

Avoiding roadkills

Secrets of animal

behavior *that can save your life!*

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Squirrel

You're cruising near the speed limit late one night, tired from a long drive. You catch a glint of eyes in your headlight beams, a dark shape breaking from the shadows to your right, an oncoming car to your left—

Do you jam on the brakes? Speed up to get past before the animal bolts? Risk swerving? Take your foot off the gas?

Combat pilots memorize silhouette cards and aircraft specification sheets, in order to recognize every other plane in the sky even if all they see is a fleeting glimpse of something on radar. They need to know instantly what's out there: whether it's hostile, how fast it can go, how far it can shoot. At Mach 2, there isn't time for second-guessing.

But at 60 miles an hour your car is outracing the focal distance of your headlights even faster than a fighter pilot outraces radar range. And like most other drivers, you haven't had any training in how to respond to an animal in the roadway.

Approximately 130 people per year die in animal/car collisions. Animals in the road cause one accident in 10, and after drunk driving are the leading cause of sin-

gle-car accidents. Deer/car collisions alone kill 100 people per year, injure 7,000 more, and leave 350,000 deer dead or fatally wounded. The annual roadkill toll also includes 1.5 million cats, half a million other animals whose remains are big enough to be removed as road hazards by highway departments, and uncounted millions of other creatures—as many as a million a day, according to the Humane Society of the U.S., although the estimate is based on data now 35 years old.

But you can avoid roadkills!

Despite the frequency with which roadkills occur they are not inevitable. The key to avoiding them is to identify the habitat in advance of an incident, so as to anticipate what might bolt in front of you and what you might be able to safely do; then identify the species as soon as you see an animal, with a clear understanding of the animal's behavior. The highway behavior of different kinds of animals does

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

Seeking The *truth* about feral cats and the people who help them

NEW STUDY YIELDS CONTROVERSIAL FINDINGS

BOSTON, MASS. — The leading cause of death among homeless cats may be humane euthanasia. Homeless cat colonies exist in almost every American neighborhood—but four out of 10 homeless cats live in just 6% of the colonies, and two-thirds live in only 16%. Over half of all stray and feral female cats are pregnant at any given time. Yet attrition is so high that despite local fluctuations, the national homeless cat population is remarkably stable.

These and other challenges to conventional thinking about homeless cats emerge from data gathered by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and the Massachusetts SPCA, in the first-ever national survey of cat-feeders and cat-rescuers. The controversial nature of the findings and the complexity of interpreting the data in light of experience became apparent when even the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editors strongly differed over what some of the numbers may mean.

Some of the findings verify what many people who work with homeless cats have known all along: most of the cats die young; their deaths are often violent or difficult; at least one in cat in three was once a pet; homeless cats are heavily dependent upon human feeding, as

well as the refuse and vermin they find near human dwellings; and contrary to the stereotype of cats as independent, homeless cats are anything but solitary, typically living in colonies of six to sixteen members.

But the survey also indicates that the homeless cat population is somewhat self-regulating, tending to remain at or near a particular carrying capacity just as a wildlife population would. Getting at the reasons why would appear to be the crux of ending the homeless cat problem. The survey both confirms that wildlife population dynamics don't fully apply to homeless cats, and that the factors governing wildlife population growth do need to be considered in addressing feline homelessness. On the one hand, the park pigeon and squirrel populations in many big cities are apparently comparably dependent upon deliberate human feeding and other human-provided food sources. Like feral cats, many of the pigeons had domesticated ancestors—albeit mostly many generations ago. On the other hand, neither the squirrel nor pigeon breeding population is augmented by wandering pets who go

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Wolf (the baby) and Alfred (the cat) enjoy the waning days of summer in their personal Garden of Eden.

WAR IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN: *Saving Children and Animals*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The press dispatches should have warned the world. "Rivers and water holes have dried up for the first time anyone can remember, starving and burning to death some 400 hippos," Associated Press correspondent Angus Shaw wrote from Zimbabwe in mid-July. "Dead birds have dropped out of shriveled trees, tortoises, snakes, rodents, and insects have disappeared, and predators are killing more weakened animals than they can eat... As southern Africa suffers its worst drought ever, thousands of animals have died and officials are continuing to shoot many more to feed the increasingly desperate human population. The meat from the culled animals has been targeted for children showing signs of malnutrition."

By September 16, *New York Times* correspondent Barbara Crossette reported, "Millions of animals are dying. At least two million people have become refugees in search of food." United Nations relief workers estimated that at least 18 million people might die before year's end, most of them starving children. Taking matters into their own hands, boys and girls barely into their teens joined guerilla bands in wartorn Somalia, seized food shipments, and obliged the U.S. Marines to guard the U.N. warehouses.

That same afternoon, approximately 70 participants returned home from the second in a series of American Humane Association conferences on the

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INSIDE:

**Canada strips
Animal Defense League
of charitable status—
retaliation for antifur
success?**

**Hegins paper says
protesters shot pigeons**

**Plus letters, reviews,
news roundups, and
much,
much more!**

Editorials

Change vs. "movement"

Our mail box has been full of letters either presuming or attacking our presumed position with respect to the animal rights movement. Animal rights philosopher Tom Regan among others welcomed our contribution to the movement; New York activist Dawn Hernandez jumped on us for "movement-bashing"; and on the letters page, opposite, Michael Gurwitz proposes that we should rename the movement, whatever it happens to be.

As we see it, though, the "movement" is largely history. A movement is the take-off phase of a theme in social evolution, when a cause has relatively few supporters, and must provoke confrontation to draw notice—often taking rhetorically extreme and practically impossible positions for the same reasons that an infant shrieks. The primary aim of the animal rights movement was restoring animals to public awareness, after nearly a century of slipping interest in humane concerns. Public opinion polls, political response (pro and con), and a few striking campaign successes all showed that this was achieved by 1988, as sociologist Bill Moyer of the Social Movement Empowerment Project pointed out in 1989 to a gathering of "movement" leaders convened by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett and Priscilla Feral of Friends of Animals.

The next phase is translating a rise in public sympathy into appropriate individual

and collective action. Movements at this point either disband as their central ideas re-emerge as a concern of mainstream citizens, or fail, becoming self-absorbed and insular. Activists either learn to work within the mainstream, or lock themselves out of the opportunity to achieve change by continuing to play what Moyer termed the "negative-rebel" role of the aggressively critical outsider. Moyer warned that people who draw identity from a movement, any movement, will often insist upon maintaining the structure and trappings of the movement long after the movement phase is over, provoking power-holders who otherwise might be amenable to concessions and attacking former allies who criticize such "negative-rebel" behavior for allegedly breaking movement unity.

We listened to Moyer. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** covers humane work, in the broadest sense of the word. Animal rights is one important theme, among many humane considerations. (Child rights are another.) But we are not "of" the animal rights movement, nor any movement. We write about what brings better treatment of animals and children, and what doesn't, with the hope and intent that our readers are most concerned with practical results no matter who achieves them and no matter what his/her ideological umbrella.

Helping a few good men and women find a better way

I find no subject more difficult to write about than child abuse, because none other provokes such conflicting emotions. I don't claim to have been an abused child; indeed in some ways I had unique advantages. Both my parents were schoolteachers, well aware of the faults of formal education and quite adept at providing educational opportunities outside of the classroom, as well as quite willing to help me dodge classroom attendance to do anything and everything else useful and constructive—attending courtroom proceedings, rambling around Europe, and working parttime for newspapers, among other alternative "lessons" that were never graded. At the same time, our family was not immune to the times and the stresses that afflict all of us. We went through part of a winter without gas and electricity during a period of prolonged parental unemployment; there were several years in my early teens when because my father was working the equivalent of two fulltime jobs, I'd rarely have seen him if I hadn't been working for him almost every day away from school; I was beaten and starved for disciplinary reasons in a manner unfortunately not uncommon; and we all had to cope with several terrifying explosions of a long-smoldering mental illness in one family member. The violence at school was often worse, to the point that for at least three years my only sanctuary was in books, on the baseball diamond, and in daydreams—and not always then. As the youngest and most independent-minded member of my class, I got a beating from someone almost daily, until the day I somehow demolished a boy who was half again my size. I didn't make him say uncle; I merely asked him to pledge to quit picking on me and my brother. To my surprise, the schoolyard grapevine cast me as mayhem personified. Newly confident, I responded with a counterattack against all the bullies, singly and collectively, which evolved into my journalistic career a few years later, when most of the schoolyard bullies had mellowed out or gone elsewhere, and I discovered that well-chosen words were usually more effective weapons.

write much more than his name became a staunch advocate and patron of education. My father, who came of age during World War II combat, barred guns and gunplay from the house and raised us as vegetarians.

I didn't experience deliberate abuse. Nor did a very close friend whose parents were both alcoholics, who at least once left the children for a weekend without food or money. We know dozens of other people who experienced similar, or worse, who cope with the scars of incest and serious family violence, yet still love their parents and forgive even try to forget, because somehow the bad part of childhood was offset by just enough love and kindness, at just enough times. There was some kind of a positive example, inspiration, hope. In my case, it was sometimes only a book my parents used to read to me about a rabbit whose virtuous service to fellow beings was eventually rewarded, just when he'd apparently been worst treated. For others, a prayer might have done, or simply a vague memory of softness and warmth. Most children do recover, even when the abuse is deliberate, if someone intervenes and gives them a chance.

But when should we intervene, and how? What exactly is an abusive situation that warrants formal societal intervention, as opposed to situations where just a few friendly words will do? Answers are much easier in the abstract than in reality. As a reporter, I have many times had occasion to investigate and report upon situations involving child abuse, animal abuse, and spouse abuse. Except in the most extreme cases, I have found them defying easy answers. I have known kind people who under severe stress committed atrocities they profoundly regretted, and I have seen unrecognized abuses doing far more harm than those that were intentional. Generations of police, lawyers, social workers, anti-cruelty officers, teachers, clergy, and politicians have struggled with the problems on one hand, burnout and seriously conflicting ideas about appropriate response on the other.

I wrote an angry book about it all, beginning the manuscript at age 14, that went through two printings used mainly by teachers who work with disturbed children of similar age. It may have been most useful to me, however, as catalyst for an avalanche of letters from people of both sexes and a range of ages and cultural backgrounds, who shared their own stories with me. And everyone had a story. The confluence of experience made plain that all of us, including the bullies, were victims of abusive situations that largely went unrecognized as such—as were our parents, and our grandparents, going back as far as recorded memory. Some were robbed of childhood by the Great Depression and World War II; some by the famines and wars of earlier times. All were grievously injured. Most made a determined, conscientious effort to spare their children the particular abuses they recognized. Thus an ancestor whose family included alcoholics and an abused mother became a Prohibitionist and campaigner for women's suffrage. A man who never learned to

haven't yet met any of them who could codify the degree of intuition one needs to accurately assess the best interests of a child, or an animal. I have met a wide range of people who intervened quite effectively, ranging from tough cops, coaches, and hardcore fundamentalists to gentle surrogate mothers, softspoken nuns and psychobabbling New Agers—and have met many more, equally concerned and dedicated, whose interventions using the same techniques have failed, because they lacked the same instinct for what's going to work.

