991 AHA pound and shelter survey found that 11.1 million animals were euthanized in the preceding year—9.5% of the total. More recent surveys report more encouraging findings. Andrew Rowan of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine suggests the current euthanasia toll may be as low as 6.5 million animals.

Yet Rowan, too, believes that whatever the toll is it isn't likely to fall much farther using only the present tactics. Humane societies all over North America report that while responsible pet owners have now accepted neutering as a necessity, many other people with pets will have their neutered only if the operations are cheaper and more convenient than other means of disposing of unwanted puppies and kittens: dumping them, drowning them, dropping them off at pounds and shelters, or giving them away via "free to good home" ads to people who may be equally careless and perhaps even deliberately abusive.

And, finally, there are pet keepers who simply

Recent gains against pet overpopulation could be wiped out by 1998—or sooner

will not have an animal neutered unless compelled to do so. One recent national survey indicated that this group may include up to 35% of all pet keepers. Another survey, by Laura Hunyadi of Stilwell, Kansas, found that of 475 pet keepers in her community, 78% of the adults and 46% of the adolescents were aware of pet overpopulation—but their awareness did not significantly affect their choice of whether or not to neuter.

The contribution of irresponsible pet keepers to pet overpopulation is not to be minimized. Just one female cat and her progeny, producing two average-sized litters per year, could theoretically produce 4,000 offspring in seven years. One female dog and her progeny could produce 4,000 offspring in 10 years. Thus a mere 3,000 irresponsible pet keepers, with only one female cat or dog apiece, could within seven to 10 years erase all the progress made against pet overpopulation since 1985.

In actuality, animals rarely reproduce at the maximum rate, mainly because many offspring die (especially cats)—or are killed—before reaching reproductive age. But even if the actual dog and cat reproduction rate is only one tenth of one percent of the possible maximum, three million irresponsible pet keepers could put the euthanasia rate back to the 1985 level as early as 1998. Three million irresponsible pet keepers would be under 5% of all pet keepers. If the percentage of pet keepers who refuse to neuter without compulsion is really as high as 35%, recent gains could be wiped out by mid-1994.

Meanwhile, shelter after shelter reports having reached the plateau suggested by the AHA surveys—a point at which, after rapidly dropping, the euthanasia rate seems to have leveled off or even begun climbing again. In Los Angeles, for instance, city-subsidized neutering clinics cut the number of homeless dogs and cats impounded each year from 144,000 in 1970 to 72,500 by 1982, and cut the number euthanized each year from over 80,000 to circa 40,000 over the same period. By 1991, however, the number of dogs and cats impounded was back up to 87,000, and as adoptive homes became harder to find because the number of animals taken in was rising far faster than the number of

fight pet overpopulation for decades. The original form of such legislation, and the simplest, involves attempting to limit the number of animals who may be kept by any one household. This approach has many politically popular features. First, it is easy to understand. Second, it sounds easy to enforce, usually via pet licensing. Third, it promises to cost the community nothing; enforcement costs presumably will be met by licensing fees and/or fines for non-compliance. Further, in many communities, pet limits merely codify rules that have been informally maintained by landlords for generations. Finally, pet limits allow governmental bodies to "address" pet overpopulation without actually having to do anything about it. In effect, pet limits throw the responsibility for figuring out how to reduce pet numbers back to individual pet keepers, who may take no more action than they ever did.

Statutory limits on animal numbers have even been incorporated into some more aggressive legislation, including the celebrated San Mateo County anti-breeding ordinance. However, while pet limits may restrict the numbers

Other communities have simply limited the number of animals who may be free-roaming. In May 1992 Natick, Massachusetts, not only adopted strict pet limits (and differential licensing), but also barred free-roaming pets altogether. Because free-roaming pets who have not been neutered often breed with strays and ferals, the latter provision may help somewhat to slow dog and cat overpopulation. But even indoor pets escape once in a while, and sexually intact dogs and cats are quite as capable of breeding indoors as out, if they get the opportunity.

Finally, pet limits can discourage animal rescuers especially those who practice neuter/release to control feral cat populations. The neuter/release technique, imported from England and South Africa approximately a decade ago consists of neutering feral cats, inoculating them against distemper and rabies (and sometimes other diseases), then returning them to their habitat, where they are kept under the supervision of volunteer feeders. The feeders insure that the cats don't become a public nuisance, and detect any fertile newcomers to each cat colony.

*A closet full
of recently rescued
ferals.*

*(Photo by
Kim Bartlett.)*

human households in the community, the total of dogs and cats euthanized soared to 67,000. (Los Angeles animal control work was disrupted in 1992 by budgetary problems and the riots that followed the initial verdict in the Rodney King vs. Los Angeles Police case, so more current figures can't be used as a yardstick.)

Seeking ways to consolidate gains and enable further progress, humane societies, animal control departments, and advocacy groups are turning to legislation for help, uncomfortably aware that the opportunity may be brief. If breeding can't be controlled now, within just a few years the situation may again be as out of hand as it was 15 or 20 years ago.

Just limit the numbers

Despite the great attention paid to anti-breeding ordinances since October 1990, laws have been enacted to

Tom

of animals who officially live at any location, they do little or nothing to reduce the overall dog and cat population. Indeed, pet limits might even encourage pet overpopulation by providing an incentive for people whose pets have litters to give away the puppies and kittens as fast as they can to any takers, no questions asked, and to dump the animals if there are no takers, before they get big enough to be noticed by complaining neighbors.

Pet limits have one major virtue, in that they give animal control authorities a means of moving against "animal collectors," who adopt far more animals than they can humanely handle, often to prevent the animals from being euthanized in a shelter. Animal collectors tend to be elderly, socially isolated, delusionary, and generally well-regarded in the community for taking in otherwise unwanted dogs and cats, no matter how poor the standard of care. When prosecuted under ordinary anti-cruelty laws, animal collectors tend to get off easily—and have an extremely high rate of recidivism, often estimated at 80% or more. For this reason alone, weary animal control departments often support pet limits—especially if they haven't seen such limits fail in other communities.

But animal collectors are only a small minority of the people who may have more pets, especially cats, than pet limits typically allow. Cat keepers average four cats apiece in some parts of the U.S. two above the typical statutory limit. Thus cat keepers have turned out in force to fight proposed limits in communities including Syracuse, New York; Gloucester, Pennsylvania; and Akron, Ohio. In some cases, hours of anti-limit testimony from responsible pet keepers have made municipal counselors reluctant to consider any anti-pet overpopulation bills.

Where pet limits are in force, for instance in Denver, Colorado, many responsible pet keepers feel constrained from providing as many good homes as they otherwise might. Many others simply defy the law, since if animals are kept indoors, detecting limit violations can be very difficult. Animal control officers meanwhile discover that trying to enforce pet limits is both thankless and endless work. Consequently the limits have a way of being forgotten as quickly as possible.

Denver tried to get around this problem by prorating the number of animals per household according to the size of the property. The amount of floor space, however, might have been a more appropriate determinant of the pet "carrying capacity" of a house or apartment than the amount of yard space surrounding it. Certainly a three-story Victorian house with little or no yard space will provide more habitat for indoor cats than a modest two-bedroom ranch house, even if the latter is on a ten-acre lot.

(Photo by Merritt Clifton.)

Neuter/release is highly controversial, opposed as cruel by HSUS, but endorsed by other humane groups including Friends of Animals, Alley Cat Allies, and the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy. A demonstrator neuter/release project completed by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 1992 and a national survey of cat rescuers undertaken later in 1992 by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and the Massachusetts SPCA produced somewhat ambiguous results, from the humane perspective. (See "Cat Project Update," 9/92, and "Seeking the truth about feral cats," 10/92.) The survey did indicate, however, that neuter/release is effective in reducing the homeless cat population. About 75% of the respondents who had tried neuter/release reported that it stopped the growth of the feral cat colonies they observed. Neuter/release may have been included in an official animal control plan for the first time in Cape May, New Jersey. According to Cape May animal control department head John Queenan, neuter/release has helped to reduce the euthanasia rate in his jurisdiction to virtually zero.

As usually worded, pet limits have the effect of putting neuter/release rescuers at risk of being identified and prosecuted as the alleged "owners" of the cats they care for inasmuch as they are feeding them, providing veterinary care, and often holding them in homes, at least overnight before and after surgery. This problem could be avoided if existing pet limits were amended to include a special exemption for authorized rescuers, who would have to be registered with the local animal control department and would have to meet various other appropriate conditions such as guaranteeing neutering, marking the cats in some way for identification purposes, and returning cats only to property where owners are willing to tolerate their presence.

Differential Licensing

Differential licensing is the most widely practiced form of pet breeding regulation, and is probably the easiest form to enforce. The idea is simply to collect a higher license fee from people who keep unaltered animals, plus a higher reclamation fee from the keepers of any unaltered animals who are picked up by animal control officers. The higher fees give owners a substantial incentive to neuter especially over several years. While obtaining compliance is as difficult as obtaining compliance with any kind of licensing, the experience of hundreds of communities indicates that at least differential licensing isn't any more difficult to enforce than traditional single-fee licensing.

Although differential licensing is usually applied only to dogs, because relatively few jurisdictions license

45% of California shelters neuter on site

cats, it is demonstrably effective. One study found that a sampling of 86 pounds and shelters located in areas without differential licensing handled approximately the same number of dogs each year from 1980 to 1985. By comparison, 61 pounds and shelters in areas that had differential licensing handled an average of 12.3% fewer dogs. Thus if differential licensing had been in effect across the whole U.S., pounds and shelters would have euthanized an average of two million fewer homeless dogs per year.

Early differential licensing ordinances usually tried to set the fees just high enough to cover the operating costs of animal control. The higher fees for unaltered animals were typically no higher than they needed to be to make up for any revenue lost by setting lower fees for altered animals. As more law-abiding pet keepers opted to neuter, however, the revenues from licensing unaltered animals decreased. This raised a dilemma. Some jurisdictions opted to further increase the licensing fee for unaltered animals, at risk of decreasing compliance. The argument was made, with some validity, that people who wouldn't spend money to neuter wouldn't spend money on licensing, either. Other jurisdictions went for the easy income by increasing the licensing fee for animals who had been neutered, whose keepers were known to be cooperative. This had the effect of narrowing the gap between fees, again encouraging non-compliance.

Extending differential licensing to cats poses an additional set of problems, even if the advent of tattooing and/or microchip identification has made it possible to identify cats who won't wear collars. First, animal control officers still can't tell at a glance whether a cat carrying a tattoo or microchip implant is in fact currently licensed. Second, a new population of pet keepers must be convinced to pay what many perceive as a thinly disguised tax. To be fair, some cat-licensing proposals in recent years have been exactly that. Objections to cat licensing can be partially answered by pointing to the AHA redemption statistics, which show that only about 2% of all cats who enter pounds and shelters are reunited with keepers, compared with a 16.3% reunion rate for dogs.

Some examples of differential licensing structures:

<u>DOGS</u>	<u>Intact</u>	<u>Neuter</u>
San Mateo County, Cali f.	\$25.00	\$10.00

Two views of Vincent, rescued by ANIMAL PEOPLE as a starving stray close to death, now fully recovered.

(Photos by Kim Bartlett.)

low as to be virtually meaningless, while the differential in King County, Washington, is close to the cost of neutering a tomcat at many discount clinics. People who pay the \$55 fee for licensing an intact animal are given coupons worth a discount of \$25 on a neutering operation.

Amendments to the basic differential licensing structure have proved essential in most jurisdictions, either to secure enactment of differential licensing in the first place, or to secure enforcement. Most significantly, breed fanciers' associations have demanded discount permits for breeding kennels. Fort Wayne, Indiana, established a professional breeder's permit in 1982, now priced at \$100 per year. Professional breeders are defined as people whose animals produce more than one litter in total over any 12-month period. People who keep more than three unaltered animals are also required to get a kennel or cattery license. These measures have been widely emulated. But the Fort Wayne system has been considerably refined meanwhile. The original Fort Wayne differential licensing system included a \$25 "household breeder's permit," required of anyone who sold, traded, or gave away a litter. Because this tended to penal-

Other variants in the San Mateo County licensing structure include a fanciers' permit priced at \$10 for anyone who keeps more than four but no more than 10 cats and/or dogs; and a stipulation that anyone who feeds an animal for 30 days becomes responsible for having the animal neutered. An exemption is provided for people who feed feral cats, if "an organization for humanely trapping cats" is notified. Finally, people with more than 10 dogs or cats are required to obtain kennel/cattery permits, costing \$5 per animal if the animals are simply pets; \$25 per animal if the offspring are sold or given away.

Further common variants on differential licensing include special discounts and/or lifetime permits for senior citizens and people on fixed incomes. Some jurisdictions also issue temporary licenses at a nominal fee (under \$5) for animals taken in by registered rescuers, providing that the animals are neutered and adopted out within a specified period (usually 60 to 90 days), or euthanized. Adopters are then required to obtain the regular licenses. Since taming a feral cat sufficiently to adopt out may take six months, a temporary licensing provision may include a limited exten-

Connecticut, state	\$15.00	\$ 6.00
Dade County, Florida	\$25.00	\$20.00
Palm Beach County, Fla.	\$ 9.50	\$ 4.00
Fort Wayne, Indiana	\$25.00	\$ 4.00
Charlotte, N.Carolina	\$20.00	\$ 5.00
Pittsburgh, Penn.	\$12.00	\$ 5.00
Houston, Texas	\$10.00	\$ 4.00
King County, Washington	\$55.00	\$10.00

<u>CATS</u>	<u>Intact</u>	<u>Neuter</u>
San Mateo County, Calif.	\$15.00	\$ 5.00
Connecticut, state	none	none
Dade County, Florida	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.00
Palm Beach County, Fla.	\$ 9.50	\$ 4.00
Fort Wayne, Indiana	\$25.00	\$ 4.00
Charlotte, N. Carolina	\$20.00	\$ 5.00
Pittsburgh, Penn.	\$12.00	\$ 5.00
Houston, Texas	\$10.00	\$ 4.00
King County, Washington	\$55.00	\$10.00

The differentials in Dade County, Florida, are so

(puppies)

ize people who adopted pregnant strays and/or sought homes for abandoned kittens, it was replaced in 1990 with a "minor breeder's permit." People whose pets have litters are now ticketed and given the choice of either purchasing the minor breeder's permit for \$40, or paying a fine of \$10 plus the fee for spay surgery at the city neutering clinic, which is a maximum of \$40.