I do know this: we need to find better answers in child protection than we have so far in animal protection. Too often the only relief for abused animals is euthanasia. I know too, that when all children are treated kindly, all animals will stand a much better chance of receiving kind treatment.

Meanwhile, we need to continue the process of self-examination. We need many more joint conferences of animal protection and child protection workers, to share insights and expertise—and war stories, which are often strikingly similar. We need more routine liaison between social service agencies and humane societies. We need more people to appropriately hug small children and read them stories about rabbits. We need more healing activities for adults, especially those who have the least time and/or money for seminars in fashionable settings. And we need to bring the bad guys, the abusers, into the healing process, which for most can only be done by simultaneously tearing down their old self-image and rebuilding their self-esteem. Healers may be reluctant to learn from drill instructors, who to many are the symbolic epitome of everything we oppose. Yet to reach and help abusers, we must understand why tens of thousands of men look back upon a drill instructor as the temporary father figure who stood in for an absent or abusive biological father, gave them new self respect, and enabled them to lead productive lives (often teaching disadvantaged young men to read, write, brush their teeth, and bathe, as well as to use weapons). Such men were typically given a choice between jail for a petty crime and military service. They learned from the drill instructor that no matter what they were when they arrived, their negative identity could be discarded and replaced. Albeit by a brutal process, they could and would become a vital part of the outfit, responding to the promise of the surrogate father's eventual approval.

We can't and shouldn't become drill instructors. But we do need to find means of separating abusive conduct from the self-image of abusive people, not only by identifying it, but also by replacing it. Just as drill instructors are taught that they must never cuss out a recruit without showing him how to redeem himself, we must learn when not to shame and how to introduce alternatives. If a man derives his sense of manhood from shooting captive pigeons, for instance, he needs to hear that this is not the way, clearly enough that he understands it. Once he does understand it, he doesn't need to hear it again; it will stay with him, despite repression and denial, and further accusation will usually just strengthen the repression and denial relative to the self-recognition. What he needs instead is to see something nonabusive he can do, which uses the elements he identifies with manhood identifying himself to himself (as well as to others) as a man—a good man.

I know now that the first schoolyard bully I beat up was disturbed because his mother was dying of cancer. The second was a would-be locker room rapist who undoubtedly lacked sympathetic counseling about sexual self-identity. Still another had lost his father, and was struggling to be surrogate father to his younger brothers, leading him to assume macho postures that were at odds with his intelligent nature.

Each bully had a story, as I learned when many became my friends. Some of the friendships endure to this day. For that reason if no other, I know there is hope. Even some of the hardest cases have grown into good and gentle men—not all, but enough to be a start.

—Merritt Clifton

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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Letters

Corrections & Clarifications

We've always admired The New York Times for publishing a daily "Corrections" column; most papers publish corrections only when threatened with a libel suit, from fear that if they admit to making even one mistake, readers won't trust anything else they print. We don't share that fear. When one handles a vast amount of material in a short period of time, there will be mistakes, and we think the most accurate paper is the one that straightens them out the most promptly.

I was appalled to see the article stating "the weekly protests outside the Defenders of Animal Rights shelter were **coordinated** by the Animal Welfare League of Greater Baltimore. This is an outright falsehood. I was on vacation in Rehoboth when this story broke and only knew about it when I arrived home and was notified by a television station that this incident was taking place. The former shelter employees and volunteers were the ones who initiated this...I sent you copies of the newspaper article (about the protests) only because you had listed them in your annual report on animal protection group budgets and salaries as an organization who had questionable spending practices.

—Elizabeth Kirk, President, the Animal Welfare League of Greater Baltimore.

We apologize to Kirk. In all fairness, though, we had some help messing this up, as not one but two unauthorized persons called to inform us about the protests, identifying themselves as representatives of the Animal Welfare League of Greater Baltimore. We subsequently dropped a card to Kirk, after she sent us the newspaper account, wondering why she had her staff calling us about that but not about the Animal Welfare League's newly opened board-and-care home for elderly people with pets. Because Kirk hadn't had her staff calling us, she didn't know what we were talking about, and didn't get back to us until after the item—based on reliable information so far as we knew—was already in print.

In the article "No time for monkey-

resent Primarily Primates in my personal capacity alone and not as a representative of ALDF. ALDF has no involvement with this matter.

—Steven M. Wise, Boston, Mass.

ADDITIONAL CORRECTIONS:

• In "Why They Can Hunt On Your Land," we identified Dan Namowitz and Lorraine Tedeschi as cofounders of the Non-Hunters Rights Alliance. In fact, Namowitz founded the organization, which Tedeschi presently heads. Namowitz disputes Tedeschi's leadership. Apparently Namowitz believes the NHRA should be essentially an ad hoc committee of property owners, while Tedeschi favors a more animal rights oriented approach.

• On our October editorial page we stated that of the major national animal protection groups, only Friends of Animals has underwritten low-cost spaying and neutering. While this is true at the national level, the New York office of the Fund for Animals underwrote some low-cost spaying and neutering locally circa 1990, and other regional offices may have had similar limited programs in the past.

• Betsy Swart, Washington D.C. office director for Friends of Animals, was identified in the October issue as the third member of the PETA board, along with cofounders Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco. However, according to FoA president Priscilla Feral, she had quietly resigned some months earlier. Swart herself was unavailable for comment, while

Hegins Pigeon Shoot Protest Revisited

I'm writing to help shed some light on the alleged activities and demeanor of Heidi Prescott. I know Heidi well, have worked with her a lot over the past two years, and I admire her tremendously. That's why I believe her if she claims she can't remember something, particularly following her marathon ordeal of organizing the Fund for Animals conference in Harrisburg, running it for two days, then going on to Hegins and being arrested. I'm very familiar with the shed that contained the pigeons (*that some activists believe should have been the target of a quick, quiet attempted pigeon rescue--ed. note.*) It was neither remote nor was it out of the way of the camera crews. In fact, it sits right at the pay entrance to the park, just before the south shooting field.

Many people throughout the day had the notion to rush the building. In fact, at one point I myself was approached to locate the "black berets," to get them to play a part in the attempted rescue. I failed to locate them for 45 minutes, at which time the party who originally approached me had already committed herself to another civil disobedience action.

Though I don't claim to be privy to all that was intended by our side that day, I can reasonably say that it was never Heidi's duty to encourage, discourage, or direct CD—only her own...

As you know, we reluctantly took the calculated risk of building for a huge demonstration knowing it would add to the bad guys' coffers. The calculation holds that for them it's a short-term gain, long-term loss (at least we hope). I certainly don't mind activists questioning the soundness or effects of an adopted strategy. What I do mind is the naivete of those who never stop to think we knew that before we put out our first call.

—Joe Taksel, Mobilization for Animals—Pennsylvania.

Whatever your personal agenda is please solve it without using the movement the Fund, or me as a tool. Your use of PETA or the Fund's involvement in the Hegins protest was not to complement the fact that everyone was pulling together or to acknowledge the hundreds of organizational hours that we put into it...No, you tried to find petty negative things to pick at. What possible good can come from the little backbiting stabs you made at PETA, the Fund, Wayne Pacelle (*Fund national director*) and me?

—Heidi Prescott, Fund for Animals.

It is not "a fact" that "everyone was pulling together" to stop the shoot. As Marjorie Spiegel pointed out in her guest column, widely divergent tactics were used that seemed to have the effect of cancelling each other out. As we observed, many protesters questioned the tactics and motivations of PETA and the Fund for Animals, It is a fact that because of increased shoot enrollment more pigeons are shot now than ever before.

I have just received my first copy of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and I must admit to being somewhat taken aback. Although you folks are clearly doing more than your share of valuable animal work, what struck me is the devotion with which you seem to be pursuing a grudge against other animal groups.

It seems like you guys hate PETA and the Fund for Animals more than you despise the whole conglomerate of animal abusers. I understand the right to criticize and that's fine, more than fine; it's necessary. But there is a thin line between that and axe-grinding.

—Vicki Miller, Mt. Albert, Ontario.

Miller, with PETA help, led a takeover of the Toronto Humane Society in the mid-1980s. Her innovative programs were scrapped when the old guard regained control.

business at Primarily Primates," I was identified as representing Primarily Primates, but "of the Animal Legal Defense Fund." I rep

PETA declined to identify her successor.

Spay/Neuter Success

Disaster Preparedness

I want to thank you for your article on Hurricane Andrew. It gave us a lot of useful information concerning animals during and after the disaster. Our department has been involved with disaster planning for many years, but with each new disaster comes many new lessons learned.

We have put together a booklet on disaster preparedness for pet owners in hopes that it will help educate the public. Enclosed is a copy of the booklet for your information. Should you have comments or questions, please contact me at 213-893-8453; fax 213-893-8406; or write to me at my office. Again, thank you for all your help.

—Frederic B. Michael, Emergency Operations Coordinator, Dept. of Animal Regulation, Room 1400, 419 South Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90013.

The L.A. disaster preparedness manual is a model for the manuals all communities should have. Send for a copy and study up.

Congratulations! I want to thank you for carrying on the tradition of excellence in reporting on an incredibly wide array of animal issues. I shared **ANIMAL PEOPLE** with several friends. They, too, were pleased with the varied contents, the integrity, and the importance of the articles.

There are many wars that must be fought on behalf of animals. The battle to end the incredible suffering caused by the tragic animal overpopulation **can be won**. We at the Houston Humane Society work with companion animals and are especially grateful for your no-nonsense approach to sterilization and care for cats and dogs. I am proud to share that we are still in the trenches, and have

altered more than 4,200 during the first nine months of this year! We offer \$10 spays and neuters to the general public at our clinic. We are currently offering free spays and neuters during the month of October to dogs of financially disadvantaged persons, thanks to a grant from the AstroWorld Series of DogShows. With continued help and support, we **will** continue our fight to stop the needless suffering of thousands more cats and dogs.

—Sherry Ferguson, Executive Director, Houston Humane Society.

We intend to profile the Houston Humane Society, which we've visited and found outstanding in every aspect, at our first opportunity.

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Letters, continued—

What's in a name?

I was much taken by your statement, "In the first place, the struggle is not about rights so much as it is about responsibility." ("For leadership, look in the mirror," editorial, October 1992.) This reminds me of a feeling I've long had, namely that one of the major difficulties facing the animal rights movement can be found in its very name: Animal Rights. The problem lies with the use of the word *rights*...With all due respect to Tom Regan and other philosophers within the movement, I believe that most animal rights advocates are motivated more by the belief that animals should not be treated cruelly than they are by the belief that animals have certain intrinsic rights which should be respected by humans... We must drop the word *rights* and substitute a more fitting word, perhaps *liberation*. After all, wouldn't we rather see animals liberated from the pain of factory farms and labs, etcetera, than see new laws passed acknowledging that animals have certain rights?

Obviously it will be difficult to get the entire movement to change the words by which it refers to itself. But this letter is my attempt at starting this endeavor. I will refer to myself as an *animal advocate*, or *animal liberationist*, or *animal activist*. If somebody suggests a more clever or fitting label, then I'll adopt it. I will say that I am a member of the *animal liberation movement*, and that I believe animals should be treated with compassion and liberated from their current state of slavery to humans. For when it gets right down to it, it is slavery we are opposing—the subjugation of the weak by the strong.