Most breeder licensing systems now in effect follow the Fort Wayne model, but San Mateo County took a somewhat different approach, as result of compromises enacted after a year-long debate over stiffer anti-breeding measures that were largely scrapped. There, since December 1991, breeders have been required to pay \$25 per animal for a breeding permit, plus \$5 for an unaltered animal permit, over and above the higher licensing fee for an unaltered dog or cat. However, the higher licensing fee is waived and a license is issued at the same price as for an unaltered dog or cat *if* the guardian promises in writing that the animal will not be allowed to breed unless the owner has first obtained a breeding permit. This clause substantially reduces the deterrent to "accidental" breeding.

sion clause.

The leading cause of dispute in connection with differential licensing involves the disposition of license fees. If the revenue goes straight into the jurisdiction's general fund, licensing functions as a form of taxation, and eventually tends to become managed as such—meaning that fees are adjusted to produce maximum income, rather than maximum success in combatting pet overpopulation. Even where licensing revenue is specifically directed into an animal control budget, diversions from anti-overpopulation programs are frequent when animal control departments need new offices or trucks or are more interested in trapping coyotes than in preventing kitten births. The most successful differential licensing ordinances set priorities for the use of revenues. The first priority is usually administration of the program itself; the second is care of impounded dogs and cats and the third is subsidizing neutering.

Sterilization of adopted animals

Probably because pound and shelter managers are the first people in any community to confront pet overpopulation, pounds and shelters began the neutering push of the past two decades. Initially, some humane societies with in-house pet surgery clinics began refusing to adopt out animals until they were neutered. This seemed to be a risky stance at least at first, since prospective adopters were required to cover all or most of the cost of the operation. As the price of adopting an animal rose, critics feared, the adoption rate would plummet.

Instead, the adoption rate usually held even or climbed. Shelter staff soon realized that instead of perceiving the added cost of sterilization as a burden, most of the adopting public perceived it as a bargain: a desirable service at, typically, a substantial discount over what veterinarians in private practice were charging. Many pounds and shelters without in-house surgical facilities rushed to build them. By 1990, the architectural firm George Miers & Associates reported, 45% of community-run shelters in California offered in-house neutering. But many pounds and shelters especially in less wealthy regions, are still unable to raise the cost of adding a neutering clinic. In addition, low-priced neutering clinics have often drawn political opposition from veterinarians in private practice, who argue that such clinics amount to unfair competition.

The result was the widespread institution of an awkward compromise: the collection of refundable neutering deposits. Collecting refundable deposits is universally feasible—all it takes is a cash box—and generally acceptable to veterinarians in private practice, since under this sys-

(Photo by Mary Bloom.)

Purpose-bred animals will have substantially more value when similar animals are no longer euthanized by the million from lack of adoptive homes.

tem they keep the whole neutering business. But deposits, even if refundable, are not as popular with the public as service on the spot. In addition, a variety of shelter surveys have discovered that roughly half of all neutering deposits are never reclaimed. No doubt some adopters proceed with neutering as promised, but leave their deposits behind as donations. It is likely, however, that most of the people who forfeit neutering deposits just don't get around to having the operations done. This appears to be especially true in communities where the neutering deposit is markedly lower than the typical cost of the surgery. But pounds and shelters are in a double bind. If the amount of the neutering deposit is keyed to the cost of the surgery, and the cost of the surgery by local veterinarians is high, the deposit amount may exceed the typical cost of acquiring a pet from a breeder or commercial dealer. Further, a high combined outlay for deposit and surgery can discourage adopters, even if the deposit is promptly and fully refunded.

Many pounds and shelters now use a variant on the neutering deposit. Instead of making the deposit refundable, they collect a nonrefundable adoption fee that includes part of the price of neutering, and issue the adopter a coupon for discount neutering surgery, redeemable at cooperating local veterinary clinics. The veterinarians who perform the neutering then get a rebate from the pound or shelter. There is evidence that the coupon/rebate system is more effective than the refundable deposits, both in encouraging neutering surgery and in facilitating adoptions. The municipal shelter in Alexandria, Virginia, for instance, doubled adoptions within five years after starting a coupon/rebate program.

Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1985 instituted yet another approach to enforcing the neutering of adopted animals: a legally binding contract that allows the city to reclaim the animals if they are not neutered within a specified time. Within three years, the noncompliance rate dropped from 30.7% to 5.9%.

Noting the rising cost of traditional animal control, including euthanasia, a growing number of governmental bodies now mandate the neutering of adopted animals. Among the states with such requirements are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Kansas, Massachusetts, Oklahoma,

(although adoptable dogs and cats are still euthanized at the city pound). The Humane Society of Huron Valley, Michigan, opened a subsidized neutering clinic in 1975, altering 31,000 animals by 1984. The number of animals admitted to the Huron Valley shelter dropped by half. The Humane Society of Charlotte, North Carolina, subsidized neutering 10,000 animals between 1980 and 1984, achieving a 16% reduction in the number of cats it received.

As subsidized neutering caught on, clinics refined their *modus operandi*. Many clinics now neuter puppies and kittens as young as eight weeks of age. Although surgery on such young animals may be somewhat riskier than on older animals, the risk is offset by the 20% average increase in longevity among neutered dogs and cats, as well as by the value of preventing early litters. Some clinics have also greatly expedited neutering procedures. The Animal Foundation of Nevada clinic in Las Vegas, opened in January 1989, performs an average of 60 neuterings per day with just one staff veterinarian. This is accomplished through the extensive use of veterinary technicians, who do everything that doesn't actually require a surgeon. As of April 21, 1992, the clinic had altered 25,000 animals, about 25% of them without charge to the guardians.

Subsidized neutering clinics remain unpopular with veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association has officially opposed them since 1991; humane societies in Louisiana and Ohio have had to fight long, costly court battles in order to offer discount neutering (although the issue in Louisiana focused on additional procedures); and 37.5% of the private practice veterinarians in a recent national poll cited discount neutering and vaccination clinics as the leading threat to their income. It is possible that the increasing availability of discount neutering is holding down veterinary fees. Another survey found that 58% of AVMA members consider neutering only marginally profitable, while 4% claim to lose money on the procedures.

Rebates to veterinarians who provide discount neutering, funded by differential licensing, are one means of overcoming veterinary opposition. Palm Beach County, Florida, pioneered this approach in 1982, after a poll discovered that 74% of West Palm Beach pet keepers, half of

None of the above strategies are mutually exclusive. On the contrary, the most effective breeding regulations include differential licensing, mandatory neutering of animals adopted from pounds and shelters, and subsidized neutering, working in concert. Such regulations must also be supported by both vigorous enforcement and ongoing public education.

Comprehensive breeding ordinances met fierce opposition in San Mateo and King County because they initially included breeding moratoriums, designed to heavily penalize any and all breeding until the number of adoptable animals euthanized in pounds and shelters dropped to effectively zero. Breeders and fanciers charged that the moratoriums would have unfairly penalized people who breed animals carefully and deliberately, to meet demand for particular types of animal not commonly available from pounds and shelters. Similar objections have been made to high licensing differentials proposed elsewhere.

The debate served to focus attention on the origins of pet overpopulation. If the sources of pet animals are any clue to the origins of strays, a 1984 study of pet acquisition in Las Vegas is instructive. Researcher Rudy Nassar discovered that 26.3% of pet dogs and 10% of pet cats come from breeders, kennels, and pet shops; 50% of pet dogs and 43% of pet cats come from other pet keepers; 11.4% of pet dogs and 14% of pet cats come from pounds and shelters; 8% of pet dogs and 24.5% of pet cats are adopted as strays; 4% of pet dogs and 9.7% of pet cats are born at home. If all or most of the animals obtained from other pet keepers and born at home are considered to be from "accidental" litters and this figure is combined with the numbers adopted from pounds and shelters and as strays, the total can be interpreted to mean that 74% of pet dogs and 90% of pet cats are the result of accidental breeding.

Nassar's figures are confirmed by surveys of animal population in pounds and shelters. The SPCAs of Santa Cruz and Monterey, California, reported in 1987 and 1991 respectively, that about 27% of the dogs they received were purebreds, along with under 1% of the cats. More than 3,000 miles away, the Bucks County SPCA in Pennsylvania

and Texas. Another state, New Jersey, strongly encourages neutering adopted animals by using license fees to subsidize the surgery. The adopters pay only \$20 for neutering; low-income adopters pay even less.

However, studies have found that pound and shelter adoptions account for only 3% to 17% of the total pet population (depending upon the region surveyed).

Subsidized Neutering

Mercy Crusade, of Los Angeles, opened the first open-access, public-operated discount neutering clinic in the U.S. on February 17, 1971. The opening immediately escalated the long-running controversy over whether pounds and shelters should compete with private-practice veterinarians. Many pounds and shelters were already offering in-house discount neutering of adopted animals, but because veterinarians in private practice objected, none previously operated on animals who already had homes.

The Mercy Crusade clinic proved so popular and so successful in helping to lower the Los Angeles pound euthanasia rate that two more clinics were opened in 1973, the original clinic was expanded in 1974, and a fourth clinic was opened in 1979. In addition to neutering, the clinics provided basic vaccinations, all for one fee that averages about half the going rate at private veterinary hospitals. The veterinary staff is hired by the City of Los Angeles. Follow-up studies showed that for every dollar spent on the clinics, Los Angeles saved \$10 in animal control costs. A variety of studies also indicated that the public clinics did not take away business from veterinarians in private practice. Nearly 20 years after the Los Angeles neutering clinics opened, private veterinarians were still performing an estimated 87% of all neutering operations undertaken within Los Angeles. Mainly, the public clinics made neutering accessible to people who otherwise might not have had their pets altered. The 50% drop in the Los Angeles shelter euthanasia rate during the first decade of the program attests to the number of dog and cat births prevented. Unfortunately, the clinics were closed on July 1, 1992, due to the city budget crisis, and have not reopened—a move certain to cost the city money in the long run.

Encouraged by the Los Angeles experience, the nearby city of Santa Barbara introduced a subsidized neutering clinic in 1975. Within a decade, the number of animals euthanized per year at the city shelter fell 80%, from over 6,000 to under 1,000. The San Francisco SPCA began subsidized neutering in 1976; more than 25,000 animals were neutered within the first 10 years, and by 1991 the organization had ceased euthanizing adoptable dogs and cats

them with family incomes above the U.S. median, considered the availability of discount neutering either "important" or "very important" in deciding whether or not to have an animal altered. The Palm Beach County program altered 13,000 pets during the first four years it was operating.

New Jersey has had the most ambitious subsidized neutering program in the U.S. since May 1983, financed by a \$3 surcharge on licenses for unaltered dogs. The fund created by the surcharge enables people who receive public income assistance to have pets neutered at \$10 each. Any animal adopted from a pound or shelter may be altered for \$20. Participating veterinarians may charge the state up to 80% of their standard neutering fee. Unlike other discount neutering programs, the New Jersey program seems to be popular with veterinarians in private practice. As of January 1986, only 66 veterinary hospitals participated, and had reportedly performed only 231 neuterings. By 1991, 200 veterinary hospitals participated, employing 400 veterinarians, and were performing 15,000 neuterings per year.

Administered by the state health department, the New Jersey program has run into cash flow problems recently, after \$300,000 from the neutering fund was reallocated to rabies control in fiscal year 1991, another \$300,000 in fiscal year 1992, and yet another \$300,000 in fiscal year 1993. Public protest erupted in April 1992 after several veterinarians complained of late rebate payments and discontinued participation.

Meanwhile, inspired by the New Jersey success, Connecticut on July 1, 1993 instituted a statewide subsidized neutering program, financed by both a \$6 surcharge on the \$9.50 fee for licensing an unaltered dog, and unclaimed neutering deposits on animals adopted from pounds and shelters. The deposit is set at \$45, \$35 of which is refunded if the animal is neutered within 30 days.

Comprehensive ordinances

(Kitty in window)

found that 25% of the dogs it receives are purebreds. Overall, at that time, purebred dogs actually had a slightly lower reclaim rate than mongrels (47% to 54%), and a comparable adoption rate (17% to 12%). Thirty percent of the purebred dogs were euthanized. Breed rescue efforts, spotlighted in the April 1993 issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, may be dramatically changing those numbers, but the statistical confirmation isn't yet available.

Putting the situation into national perspective, it would appear that 14.7 million of the 56 million pet dogs in the U.S. were bred deliberately, as were at least 500,000 of the three million dogs who were euthanized in pounds and shelters. It is harder to estimate how many of the four million cats who were euthanized were bred deliberately, and the cat population handled by pounds and shelters includes a substantially higher number of animals born feral, but **Cats** magazine has estimated that breeders are responsible for adding at least 25,000 cats to the random breeding population per year. Though these cats' offspring are not recognizably purebred, their offspring may number in the millions.

Accordingly, a case can be made that both professional and hobby breeding are contributing significantly to pet overpopulation, and do need closer regulation. At the same time, as Fort Wayne demonstrated in 1989, a year before the San Mateo County ordinance was proposed, it is possible to effectively regulate breeding without galvanizing opposition from politically influential breed fancy groups many of which do have ambitious anti-pet overpopulation programs of their own. The American Kennel Club, for instance, has repealed rules that barred neutered animals from competition, and has produced a gradeschool curriculum guide that emphasizes neutering pets. At the local level the Fort Lauderdale Dog Club spent \$35,000 to neuter 1,000 strays in the Miami area just in the first 90 days after Hurricane Andrew hit late last August. At the individual level, the *Project BREED Directory* lists more than 3,200 breed rescuers and small rescue groups, who are collectively neutering and finding homes for more than 50,000 animals per year. Clearly the breeding community needs to be included in designing comprehensive anti-pet overpopulation ordinances. The clinching argument for voluntary breeder participation in curtailing breeding is that purpose-bred animals will have substantially more value when similar animals are no longer euthanized by the million from lack of adoptive homes.

(Portions of this article are adapted from Legislative Approaches to Pet Overpopulation, a handbook authored by ANIMAL PEOPLE editor Merritt Clifton for the American Humane Association [not yet available to order].)