—Michael Gurwitz, Washington D.C.

Well-put. However, as one of our editorials explains, we believe the movement phase of our cause has either ended or ought to, so that having any name is no longer important. It is also possible that the phrase animal rights brings adverse response from some simply because whenever rights are mentioned, one thinks of wrongs, too, and no one likes to feel accused of wrongdoing. There is, finally, a lesson to be learned from the civil rights movement. Civil rights activists struggled in the 1940s and 1950s to replace the word "nigger" with "Negro"; in the 1960s to replace "Negro" with "black"; and in the past two decades, many have tried to replace "black" with "Afro-American," each time hoping the redefinition would advance social justice. The effort may have helped a little, but it is noteworthy that the success of the name-changing has been much more apparent than the achievement of equal rights and opportunity. The relative absence of overtly racist language in public life today serves in part to mask racist attitudes that unfortunately persist.

Telepathy

I am conducting research on people who can telepathically communicate with animals. I want to explore the messages and lessons we can learn from animals, at the same time supporting the concept there's a oneness we all share...Is it possible that you or others at your organization might know people who have this ability or have heard of such incidents? If so, I would like to invite them to participate in my research and possibly be included in my book.

—Gayle Shaw, 16984 Catalina Way, Redding, CA 96003.

Primarily Primates

Neither PETA nor the Fund for Animals nor any other group had any involvement in my decision to ask a few individuals to approach Wally Swett to make a structural change at Primarily Primates. Rather, my decision was based on the statements of 17 former employees, volunteers and other eyewitnesses—10 of whom were willing to issue detailed written statements or interviews...All but four of these individuals had worked at Primarily Primates in the past two years, and their combined experience at this sanctuary alone exceeds 25 years. Your article insinuates that I am dealing with "moles" who only worked there a week or two.

Contrary to your allegations, I never sought publicity...or tried to cut off funding to Primarily Primates. I did, however, caution that I could neither predict nor guarantee how long the other individuals would wait before taking further action of their own.

Wally could have shown some good faith by quickly a) allowing an inspection by a qualified person designated by the Association of Sanctuaries, a group from which he resigned in the spring of 1992, b) forming a special advisory committee to review the management structure of Primarily Primates, and c) reinstating the volunteer program, invaluable for keeping cages cleaned and widely used by other sanctuaries. Instead, four months have passed and none of the above have occurred.

Whereas Wally asserted that, "We're inspected by the USDA, U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, and Texas Parks and Wildlife, all of these agencies when contacted countered that this is not the case. U.S. Fish and Wildlife did send an agent to Primarily Primates in January of this year, but he confirmed that he only looked at one endangered species and did not inspect the sanctuary.

You wrongly asserted that Belton Mouras of United Animal Nations found the allegations "unsubstantiated," and yet you never contacted him. In fact, Mouras found the evidence compelling, the volunteers credi-

sources, before Primarily Primates president Wally Swett even knew he had been accused of anything. Having 79 pages of Holrah's position already in hand, as well as copies of correspondence in which he told a major funder that Swett should be removed from the Primarily Primates board of directors and be physically removed from the premises, we deemed Holrah's position more than fairly represented, and further deemed it time—pastime—that Swett got a chance to respond.

We have requested but not yet received comment from Mouras. However even Holrah's own correspondence with Primarily Primates' legal advisor Steven Wise indicates clearly that Mouras' investigation undertaken for the Summerlee Foundation—another recipient of Holrah's dossier—did not support Swett's removal from any position of authority.

As to what Swett should or should not have done to show good faith, since when is it anyone's obligation to make concessions of any sort in response to accusers the accused hasn't even had the chance to confront and cross-examine? We have not heard of the repeal of the Magna Carta.

The article about what Wally Swett has been through thoroughly appalled me. I'm so fed up with the egomaniacs in our movement—who died and made them judge and jury over other groups and people?

—Eileen Liska, Highland, Michigan.

I have met with the ex-volunteers at Primarily Primates on a number of occasions and find them very credible. I regret this, as I helped Wally build the first corn crib cage or that property and I am responsible for many of the animals there. It is for this reason that I asked Wally and Wise for accountability and have received nothing but denial. Furthermore, there is not and never was any plot to take over Primarily Primates. Unfortunately, you are dead wrong on this one.

—Donald Barnes, Washington D.C.

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ble, and he urged the Primarily Primates board to take the above mentioned actions immediately.

No one involved in this...is motivated by a personal or political agenda...if you had spoken to any of us before writing your story, it would have been clear that we are simply people who care about animals.

—John Holrah, Voice for Animals, San Antonio, Texas.

Holrah's letter was extensively edited to avoid libel. ANIMAL PEOPLE began probing Holrah's allegations against Primarily Primates upon receiving a 79-page collection of letters from former staff and volunteers that he had already sent to several of Primarily Primates' funding sources. Although the number of complainants and their cumulative years of service sound superficially impressive, it was quickly evident that after subtracting the service time of one individual who was fired for serious cause, the remaining people had been involved with the sanctuary for an average of barely more than a year—and at that, many had been involved for only a few hours a week. It was further evident that the dossier was unsupported by inspection documents from any source: not from Texas Parks and Wildlife, from which Swett obtained a scientific rehabilitator's permit in 1984; not from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has jurisdiction over virtually every animal at the sanctuary, since almost all are either threatened or endangered species; and not from the USDA, with which Swett files reports in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act whenever he receives an animal from a licensed breeder, exhibitor, or researcher. These agencies tend to inspect in response to complaints; that they apparently told Holrah they had not recently inspected Primarily Primates would tend to support Swett's contention that there were never any complaints made. Further, to our knowledge, Holrah didn't so much as look for such a paper trail to support his charges until after we pointed out that one was lacking.

Whether or not Ingrid Newkirk of PETA and Wayne Pacelle of the Fund for Animals had anything to do with compiling the collection, we did discover that each had further circulated the letters and allegations, including to representatives of other funding

director, National Anti-Vivisection Society.

Refer again to the Magna Carta. Since June of the year 1215, individuals in our society have enjoyed the right to plead innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Barnes is among Holrah's nominees for positions on the Primarily Primates board.

Swett responds:

I'm deeply hurt by Don Barnes involvement with the disgruntled ex-volunteers and his method of choosing sides. Although Don has met with them "on a number of occasions," he's not met with the Primarily Primates board, with me, or visited Primarily Primates since this attack started. Since this started, I've called Don once. He indicated he didn't want to get involved, yet he has, and like the others, without doing any homework Primarily Primates was the first place Dor sought out when looking for a job with an animal group after leaving the military and his position as a researcher (he lived in San Antonio). He's until recently been only supportive and full of praise, calling Primarily Primates his favorite place, and popping in whenever in San Antonio, usually with a friend or two.

I would like briefly to respond to Holrah's letter. I will not go into detail, as enough character has been assassinated, but I have strong reasons to doubt the credibility and motives of many of his informants.

Not only did we readily agree to an inspection of Primarily Primates, but it has been performed. We have been discussing the merits of expanding our board for nearly a year. We are inspected and visited by the state and federal agencies who license us. Finally, I did not "resign from the Association of Sanctuaries," which we strongly support, but only declined its vice presidency.

—Wallace Swett, Primarily Primates, San Antonio, Texas.

The truth about feral cats revealed!

(continued from page one)

back home after mating, and by the abandonment of huge numbers of young animals who have been raised among humans. The squirrel and pigeon breeding populations consist entirely of animals who have grown up and survived under essentially the same conditions their descendants will face. Many of the cats who form the homeless cat breeding population have not survived long away from a home, and probably will not, in view of the extremely high mortality rate (more than one in two) among feral females between kittenhood and two years of age.

In terms of practical action, the survey indicates that attempts to remove homeless cats from specific sites without changing the habitat to discourage newcomers would appear to be futile in the long run. If a given site is friendly to cats, with abundant food and shelter, more cats tend to appear. This may be because humans select such sites as dumping places for cats and kittens; because survivors who escape capture breed at a faster pace, encouraged by the temporary reduction in competition for the available food and shelter; or because newcomers from nearby cat colonies wander in and breed, until the carrying capacity is again reached. At most sites, a combination of factors is probably at work. While both abandonments and breeding may continue at a rapid pace after the carrying capacity is reached, mortality then increases to insure that the number of cats at any particular time does not significantly vary—so long as the food and shelter sources remain constant. The components of eradicating a homeless cat colony thus must include not only removing the present breeding population, whether through capture-and-euthanasia or neuter/release, but also responding to the arrival of newcomers, from any source.

And ultimately the problem must be dealt with at another level entirely, not on the street but in human homes: the ultimate source of most homeless cats, whether they are deliberately abandoned as either adults or unwanted litters, run away, or breed while outdoors. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett declares, after extensive experience with neuter/release, "The fertile homeless cats have such short lives and so many kittens die young before breeding that it is obvious the most cost-effective thing to do is to concentrate upon spaying and neutering cats in homes—who may go on having litters and adding cats to the homeless

Alfred, who wrote the headlines for this article.
death."

While the survey results do not make a case that euthanizing homeless cats should be discontinued, they do tend to indicate that euthanasia won't lastingly reduce the homeless cat population if undertaken in a vacuum, without parallel programs addressing habitat and human behavior. Thus the data tends to suggest something more is needed than the dual-focus eradication-through-euthanasia and spay/neuter-your-pet approach advocated by the Humane Society of the U.S. and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The data also suggests there is a significant place for the neuter/release approach to homeless cat population control, when practicable, as advanced by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare in England and the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy in the United States. In classical neuter/release, cats are altered and vaccinated against distemper and rabies, then are returned to their habitat. This typically diminishes the cat population over a period of two to five years, which enables slower-breeding rival predators such as hawks and owls to take over non-human-supplied food sources as the cats relinquish them. (Human feedings need to be diminished proportionate to the cat population, meanwhile, to avoid encouraging a rapid

range chiefly in that many more were ages 30-39, and many fewer were over 50—one of several findings that may refute the common perception of cat-feeders and cat-rescuers as elderly, childless, and isolated. It is to be noted, however that the age range of the group who received the question-

| <u>Age</u> | <u>National</u> | <u>Sample Base</u> | <u>Survey</u> |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 15-19 | 9% | 4.9% | 4% |
| 20-29 | 20% | 18.3% | 21% |
| 30-39 | 21% | 34.9% | 33% |
| 41-44 | 23% | 21.7% | 20% |
| 50+ | 36% | 20.0% | 19% |

aire follows a similar skew.

While only 16% of the respondents had children under the age of 18, compared with 38% for the U.S. population as a whole, 58% were married or living with a companion, vs. 60% for the U.S. as a whole; 13% were living with family other than husbands and children, and two percent were living with friends. Only 28% were living alone not significantly more than the national figure of 25% living alone.

The essential normalcy of cat-feeders and rescuers except in the matter of compassion was underscored by what respondents reported about their colleagues. Fully 84% of the respondents know other cat-feeders. The total number of cat-feeders known was 626, with a median per respondent of just over three. Of the 612 whose sex was identified, 101 (17%) were men; 511 (83%) were women. Three percent of the women were under age 21; 61% were ages 22-55 and 36% were 55-plus. Support for the elderly/isolated stereotype came mainly from the male side of the ledger 55% of the men were ages 22-54, compared with 73% of the male population over age 21; 44% were 55-plus markedly more than the 27% in that age bracket nationally.

A simple explanation is that retired men have more time available to feed cats, a relatively inexpensive pastime for the majority. Income distribution among the population surveyed was markedly higher than the national average in the upper income brackets, and comparable in the middle brackets, but there appeared to be little correlation between expenditures on cat-feeding and personal resources. Although three respondents reported spending more than \$100 a week to feed homeless cats, sixty-five percent spend

population for 10 years or more."

Pointing out that the normal range of such close relatives of the domestic cat as bobcats and lynx tends to be 50 to 300 square miles, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton observes that if homeless cats lived and reproduced entirely according to the norms governing wildlife, there would be no more than a few hundred thousand in the whole United States, rather than the 30 to 35 million experts commonly estimate. "If the homeless cat population is reduced to the population density of say the Scottish wildcat, the Norwegian forest cat, or the authentic wild Maine coon cats, the ones who aren't living and breeding in barns," Clifton says, "and if it remains stable at that level, then we might start considering that wildlife population models wholly apply. At the present population density, it is clear that humans are having a major influence on how many cats are out there, at both ends of their lives—at reproduction and at

Kitten cluster, Leo's porch

influx of vermin that might draw more cats, if only because more annoyed humans might drop cats off in the area.)

Who Done It?

Designed by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton and MSPCA humane services director Carter Luke, who arranged for funding, the survey questionnaire was anonymously published in the July/August issue of *The Animals' Agenda* magazine, the last issue assembled by Clifton and **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett. The questionnaires were collected and tabulated by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** contributing editor Cathy Young Czaplak, while Clifton did the preliminary data refinement and analysis. Anonymity at the survey stage was necessary, the survey coordinators agreed, because if the people receiving the questionnaire believed it came from proponents of any particular point of view, the results might be compromised by adherents of other philosophies failing to return completed forms. Agreeing on the need for more information, the survey designers in fact represent generally opposing perspectives: the MSPCA has generally been critical of cat-feeders and neuter/release, while Clifton, who generally favors neuter/release, kept detailed statistics on an experimental neuter/release program that Bartlett formerly directed with the aid of cat-feeders in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

In all, 159 cat-feeders and cat-rescuers returned completed survey forms, often accompanied by extensive documentary material. Response came from 38 of the 50 states and the province of Ontario, Canada. The geographic distribution of U.S. survey respondents was only roughly comparable to the population distribution of North America, but since the data indicated that homeless cat populations tended to be concentrated in urban areas, the under-reporting from the largely rural south and west may not signifi-

| <u>Region</u> | <u>National</u> | <u>Survey</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Northeast | 20% | 30% |
| Midwest | 24% | 19% |
| South | 34% | 22% |
| West | 4% | 21% |
| Pacific | 16% | 23% |

cantly affect the findings:

Ninety-two percent of the respondents were female, a striking sexual imbalance even given that approximately 80% of the group receiving the questionnaire were female. The age distribution of female respondents varied from the national distribution of women in the same age

under \$10 per week; 15% spend \$11 to \$20 a week; and only 20% spend more than \$20 a week.

Obviously the majority are not feeding large numbers of cats. At the time of the survey, respondents were feeding 1,421 homeless cats in all, an average of nine apiece. However, 76% of the feeders were feeding nine cats or fewer, with the median at three; 16% were feeding 10-20 cats; 10% were feeding 20-100 cats; and 4% were feeding 100-plus cats. (The percentages add up to more than 100 because of rounding off.) Other cat-feeders known to the respondents were feeding 1,719 homeless cats at the time of the survey; a median of 35 cats apiece but an average of only three apiece. (The huge gap between the median and the average was because a small number of respondents [6] knew individuals who were feeding over 100 cats apiece.)

Do Feeders Cause Breeding?

One of the primary goals of the survey was to find out what effect people who feed homeless cats may have upon the growth of feral cat colonies. Animal control agencies conventionally suppose that cat-feeders attract colonies and stimulate breeding; hence a spate of ordinances against feeding homeless cats in areas where there have been outbreaks of rabies or other problems that might be associated with large unowned cat populations.

The survey data demonstrated rather emphatically that on the whole, the homeless cat population is both extraordinarily stable and resilient. Of 1,381 cats being fed at the time of the survey (summer) by respondents who completed the first of two relevant parts of the questionnaire, 160 (11.6%) were kittens. Kittens who were not yet weaned probably escaped the count. Three months earlier (spring) 1,204 cats were being fed, of whom 119 (10%) were kittens. This count, coming after the peak period for attrition but before the primary birthing season, was the low ebb of the population. At the onset of winter, six months earlier 1,336 cats were being fed, of whom 128 (10%) were kittens. One year earlier (summer 1991), 1,313 cats were being fed, of whom 164 (12.5%) were kittens. Again, kittens who were not yet weaned don't appear to have been counted.

A second set of questions directed at the same issue obtained reliable four-season population counts including kittens not yet weaned when their presence was known to the respondents, from a total of 68 homeless cat colonies. The fall 1991 count came to 429, including 44 kittens (10%): 98% of the annual high. The winter 1992

They demand food! They crave sex! They're in your neighborhood!

count, the low ebb, was 384, including 38 kittens (10%): 88% of the high. The spring 1992 count brought the population back to 425, including 133 kittens (31%): 97% of the high. The peak population was reached in summer 1992: 438, including 148 kittens (34%). Although the summer 1992 population was marginally higher than the summer 1991 population, the variance could be the result of just two more cats raising litters to the age at which they were seen and counted, and does not necessarily indicate that any real growth took place, since two litters might have been missed a year earlier. It is likely that the actual population fluctuations are greater than was recorded, when kitten mortality is taken into consideration. Studies of kittens in both feral colonies and home environments have established that under any circumstances, approximately half of all the kittens born do not survive past weaning. Because kittens born outdoors tend to be sequestered well away from human eyes, only kittens who have survived weaning are likely to have been counted by the majority of respondents.

Still, the number of adult cats is so steady as to indicate a quasi-natural carrying capacity, probably closely related in most cases to the amount of food set out by humans to augment refuse and prey. The reported sizes of individual colonies pointed in the same direction: toward a relatively stable number who can congenially and comfortably share a given habitat, a number exceeded only under rare circumstances, the most significant of which seems to be the presence of an extraordinarily dedicated cat-feeder. This does not necessarily mean the feeders have anything to do with the reasons the cats are born. Feeders who do not also spay or neuter will tend to encourage reproduction, but the cats who did not originate in a fed colony would have been somewhere anyway. Except perhaps at some very public locations, feeding cannot be assumed to encourage abandonments—only to encourage cats who have been abandoned to congregate in a particular place.

Seven common feeding locations were identified, each with distinctive population characteristics:

- 71% of active feeders feed homeless cats on their doorstep. The median doorstep colony is 7.5 cats; the average is five. Information was received on 80 doorstep colonies, including 393 total cats, or 28% of the reported homeless cat population. Although the survey questions did not ask about the rate of adoption per type of colony,

marily dependent upon handouts for their food, and would appear also to be primarily dumpees, since a public building is not inherently somewhere a hungry cat unaccustomed to humans would choose to go, but the volume of human traffic does increase a former pet's chances of wangling a hand-out or adoption. The number of cats tolerated in and around public buildings is significantly high compared with the number found at other workplaces. This may reflect the greater likelihood of public buildings being surrounded by green space, especially in older metropolitan areas. No other explanation comes quickly to mind.

- 24% of active feeders feed homeless cats at their workplace. The median workplace colony is 11-12 cats; the average is four. Information was received on 27 workplace colonies, including 112 total cats; just 8% of the reported homeless cat population. Apparently, a small cat population is welcome in the typical workplace, for rodent control and as mascots. Large colonies, however, seem to be actively discouraged. Workplace cats are probably also mainly dumpees, who arrive at a workplace in lieu of finding a sympathetic doorstep or congenial public building.

- 23% of active feeders feed homeless cats in wooded areas. The median woods colony is 30 cats; the average is 8.5. Information was received on 26 woods colonies, including 132 total cats; 9% of the reported homeless cat population. The relatively large median size of woods colonies seems surprising at first. However, the average is close to the average for all locations. Further, rural colonies in general are significantly larger than urban colonies. This may be because secure places to sleep are fewer, causing more cats to congregate in the safe places; because prey animals are more abundant in the country; because car traffic is lighter; or because rural colonies are less vulnerable to capture, being more distant from shelters and veterinarians and being typically located on private property without routine public access. Although woods colonies undoubtedly start with dumpees, and seem to be augmented frequently with more dumpees, they probably also include a high percentage of the true ferals—the cats born and raised completely away from humans.

- 15% of active feeders feed homeless cats behind a shopping center or restaurant. The median shopping center/restaurant colony is 15 cats; the average is eight. Information was received on 16 shopping center colonies, including 122 total cats, or 9% of the reported homeless cat

litation. Barn colonies are easily the largest, partly for the same reasons that woods colonies tend to be large and partly also because barns offer a uniquely favorable combination of safe sleeping quarters and abundant prey, in the mice, rats, and birds who are drawn to stored grain. Most barn colonies are multigenerational; several, in England, Canada, and the U.S., have had documented histories dating back 20 years or more. While newcomers, including abandonees make a noteworthy contribution to genetic diversity, barn colonies would appear to be primarily self-sustaining. A case can be made that like cats in doorstep colonies, the majority of cats in barn colonies are outdoor pets rather than either strays or true ferals.

- 19% of active feeders feed homeless cats at other locations, including near houses but not actually in yards or on doorsteps; in burned buildings; at vacant houses; in cemeteries; at campgrounds; in playgrounds; under bridges; at country clubs; and at project housing, a variant of the doorstep.

Considering that the range of colony sizes was from one to more than 100, the typical cat population of six to sixteen is noteworthy. Nearly a third of the cats (31% were in colonies of 10 or fewer. About a fourth (24%) were in colonies of 10-20 cats. Although only six percent of the homeless cat colonies included 20 cats or more, such mega colonies included 39% of the feline total—and a full 63% of the cats were in just 16% of the colonies.

In all, 20% of the homeless cats fed by survey respondents occupy rural habitat; 37% were in residential areas. 10% were in the vicinity of shopping centers and/or restaurants; and 32% were at other urban locations. This finding somewhat parallels the U.S. human population structure: 27% rural, 73% urban. But the variance may be important. Although rural colonies tend to be larger, they cumulatively include fewer than the expected number of cats, if the feline and human populations are directly parallel. Possibly the shortfall is because the survey failed to reach enough rural cat-feeders and rescuers, especially in the south, where the warmer climate is conducive to year-round reproduction. But again, urban habitat may favor a large homeless cat population with more abundant shelter, more edible vermin, more feeders in less area, and fewer native

sleeping feral

doorstep cats would appear to be those most accustomed to human caretakers. Dumped former pets, in particular, would be more likely to head for the nearest doorway than cats born outdoors, away from humans. Doorstep cats are therefore probably those with the greatest likelihood of being adopted. Further research is necessary to find out if doorstep cats (and colonies) have greater longevity, being perhaps less likely to be rounded up as nuisances and/or to be captured for euthanasia by someone other than the primary feeder. Many doorstep cats may in fact be quasi-outdoor pets, rather than strays or ferals in the strictest sense of either term.