Diet & Health

ANIMAL HEALTH

The Burger King franchise at Watkins Glen, New York, in February quietly introduced the spicy bean burger sold by British Burger King outlets. Priced at \$2.29, the vegetarian burger is made from kidney beans, carrots, onions, potato flakes, and peppers, breaded and deep fried, served on a bun with catsup, cheese (optional), and tomato. Associated Press quoted the manager as saying six weeks later, "The demand is unbelievable. People are coming from all over. There's not a seat in the restaurant. They say there are 12 million vegetarians in the U.S. If we can kick into that market, it's well worth our while." According to AP, the spicy bean burger will be introduced nationally if it remains popular in Watkins Glen through the end of the summer.

Another wave of toxic *E. coli* bacterial infections has hit the northwest. Four children died in December and January—three in Washington and one in California—from eating hamburgers contaminated with the toxic *E. coli* strain at Jack-in-the-Box restaurants. At least 600 people were afflicted in all. In late March, five people fell ill from eating contaminated steak at the Sizzler franchise in Grants Pass, Oregon. A month later, six people became sick from *E. coli* after drinking unpasteurized milk marketed by the Thomas Jersey Dairy in Portland, Oregon, prompting a raw milk recall by the state agriculture department. According to deputy Oregon state epidemiologist Dr. Katrina Hedberg, the milk probably was contaminated by cattle feces.

The USDA on April 10 seized 20 tons of sausage allegedly made from cattle judged unfit for human consumption, and recalled all products of the Coast Sausage Co. in San Francisco, whose major customers are various U.S. military bases.

The newly formed New Orleans

Massachusetts SPCA veterinarians Michael G. Aronsohn and Alicia M. Faggella recently published protocols for anesthetizing and neutering 6-to-14-week-old kittens in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, vol. 202, #1, pp. 53-62.

The USDA announced April 1 that from now on it will require environmental impact statements filed in connection with animal disease eradication activities to include identification of any pesticides that might be used; any chemicals used for sanitation; and a protocol for disposing of carcasses and contaminated manure and debris.

A Swedish research team announced in the March 24 issue of *Nature* that they had discovered Lyme disease bacteria (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) in a type of tick that infests sea birds, on the Baltic Sea island of Bonden, which has no resident mammals. The finding indicates that birds rather than mammals may be the primary carriers of Lyme disease, which if untreated can cause severe damage to the joints and nervous system, and can be debilitating for a year or more even if it is treated.

Freshmen veterinary students who begin studies at Mississippi State University this summer will work on simulated cases right from the start instead of simply taking courses. The Mississippi vet school will be among the first in the U.S. to replace the traditional academic curriculum with one based on real-life problem solving.

In an unusual turnabout from the old jokes about horse doctors treating humans, the Delaware Department of Health on April 13 ordered chiropractor Angelo Della Ripa of Enfield to cease treating animals and instead concentrate on humans. Della Ripa claimed he only treated animals with veterinary supervision.

The terrorist bombing of New

Rabies Update

New Jersey Department of Health veterinarian Colin T. Campbell told a regional conference on rabies held March 24 in Syracuse, New York, that the state of New Jersey has allocated only \$55,000 of the estimated \$160,000 necessary to complete a two-year field trial of the long-awaited Wistar orally administered raccoon rabies vaccine on the Cape May peninsula. The state Department of Environmental Protection and Energy is seeking grants to make up the balance. The vaccine is embedded in bait balls; raccoons who take the bait vaccinate themselves. The bait balls are being air-dropped in batches of 20,000 at a time directed at the probable corridors of raccoon movement from the vicinity of the nearest known rabies cases, which are presently about eight miles away. About 145,000 bait balls will be dropped in total if the project is successfully completed.

The mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic currently centers around New York City, after missing the metropolitan area two years ago when it jumped from New Jersey to Connecticut. From March 1992, when the pandemic hit until March 1993, 436 New York City residents required rabies shots, up from a previous average of about 25 a year Statewide, 1,088 New Yorkers got the shots. Forty-six rabid raccoons, one rabid bat, one rabid skunk, and a rabid opossum have been found on Staten Island and Manhattan. The latter is a rarity, as opossum sensitivity to the rabies virus is believed to be very low.

A rabid raccoon bit an unidentified man in Yonkers on April 13. The man fled the scene before he could be identified, starting an intense search by police and health officials, but at the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** deadline he was apparently still at large.

Concerned veterinarians may request subscriptions to *The Rabies Monitor*, a new bulletin on rabies control research, from Rhone Merieux, 115 Transtech Drive, Athens, GA

Vegetarian Network, a project of Legislation In Support of Animals, signed up 70 members at its public debut. To join, write P.O. Box 740321, New Orleans, LA 70174.

New regulations governing the treatment of animals at slaughterhouses took effect in Ontario province, Canada, on April 1. Included are a limit on the length of time animals may be kept at a slaughterhouse before being killed, a requirement that water be available, and standards for restraint and stunning.

Medical researchers have now identified 16 common components of vegetables with cancer-fighting properties. They range from ordinary fiber, which dilutes carcinogenic compounds in the digestive system, to genistein, a newly isolated chemical component of soybeans that apparently inhibits the development of prostate cancer. (In other words, tofu-eating males are likely to enjoy a longer, healthier sex life than steak-eaters.) Other important chemical cancer-fighters in vegetables include flavonoids, which block receptor sites for cancer-promoting hormones, and vitamin C, which inhibits the formation of nitrosamine, a carcinogen, in the stomach. A thorough resume of the research to date appeared on pages C1 and C9 of the April 13, 1992 edition of *The New York Times*.

The January/February edition of *Advance*, the bulletin of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, featured advice on coping with allergies to cockroaches, cat dander, and dog dander. The organization also distributes a more extensive report on *Cat-Induced Asthma*, by Dr. Thomas E. Van Metre Jr. The AAFA may be reached at 1125 15th Street, NW, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20005.

York's World Trade Center in March so badly rattled the parrots at Nancy Chambers' Urban Bird shop a few blocks away that, she told reporters, "They've totally stopped copulating," disrupting the breeding cycles of an estimated 150 birds. "And parrots are monogamous," Chambers added. "I can't just change the pairings."

About 20 animals were rescued from an April 10 fire that destroyed the Flater Animal Hospital in Galesburg, Illinois.

Sue Clark of South Bend, Indiana, caught this great egret in the act. The store owner fed him several years ago during a famine for his species, and he's been back every day since.

30601. Rhone Merieux is the world's leading manufacturer of rabies vaccines, including the orally administered fox rabies vaccine used successfully in Europe for nearly 20 years.

Fixing a cat on the air

Alan Givotovsky, DVM, of Vachon Island, Washington, says he isn't sure whether he'd again perform a neutering operation on live radio. On February 3, Givotovsky neutered a tomcat in the studio of KISW-Seattle during the early morning drive time to promote neutering, while disk jockey Bob Rivers supplied commentary and took calls from listeners.

"Field surgery most of the time is pretty clean," Givotovsky told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "but people were anxious because we weren't in a clinic." In fact, Givotovsky got up at four a.m. to pack up and take along just about all the equipment he'd normally have had at his clinic. The operation took 45 minutes, Givotovsky said, because of the preliminary introduction, the time required to anesthetize the cat, and interruptions for songs, advertising, and the news.

"People only listen to the radio for 15 to 30 minutes at a time as they drive to work," he added, "so I would doubt that it had any measureable effect. It was just another piece of information coming over the air. But eventually, if you get enough pieces of information out there, people will break down and say to themselves, 'that's something I should do.' People look to veterinarians as leaders," Givotovsky concluded. "If we don't come out with a position, the void is filled by unqualified persons who just want to stir things up. It was worth a try."

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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.

Woofs and growls...

Wayne Pacelle of the Fund for Animals claims Kathleen Marquardt of Putting People First quoted him out of context in an April syndicated column. According to Marquardt, Pacelle "succinctly described the official animal rights plan for phasing out pets." She quoted Pacelle as saying, "One generation and out. We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." The remarks created a furor, not least because this was the first anyone had ever heard of such an alleged plan, official or otherwise. Pacelle claims the remarks were actually made at a public gathering in response to "questioning which assumed the hypothetical scenario of an immediate end to meat-eating and the dilemma about the future of the surviving farm animals. The gist of my response," he continued in an open letter, "was that we have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding." Even at that, Pacelle's use of the collective "we" may have been overreaching. Many humane groups and individuals support projects such as the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, whose goal is to protect the gene pools of older and more obscure varieties of livestock—not least because these animals are often the closest living

Stallwood to edit *Animals' Agenda*; Pacelle quits

MONROE, Connecticut—Kim Stallwood, former executive director of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has been named to replace board member Jim Motavalli as editor of the troubled *Animals' Agenda* magazine.

Days later, on April 26, board president Wayne Pacelle abruptly quit, without stating his reasons. Now national director of the Fund for Animals, Pacelle got his first job in animal rights as *Animals' Agenda* assistant editor in 1987. Recommended to Fund by then-editor Kim Bartlett and editor-at-large Patrice Greanville, Pacelle took his present post in 1988; was elected to the board in 1989; became president in 1991; and was reelected last November, after presiding over the ouster of Bartlett, who resigned after news editor Merritt Clifton was fired. In March, Pacelle joined in firing Greanville as well.

Stallwood worked at PETA from late 1986 until March 1992. Earlier, he co-edited a newsletter for the British Union Against Vivisection. He left the BUAV shortly after it paid £35,000 to Wickham Research Laboratories to settle

ANIMAL PEOPLE investigation

Acting head of North Shore Animal League cleared of old allegations

MAY BE NAMED PRESIDENT OF \$59 MILLION HUMANE SOCIETY

PORT WASHINGTON, New York—An intensive ANIMAL PEOPLE investigation of allegations raised against acting North Shore Animal League chief executive officer J. John Stevenson by his opponents in an eight-year-old lawsuit has concluded that they have no substance sufficient to call into question his fitness to administer the world's largest humane society.

ANIMAL PEOPLE reviewed more than 300 pages of court documents and interviewed numerous prominently placed witnesses before grilling Stevenson himself for six and a half hours. Stevenson suggested the unusually intense session, and drove three and a half hours each way from his home in Connecticut to participate, he said, because he saw no other way to lay the long-circulating claims to rest. Although Stevenson's opponents discussed some of the issues extensively with *The Legal Times* in 1990, Stevenson said he hadn't previously defended himself in public, upon the advice of his legal counsel to avoid action that could be construed as broadening the case.

Upon wrapping up the probe, ANIMAL PEOPLE advised NSAL cofounder Elisabeth Lewyt and major sources that the editor and publisher are "satisfied that Mr. Stevenson is an animal person, a decent and humane man of integrity, who would make an excellent chief executive officer for NSAL." This unusual step was taken because ANIMAL PEOPLE had become aware that the mere knowledge an investigation was underway might have caused some individuals to circulate potentially damaging rumors.

As incumbent, highly popular with staff throughout NASL, Stevenson is believed to be one of at least two and perhaps three strong candidates to succeed David Ganz as president of the \$59 million no-kill shelter, which last year provided more than \$3.5 million to neutering programs and \$2.4 million in other funding to animal shelters throughout the U.S. and Canada. Ganz resigned March 1. The NASL board is expected to ratify a successor upon receiving the recommendations of a screening committee reportedly headed by a retired federal judge.

links to the wild creatures who were first domesticated, and may yet have a place in restored semi-wild ecosystems.

The Nature Conservancy is under fire from multiple directions—for snaring feral pigs and goats on purpose and many other species by accident on the island of Molokai, Hawaii, and for selling the 500-square-mile Gray Ranch in southern New Mexico to a foundation set up by cattle ranching interests. PETA president Alex Pacheco and staffer David Barnes (who is of Hawaiian ancestry) recently spent two weeks on Molokai finding and destroying more than 700 snares, some of which hadn't been checked in as long as five years. TNC director of science and stewardship Alex Holt responded to public announcement of the PETA action with a seven-page letter insisting the pigs and goats had to be snared to control their numbers and protect endangered native plants and birds from habitat damage. Countered Pacheco, "Overall, we saw no

(continued on page 12)

Wildwear ad

a libel suit filed in response to a letter from the BUAV office manager. The letter urged the Winchester city council planning committee to reject plans to expand the Wickham plant. Stallwood was apparently part of a faction who felt the suit should have been contested, at risk of losing £250,000.

Letters Stallwood wrote to the *Animals' Agenda* during his PETA stint indicate the magazine will take a doctrinaire line on animal rights, avoiding controversy over tactics and use of resources. For instance, Stallwood wrote on January 24, 1989, that PETA would not "agree to any activity in support of the magazine without the board adopting editorial policies that openly commit the magazine to a more positive role in movement building, and a commitment to not publish attacks on individuals or organizations active in animal rights." He also called for review of any articles involving controversy by the board, most of whom are also board or staff with advocacy groups.

Stallwood reportedly plans to move the *Animals' Agenda* editorial office to his Baltimore home by June 1, although the lease on the present office in Connecticut has seven months left to run.

Monica Paulsen / EM Enterprises ad

During his four-year tenure with NASL, Stevenson is credited with a leading part in setting up the shelter outreach programs and in resolving various conflicts among the 250 NASL employees. Long known for ignoring critics, both actual and imagined NASL has become markedly more responsive since Stevenson succeeded Ganz on an interim basis.

The charges against Stevenson concerned his actions as attorney and board president of the Humane Family Foundation between December 1984 and April 1988. The Humane Family Foundation, a conservative animal welfare group, was founded as Humane Information Services in 1965 by the late Frederick L. Thomsen, a consulting economist and former USDA director of marketing research, who hired his longtime assistant Emily Gleockler as secretary/treasurer. She lived in the upper floor of a two-story house in St. Petersburg, Florida, whose lower floor was the HIS office. Thomsen also founded a lobbying arm, the National Association for Humane Legislation.

From the beginning, HIS and NAHL stressed reform rather than abolition of industries that use animals—for instance, in Thomsen's words in a 1971 newsletter "promoting industry-wide adoption of humane methods of killing the many millions of mink utilized for fur garments," instead of opposing the wearing of fur. At the time this approach was shared by many leading humane organizations. When Thomsen died on April 3, 1978, leaving Gleockler as executrix of his will, Humane Information Services was already positioning itself as a buffer between the meat and fur industries and the incipient animal rights movement.