- 31% of active feeders feed homeless cats in/around a public building. The median public building colony is 15 cats; the average is eight. Information was received on 35 public building colonies, including 288 total cats, or 20% of the reported homeless cat population. Like doorstep cats, public building cats would appear to be pri-

Minnie

population. There appear to be three distinct shopping center/restaurant subpopulations, whose relative size and influence upon the colony population dynamics has as yet been quantified only through the Connecticut neuter/release statistics, and then for less than a single year (albeit at five locations). One subpopulation consists of cats who are abandoned at such sites because the abandoners see other cats around, perhaps see feeders, and imagine that the abandoned cats will either find adequate food or be adopted by a passerby. The second subpopulation consists of cats both homeless and owned but wandering, who may be attracted either by the food supply or by the presence of potential mates. These also tend to be essentially tame cats. The third subpopulation consists of true ferals, who might be attracted first by refuse, vermin, and other cats, rather than by human feeders, whose contribution to their diet is initially supplementary. Whatever the population balance, human feeders apparently enable shopping center/restaurant colonies to grow somewhat beyond the level that refuse and vermin alone would support; without them, only some of the true ferals would persist in the vicinity. .

- Although homeless cats are stereotypically known as "alley cats," only 11% of active feeders feed homeless cats in an alley. The median alley colony is 16 cats; the average is six. Information was received on 12 alley colonies, including 47 total cats: just three percent of the reported homeless cat population. Alleys may have historically been a more important homeless cat habitat than they are now. A generation ago, many more food stores and restaurants backed up against alleys than were located in shopping plazas and strip developments. Further, more of the human population lived downtown, near alleys, so that more feeders may have frequented alleys for other reasons than simply aiding cats—and more people may have allowed pet cats to wander in alleys. In short, the relative insignificance of alleys as a habitat today is probably a direct reflection of changing patterns of human dwelling and commerce. Most alley cat colonies today probably form in much the same manner as supermarket/restaurant colonies, but in decades past they might have more closely resembled doorstep, public building, and workplace colonies. It is possible but not documented that some alley colonies might have existed for very long periods of time, since many alleys, especially in older cities, predate most other habitats, and historical evidence indicates most cities have had homeless cats almost since they were founded.

- 10% of active feeders feed homeless cats in a barn. The median barn colony is 40+ cats; the average is 12. Information was received on 11 barn colonies, including 132 total cats, or nine percent of the homeless cat popu-

predators to compete for food.

Motivation

Various complex psychological explanations have been advanced as to why cat-feeders and cat-rescuers do what they do, but the simplest and most obvious explanation indicated by the survey data is that they simply love cats. Ninety-two percent of the survey respondents keep pet cats. Some critics of homeless cat-feeders have asserted that they may be little different from animal collectors, but survey responses showed little basis for this belief. Ninety percent keep between two and 20 pet cats, the normal range for cat guardians in the U.S.; 57% have two to five pet cats, closely comparing to the regionally varying average and median among cat-keepers of three to four cats (reported and confirmed by a variety of surveys of pet owners undertaken over the past decade). Another 28% keep six to twelve cats. Only four percent keep more than 20. There were several suspected animal collectors among the respondents, whose data was vague, involved huge numbers of cats, and was anonymously provided. However, even if all of them actually are collectors, they would still make up under 2% of the sample.

Of all the one-time homeless cat-feeders who responded to the survey, 73% are still feeding. Those who quit usually cited burnout; changes of residence and/or workplace that separated them from the colonies they formerly served; and financial stress, usually caused by job loss. None said they quit because they had doubts about the value of cat-feeding.

Among the active homeless cat-feeders, feeding seems to be part of a lifelong devotion to cats. Twenty-seven percent had fed homeless cats for two years or less—approximately the same percentage as were age 25 or

They're taking over the universe! They'd eat you if they could!

younger. Another 27% had fed homeless cats for three to seven years; 18% had fed homeless cats for eight to ten years; 16% had fed homeless cats for 11 to 20 years; and 19% had fed homeless cats for more than 20 years, approximately the same percentage as were age 55 or older.

Age similarly seemed to be the main determinant with respect to the length of time respondents had been helping cats in any capacity. Sixty-three of respondents had helped cats for at least 10 years; 34% for at least 20 years; 22% for at least 30 years; 9% for at least 40 years; and 4% for at least 50 years.

Feed a cat and she's yours?

The most popular manner of helping homeless cats, other than feeding them, seems to be adoption. Eighty-nine percent of respondents (142 of 159) had adopted strays or ferals other than from shelters. The median number of strays and ferals adopted other than from shelters was four, two males and two females, which is interestingly close to the median number of homeless cats being fed by doorstep feeders at the time of the survey. These numbers tend to confirm the impression that feeding a homeless cat is often the first step toward adoption, and that becoming part of a fed colony is the surest route into a home for a cat without one.

Eighty-one percent of respondents knew other people who have adopted homeless cats, other than from shelters. The combined figures indicate that adopting homeless cats might even be more commonplace than feeding them: in all, 838 adopters were identified, compared with 779 feeders. The combined total of feeders were reportedly feeding exactly 4,000 cats at the time of the survey, while the combined total of adopters had taken in 5,096 homeless cats. The 696 adopters who were not part of the survey had reportedly adopted a median of 2.8 cats apiece, slightly under the adoption rate among survey participants.

Of the 2,114 homeless cats adopted by the survey participants, 575 (27%) were still in kittenhood. The sexes of 804 of the former strays and ferals were identified: 388 (45%) were toms, while 466 (55%) were queens. Two hundred sixty-six of the queens were pregnant at adoption. These figures all coincide with the data **ANIMAL PEOPLE** gathered on the homeless cat population of Fairfield

Catapuss

U.S. yet, in all likelihood these were former pets. Thirty-two percent of respondents, moreover, had adopted at least one previously altered cat; they weren't all coming from the same few locations, where a neuter/release project might have been undertaken by someone else. In addition, 78% of the respondents had adopted homeless cats who seemed used to human handling—an indicator, if not infallible, of cats who had been pets. A total of 626 cats fell into this category; 30% of the the adoptees.

Thirty-four percent of the homeless cats who were adopted became socialized in less than one week. This neatly equals the number of cats who were previously altered plus the number who seemed used to human handling, but those two statistics really can't be tallied up into one, because they might overlap. Still, the confluence of all the numbers suggests that about a third of the homeless cat population are strays, while the balance are ferals (who may have tame mothers). Some might also want to count as probable former pets the 27% who required more than a week of socialization, but became socialized in less than one month, a number that coincides with the percentage of adoptees who were kittens. Maybe. The Connecticut neuter/release project statistics tend to indicate otherwise, and the most conservative interpreta-

ture homeless cats expressly for euthanasia. These people were said to be euthanizing 292 cats a month: 3,504 per year.

The significance of euthanasia as a cause of homeless cat mortality was underscored when respondents were asked to quantify the causes of death for as many individual cats as they could.

| <u>Cause of death</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>% not euthanized</u> |
|--|----------|-------------------------|
| Euthanasia | 49 | — |
| Nuisance removal | 10 | 20 |
| Hit by cars | 10 | 20 |
| Unknown | 8 | 16 |
| Non-respiratory disease | 6 | 12 |
| Respiratory disease | 5 | 10 |
| Poisoning (both deliberate and accidental) | 4 | 8 |
| Cruelty | 3 | 6 |
| Predation | 2 | 4 |
| Malnutrition | 2 | 3 |
| Sold to laboratories | 1 | 2 |
| Furbearer traps | .3 | .3 |

Respondents were able to attest to the causes of death of 2,638 homeless cats. A skew toward euthanasia was expected because these are the deaths that cat rescuers are most likely to know about, inasmuch as they require human involvement, usually the involvement of the person or persons in closest contact with the cats in question. Deaths from other causes are more likely to occur outside the observation of feeders and rescuers. The skew was indeed high: 48.5% of the known homeless cat deaths came via euthanasia. Another 10% of the cats were removed from feeding locations as nuisances; 20% of the remainder after subtracting those euthanized by rescuers. Most or all of these were probably also euthanized, bringing the probable total percentage of euthanasias to 58%.

Even if three times as many homeless cats die of each of the other known causes of death as were reported euthanasia would still be the single leading cause—and that's not even counting the nuisance removals. Although most euthanizers might be appalled to be defined as predators, in ecological terms they are fulfilling the role of top predator in the homeless cat jungle, maintaining a crude

County, Connecticut, as well as with various behavioral studies of individual feral cat colonies. Regardless of source, the available information agrees that approximately twice as many females as males are born, but that females suffer such heavy mortality within the first year, probably due to early pregnancy, that the sex ratio is nearly equal among feral cats of more than one year of age, and is skewed toward males among feral cats of more than two years of age.

Ninety-two percent of the respondents who have adopted homeless cats have had some or all of the adoptees spayed or neutered. Eighty-one percent of the homeless cats (1,708) who were adopted were subsequently spayed or neutered, while another 4.3% (91) had already been spayed or neutered when picked up. The majority of the 15.7% who were not spayed or neutered would appear to have been taken in by the same individuals who reported having the largest numbers of pet cats—the two or three suspected animal collectors among the respondents.

The adoption statistics provided important clues to the ratio of strays, including abandonees, to ferals (among them the wild-born offspring of some cats who have homes). The Humane Society of the U.S. has long contended that the majority of homeless cats are abandoned former pets (strays). Many neuter/release proponents counter that the self-sustaining nature of homeless cat colonies indicates that while the progenitors may have been former pets, the majority now are feral. The limited available data from humane society pickup records is inherently unreliable because most humane societies don't actively attempt to round up whole feral cat colonies; rather, they see mainly the sick and injured cats that patrons bring in. These may be the cats who are least able to cope with independent living, by reason of having been raised as pets—whereas the true ferals may be sufficiently able to cope that they are rarely taken to humane societies; if sick or injured, they crawl off to die or recover, rather than seeking human aid.

It is similarly possible that homeless cats who are adopted tend to be the most sociable: the former pets, who may also be those most attracted to doorsteps, while the ferals prefer feeding locations with less proximity to people. However, because at least a third of the feeders who responded to the survey are feeding at multiple locations, and because they are going to where the cats are, survey respondents are likely to see a better cross-section of the homeless cat population than anyone else who has tried to quantify strays vs. ferals.

As noted above, 4.3% of the homeless cats who were adopted had already been spayed or neutered. Since neuter/release hasn't been practiced on any great scale in the

tion of the data is that the 61% of the adoptees who were socialized in a month or less include both the overwhelming majority of strays and the overwhelming majority of kittens, who tend to be more easily socialized than adult cats no matter where they're born.

Almost certain to have been ferals were the 18% who required more than a month of socialization, but became socialized in less than one year, together with the 2% who eventually became socialized, but required more than one year of socialization to adapt, and the 9% who never became socialized. These totals combined come to 29%.

Socialization time was not reported for 10% of the adoptees, who were presumably still in the socialization process at the time the survey was taken.

What becomes of them?

Sixty respondents (37.7%) had captured homeless cats and taken them to an animal shelter. The total number of homeless cats captured and taken to shelters was 751. The median number of homeless cats captured and taken to shelters per respondent was 5.5. Four respondents had taken over 100 cats apiece to shelters. Further, 44% of respondents knew other people (a total of 213) who also take homeless cats to shelters. These people are believed to take 2,604 homeless cats a year to shelters in all. Since the euthanasia rate for cats taken to shelters, nationwide, runs around 80%, and since shelters usually euthanize cats who are sick, injured, or hard to handle as promptly as possible, it is reasonable to assume that virtually all of the cats delivered to shelters by survey respondents were euthanized.

Twenty percent of respondents (32) had captured homeless cats expressly for euthanasia. The median was two cats apiece; the total was 848 cats, of whom over 500 were captured by a single individual. Eighteen percent of respondents also knew other people (a total of 83) who cap-

balance between the numbers of cats and the amount of food available. Without the euthanizers, the homeless cat population might rise by half; researchers Carol Haspel and Robert Calhoun discovered in 1981-1982 that at least in two sections of Brooklyn, "The food provided by feeders alone was estimated to support 1.71 to 2.10 cats per acre, a density that is 1.35 times greater than the actual population.' Then, at that point or whatever point the homeless cat population actually exceeded the food supply, mortality associated with malnutrition would increase to prevent further growth in numbers. Both the survey and records from the Connecticut neuter/release project indicate that malnutrition presently afflicts about three percent of homeless cats assuming the Haspel/Calhoun data can be used to project the potential for homeless cat population growth, and that the increase in malnutrition would be exponential rather than linear, relative to other causes of mortality, as many as nine percent of homeless cats would be starving without the present rate of preventive euthanasia. In round numbers, available data suggests that if 35 million cats are now homeless about 1.5 million of them are severely malnourished; 4.5 million would be if the population grew to 50 million.

There is the question of whether euthanasia is indeed more humane than the various other ends that homeless cats meet. Only the six percent of euthanasias that were performed by the survey respondents themselves appear likely to have been done on site. The 47% of the euthanasias done by veterinarians and the 41% done by shelters almost certainly required transportation, as well as the trauma of capture, and therefore involved much the same kinds of stress as neuter/release, which is criticized in some

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quarters as too stressful to be humane. Of the other cited causes of death, those from being hit by cars and predation tend to be swift. But deaths from the remaining causes are more likely to be prolonged and even more stressful than live-trapping and transport. The question of what is humane then becomes a question of what quality of life the cats have, and for how long, before encountering the cause of their eventual demise.

It is to be noted, as well, that survey respondents reported six percent of the cats they originally slated for euthanasia were not euthanized after all. Some apparently died first of grievous illness or injuries. Others demonstrated qualities during the capture and transport interval that bought them a reprieve—and in most cases, a home.

In all, survey respondents identified only 115 people, including themselves, who captured homeless cats specifically for euthanasia, by far the lowest number involved in any kind of response to the situation. It is clear, though, that these 115 people are exceptionally dedicated to what they are doing, and are correspondingly having a much greater effect upon homeless cat population dynamics than they might imagine.

Non-respondents to the survey who are known euthanizers were reportedly less likely than respondents to take the cats to a veterinarian (only 35% did), more likely to take them to a shelter (54% did), and more likely to do the euthanasia themselves (12% did.) One euthanizer reported using chloroform; the others all used lethal injections or other forms of administering barbituates.

Neuter/Release

Although neuter/release is a relatively new method of addressing the homeless cat problem, 61 respondents said they had attempted it—one more than had taken homeless cats to an animal shelter. The large number of neuter/release practioners in the sample base may, however, reflect the attention paid to neuter/release by Bartlett and Clifton at *The Animals' Agenda*, which may have encouraged more experimentation that would have been found among non-readers. Still, 35% of the respondents knew other people who have tried neuter/release, and the total number of neuter/release practioners identified (249) was surprisingly close to the total number of people who take homeless cats to humane societies (273). At the time of the survey, they had altered and released 4,714 cats.

Forty-five of those who had attempted

Because survey sponsor Carter Luke of the MSPCA was traveling at the time the homeless cat survey data was tabulated, he was unable to provide his analysis by deadline. We look forward to including it in a future issue, at the earliest opportunity, and thank him for his part in making this data collection possible—knowing, as we all do, that no interpretation of it is going to please everyone (if any one).

neuter/release (74%) said it had effectively halted breeding in the habitat. Sixteen percent said it had not, presumably because of a continued influx of fertile cats from other sources. Ten percent didn't answer the question.

While critics of neuter/release have often called it "neuter/abandonment," 97% of neuter/release practioners had arranged for the released cats to be fed regularly, and presumably are continuing to monitor their well-being.

The survey confirmed that access to low-cost neutering is almost a prerequisite for attempting neuter/release on any serious scale. Seventy-seven percent of neuter/release practioners had only their own money to work with; only 23% got donations from other sources. Sixty-seven percent, however, had access to discount spay/neuter operations. Thirty-four percent, just over a third, got discount rates from a veterinarian, despite the opposition of major veterinary groups to discounting. (Another 23% reported having a supportive veterinarian, even though they didn't get discount rates.) Twenty-nine percent got discount rates from a humane society spay/neuter clinic, indicating that nearly a third of the humane societies with in-house neutering programs are at least willing to give neuter/release a try. Twenty-three percent got discount rates through other nonprofit animal protection groups, while 13% got discount rates through Friends of Animals (the only national animal protection group to fund spay/neuter on a nationwide basis.)

The survey confirmed that neuter/release isn't going to work everywhere, no matter how well it works in specific locations. Only 12% of neuter/release practioners reported a generally supportive public attitude toward feral cat colonies in their community; 43% reported that feral cat colonies are generally viewed as a nuisance; 29% reported general indifference; and 9% reported mixed community response. Thus in up to 88% of the feral cat colony locations, cats released after neutering could encounter hostility. Where the response is mainly indifferent or mixed,

colonies might be protected by vigilance for a time while neuter/release practioners work to win greater sympathy. Elsewhere, neuter/release will probably be successful only in large self-contained properties such as warehouses and equipment yards, with limited public access, which are owned and controlled by members of the sympathetic minority.

The survey finally confirmed that no matter what methods are used to help homeless cats, plenty of room remains for all hands to try out ideas. Forty percent of respondents were personally aware of only one homeless cat colony, but 19% were aware of two; 18% were aware of three; 10% are aware of four; 4% are aware of five; 4% are aware of 10; and 3% are aware of more than 10.

ANIMAL PEOPLE will seek funding for follow-up study to see whether the stability in homeless cat numbers found by this study continues to show up in future years; to compare the longterm success of neuter/release and euthanasia in specific comparable locations; and to answer whatever other questions the first round of findings may raise. We hope to publish as many letters of comment, information, and discussion on the findings as we can in future issues.

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The Watchdog

The Watchdog monitors fundraising, spending, and political activity in the name of animal and habitat protection—both pro and con.

Look for our third annual report on animal and habitat protection group fundraising, spending, and salaries in our December issue, along with similar data on the leading opposition groups.

Who Shot Those Pigeons?

HARRISBURG, Pa.—The September 9 edition of the *Valley View Citizen Standard* took a few weeks to reach participants in the Labor Day protest against the 59th annual Fred Coleman Memorial Pigeon Shoot, but when it did, it ignited a furor.

The hometown paper of Hegins, Pa., where the pigeon shoot is held, published the names and scores of all pigeon shoot registrants. Among those listed as scoring, a euphemism for killing pigeons, were seven protesters who paid the \$75 registration fee in order to let pigeons escape by intentionally shooting high, low, or wide when the traps were opened. Twenty pigeons were released for each registrant to shoot at, one at a time, on command.

Most of the protesters' scores were within the range of possibility if someone unfamiliar with a shotgun miscalculated the effects of recoil or shot spread. Donald Barnes, Washington director of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, was listed as having shot two pigeons; James Corrigan, Karen Hufnagl, and Barry Weiss were also supposed to have killed two pigeons each, while Arleen Weiss was identified as having killed one.

However, Sue Johnson of Kittery,

Pressure from Shedd aquarium squelches expose

CHICAGO, Illinois—The scheduled October 10 debut of *Modern Animal News TV* on WGBO-TV Channel 66 was twice postponed and then cancelled by station management under pressure from the Shedd Aquarium. The program was to focus on the capture of two beluga whales in northern Manitoba, Canada, last August, and their subsequent death at the Shedd on September 25, apparently from overdoses of worm medicine.

"The most controversial aspect of the feature," MAN-TV producer Lair Scott told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, is unique footage provided by the Manitoba Animal Rights Coalition." This footage, unlike some circulated by the Shedd, "recorded the more brutal aspects of the belugas' capture," according to Scott, "including what the captors describe as a 'water rodeo.'"

Scott said much of the footage "had already been broadcast by WMAQ-TV Channel 5 and other local stations at the time of the belugas' deaths." The MAN-TV feature also included footage borrowed with permission from Chicago-area affiliates of NBC and ABC, as well as WGN, the satellite station owned by the Chicago Tribune Co., which is a major Shedd supporter.

Canadian government crackdown Animal Defense League loses charitable status

RETALIATION FOR ANTIFUR EFFORTS?

OTTAWA, Ontario— The Animal Defense League of Canada has been stripped of the charitable status it has enjoyed since 1967 by Revenue Canada, the Canadian equivalent of the Internal Revenue Service,

Although the ADLC retains non-profit status, donations to the group are no longer tax deductible.

"For several years now," the group told members in late September, "Revenue Canada has been reviewing the charitable status of animal rights organizations and taking a very narrow view of what they will accept as being 'charitable.' We believe this position is being taken in response to the complaints and pressure from factory farmers, the fur industry, vivisectionists, the hunters' lobby, and others."

Revenue Canada moved against a number of the leading Canadian animal protection groups roughly a year ago, with

So far, no national groups in the U.S. have lost charitable status, but at least one state organization did. The structures of numerous U.S.-based groups are believed to be under IRS review.

The ADLC is the first major Canadian group to be affected, but the activities of the Vancouver-based Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals have also been challenged. The Fur-Bearers, as the latter is known for short, has had charitable status since 1952.

The ADLC agreed to accept "annulment" of charitable status after being advised that challenging Revenue Canada could result in even stiffer consequences. "The threat," the ADLC newsletter explained, "was that if we did not accept annulment, they would take us to court to *revoke* our charitable status. Revocation is far more punitive than annulment. Revocation means that if we lost the case, we would not only be prevented from issu-

Maine, was also said to have killed a pigeon, even though, she told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, she never fired her weapon. And Norbert Hufnagl was listed as shooting 17 pigeons, an 85% score.

Commented Barnes, "I am not aware of any birds hit by protesters; I am aware of some birds who could not or did not fly past the 'scoring' field, possibly due to dehydration, starvation, and clumsy and abusive handling. None of my birds demonstrated this behavior this year, although one bird did not fly and was called a bad bird. At that point I was told, 'You can shoot the bird.' As I did last year, I answered, 'No, I'm ready—pull!' He (the man pulling the release cords) opened an adjacent box, I missed the bird; both flew away. I am somewhat proud of saving 21 birds rather than 20."