The Will

"I hereby notify my executrix and the board of directors," Thomsen's last instructions stated, "that I will consider it a breach of faith if my legacy is placed in an endowment fund, all of which would not be used up within at least 20 years of my death. I have not earned at hard labor and saved at considerable personal sacrifice this estate for the purpose of having it serve as an indefinite sinecure for a bunch of salaried professional do-gooders. It will be up to the staff to make the society perform in such a way as to be self-supporting at least in 20 years' time after my death, and preferably before this."

Whether Gleockler honored the intent of those instructions would be at issue with a succession of fellow members of the HIS board and organizational attorneys for more than a decade. Her own minutes of annual board meetings confirm that she conserved and consolidated resources by firing all other paid staff; balked at hiring replacements, including a proposed executive director to replace Thomsen; eventually moved that she should become the sole employee; dissolved NAHL in June 1985; terminated the HIS publication (which under Thomsen had grown from a newsletter called *Report to Humanitarians* into a newspaper, *The Humane Report*, circulating 19,000 copies) bought a new Jeep Wagoneer with HIS funds in November 1980; and suspended fundraising, causing HIS to lose tax-exempt status as a public charity in 1981. It became instead a private foundation, obliged to pay taxes on interest income—but taxes amounting to much less than the rate of return on Thomsen's estate. Gleockler also secured salary increases upping her own compensation from \$8,400 a year at Thomsen's death to \$44,400 under a 10-year contract by late 1986 (as part of the settlement agreement in the eventual lawsuit against Stevenson).

Program activities included funding the development of a restrainer system for use in kosher slaughterhouses; working to replace decompression chambers, then widely used for euthanizing dogs and cats, with more humane methods of euthanasia; funding

(continued on page 12)

No villain in North Shore melodrama

(continued from page 11)

research into the use of the paralytic drug T-61 to kill mink (an approach now widely considered inhumane); and distributing information on how to "humanely" cook live lobsters. Organizational minutes and correspondence during this period include repeated warnings from Gleockler that "anyone from the younger generation who might be entrusted with HIS in later years cannot be depended upon to continue the organization as we would want," due to "the ill feelings caused among livestock producers, scientists, etc., by the 'animal rights' people."

Enter Stevenson

Stevenson joined HIS on the recommendation of a mutual acquaintance, *Philanthropy Times* publisher Henry Suhrke, who also served briefly on the HFF board. Formerly on the staff of the Ohio attorney general, Stevenson was a nationally recognized expert on nonprofit law, but beyond having pet dogs, had no background in animal protection. Gleockler had the bylaws amended to admit Stevenson to the board, then had him elected board president, Stevenson recalls, before he even met her. As legal agent for HIS, Stevenson upon Gleockler's instructions sought to relocate the foundation to a state where she could be the sole director. Unable to find one, he relocated it to Pennsylvania, which required only two directors—himself and Gleockler. Also with Gleockler's encouragement, he sought funding for the stillborn Humane Family Video Project from umbrella groups representing more than 40 agricultural organizations and corporations serving agribusiness. Aimed at school children, the video series had, as one stated goal, "to promote the eating of meat," by presenting a positive image of farmers. The project was to be carried out by the Bush Center for Child Development and Social Policy at Yale University, where Stevenson's wife, Dr. Matia Finn-Stevenson, has worked since July 1, 1979.

When a rift opened between Gleockler and Stevenson later in 1985, Gleockler cited Stevenson's correspondence with meat industry front groups in accusing him

of indifference toward animals and a negative attitude toward animal protection. Stevenson drafted a particularly self-damaging memo on July 19, 1985, concerning the revision of a draft video curriculum to eliminate at request of the front groups a section titled "Animals and children have feelings." But on the very same day, Gleockler wrote to a third party with a copy to Stevenson that, "During the past few years we have been criticized and actually harassed by the new animal rightists and activists who want us to join them in working to abolish the use of animals in the laboratories, the eating of meat, the wearing of fur, etc. Theirs is a very unrealistic approach, and we refuse to waver in our philosophy."

As late as November 20, 1985, Gleockler urged Stevenson to approach the fur industry for funds as well, suggesting that HIS, by then renamed HFF, could "offer a label for fur products reading something like: Manufactured from skins of animals humanely raised and dispatched," above the HFF logo. She lamented that "stupid humanitarians" and "activists' propaganda" had probably precluded getting "contributions from animal lovers for this venture."

The rift opened abruptly a few weeks later, much as rifts between Gleockler and others associated with HIS/HFF had. By December 1985, Gleockler was attempting to fire Stevenson, accusing him of failing to inform her of financial agreements in connection with the video project—although they appear to have been in the annual budget statement she signed only three months earlier. Relations worsened in January 1986, over funding of \$50,000 and an introduction Gleockler contributed to *Behind The Laboratory Door*, an antivivisection treatise by Christine Stevens of the Animal Welfare Institute, who was a board member of NAHL at the time it was dissolved.

Explains Stevenson, "The issue was not *Behind The Laboratory Door*, nor was it that she chose to fund it. The issue was that I didn't know anything about it when these people I was negotiating with, who were already suspicious of me because I was 'an animal guy,' suddenly threw a copy on the table and demanded that I give an explanation. It was the first I'd ever seen of it." The funding arrangement collapsed.

As HFF president, Stevenson sued to oust Gleockler from the board for allegedly breaching the intentions of the founder, Thomsen, and otherwise dealing in bad faith. A complex series of legal moves and counter-moves followed over the next two and a half years, as Gleockler tried to regain control of the organization while Stevenson set up a parallel public charity, the United Family Foundation, in an unsuccessful attempt to continue the video project and to acquire and run the International Media Service (a nonprofit evangelical Christian news agency) as a vehicle for humane information intended to prevent child abuse. Funding for other HIS/HFF projects was interrupted by the litigious point/counterpoint.

Amid the struggle, Gleockler charged Stevenson with steering funds to his wife, an accusation refuted by her supervisor, Dr. Edward Zigler, who affirmed in a written statement that "Her salary is paid for from the operating funds of the Bush Center and is not, nor has it ever been, dependent on any project grant or contract."

In addition, Gleockler accused Stevenson of enriching himself, but in fact his top salary with HFF was \$4,200 a month, or \$50,000 a year, not a great deal more than her own at the time, and not extraordinary for either a fulltime attorney or a foundation chief executive.

Exit Stevenson

Whether Stevenson had the legal right to sue Gleockler and fund UFF via HFF was never decided in court, as they were ordered to settle out of court in mid-1986. Under the settlement, concluded September 12, 1986, the HFF board was expanded to five members, Gleockler received the 10-year contract, and Stevenson received a four-year contract. The evident object was to enable Stevenson to withdraw from the organization without liability. Completing the withdrawal agreement, however, took another two and a half years. Under this agreement, UFF was to treat funding received from HFF as a loan, to be repaid with interest, but the payments were never made because UFF declared bankruptcy under pressure of further legal action by Gleockler's attorneys—whose fees Gleockler apparently partially withheld.

While Stevenson has been out of the case for five years, the disposition of the UFF assets apparently remains in dispute, and some of the parties involved have run into

Woofs and growls, continued...

apparent damage from these animals, except at each snare, where they had eaten everything in sight, including young trees, and had thrashed the ground bare in their struggles. Because of this evidence, I believe that none of them choked to death. They died of starvation." Holt said TNC is exploring such alternatives to snaring as "increasing opportunities for local hunters to remove feral animals," and "co-sponsoring field trials of a New Zealand hunting dog team in Hawaii this May or June to determine if these specialized dogs can increase the effectiveness of hunting as a tool in remote areas." Holt also said, without offering details, that TNC is looking into "additional control methods, including contraception and sterilization, toxic baits, and others."

The situation hit the media in the wake of concern over the sale of most of the Gray Ranch to the Animas Foundation, newly assembled by rancher Drum Hadley and family. TNC bought the Gray Ranch in 1990 for \$18 million, planning to resell it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use as a refuge. The deal fell through, however, due to opposition from cattle ranchers, who feared expropriation of neighboring lands, rising tax rates if the Gray Ranch was exempted from property taxation, and loss of grazing access. Financially strained by the purchase, TNC let the Animas Foundation have the ranch for \$13.2 million, writing off \$4.8 million as "the value of the conservation restrictions TNC will retain on all Gray Ranch lands, as well as on adjacent lands owned by the Hadley family." A Hadley family trust is acquiring the portions of the Gray Ranch not acquired by the Animas Foundation. (The Nature Conservancy may be addressed at 1815 North Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209.)

John Gibbon, science adviser to U.S. president Bill Clinton, says he has strong concern for animal rights. "My family is a family that has concern about these things," he recently told Associated Press science editor Paul Raeburn. "I have a daughter, for instance, who's a very fine ob-gyn surgeon. She never touched an animal in medical school. She didn't have to. You've got to have whole animals for a lot of very critical experiments and evaluations," he continued, "but that doesn't mean you abuse them or are callous in the way you use them. We use a lot of animals unnecessarily. And I want to see animal use on the basis of necessity, of defensible necessity." Gibbons has put the biomedical research community on notice that, "They ought to be taking better care of the abuses that historically have occurred. I've seen videotapes," he added. "I know. Abuses have occurred." Although Gibbon eats meat, he told Raeburn that he boycotts veal, and asks restaurants he visits to remove it from their menus.

Postage hike to hit charities

Third class nonprofit postal rates, used to mail **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and most other humane information mediums, are scheduled to take another big jump in the fall, following increases of 80% over the past three years. Further, President Clinton's fiscal 1994 budget proposes abolishing nonprofit third class privileges for publications, such as **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, that contain either advertising or political advocacy materials. Nonprofit second class privileges would be removed from periodicals devoting more than 10% of their space to advertising (30% to 40% advertising is the usual periodical breakeven point). Letter-sized nonprofit mailing rates, used chiefly for fundraising, may go up 32%, from a current basic rate of 11.1¢ per piece to 14.7¢ apiece. While the gradual reduction of nonprofit mailing subsidies hurts all charities, some observers believe the higher rates will most hurt organizations such as the Doris Day Animal League, which were formed with the active participation of commercial direct mail fundraising firms, and whose programs consist largely of "public education" via letters and bulletins distributed with funding appeals.

The International Society for Animal Rights made local headlines in late March for refusing to return a lost cat named Buffy to Cheryl Ruddy and family, of Clark's Green, Pennsylvania, not far from the ISAR offices in Clark's Summit. The Ruddy family bought Buffy in February 1991, as a companion to daughter Colleen, now age nine. Buffy lived with them for just over two years before escaping from the house March 9 and failing to return. Ten days later, Ruddy recognized Buffy from a newspaper photo taken as the cat was rescued after spending three days in a tree. Finding Buffy to be in excellent condition, the rescuers took her to ISAR. When Ruddy went to ISAR to get her back, ISAR president Helen Jones said she wasn't fit to have a cat because Buffy had been allowed out. Jones did return Buffy on March 23 after Ruddy's attorney threatened to sue, but declined an invitation to comment.

The 1993 Goldman Awards for grassroots environmental action were presented to seven winners April 19 in San Francisco, including Garth Owen-Smith and Margaret Jacobohn of Namibia, for organizing unarmed Himba tribespeople to protect black rhinos and desert elephants from poachers. Each winner receives \$60,000.

trouble for purported conflict of interest. After changing attorneys at least once more, HFF is no longer actively pursuing the matter, according to board member Ted Friend. There are now three board members—Gleockler, Friend and Friend's father—and about \$400,000 of the \$500,000 left in the foundation accounts have been dedicated to building the Frederick L. Thomsen Animal Euthenics Center under Friend's supervision at Texas A&M University.

"I'm out of it and good riddance," Stevenson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. He admits his correspondence or behalf of HIS/HFF during 1985-1986 could be used as damning evidence against him—if taken out of context including the oath attorneys take to faithfully represent the positions of their clients, regardless of personal views.

Stevenson credits his work at NSAL over the past few years with considerably raising his consciousness.

"I *am* an animal guy," he says of himself. His dogs (and the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** dogs and cats) confirm it. Each of his dogs, abandoned or abused, was adopted after originally being slated for euthanasia at one of the shelters in the NSAL outreach program.

Of his role in attempting to promote the meat industry eight years ago, Stevenson admits, "We probably did step over a line, leaning too far overboard to try to convince these guys they could fund a project to promote humane values without getting bashed." Although Stevenson confesses to eating chicken and fish, he no longer eats red meat, and says he thinks a lot about vegetarianism, "because I think about the animals now."

Long-term plans for NASL, if he gets the chance to implement them, include expanding the new Seniors-for-Seniors program (see page 18), extending free full-service veterinary care to pets of the indigent, and improving the quality of NASL veterinary service by adding more specialists to the staff.

—Merritt Clifton

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The late Lucille Moses sneaked this photo of a Minnesota buncher's yard in January 1966. The buncher is still in business, and many border country bunchers' yards still look much like it.

USDA halts U.S./Canada traffic in dogs and cats for laboratories

(continued from page one)

Anne Streeter and Linda Robertson were the ones who risked their lives sneaking into a midnight slaughterhouse that was used as a holding facility to take photographs, and animal control officer David McWilliams of St. Albans, Vermont, was the lead detective on that side of the border. It was frustrating as well as difficult work, because even after we had considerable circumstantial evidence, none of us had quite enough to mount a prosecution, and without a prosecution, it was years before I could convince my editors to publish a story. They weren't interested in the legal traffic, in pound animals."

Most of the traffic was quite legal, conducted by Quebec animal control contractors Robert Legendre, Serge Menard, Marcel Malo, Robert Kermel, and Claude Slight. Legendre's firm, founded by his father-in-law Etienne Pesant and legally identified only by an incorporation number, did business under three different titles.

At deadline, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was still awaiting response to a Freedom of Information Act request for the list of Class B dealers who received the USDA notice. However, informed sources indicated one of them was George Thorsen of Enosburg Falls, Vermont, who had reportedly recently expanded his operation, and that both

Thorsen and Malo were virtually put out of business.

Like Malo, from whom he bought animals, Thorsen is a familiar name. He and his daughter operate facilities in both Enosburg Falls and Westborough, Massachusetts. In January 1985, Thorsen sought unsuccessfully to build yet another kennel in Bakersfield, Vermont, 10 miles south of Enosburg Falls, and then offered to build it in Richford, a severely depressed former milltown just a mile from the border. That was the news hook Clifton needed to locally syndicate an expose of the lab animal traffic. Days after the expose appeared, the Richford selectmen, some of whom had encouraged Thorsen, abruptly turned him down.

More extensive exposes followed, produced by David Johnston of the *Montreal Gazette*, Pauline Beauchamp of the Montreal-based Canadian SPCA, and Les Roberts of CFCF television, who reviewed a 1979 case in which Class B dealer Rosaire Paradis of St. Albans, Vermont, sold a dog stolen from Montreal to a Yale University lab—where the dog was discovered through a tattoo eight months later. The USDA investigated, but had no means of taking action under the Animal Welfare Act as it then stood.

A decade later, however, in early 1989, then director of the CSPCA Cynthia Drummond arranged for Clifton to brief lobbyists Adele Douglass of the American Humane Association and Martha Armstrong of the Massachusetts SPCA about the trans-border animal traffic in connection with their work to secure passage of the Pet Theft Act. Language Douglass and Armstrong recommended was added to the Animal Welfare Act in 1990, giving the USDA the authority to move.

But the impetus to the USDA action didn't come until someone stole prominent Vermont attorney James Martin's dog Grizzly Bear in early 1992. Martin not only caught and prosecuted the alleged thief, but also encouraged other people whose animals had disappeared to demand a USDA probe.

That's when the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service came to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

"It was really the information that you provided that enabled us to proceed," the undercover investigator said. "There were many aspects of this business that we hadn't been aware of, and once we investigated the lead you provided, we had what we needed to act."

Shirts by Bob

SAMISDAT Method

Where are all the big bad wolves?

(continued from page one)

who were apparently strafed from aircraft and left to rot.

"Based on tracks and direct observations," Haber said, "wolf populations appear to be lower in some areas than previously claimed." However, "There appears to be significant illegal wolf killing in at least some of the proposed wolf control areas," he continued. Throughout the survey area, Haber and Woods observed extensive use of snowmobiles by hunters and trappers, whose noisy vehicles in many cases kept moose and caribou away from the wetlands that are their preferred habitat.

"We flew every major river system and many minor creeks in an area larger than the state of Maine," Haber recounted, "and I can't recall more than about six or seven creeks where we did not see snowmachine tracks. I don't mean to impugn snowmachine use in general, but the sheer number of snowmachines buzzing about the countryside at speeds of up to 60 or 70 miles per hour creates an impact on wildlife that is far more extensive than most people realize, and this needs to be better controlled."

Haber's most contentious finding, however, may be that moose and caribou herds in the proposed wolf-and-bear-killing zones are actually about as big now as the habitat permits. The 9,407-square-mile area north of Tok, for instance, holds an estimated 3,400 to 4,000 moose and 22,000 caribou—the renowned Fortymile herd, which 70 years ago reputedly stretched from horizon to horizon when

on the march. Observers guessed it included 500,000 animals. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game thinks it can double the moose herd and triple the caribou herd, just by halting predation, but as Haber noted, the habitat has changed immensely since the 1920s. In particular, many of the swampy late eutrophic lakes favored by moose have filled in and become overgrown to the point that they no longer provide good forage.

"Although predation has been cited as the primary reason for low moose densities in the Fortymile region," Haber reported, "the large expanses of poor moose habitat in this region may be more of a limiting factor than has been heretofore emphasized."

Haber further observed that the herd definitions presumed by Alaskan officials have changed over the years, as the animals wander in search of habitat. "Segments of the Delta, Denali, and Nelchina caribou herds appear to have interacted and mixed or moved erratically into new range areas this winter, as in the past," he found, "to the point where, for example, it would be impossible to guarantee a herd size for hunters in a particular sector even with major wolf control, contrary to what the state has implied repeatedly."

While wolf control grabs most of the public attention, grizzly bears are in acute danger as well. The Alaska Board of Game has proposed upping the bear quota for hunters in Game Management Unit 13, a 23,400-square-

mile area roughly the size of West Virginia, from 83 in 1992 to 125 this year. In 1992 the Department of Fish and Game put the Unit 13 bear population at 800 to 1,000. This year, for no apparent reason, it is estimated at 600 to 1,600. As the Alaska Wildlife Alliance points out, the bear kill is to be upped by 66% even though officials don't know within 160% how many bears there are.

The Haber survey was the first phase of a proposed year-long, \$100,000 investigation to establish reliable data independent of state estimates. Friends of Animals picked up the \$25,000 tab for the first phase of the investigation by forgoing filling a vacant staff position, after wealthier organizations declined to take part, but the budget for the rest still hasn't been secured. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance and Wolf Haven International provided technical support.

The Fund for Animals has done intensive fundraising around a claim that it led the boycott effort against the wolf massacre proposed last fall, although its main involvement, full-page ads in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, came weeks after many other groups threatened a boycott. Asked to help underwrite the Haber project, Fund national director Wayne Pacelle reportedly refused, saying he preferred to save resources for further advertising if and when renewed wolf-killing plans are announced.

ANIMAL CONTROL & RESCUE

The Los Angeles City Council's ad hoc committee on the ongoing municipal budget crisis has dropped plans to merge city and county animal control, as a merger might hurt service without saving money.

The Agricultural Subcommittee of the Maine legislature has unanimously killed as impractical a bill to institute statewide cat licensing.

Washington state senator Scott Barr's bill (SB 5832) to force pounds and shelters to surrender animals to research laboratories recently cleared the state senate

misinstructed, but allowed the Medina County SPCA to retry the case. MCSPCA attorney Jeff Holland said the case would either be retried or be appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court. Myers has sued the MCSPCA for allegedly improperly seizing her dogs, 54 of whom were returned to her after she was acquitted of five of the seven counts of cruelty that went to trial.

The Toledo Humane Society and the animal control department in Parma, Ohio, are dealing with the aftermath of two apparent animal collector

*Dreaming
of home
in Alaska.
But
what's that
sound—
an
airplane?*

Wolf—reduce to 62% of original.

agriculture committee 6-0. The committee is headed by Marilyn Rasmussen, who is author of another bill, SB 5532, that would strip humane societies of the power to enforce anti-cruelty laws, and exempt dog and cat breeders, circuses, zoos, aquariums, fairs, and farm animals from anti-cruelty enforcement. A bill to strengthen the state anti-cruelty laws, SB 5282, also cleared the agricultural committee, but only after it was significantly weakened through amendment. Washington residents may contact representatives at 1-800-562-6000, or c/o Legislative Building, Olympia, WA 98504.

Dog breeder Eileen Myers of Spencer, Ohio, on April 8 won reversal of a December 1991 cruelty conviction for allegedly exposing 69 dogs to excessive cold and depriving them of air and exercise. The Ohio Court of Appeals ruled the judge

cases. About 100 cats were seized in March from the Toledo home of Matthew Kursh, 72, who was reportedly unable to leave his couch, while 42 fox terriers were removed April 15 from the Parma home of Helen Schmidt, 76, who is also suspected of having been an unlicensed breeder.

Jose Vela, age seven, was in critical condition April 22 at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia after police officer Kevin Walton wounded him in the abdomen while shooting a Rottweiler whom witnesses said would otherwise probably have killed the boy. Even the dog's owner, Naeem Frisby, 19, agreed, "The cop had to do what he had to do." The Rottweiler attacked Vela and another boy after breaking off a chain.

After a year of negotiation, volunteers from the Los Angeles SPCA have begun moving several hundred feral cats from the Mobil Oil refinery in Torrance, California, to a ranch in Kern County run by the Life Is For Everything Foundation. Mobil donated \$25,000 to the foundation and \$3,000 to the LASPCA, to cover neutering, shots, and treatment of any other medical problems.

Karen Medicus, who coordinated rescue efforts for the American Humane Association after Hurricane Andrew, resigned as director of the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast on April 6 to take a similar job with a much larger humane society in Texas. Medicus headed the HSTC, in Stuart, Florida, for almost exactly 10 years, and was in the middle of building a \$2.7 million new shelter. However, since the hurricane, she was under continual fire from ad hoc rescue groups who accused her of hoarding relief funds—which she was not allowed to give to anyone without nonprofit status and documentation of expenses. The heat grew after shelter manager Rhonda Sedlock quit December 29 and took a string of complaints to the media, none of which stood up when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** investigated. Medicus will be best-remembered in Florida for initiating early neutering at the

*Photo
by
Mary
Bloom.*

HSTC clinic in 1989, along with free neutering of cats kept by people of low incomes.

Anne Speakman, executive director of the Shelby County Humane Society in Columbiana, Alabama, since she founded it in 1980, was fired March 30 by the board of directors, along with four staffers who walked out in protest. Her son Mike Speakman was arrested for alleged criminal trespass the next morning while cleaning cages and feeding animals. Speakman was noted for stopping a bear-wrestling event in nearby Alabaster, trying to stop the Tim Rivers diving mule act when it appeared at the Alabama state fair, and for leading protests against animal research at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. The directors accused her of ignoring a dress code, poor record-keeping, and alienating veterinarians by charging in an open letter that they were more interested in making money than in preventing rabies.

The Colorado code of kennel and animal shelter regulations will expire under the state's sunset law on March 1, 1994, if neither budgeted nor renewed. Governor Roy Roemer cancelled enforcement funding on November 1, 1991, after the state health department asked that the job be transferred to the agriculture department, which has responsibility for enforcing other anti-cruelty laws. The agriculture department, however, exhausted its entire cruelty law enforcement budget handling a single animal collector case. "We have very decent laws on paper," says Denver veterinarian

Jeff Young. "But there has been no state enforcement at all for over a year. The cities do some enforcement under the municipal codes, but there's little duplication of laws. We have nothing to use against animal collectors, puppy mills, or pet shops that mingle sick and well animals." (Write Roemer at 136 State Capitol, Denver, CO 80203.)

Nebraska on April 13 banned trade in native amphibians and reptiles.

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Richard Martin ad

Bill to stop wolf-strafting

WASHINGTON D.C.—As he promised he would last winter, Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio has introduced amendments to the Airborne Hunting section of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 that would bar using aircraft to kill native endangered or threatened species on public lands—even for wildlife management purposes. Support for the bill, H.R. 1391, may be addressed to any member of the House or Senate.

Roddick tells AmEx to shed fur

WEST SUSSEX, U.K.—Seeking to build a progressive image, American Express recently began airing television commercials featuring British cruelty-free personal care products entrepreneur Anita Roddick, whose Body Shop logo has become synonymous with conscientious capitalism. The commercials describe how Roddick roams the world in search of products whose ingredients can be harvested from whole and healthy natural environments, such as the Amazonian rainforest. It's great publicity for The Body Shop as well as for AmEx—and it came at a price beyond dollars.

Before Roddick would pitch AmEx, AmEx had to agree it would pitch fur garments out of its mail order catalog for credit card holders.

"The fur issue," said Roddick, "was top of my list of concerns before agreeing to do the commercial. I had a meeting with American Express where I was assured that the current catalog would be the last one to include fur. I always have and always will consider abhorrent any abuse of animals in relation to the beauty and fashion industries," Roddick continued. "Rest assured, The Body Shop will continue to campaign vigorously on this issue."

Wildlife

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced April 15 that Georgia Pacific, the largest U.S. forest products company, has agreed to leave at least 10 acres of woods standing around each colony of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers found on company land in Arkansas, the Carolinas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The deal protects 50,000 acres while allowing Georgia Pacific to log the remainder of its 4.2 million acres of southern timber.

The World Wildlife Fund has agreed to hire members of the impoverished Hoopa tribe in northern California to restore logged-out forests and eroded stream beds. The Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has already provided 30,000 trees to the project, which is expected to benefit bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and northern spotted owls.

Spanish conservationists claim sexually aggressive American ruddy ducks, introduced to Europe by a British bird fancier in the early 1950s, threaten the native white-headed duck with extinction by monopolizing white-headed females, producing hybrids. Only 22 white-headed ducks remained in Spain as of 1977, but a captive breeding program has increased their numbers to about 800, distributed among 40 sanctuaries, where they are protected from hunting. While Spanish officials are now shooting ruddies, the British Department of the Environment is investing \$100,000 in an investigation of other control techniques, including wing-clipping and egg-addling. The only other population of white-headed ducks, 18,000 strong, is in Kazakhstan.

Bulldozing to expand Denver's Kennedy Golf Course devastated a prairie dog colony on March 26. City parks and recreation deputy manager Mike Flaherty said an attempt to relocate the prairie dogs failed because nowhere could be found to take them. "If they're going to bulldoze the place over," said Robin Duxbury of Animal Rights Mobilization, based in nearby Littleton, "they ought to shoot the prairie dogs in the head first, instead of bulldozing their burrows. I saw two prairie dogs out there," she continued. "One was running around like he had lost his mind because his burrow was gone. There was another prairie dog dragging himself on his belly, and I suspect his back was broken." Letters may be addressed to the golf course c/o 10500 E. Hampden Ave., Aurora, CO 80014.

Shrikes, once common throughout most of the U.S., are now extinct in Maine and Pennsylvania, endangered

Zoos & Aquariums

Soon after Hurricane Andrew, the Miami Metro Zoo mailed nearly a million appeals for emergency aid to members of animal protection groups and to subscribers to magazines about animals. Zoological Society of Florida deputy director Cynthia Zeigler told *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* recently that 27,675 people responded within the first six months, donating \$484,000—results so impressive that *TCP* gave the story a full-page spread.

Organizing to obstruct attempts by the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago to capture three Pacific white-sided dolphins off Santa Catalina Island, California, the Whale Rescue Team claims to have commitments for participation from the owners of 40 boats and two aircraft. "The flotilla will use all nonviolent means necessary to prevent the capture," says Whale Rescue Team founder Peter Wallerstein.

Mark Killman, owner of the Killman Zoo in Caledonia Ontario, has formed an anti-animal rights lobby called Partners With Animals, modeled after an older group called Partners In Research. First target: Bill 162, a pending measure to set standards for private zoos and regulate possession of exotic animals. Founded in 1988, Killman's 150-animal roadside zoo was identified a year later by Zoocheck as one of the worst-maintained in the province.