Protest organizers Steve Hindi and Joe Taksel denounced the scoring as corrupt at an October 23 press conference in Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania state capital. According to Hindi, the scores given to protesters prove the event is not taken seriously as a contest of skill, but instead, "has now clearly defined itself as merely an excuse to maim and kill helpless caged animals."

The Shedd claimed meanwhile that Scott misrepresented himself as a WGBO-TV news staffer in obtaining slides and video footage from the aquarium.

The MAN-TV feature was to have aired as the 86th episode of *Earth Network*, a regular WGBO-TV environmental news series.

Announcements

The newly formed Chicago Animal Rights Coalition is directing protest toward whale and dolphin captivity at the Shedd Aquarium, allegedly cruel biomedical research by Charles Larson at Northwestern Univ., the Illinois Dept. of Conservation's pheasant breeding program, and the use of animals in circuses. Contact Steve Hindi, 6 Willow Springs, Plano, IL 60545; 708-552-7872.

A vegan Thanksgiving will be hosted Nov. 26 at Camp Epworth, Lucas Ave., in High Falls, N.Y., by Animal Rights Advocates of the Hudson Valley. Guest speaker will be philosopher Tom Regan; Jay Mankita and Lori Gross will supply live music. Tickets are \$22 each for adults, \$12 each for children. Call 914-561-7563 by Nov. 13 to make reservations.

the argument that activities other than hands-on humane work don't constitute charitable works as defined by the tax code. This is essentially the same argument the IRS has recently used in challenging the charitable status of some U.S. animal rights groups. Under both U.S. and Canadian law, charitable groups may engage in public education, but may not spend more than a small percentage of their budget on promoting legislation or supporting political candidates. Although the percentage is not stated in specific numbers in either nation, it is generally considered to be five percent.

In both the U.S. and Canada, animal protection organizations were routinely granted charitable status under the tax code provisions that apply to humane societies until the late 1980s. Then, according to tax officials, the proliferation of non-sheltering animal protection groups caused them to re-examine where the money was going.

ing income tax-deductible receipts, but all our assets and bequests from supporters received over the years would automatically be confiscated by Revenue Canada. After consultations with a lawyer, we felt there was no hope of winning the case in today's judicial climate."

The annulment took effect on August 31.

The fur industry in particular has been demanding governmental review of tax laws as they apply to animal protection groups, in both the U.S. and Canada. The demand has special force in Canada because the Canadian government until recently collected significant income from trapline royalties, leasing trapping and grazing rights on federal land, and luxury taxes on sales of fur garments. In addition, over the past five years Canada has poured at least \$26 million in public funds into attempting to revive the fur trade.

Gross Canadian trapline income has plummeted from over \$123 million in 1986-1987 to under \$20 million in 1991-1992 according to current projections. The official numbers for 1991-1992 have not yet been published.

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Guest Column:

An Avoidable Conflict

by Dan Namowitz

Would you fly in an airplane if upon boarding you beheld a sign proclaiming, "Notice: the flight crew is trained to cope with normal operations only. The management is not responsible for the performance of the pilots under emergency conditions."?

Would you ride aboard a train or an ocean liner, if the engineer or captain had received no emergency training?

What kind of emergency training should the driver of an automobile undergo? With all the loss-of-control accidents that occur on icy roads at the beginning of each new winter, and all the animal/automobile collisions that occur each spring and summer, it is obvious that drivers whose *normal* operating environments involve certain predictable hazards are doing a poor job of dealing with emergencies, resulting in unnecessary death and injury.

And predictably, in the cases involving animals, one proposed "solution" to the problem of animals straying into roadways is hunting more of the animals, not training better drivers. In a society that seems to become less capable of compassion and sacrifice with every passing day, it is now possible to enjoy a cup of coffee at a roadside eatery known as the Roadkill Cafe. There are several such restaurants in this area. One has a sign out front that shows an automobile wheel about to squish a raccoon, and the menu offers "Bye bye Bambi burgers."

From moles to moose, America's roadsides become littered, each summer day, with an astonishing assortment of wildlife killed by cars and trucks. Warnings about the hazard consist mainly of the occasional sign warning that certain large animals may cross the road in specific areas. A few conscientious motorists affix "I brake for animals" bumper stickers to their vehicles—but the notion of braking for animals is still considered by many to be quaint, if not downright flaky. "I am not going to risk hitting a tree or spinning out of control to avoid a skunk," a friend of mine said recently, expressing a rather typical view.

With so many people expressing such attitudes, the hunting lobby has spied an opening. Here in Maine, where an "experimental"

Moose

The New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation is pushing a \$1.4-million, five-year plan to rebuild the state's moose population, wiped out by hunters in 1861. The estimated 15 to 30 moose now living in New York would be augmented by the import of 60 cows and 40 bulls from New England and/or Canada, who would be released in likely parts of the Adirondacks. The DEC predicts the population would rise to 1,300 moose by the year 2013, 42 of whom would die annually in collisions with cars. Half a dozen humans would be seriously injured each year, and one would be killed every other year. Controlling the moose menace, the DEC plan concludes, would require sport hunting. (Photo by Richard Piliero.)

How you can prevent roadkills!

(continued from page 1)

significantly vary, and the avoidance tactic appropriate with one may only lead to squashing another.

What to watch out for

Habitat requires first attention, because most of the time it dictates what you're going to see. Every now and then you'll see an animal who logical-

lines in wooded areas, where tree patterns normally create mostly vertical lines. I look for unusual behavior on the part of oncoming drivers and the drivers ahead of me, who may notice an animal first. I further pay attention to surroundings that might attract animals—fruit trees, berry bushes, water sources. The only ground-traveling animal I've ever hit was a raccoon who chose the wrong moment late one night

moose-hunting season went into effect a decade ago, the call is now going out to expand the hunt because moose are "causing" collisions. In a strongly pro-hunting state, few people, and virtually no public officials, have been courageous enough to point out that attempts have been made by hunting interests to expand the moose hunt every year since it was initiated, despite promises that no such attempts would be made. Pointing out that the moose may be a highway hazard seems to be the tactic the hunting lobby needs to get what it couldn't by any other means. The largely unquestioning media are now echoing the call for more moose hunting with no feel for its irony.

As a journalist and a professional flight instructor, I wonder how many motorists are prepared, mentally or physically, to cope with the sudden appearance of an animal in the roadway? How many collisions between cars and animals could have been avoided if the driver had *anticipated* the possibility of a collision and considered a plan of action *in advance*?

I train pilots for a living. On every level, whether the trainees are seeking to fly personal aircraft or become commercial pilots, the key to passing their flight exams is demonstrating safe operating practices, good judgement, and knowledge of emergency procedures. These students are faced with numerous types of simulated emergencies during training: engine and equipment failures, fires, electrical malfunctions, flight into unforecast adverse weather—there is even information on how to avoid bird strikes in flight. Dealing with distractions and demonstrating "situational awareness" are important parts of normal pilot training.

Compare this to the way we drive cars today. A car isn't a car any more; it's an *environment* built for our relaxation and pleasure, designed to make minimal demands on us as drivers. If drivers were trained like pilots, the major change would be in the mental approach to driving. They would be trained to *think ahead*, to systematically scan the road from side to side, to ask themselves what they will do if a deer is standing in the road around the next bend, or whether those gleaming pinpricks of light up ahead might be reflections in the eyes of a small animal crossing the road. A little less speed, and timely, gentle braking coordinated with gentle avoidance maneuvers could save many human and animal lives. But first the driver **has to be thinking avoidance**, not fumbling with the tape player or gabbing on the cellular telephone.

An ounce of prevention, as the old saying goes, is worth a pound of cure. But most drivers give no thought to the ever-present possibility of a collision with an animal. Then the animal is blamed for the marginal skills of drivers—and the call goes out for more hunting.

If ever blaming the victim were unnecessary, this is the classic case. More training won't avoid all the collisions, but neither will more hunting. Heaven forbid that we motorists—we the people who built roads through the habitat of animals—might place a little more responsibility for our own well-being on ourselves.

ly shouldn't be in the road, like the time I nearly hit a thousand-pound pig on a highway in Quebec or the time a buddy of mine found himself facing down a moose a long way from anywhere any had ever been reported, but those are the exceptions, the animals you'll either hit or miss by luck. The rest, you can miss by skill.

If you're driving in a residential area, expect small children, bicycles, skateboards, birds, dogs, and cats. Often the dogs and cats are in blind pursuit of the children, cyclists, skateboarders, and birds.

If you're driving in a high-density urban area, expect homeless cats, pigeons, and squirrels.

If you're driving amid cultivated fields, expect grain-eating birds, raccoons, deer, and small rodents.

If you're driving where people keep livestock, look out for cattle, sheep, and horses.

If the road is lined with stone walls, trees, or hedges, expect all sorts of birds and small mammals, who prefer such edge habitat even if it's right beside the busiest route in the region.

If you know there are roadkills on the route already, beware of opossums, crows, raccoons, and other scavengers.

If you see any kind of animal killed on the road, assume you might soon meet a live one.

How to look out

Don't assume you're going to see whatever's out there just because you're a careful driver. There are special techniques to detecting animals, and you'll need to adapt them to your own abilities. For instance, like many other men, I'm red/green colorblind, which means in practical terms that at dusk (and sometimes at high noon) I'm often unable to rely upon my color vision and sense of contrast to detect red-brown animals such as deer, foxes, squirrels, and some dogs against either brown grass or green foliage. Not infrequently my wife sees a red-brown animal cross the road in front of our car that I never see at all. On the other hand, I've never hit a red-brown animal, or any ground-traveling animal in daylight, even though I've done most of my driving in rural areas with plentiful wildlife. Instead of relying on sensory input I know I can't trust, I use analytical skills. I look most intently for anomalous movements of trees and grass, a clue that an animal is slinking through, just out of sight. I also look for horizontal

to pop out of the open end of a culvert on a narrow road between two cornfields.

What to do when you see an animal depends entirely upon what the animal is. This can't be emphasized too hard or too often.

Animal behavior

BIRDS probably account for the majority of roadkill victims, but there are contributing factors. For a dozen years I jogged every morning past acres of corn fields. I noticed that the road was littered with dead birds on the mornings after pesticides had been sprayed, investigated, and discovered that the birds were apparently becoming intoxicated from the fumes, which in turn reduced their ability to avoid oncoming vehicles. I also noticed that songbirds were killed disproportionately often after a rain, because the water brought worms out of the soil, many of whom they crawled into the roadway, where they were easily seen by the birds, who in turn became so intent upon breakfast that they didn't look out for traffic. I've killed four birds myself, one of them a Baltimore oriole who started out of tall grass into the spokes of my bicycle and was instantly decapitated; two of them a couple of unidentified species who dropped into my windshield from somewhere above while apparently copulating in flight. The fourth was a finch who tried to ride the windstream in front of my car, miscalculated his dive, and was clobbered by the passenger side mirror. The latter accident brings up an important point: many birds don't have the acceleration to take off and get clear of a car simultaneously. They depend upon the push they get from the wind moving in front of the car to help them. This is why birds often seem to court their own destruction by flying directly ahead of an oncoming car for some time before veering to one side or the other or pulling up to let the car pass underneath. When you have a bird doing this, don't either speed up or slow down too suddenly. If you slow down suddenly, the bird will lose the push you're providing, and may fall into your windshield. If you speed up, you may push the air current past the bird and collide.