Oceans

The International Whaling Commission commenced its annual meeting in Kyoto, Japan, on April 19 as a throng of 1,000 demonstrators marched outside to demand an end to the current global whaling ban, in effect since 1986. The IWC scientific committee met during the last week of April to review current data on whale populations, while the general commission meeting is set for May 10-14. Japanese whalers, who already kill 300 minke whales a year under the auspices of a government research program, want to resume whaling on a commercial scale. Iceland has already resumed commercial whaling, after quitting the IWC. Norway has announced it will resume commercial whaling, but has not specified when, perhaps because film director Richard Donner recently threatened to organize an international boycott of the 1994 Winter Olympics if it does. The Winter Olympics are

Wild Cats

Genetic researchers trying to save the highly endangered Florida panther on April 9 recommended a shift away from captive breeding, the focus of present recovery efforts. Instead, the team suggested, closely related Texas cougars should be released into panther habitat to diversify the gene pool by natural means. Under the plan, panther kittens would no longer be removed from the wild for use in captive breeding, since their gene pool is presently so narrow that the offspring would be likely to inherit genetic defects.

The Texas legislature is considering a bill, SB 583, to add cougars to the list of game animals covered by the state Parks and Wildlife Code. Ironically, this would increase legal protection for the big cats, who presently have none, since cougar hunting could then be restricted and controlled. The bill is bitterly opposed by ranching interests.

The Mountain Lion Foundation asks California residents to write to their state senators and representatives in support of S.B. 380, which would designate bobcats a "specially protected animal, exempt from hunting and trapping and subject to lethal anti-predation measures to protect livestock only if non-lethal methods have failed. About 70,000 bobcats are believed to survive in California; 63,000 have been trapped and shot during the past ten years.

The Arroyo family, of Santa Barbara, California, has sued the state and 300 unnamed defendants in connection with head lacerations suffered by Darrin Arroyo, age nine, when the family met a puma while hiking in Gaviota State Park. The unnamed defendants may include people involved in passing the 1990 California Wildlife Protection Act, which banned puma hunting,

in 11 other states, and threatened in two more. Globally, most of the 70 known shrike species are in decline, but no one knows why. The red-backed shrike, as common in Britain as black-birds according to 19th century records, was declared extinct there in 1989.

Alleghany wood rats, formerly found from Connecticut to Tennessee, now hang on only in fragments of habitat in West Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania. Habitat loss and a roundworm parasite carried in raccoon feces appear to be causing the wood rat's demise.

Russian researchers have found dwarf mammoth teeth and bone fragments on Wrangel Island, in the Arctic ocean, that indicate the six-foot-high cousins of the giant woolly mammoth survived 6,000 years longer than any other mammoths, and were still there as recently as 4,000 years ago. The arrival of Eskimo hunters 3,000 years ago may coincide with the dwarf mammoth's extinction.

The Florida Department of Natural Resources, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are a year into a multi-location daily road-kill census. Among the endangered and threatened species found dead on the road in 1992 were 43 Key deer, 43 black bears, and four American crocodiles.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation has withdrawn a plan to relocate moose from other states to the southern Adirondacks, at cost of \$1.3 million, to eventually provide targets for hunters. The NYDEC estimated 42 moose a year would be hit by cars, causing an average of six human injuries and one human fatality every other year. Although moose have historically often wandered into the southern Adirondacks, evidence as to whether they ever formed a permanent population there is ambiguous.

A team headed by Ohio Division of Wildlife warden Jim Petrasek counted 698 deer in three hours recently from the Goodyear blimp—a successful first test of the utility of the quiet aircraft in monitoring wild animal populations.

Have ad

scheduled to be held in Lillehammer, Norway, next February. Norway did dispatch whaling vessels on April 13 to kill 136 minke whales for a "research" project similar to Japan's.

Three leading fisheries biologists argued in the April 2 issue of *Science* that there may be no such thing as a "sustainable yield" of ocean-dwelling fish because the marine ecology is too complex to permit accurate predictions of the fish population from one year to the next. For instance, depending upon the average age of Alaskan salmon in the ocean, the number who must spawn in any given year to maintain the population level may be anywhere from one million to 15 million. Current statistics from the Atlantic coast further demonstrate the lack of predictability: the cod catch from Georges Bank, off Maine, dropped from 63,000 metric tons in 1982 to 29,000 in 1992, but the total Maine catch last year was the biggest since 1982, up 12% from 1991.

Doberman deeds

When a tiger abandoned her newborn cub recently at the zoo in Chhat Bir, India, the zookeeper in desperation gave the cub to his Doberman pinscher to nurse. After 17 days, both dog and tiger were reportedly doing well.

Orphaned by Hurricane Andrew when his original family lost their home and left him at the SPCA in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, a Doberman named Max found a new home with Ava Mareno of New Orleans last October. On March 27, Max saved her two-year-old daughter Brittany's life by pulling away another dog who was mauling her.

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COURT CALENDAR

Animal Trafficking

Worldwide Primates proprietor Matthew Block, 31, of Miami, drew 13 months in federal prison on April 17 for his part in arranging for six infant orangutans to be smuggled from Indonesia to the Soviet Union—the 1990 Bangkok Six case. Hoping to win a plea bargain, Block testified against three accomplices and helped set up the January 26 arrest of a Mexican zoo director for allegedly trying to smuggle a gorilla. However, assistant U.S. attorney Guy Lewis told U.S. district judge James Kehoe that Block had never fully cooperated with either investigation, had lied about his degree of involvement in the orangutan deal, and was still in touch with smuggling associates. Block now faces USDA action for allegedly feeding primates at his facility spoiled food, failing to provide water, and keeping them in vermin-infested cages.

Sudanese authorities seized eight tons of ivory on April 7, worth an estimated \$1 million. The ivory will probably be burned.

Misconduct

Special prosecutor William Walker announced April 18 that he had no grounds on which to charge either former New Matamoras, Ohio, police chief Michael Brightwell or Humane Society of the Ohio Valley agent Linda Moore with cruelty in connection with the February 23 public shooting of 20 dogs whose owner had died. Brightwell, who shot the dogs with Moore's okay, was fired for the action by the New Matamoras council.

More than 1,000 residents of Midland, Michigan, are demanding action against Department of Natural

Activism

U.S. Surgical attorney Hugh Keefe on March 23 persuaded district judge Warren Eglinton to accept a recommendation by magistrate Thomas P. Smith that Friends of Animals' two-year-old defamation suit against U.S. Surgical should be dismissed, "because of a systematic pattern of discovery abuse," primarily pertaining to a U.S. Surgical demand that FoA should turn over a list of all donors of \$1,000 or more—which was in fact delivered to the court with a request that it be kept confidential. Neither Smith or Eglinton noted that Keefe for his part subjected FoA president Priscilla Feral and vice president Sarah Seymour to 43 and 32 sessions of interrogation, respectively, totaling 300 hours, during which time Smith permitted no objections and told Keefe to seek sanctions against them if they refused to answer any question, no matter how personal. FoA filed the case in January 1991, trying to air the full circumstances of the 1988 Fran Trutt case. Trutt, who was arrested just after placing a bomb in the U.S. Surgical parking lot, accepted a plea bargain in March 1990, but not before media investigation and pretrial hearings revealed that she had been given the money to buy the bomb and driven to the site by paid agents of a private security firm retained by U.S. Surgical, Perceptions International. One agent had previously approached many other people in the animal rights, environmental, and radical political communities, suggesting violent and illegal actions against U.S. Surgical because of the firm's laboratory use of dogs. FoA has appealed.

Louisiana attorney general Richard P. Ieyoub ruled April 12 on

Crimes Against Wildlife

Opponents of deer farming predicted it would become a cover for poaching, and the prediction seems to have come true in Quebec, where 25 wardens raided eight different locations during the first week-end in April to seize five hypodermic guns, vials of tranquilizers and antidote, and hundreds of syringes and drug darts, while arresting five game farm owners for illegal possession of 15 live bucks. According to Eastern Townships regional chief warden Real Carboneau, the game farmers would tell neighbors a domesticated deer had escaped, drug a wild deer, and take it home as purportedly recaptured domestic stock. The deer were then killed in canned hunts; customers paid \$500 to \$1,500, depending on the size of the buck. According to *Federation Quebecoise de la Faune* officials Yves Olivier and Yves Castonguay, the racket was bigger than that. They accused Agriculture Canada staff of dispensing deer tags to as many as 75 game ranchers without adequate controls, enabling some of the ranchers to resell the tags to poachers. Further, they said, high ranking Agriculture Canada brass used their influence to delay the investigation by the Quebec Ministry of Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing, to protect "some very important people," whose names have not yet been disclosed. The FQF represents 340 Quebec fish and game clubs, with 250,000 members.

Six students in the Conservation Law Enforcement Program at Unity College in Unity, Maine, have been charged with jacklighting a cow on March 16. Several of the suspects are also under investigation for allegedly killing wild turkeys and songbirds, whose remains were found in their dormitory rooms. John Foster, 24, of Manchester, New Hampshire, was further charged with fraudulently obtaining a hunting license. Five

HUNTING

The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, a hunting and trapping lobby, recently sneaked an amendment to the 1994-1995 Ohio Department of Natural Resources budget through the state House of Representatives that would raise \$450,000 a year for a subsidiary, the Wildlife Conservation Fund of America, through a 25¢ surcharge on the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. The amendment was introduced by representative Ronald Amstutz, at request of WLF director Tom Addis. After the proposed diversion of public money to a special interest lobby became known, Amstutz claimed it was all a mistake. "I was misinformed," he told Michael Sangiacomo of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. "I thought it was a small raise for the people who write the licenses. I made certain assumptions, and apparently I was wrong. I never looked at the language." ODNR legislative liaison Scott Zody said his agency "did not ask for" the amendment, "and does not support it."

The surcharge flap came as the WLFA, the League of Ohio Sportsmen, and the Ohio Federation of Conservation Clubs pushed for a May 4 vote on a bill to legalize dove shooting, which the groups have sought since 1981. Bill proponents described it as a now-or-never effort to send a message to newly elected legislators who may not favor hunting. "Those who care about sportsmen, some of our best friends over the years, are moving out," one lobbyist told Akron *Beacon Journal* outdoor editor Tom Melody. "Age, term limits. Things are changing in a big way." (Ohio voters may ask their representatives to oppose the dove hunting bill, HB 287, at 1-800-282-0253.)

The Vermont House of Representatives approved a bill to allow moose hunting on March 29, 72-67, but rejected it 72-63 the next day, as 11 former supporters abstained and four others changed their votes. The turn-

Resources officer John Geminder, who shot a tame deer in front of two dozen visitors at the West Midland Family Center on February 28, allegedly because the deer was kept there without a permit.

Pennsylvania Agency of Animal Welfare investigator Leon Johnson, 44, has been charged with taking a bribe of \$5,000 in November 1992 for losing paperwork concerning the death of cows on a farm in Wayne County.

Crimes Against Humans

The Cleveland, Ohio, coroner has changed the listed cause of the Sept. 2, 1992 death of Angela Kaplan, 28, from "violence" to "murder," upon the advice of dog behaviorist Karen Arnoff. Kaplan, the mother of two young daughters, bled to death after suffering more than 180 bites from a pit bull terrier belonging to her unidentified common law husband, who told police she refused medical treatment. He has not been charged.

Donna Marie Walko, 35, of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, was convicted March 26 of conspiracy and solicitation to commit murder during June 1990. On June 12, 1992, while the case was pending, Walko was convicted of cruelty to a horse whom Animal Care and Welfare SPCA chief humane agent Ernest Blotzer found "emaciated, drawn, and dehydrated," with "Mane and portion of back singed and burnt."

Released on \$10,000 bail March 26 after an arrest for assaulting a woman, biting a dog, and attacking two hotel security guards, Donald Fitzgerald, 42, of Cohecton, New York, was arrested again hours later, for shooting a cat dead and wounding a 15-year-old bicyclist.

Bowhunter Christopher Hightower, 43, was convicted April 21 of killing a family of three in September 1991 near Providence, Rhode Island. Hightower said his crossbow was found in the victims' car because he'd bought it to kill raccoons and groundhogs for them.

behalf of Legislation in Support of Animals that, "It is the opinion of this office that the Animal Care and Use Committee (at public college and university campuses within the state) is subject to the Open Meeting Law." This clears the way for LISA representatives to attend animal care and use committee meetings, or to sue to attend if barred.

Stefan Presser, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Pennsylvania, warned Pennsylvania state police commissioner Glenn Walp on April 16 that he misinstructed officers two weeks earlier when he told them that they could charge anti-pigeon shoot protesters who videotaped their actions with a third-degree felony under the state Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Act. "I write to appraise you," Presser cautioned, "that your statement runs counter both to the language of the statute and the interpretation given it by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. An individual does not commit a crime by recording with a video camera the oral communication of Pennsylvania State Troopers acting in their official capacities at public events."

Jailed since Nov. 3 for contempt of court after refusing to testify to a federal grand jury probing the Animal Liberation Front, Oregon activist Jonathan Paul petitioned for release in late March, claiming no amount of coercion can make him testify. He could remain jailed until December.

Bunny Huggers' Gazette ad

of the six quit the program when the charges were laid, while the sixth, apparently involved only after the fact, was placed on disciplinary probation. The case broke when Waldo County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Boyer arrested Foster, Peter Leo, 21, of Worcester, Massachusetts, and Dieter Ganshaw, 20, of Hyannis, Mass., for night bowhunting. It was the second unusual jack-lighting case in Maine within two months. On Valentine's Day, Randy Swafford, 20, of Woodland, shot Stacey Dyer, 17, of Caribou, as she sat in a parked car with her boyfriend. Swafford, who had illegally baited the area, said he thought he'd shot a coyote.

Hunting guide Brad Lee Langvardt, 41, of Soldotna, Alaska, drew 18 months in jail April 13 and forfeited a Super Cub airplane worth \$30,000, in a deal that allowed him to plead guilty to only six of the 30 poaching charges he originally faced. Langvardt, assistant guide Brent Allen Shuman of Wasilla, and clients Tim Gress of Ennis, Montana, and Richard Damele of Concord, Calif., allegedly used the plane in illegally killing grizzly bears, caribou, wolves, and Dall sheep. In earlier plea-bargains, Shuman accepted a sentence of 300 hours of community service plus a two-year loss of hunting privileges; Gress took a fine of \$10,000; and Damele was fined \$5,000.

Seventeen alleged poachers were nabbed April 17 in a series of raids near Potosi and Mineral Point, Missouri. Five hundred pounds of game meat were seized.

Six of the eight alleged poachers arrested in Operation Clanbake, the biggest poaching bust ever in Ohio, have now copped plea bargains. The stiffest sentence went to Doug Andrews of Toledo, who faced 41 charges, will spend 28 days in jail with 11 months suspended; was fined \$8,200, ordered to pay \$3,800 restitution, and lost his hunting and fishing privileges for life, but can petition to hunt and fish again in 15 years.

A federal grand jury has indicted Cesario Quinteros Campos, 32, and Ricardo Contreras Tirado, 23, for shooting repeatedly at a highly endangered California condor on July 19, 1992. The condor escaped injury.

about was credited to the efforts of House Speaker Ralph Wright, D-Bennington, who may be thanked at Matteson Road, North Bennington, VT 05257.

California Fish and Game Director Boyd Gibbons bucked the hunting lobby April 2 by asking the state Fish and Game Commission to ban bear hunting with dogs. "Hound hunting is an old tradition," Gibbons said, "and I do not lightly dismiss custom and tradition. But it is not enough to defend a form of hunting simply because it is traditional. Dogfighting and cockfighting are also traditions, but traditions that our society for good reasons does not sanction."

The New Hampshire legislature on April 17 defeated a bill to make hunters wear orange, 290-50, on grounds it would infringe individual rights.

The Missouri Department of Conservation, one of the few wildlife agencies in the U.S. not funded mainly by hunting license sales, has bulldozed over a pond considered vital to the study of diminishing salamander populations in order to build a \$1.5 million skeet-shooting center. "It's been studied for many years because of the peculiar combination of spotted, tiger, and marbled salamanders," said Washington University professor Richard W. Coles. "There's only one other spot in the world where the three species occur together, and that's in Nova Scotia." Numerous MDC staffers turned out to help volunteers move the salamanders, but experts say they have little chance of surviving at the new site, which lacks natural cover.

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, a trophy-hunting groups, raised \$2.6 million at a recent fundraiser. FNAWS channels money to the hunting programs of 12 western state wildlife agencies, and took an active part in defeating the Arizona trap ban initiative last fall.

Hunters' Advocate, a pro-hunting computer bulletin board, debuted circa March 1, sponsored by the bowmaking firm Chippewa Archery Inc. The modem access number is 906-643-961; modem setting is 8N1; and the baud rate is either 1200 or 2400.

The dream that haunts Vic Koppelberger

by Donna Robb

Vic Koppelberger

The dream that haunts Vic Koppelberger came to him 30 years ago, and changed his life.

"I stood in a room before all the animals I ever shot," Koppelberger remembers. "They were lined up and staring at me. It was my judgement day."

Koppelberger, now 75, never hunted again.

He had the dream shortly after a disturbing hunting experience. Using a stuffed owl as a decoy, Koppelberger and his game warden hunting companion hid in the woods at the edge of a clearing. The owl, perched on a stump, attracted crows who dive-bombed the stuffed enemy. The crows made easy targets.

The hunting pair moved to a new location, and using the same tactic, drew a Cooper's hawk within shotgun range. Vic doesn't know whose pellets brought the hawk tumbling from the sky, but it was only wounded.

"I held it in my hand. It was bleeding through my fingers. It looked at me with those red eyes, so defiant and full of hatred for me. I asked myself, why am I doing this? Why? And I didn't have an answer." Koppelberger's eyes well up and his voice trails off as he tells the story.

Born in 1917, raised in rural Medina, Ohio, Koppelberger always loved the outdoors. "I escaped from my strict Baptist father by heading for the woods," he remembers. "I'd take a cowboy book with me, and an air gun." Koppelberger, a loner in school, loved guns. "I was skinny and bashful, so I guess the gun made me feel tough," he says. "I had feelings for animals. I tried to make pets of everything, but I couldn't resist guns. If I couldn't have an animal, hold it, I would shoot it. We were farm boys. Everybody, even the dog warden, hunted and trapped, and the game warden was my idol. I was an emotional guy, but I had to hide it."

The eyes of one dying hawk and a Judgement Day dream turned Koppelberger around. He vowed to make amends. "I had to pay them back somehow. I began helping animals every chance I could. I consider everything I do for animals now as paying my debt," he explains.

Koppelberger became a wildlife rehabilitator. He also assisted with bird-banding projects, climbing trees to band nestlings. And his research into the habits and diets of

animals, then auction the pelts or sell live animals to hunting clubs. Among them, Koppelberger is a rarity. He seldom charges a fee for his assistance, and he will not sell wild animals. Nor does he kill any animal who isn't too badly injured or too ill to recover.

Several veterinarians are prepared for anything when Koppelberger walks through their doors. He's taken them snakes, geese, ducks, raccoons, turtles, owls, hawks, squirrels, even one great blue heron. Most of the vets treat or euthanize Koppelberger's wild waifs gratis. In return Koppelberger is sometimes called into the clinics to identify snakes. A network of other wildlife rehabilitators assist him in nursing injured animals back to health, including raptor experts Bill and Laura Jordan, 42, who for six years have maintained a private bird rehab center at their home in Chatham Township—complete with a 32-foot-long flight cage. Between the birds brought to them by Koppelberger and birds brought by others, they assisted 56 birds in all last year.

CHILDREN AND ANIMALS

The National Institutes of Health is now distributing seven sets of *Let's Visit a Research Laboratory Lesson Plans* free to public schools and to anyone else on request. "Even though the Michigan Humane Society agrees with legitimate uses of animals in biomedical research," MHS lobbyist Eileen Liska told U.S. Senator Carl Levin in a recent letter of protest, "these are clearly an example of blatantly one-sided pro-animal research propaganda, and as such are an inappropriate use of tax dollars. The brochures do not portray the scientific and ethical complexities of animal research. I have found a disturbing number of factual errors in the texts. And also please notice how the references at the end of each lesson plan are equally one-sided—especially the frequency with which the National Association for Biomedical Research and Foundation for Biomedical Research are referenced. These are special interest organizations with sizeable budgets for promoting their viewpoint. There is no justification for allowing the NIH to use limited federal funds," supposed to be spent on promoting public health, "to help such special interests." The lesson plans are available from Public Inquiries, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, Room 15C-05, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

The Encyclopedia Britannica has deleted a passage from its 1993 edition, included in the 1991 edition which noted that laboratory use of dogs, often entailing "much suffering, has been questioned for its scientific validity and medical relevance to human health problems. For example," the passage continued, "beagles and other animals have been forced to inhale tobacco smoke for days and have been used to test household chemicals such as bleach and drain cleaner. In addition, dogs have been used to test the effects of various military weapons and radiation." The encyclopedia also deleted the word "vivisection" from one adjacent passage and a mention of "growing recognition of animals rights" from another. The deletions were demanded by the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, which is now urging the encyclopedia to add material on medical advances purportedly made through experiments using dogs. (*The Encyclopedic*

predatory birds helped remove a price tag from their heads. "The state used to pay bounties—a dollar per dead hawk, 25¢ for a crow," he remembers. Koppelberger also assisted in a statewide songbird tracking project.

At age 45, Koppelberger, a World War II veteran and father of four, was out of the closet. "If you were a photographer or birdwatcher, you didn't tell that to many people," he recalls. "I admitted to one guy that I was bird-watching, and he said, 'I always knew there was something wrong with you.' It wasn't disgraceful then to have all those heads on the wall, but things have changed."

Koppelberger and his wife of 54 years, Maxine, joined a newly founded local SPCA in 1986. He soon became the humane officer. He also obtained a state license in 1988 to officially act as a "nuisance trapper." As Medina County, 25 miles southwest of Cleveland, evolved from rural to suburban, wild animals increasingly came into conflict with humans. Most "nuisance trappers" who respond to problem wildlife calls are fur trappers, turning an extra dollar on the side. They charge homeowners to catch ani-

Koppelberger rescues animals from all the usual places—attics, basements, garages, chimneys, trees, playgrounds, supermarkets, and roadways—all the while remembering that public education is the key to creating peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife. He has come to expect the 2 a.m. telephone call and frantic voice on the line: "Will it bite me? Does it have rabies? How can I get rid of it?" He handles each case with patience, knowhow, and years of experience.

"After that day of hunting and the lesson that hawk taught me," Koppelberger says, "and as I look back, I know that no one should ever try to capture or kill the wild creatures of the woods and fields. To me, the term 'harvest' is a cover-up. Animals are killed; wheat and corn are harvested. I am older now, and a little wiser." He laughs. "I even walk around spider webs."

[Koppelberger may be contacted for wildlife advice c/o the Medina County SPCA, P.O. Box 135, Medina, OH 44258; 216-723-7722.]

Britanica may be reached at Britanica Centre, 310 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.)

The current issue of the *Journal of Social Issues* Vol. 49, #1, examines "The Role of Animals in Human Society." Editor Scott Plous found that 43% to 87% of a sampling of 143 college students don't know about various common painful practices involved in the use of animals for food and clothing, while among 57 grade school students 54% failed to recognize the animal source of hamburger 51% failed to recognize the animal source of ice cream 79% failed to recognize the animal source of a leather jacket; and 95% failed to recognize the animal source of silk. Among 117 adults, none recognized more than six of 12 listed products as commonly including materials of animal origin. Thirty-four percent failed to recognize the animal content of at least one common dairy product.

Heartland Products ad

Horses and Cattle

Senator Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-New York) have reintroduced the Downed Animal Protection Act, as S. 367 and H.R. 559, which would require stockyards to promptly euthanize sick and injured animals. Support for the measure may be addressed to Senators and Congressional Representatives.

The American Horse Protection Association's sixth annual training seminar for equine cruelty investigators will be held May 20-21 at College Park, Maryland. Get details from Ellen Foysyth, 202-965-0500.

Norma Bearcroft, president of the Canadian Wild Horse Society, has asked members to approve a resolution to disband the struggling group by year's end.

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Marguerite Richter, Pamela Rosenstock,
Victoria Rowe, Vera Samuels, Gloria Scott,
Jill J. Scott, Terri Stanley,
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Karen F. Williams, and Irving Yablon.

Two horses were killed and two exercise riders hurt in three accidents at the Pimlico Race Course (near Baltimore) during the first five days of April. One horse was electrocuted when a loose cable touched the starting gate, while two others tripped, throwing their mounts. For All, a seven-year-old gelding, was uninjured, but rider Kathy Driscoll suffered a broken back and serious internal bleeding. Alaska Bound, a three-year-old gelding, broke a leg and was destroyed.

Quebec harness racing trainers warned at a March 23 press conference that the proposed opening of casinos in Montreal would kill the financially troubled Blue Bonnets raceway.

Point-to-point racing, a form of participant competition evolved out of fox hunting, now draws as many as 3,000 people to meets in Great Britain (usually sponsored as fundraisers by hunting clubs), even as the popularity of fox hunting itself declines.

CATWATCHING, DOGWATCHING, and CATLORE, by Desmond Morris. Crown Trade Paperbacks (201 East 50th St., New York, NY 10022) 1993. 144, 144, and 192 pages; \$8.00 each.

Picture, if you will, the Persian army advancing upon the Egyptians circa 500 B.C.: a cacaphony of orders battle cries, shrieks of the wounded, clashing weapons, and flying missiles. The warriors wear only helmets, partial breastplates, and rattling bronze skirts—if that much because the Middle Eastern sun can quickly turn any piece of armor into a searing self-torture device. As the Persians charge the Egyptian stronghold, the defenders see that along with their swords, spears, and shields, the invaders each bear a cat. According to Desmond Morris, who does not cite his dubious source, the Egyptians retreat rather than risk harming even one sacred cat through resistance.

Now imagine yourself in a bathing suit, trying to carry your own cat across a busy street.

Chances are, if the Persians ever attempted any such foolhardy stunt, they were clawed to ribbons long before reaching the battlefield, the cats escaped and fled to safety, and the Egyptians were overrun by reinforcement while laughing themselves sick.

The tale of the Persian cat as quasi-Trojan Horse has been around for a few thousand years, unlike most of Desmond Morris' unintentional howlers in *Catlore*; the problem in repeating it is that it is presented without qualification in a volume supposedly intended to illuminate feline behavior through the author's expertise as a world-renowned mammalogist. Though best known as author of *The Naked Ape*, the 1967 best-seller likening mankind to chimpanzees Morris does have formidable credentials as a cat-watcher too, presented in his 1986 British best-seller *Catwatching*—now reissued by Crown, along with *Catlore* and his 1987 volume *Dogwatching*, as a three-title set *Catwatching* and *Dogwatching* are accurately remembered as two of the most easily and enjoyably read volumes on companion animal behavior ever produced. Unfortunately *Catlore*, the new addition to the group, resembles the authoritative *Catwatching* only to the degree that out-takes resemble a finished film. Apparently quite unwittingly *Catlore* is at best the blooper tape. Morris assures us, for instance, that one can stop a charging lion or tiger by looking the beast straight in the eye. He knows this because a friend of his noticed that a tiger in the London Zoo repeatedly halted in mid-rush when the friend lowered his camera to make eye-contact, never mind that the tiger might simply

(NSAL photo.)

New tricks for old dogs and cats

Seniors for Seniors

PORT WASHINGTON, New York—Already adopting out 43,000 animals a year, the North Shore Animal League isn't satisfied. While NSAL helps 21 other shelters around the U.S. place most of their puppies and kittens, older animals are in low demand. The animal over five years of age stands virtually no chance of adoption anywhere, even if housebroken, docile, affectionate, and likely to live at least another five years in excellent health.

The answer, Seniors for Seniors program director Myron Gould thinks, may be matching older pets with senior citizens, who often want an animal companion but are reluctant to take in a young animal because of the extra work involved and because of anxiety that they may die, leaving the animal homeless.

"We're starting out just trying to reach the senior citizens in our own area," Gould says. "We know these seniors may be hard to reach. They're socially isolated—that's why they probably would benefit from having a pet. We're going to make it possible. And we're going to assure them that the

Lifelong Friends

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico—It isn't easy to pay rent, buy food, and keep a pet on just \$500 a month, but hundreds of New Mexico senior citizens do it, with the help of the five-year-old Lifelong Friends pro-

gram, a project of Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection. Coordinated from Albuquerque by Shirley Hendrickson, Lifelong Friends provides free and/or assisted veterinary care to the pets of seniors.

"Pets are extremely valuable to seniors," explains SCAP vice president Frances Bentley. "Studies show that they live longer when they have animal companionship—so many seniors don't have other humans they can talk to and relate to. And here in New Mexico," which ranks 42nd out of the 50 states in per capita income, "we have so many seniors who are living in poverty. We put those concerns together when we formed Lifelong Friends. Our income ceiling is very low, and it should be higher, but unfortunately we do have limited funding. At least we're able to help some of the seniors who need it the most."

Starting with only one participating veterinarian, SCAP now has veterinarians all over New Mexico involved, according to Bentley. Lifelong Friends helps seniors with neutering, vaccinations, and even emergency care. A parallel program assists low-income people of any age with neutering.

The biggest problem Lifelong Friends has is the perennial bugaboo of most charitable projects: lack of secure funding. For that reason, seniors are limited to having two pets apiece in the program. "We had some help from various state agencies for a while," Bentley says, "but they pulled out after budget cuts. Now we're really trying to grab onto some corporate money. Fortunately we'll have our president, Elizabeth Jennings, working fulltime after May 1. A wealthy patron is bankrolling her for a year, and maybe that can help us to bring in some backing."

Details on Lifelong Friends are available from Hendrickson at 505-265-1961, from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays.

\$25,000 & up for lifelong care

HOUSTON, Texas—Texas A&M University on March 26 dedicated an animal shelter, of sorts. For an endowment of \$25,000 per cat or dog, and \$50,000 per horse, the Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center will keep an animal for the rest of his or her life, after the owner dies. The animals will be used to study how animals bond to humans and what role facilities and caretakers play in their well-being, according to associate director Sally Knight. "The center was developed in response to a real need in the human community," Knight said, adding that 25 to 30 animals are already enrolled.

animals they adopt, who will be five years and older, will be healthy and will be good companions for a reasonable amount of time. For the life of any animal adopted out through Seniors for Seniors, NSAL will pay for all medical care and grooming (via the NSAL facilities), will provide foster care for the animal if the senior is hospitalized, will provide emergency food if necessary, and we'll start them out with all the essential equipment, such as a litter box, a bag of litter, a scoop, a leash, and even a toy. All they pay for is food."

In addition, NSAL "will replace any dead animals and provide no-cost bereavement counseling, and if the senior dies before the animal does, we'll take the animal back and guarantee the animal will be placed in an equivalent home, if healthy."

Three NSAL staffers are being trained to serve as adoption counselors to elderly clients. "Each senior will work with the same adoption counselor throughout the life of the animal," Gould explains. "We'll be providing very personalized attention. Seniors for Seniors will be handled through a special area of our shelter," with adoption interviews and follow-up care provided by appointment. "The seniors won't be required to go through the line with everyone else."

The start-up media blitz included a full-page ad donated by the New York *Daily News* on May 1, ads donated by the Anton Publications chain of community weeklies, and window signs posted by local Pathmark supermarkets and pharmacies.

"We know seniors read newspapers intensively, and go to pharmacies often," Gould explains. "We're also writing to all the local priests, rabbis, and other clergy, asking if they know seniors who might benefit from acquiring a companion animal. We're doing a mailing to all local industries that employ at least 20 people, asking them to post information on their bulletin boards. We may even do a 50,000-piece direct mailing to seniors, if this is what it takes to get this thing rolling."

Despite the scale of promotion, the initial phase of Seniors for Seniors has a modest target: 20 adoptions the first month. But that's just a shakedown.

"Once we have a model program running out of Port Washington," Gould promises, "and have developed the educational materials and training books we need, we're going to move this program out into other areas with our own people to make it go. We may even get it going in France and the United Kingdom, where we've discovered some interest."

have had the sense to stop before slamming his head into the iron bars. We'll provide a follow-up report when and if this big-cat-stopper proves itself in the bush, if anyone lives to report the results.

Meanwhile, Morris goes on to relate that Many cats appear round because they are chronically constipated and are chronically constipated because they have unusually small anuses. One would expect a mammologist to know that anuses stretch, by design; that feces compacts; and that diet, not the size of an anal orifice, is the primary factor in regulating bowel movements.

Apparently Morris so wishes to answer every question about cats and dogs in a scientific manner that he will reach even to pseudo-science if no other "rational" explanation comes to hand. Through the frequent use of the word "watching" in his titles, Morris emphasizes his years of observation as his basis for explanations, but one must ultimately wonder how much observation he has actually done lately between jotting down theories that would probably be quickly discredited if advanced by anyone else. For example, Morris in *Catlore* flatly denies that some cats manage to find their way from their people's old home to the people's new home, often hundreds of miles away, without ever having seen the new home. In *Catwatching*, however, he proclaimed such occurrences as documented fact. He changed his mind, apparently, arguing now that after a few weeks or months, most of the people involved simply don't recognize their cats, and assume strays of similar appearance who turn

Evolution ad

up on their doorstep are old so-and-so. This does not account for recorded instances in which the cats have been identified via scars, tattoos, collars, and quirks of behavior. In *Catwatching*, Morris acknowledged that since feline perception is very different from ours, cats may have tracking skills we have not yet quantified. In *Catlore*, the only answer to anything he can't explain seems to be that the rest of us are stupid.

It gets worse. Morris correctly explains that relatively few tomcats kill kittens, and that at least as many toms behave paternally, tolerantly, and kindly toward them. He proceeds, however, to assert that those tomcats who do kill kittens do so by accident. Sexually frustrated, they purportedly try to mount the kittens, bite their heads to make them hold still, and quite inadvertently puncture their skulls. They may then partially eat the corpses as part of another facet of feline behavior. Perhaps Morris has actually seen such a thing—I've seen a randy young tomcat try to mount a skunk, mistaking her warning signals for mating behavior—but almost anyone who has been around feral cat colonies for long, especially in barnyards, has occasionally had the unpleasant task of dealing with the carnage after a ferocious old tom tore into a nest of kittens, momentarily left by the mother, as if it were a nest of young rats. The toms involved, in my own observation, are always elderly longtime dominant toms who are suddenly facing strong challenges from newcomers, including offspring from previous litters whom they left alone. Many explanations may come to mind: displaced hostility, deliberate infanticide, even mistaking kittens for prey. Sexual aggression undoubtedly is very much involved. But one thing these toms aren't doing when they're batting week-old kittens into the air like so many wounded mice is reaping them to death.

On a less gruesome note, Morris believes cats follow us on walks as vestigial kitten behavior: following their surrogate mamas. But they won't follow us far beyond the edge of the garden, he claims, before retreating to safety in more familiar surroundings. Contrariwise, we have three cats here at **ANIMAL PEOPLE**—Catapuss, Gidget, and Keeter—who have followed human companions many times on walks of a mile or more. Half a dozen others will follow us the length of a city block. And why not? If an explana-

BOOK REVIEWS

tion is required beyond the cats' own sociable nature, it may be noted that hunting cats routinely range far afield on their own. Humans merely provide them with "air cover" against hawks, owls, hostile dogs, foxes, coyotes, and even cars. Further, the presence of humans trampling through fields and along wooded lanes can flush prey from cover. Mamas, hell; we're the cats' pack of hounds (even if we do discourage hunting to the extent of our ability).

Morris denounces vegetarian diets for cats in both *Catwatching* and *Catlore*, not an unusual position, but adds a passing assertion in the latter that humans, too, have evolved as a predator. This idea long since waned from anthropological vogue; perhaps Morris hasn't kept up with the literature of the field since *The Naked Ape*. Except for bifocal vision, common in predators but also useful in swinging from treelimits, we lack such attributes of predators as claws and fangs. Current theory holds that while humans have the ability to be carnivorous, like baboons and chimpanzees, our natural diet is primarily vegetarian.

Morris is comparably behind the times in *Dogwatching*, predicating behavioral explanations on the now discredited theory that dogs descended from wolves. Once widely believed, this idea has yielded to genetic evidence that the highly adaptable dog and the quite specialized wolf have, rather, a common ancestor. Most of Morris' ideas about the development of dog behavior are nonetheless convincing. In Morris' defense, one must note that the research confirming the probability of a common ancestor and refuting direct descent had barely begun in the mid-1980s, when Morris authored *Dogwatching*.

Catlore is simply another case. The clincher may be Morris' reconsideration of neutering, strongly advocated in *Catwatching* and still somewhat favored in *Catlore*, but with qualifications. In common with some of the most extreme animal rights ideologues, whose views Morris otherwise bluntly rejects, he holds now that neutering maybe isn't really what's best for cats; that maybe we should be vasectomizing and tube-tying instead; that we are hypo-

crites for proclaiming that we're eliminating undesirable behavior as well as fertility, since this behavior isn't undesirable to cats themselves. Although Morris proclaims repeatedly that cats don't cogitate, he here seems to suggest that if cats could choose, they would reject the choice we make for them: a comfortable home and regular meals if they don't yowl, fight, spray, and wander, as opposed to hungry insecurity and a premature demise, whether on the streets or through euthanasia. Certainly many humans would reject that choice; but it is hard to observe a purring neutered domestic cat and be convinced that she isn't as content as she could be.

—Merritt Clifton

OBITUARIES

Cesar Chavez, 66, died in his sleep April 25 in San Luis, Arizona. Best known as founder of the United Farm

Workers Union, Chavez died in 1989, the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal ruled unanimously that, "The protection of the public from sick and diseased

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Workers union, Chavez was a self-educated former fruit picker, a staunch advocate of Gandhian nonviolent tactics for social change, a vegetarian from early youth on, and a longtime member of the Animal Rights Network Inc. advisory board.

German wildlife film maker **Dieter Plage**, 57, was killed April 3 in an accidental fall from an airship he was using as a camera platform while producing a documentary for the National Geographic Society and Survival Anglia Ltd. Films. Plage was noted for a 1975 TV film on the mountain gorillas of Zaire that drew worldwide attention to the plight of the highly endangered species, eight years before Dian Fossey published *Gorillas In The Mist*; for a profile of Scottish elephant behaviorist Iain Douglas-Hamilton; for contributions to the CBS series *World of Survival*; and for a 1980 autobiography, *Wild Horizons*.

Gary Frazell, 60, founder of the Society for Animal Welfare Administrators, died of lymphoma February 10 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Frazell formerly ran the community shelter in Naples, Florida, was general manager of the Michigan Humane Society and the Nebraska Humane Society, and from 1979 until his retirement in March 1992 was executive director of the New Orleans-based Louisiana SPCA.

His tenure in New Orleans included two landmark controversies. In 1987 the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association asked the state veterinary licensing board to suspend the four vets who staffed the LSPCA discount clinic, under rules barring vets from practicing with non-vets, except within governmental institutions. The LVMA claimed the LSPCA clinic hurt vets in private practice. The board complied, and the 19th Judicial District Court upheld the suspensions in 1988. To keep the clinic open, the New Orleans city council in April 1989 declared the veterinarians were city employees, since the LSPCA then got \$187,000 a year to provide the city with animal control and rescue service. The LSPCA then appealed the suspensions. On August 3,

animals is a proper function of government, and if a certain segment of the population cannot afford the services of private veterinary care, it is also proper for government to step in and fill that void." On January 24, 1990, the Louisiana Supreme Court affirmed the verdict, setting an important precedent for other humane societies confronted by veterinary opposition to low-cost neutering and vaccination clinics.

Later in 1990, New Orleans cancelled its contract with the LSPCA due to a civic budget crisis. On January 1, 1991, the LSPCA ceased performing animal control and rescue duties. Legislation In Support of Animals, a comparatively tiny volunteer group, took over until September 1991, when the city paid the LSPCA \$100,000 to resume service as usual.

The Edmonton SPCA, of Edmonton, Alberta, has received the \$3.5 million estate of artist **Margaret Chappelle**, who died in June 1992 at age 77. The bequest is nearly three times the size of the shelter's annual budget.

Bob the Weather Cat, 13, of Portland, Oregon, perhaps the best-known cat in America before Chelsea Clinton brought Socks to the White House, was euthanized recently due to liver cancer. A former stray adopted by KATU-2 TV news staffer Bob Foster, Bob (whose actual name was Hank-dog) appeared on the weather segment of the station news broadcast every Friday, wearing a seasonally appropriate costume. Most of the costumes were mailed to KATU-2 by fans. Usually patient with the attention, Bob also appeared in numerous magazines. Memorial contributions were directed to the Oregon Humane Society, while another former stray, also adopted by Foster, is now on the program.

international catalogue listing of books, publications and merchandise, send \$1.00 (shipping) to CIVIS/Civitas, POB 491, Hartsdale, NY 10530.

CITIZENS AGAINST HUNTING need coordinators in province of Ontario. Write to Hamilton Coordinator, Upper James Outlet, Hamilton, Ontario L9C 78N.

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MEMORIALS

To the memory of my dear beloved cat Grayson, who would have been 18 on April 24.

—DeVera Lipskey

In memory of Daisy, a feral, lost to feline leukemia.

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EVENTS & DEADLINES

American Humane Assn.

April 29: Hearings begin on Refuges 2003—*A Plan for the Future of the National Refuge System*, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Two of seven proposed alternatives, the Sanctuary Alternative and the Wildlife Observation Alternative, would ban hunting and trapping on refuges outside Alaska. Another, the Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Alternative, would turn refuges into virtual canned hunts. Subsequent hearing dates include **May 11**, Ramada Atlanta Airport, Atlanta, Georgia; **May 13**, YWCA Leadership Development Center, Phoenix, Arizona; **May 18**, B.P.A. Building, Portland, Oregon; **May 20**, Fairview Community Center, Anchorage, Alaska; **May 25**, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, Minnesota; **May 26**, Radisson Hotel, Woburn, Massachusetts; and **June 1**, USFWS Regional Office, Lakewood, Colorado.

May 5: *Throwaway Pets*, a PBS documentary produced by the New Jersey Network, debuts May 5 on KTEH Channel 54 (broadcast to the San Francisco Bay area). In June it will be rebroadcast by KQED Channel 9. Much of the documentary was videotaped at the Peninsula Humane Society in San Mateo, California.

May 8: International Migratory Bird Day, the debut of a planned annual event, modeled after Earth Day. The focus is on protecting habitat for approximately 300 species of forest-dwelling birds who migrate across the U.S., whose numbers are now in dramatic decline. Get details from Jamie K. Doyle, 202-673-4908. Events will be coordinated by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Information and Education Working Group of Partners in Flight.

May 9: Veal Ban Action, a national day of

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