DOMESTIC CATS are among the animals most often hit, not only because lots of cats are around but also because also they respond to cars as if they were predators. When contemplating crossing a road, they hunker down in the grass beside it, or beneath a parked car, trying to keep as low a silhouette as possible in an effort to avoid being seen. When they do bolt

You can avoid roadkills!

out, moreover, they tend to spring into mid-road at a single low bound, like a sprinter coming out of the starting blocks. They then race in a crouch to the opposite side, still maintaining the low profile. Typically, drivers who hit cats don't see them until after they dart out. By the time a cat is in mid-road, it is often too late to do anything but brake. If you can swerve, however, swerve in the direction the cat came from. Cats usually run a straight line across a road; they rarely stop and double back. Two other quirks of cat behavior bear mention. First, cats frequently hunt in roadside ditches, especially at night. A cat who is hunting won't pay a car any attention, unless the cat suspects she's been seen—which may happen if you abruptly slow down. In that case, if she thinks she has better cover on the opposite side of the road, she may bolt. If she does, she will typically identify the danger from a car with where the headlights hit the pavement. She'll wait until the focal point of your headlights pass, then spring out, right in front of the tires. Either slow down gradually when you spot a cat off the road, or maintain your speed.

ARMADILLOS, PORCUPINES, and SKUNKS, though not closely related, share behavioral characteristics that get them killed by cars in disproportionate numbers. All three species like to travel on or beside highways. Both armadillos and skunks scavenge litter. All three are primarily nocturnal. All three, being well protected against most predators, mind their own business, except when a car approaches and slows down. This makes them curious. They turn their heads toward the sound, which involves taking a step into the roadway; see the headlights; and momentarily freeze. As with cats you see hunting beside roads, don't give them the chance to think themselves into trouble. Decelerate gradually or not at all if a skunk, porcupine, or armadillo isn't already directly in your path.

BEARS, COWS, and MOOSE likewise are not closely related, yet pose similar problems for drivers. All are large, slow-moving, usually dark-colored, and exceptionally hard to see at night. What's more, their eyes don't reflect much. And if you hit one, you're almost as likely to be killed or seriously injured as the animal. Because each of these animals is usually the biggest thing around, each tends to hold position and study a potential threat—like a car—before taking decisive action. Then the animal usually moves away from a confrontation, but by then, at highway speeds, it's often too late. Bear in mind that if you see a

another car. The aftermath of the impact can be as dangerous as the impact itself, due to flailing hooves and flying glass, if the moose isn't killed outright.

DEER aren't hard to miss if you see them and they see you. Although they do freeze in headlights, most deer tend to look carefully before crossing a road during the months December through August; if they see cars coming, they wait. From September through November, however, the bucks are in rut, the females are excited, and the frequent presence of hunters has them further on the verge of panic. More than three-fourths of all accidents involving deer occur during this time. Tip: if you see one deer cross the road in front of you, look out for another. Does typically travel with one or two fawns, who may not have car sense yet, and may dart out after mama even though it's no longer safe to cross.

DOGS don't follow any real pattern. Some have car sense and some don't. You can reduce your chances of hitting a dog by double-checking for canine pursuit any time you see a cat, squirrel, chipmunk, ball, or another dog race across the road. When chasing something, even dogs who have car sense tend to leave it behind.

Rabbit

See the bunny? Would you see him at 60 mph?

(Photo by Robert Harrison.)

RABBITS, CHIPMUNKS and SQUIRRELS are among the hardest animals to avoid if they actually do get into your path. All three species evade predators, when on the ground, chiefly through their ability to rapidly change directions. The surest way to avoid a rabbit, chip-

highways because scavenged roadkills are a major part of their diet, they will stop and look up at the approach of a car—and then either freeze or turn back to eating the roadkill that drew them to where they are. It is possible that since the headlights are above their heads, they think the threat will fly above them. As with cats, skunks, armadillos, and porcupines, if you see an opossum beside the road, try to pass without attracting the animal's attention which can bring a fatal misstep. Also, watch for others, as they tend to travel in family groups. And don't be unduly rattled if an opossum actually runs right under your tires; if it happens. If you do hit an opossum, stop and examine the body for surviving young. Opossum young, who ride on their mothers until old enough to walk alone, are relatively easily rehabilitated—and despite their fierce-looking teeth, all opossums have a gentle, friendly disposition. I once rescued an injured opossum from a trap who had every reason and opportunity to bite me, but didn't even try. Finally, even if an opossum does bite you, you don't have to worry about rabies. Opossums have the least susceptibility to rabies of any known mammal.

RACCOONS, like opossums, usually travel in family groups. If one member of a raccoon family is hit by a car, others will attempt to assist the victim until they too are hit. I've seen as many as seven members of a raccoon family die in this manner. It's always a good idea to move roadkills out of the highway, if you can do it safely, to avoid luring scavengers into danger, but with raccoons, it's an especially good idea. Also like opossums, raccoons are scavengers, who may freeze in headlight beams; and like skunks, porcupines, and armadillos, they are very slow. Follow the same rule of thumb: slow down if you see one before he or she sees you, but not so abruptly as to draw attention to yourself. Warning: although raccoon babies are reasonably easy to rehabilitate, it's not a good idea to pick them up from around a roadkill site in the eastern third of the continent, due to the mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic, which now afflicts raccoons from Florida to upstate New York. Disorientation due to rabies can be a reason why a raccoon wanders into a road in the first place.

bear in the road, there's just about a 50/50 chance there's another bear or two in the vicinity—that you've come across a mother and cubs. Expect to meet bears at night where there are berry thickets in the roadside ditches. Look for cows anywhere they're pastured, but especially in the vicinity of dairy barns where the herds stand in bare dirt yards before milking. That situation gives a cow a lot of incentive to push through the fence to sample the grass alongside the highway. Bet that if you see one cow on the wrong side of a fence, you'll meet more. Moose are usually met in swampy areas among steep mountains, where highways offer the easiest travel between feeding areas. Warning: bears and cows don't attack cars, but sometimes a bull moose will. In Canada several years ago, a charging bull moose derailed a locomotive, then bolted away into the woods. In the rare event that a bull moose charges you, respond as if you're about to be in a head-on collision with

munk, or squirrel is to stop and wait until the critter is safely out of the road. As long as you're still moving forward, the rabbit, chipmunk, or squirrel will continue to assess your car as a threat akin to a dog or fox, only bigger, and may keep switching and reversing course. Fortunately, it is easy to anticipate when you're likely to see one. Rabbits are most plentiful in lightly wooded areas or alongside brushy ditches, toward the end of spring through the end of summer. They may be seen either day or night. At night they freeze in the glare of headlights. Chipmunks and squirrels take to the roads in greatest number at the end of summer, when windy weather at the onset of fall litters roadsides with edible nuts. Chipmunks and squirrels will remain plentiful on the roads in tree-lined areas until after the first snowfall. They are usually out only in broad daylight.

OPPOSSUMS are among the hardest animals to miss because they have no car sense at all. Frequenting

Raccoon

Photo by Robert Harrison.

Farm Animal Reform Movement ad

Help **ANIMAL PEOPLE** build the first reliable national data base on road-kills! Walk a mile (or more) in your neighborhood, and send us the following information: the date you walked; the number of roadkills you saw, broken down by species to the best of your ability; and describe the surroundings (urban, suburban, rural; paved road or dirt; number of lanes; main-traveled road or branch road. We'll be collecting this data throughout the next year, to get a month-by-month, season-by-season set of reports than can finally tell us what's going on out there. Please send your reports to:

ANIMAL PEOPLE Roadkill Census, P.O. Box 205, Shushan, NY 12873.

Thank you.

Religion & Animals

The Rev. Andrew Linzey has been appointed to the first-ever chair for the study of animal welfare at Oxford University. The International Fund for Animal Welfare invested approximately \$500,000 to establish the chair for a five-year period. Linzey, an Anglican, was formerly chaplain and director of studies at the University of Essex Center for the Study of Theology. He left that post in mid-1992, shortly after refusing to conduct services while university staff were killing "nuisance" rabbits outside the chapel. Linzey is author of numerous books, including *Christianity and the Rights of Animals* (Crossroad, 1987).

Ann Cottrell Free recently introduced parishioners of St. Bartholmew's Church in New York City to the lives and work of the late Albert Schweitzer and Rachel Carson, who helped lay the moral foundations of the animal protection and environmental movements. Free's text, *Since Silent Spring*, is available at \$3.00 per copy from the Flying Fox Press, 4204 49th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

San Francisco has followed Hialeah, Florida, in adopting a city ordinance against animal sacrifice. "We're now awaiting a U.S. Supreme Court ruling to see if it will hold up," said San Francisco Dept. of Animal Control deputy director Ken White .

How do we reduce violence to the vulnerable?

(continued from page 1)

relationship between child protection and animal protection. As war, drought, and famine harshly demonstrated, not far from the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden, what happens to animals happens to children, too. On the global scale, it's the mindless destruction of ecosystems and national infrastructure to achieve transient wealth and political influence. On the neighborhood scale, it's the destruction of homes by drugs and family violence.

"The identity of the victim is in large measure incidental," San Francisco Department of Animal Control deputy director Ken White observed. "The pathology is the same."

Agreed Denver Indian Health/Family Services Inc. executive director John Compton, "No society or ethnic group has adequately addressed war. All cultures have failed to deal with this kind of conflict...You can't just say you revere animals and children. You must revere the total environment."

Near Habarre, Somalia, former camel trader Sharif Abdul Nur tried to explain to Jane Perlez of the *New York Times* why his ambition in life is to regain some camels, even though the commercial market for camel meat, milk, and transportation has virtually vanished. Camels provided his sense of security and stability. When he slaughtered his last seven camels to feed his 20 children, three of whom later died of hunger, he felt his sense of hope die, too.

Compton outlined the similar feeling his ancestors had toward dogs. They were pets, they were work animals, and they too were eaten in a crisis.

As conference participants typed out their notes, a Russian man who saw his four-year-old brother killed and eaten during World War II was sentenced to death for murdering and cannibalizing 56 children and young women.

But the AHA conference was not called to dwell upon the extremes of behavior, nor even to diagnose the underlying disease. The disease is no secret, explained Scott McVey of the Geraldine Dodge Foundation in his conference-opening remarks. "The beginning of any investigation into violence toward children and animals should begin with violence toward women," he pronounced. He noted that while both mothers and fathers may intensely love their own children, fathers are less likely to generalize that love and extend it toward other children. Conditioned to fight for social and economic status, fathers are more likely to

A leading misconception among underbudgeted and often poorly paid child protection workers is that a lot more money goes toward helping animals. In fact, the U.S. government spends about \$40 billion per year to help children, of which about \$10 million is for education, compared with approximately \$4 billion for protection of animals and animal habitat. Philanthropic groups raise about \$19 billion per year to help children, compared with \$1.2 billion to help animals.

The combined total spending to help children and animals comes to less than seven percent of the federal defense budget—and less than 14% of the cost of maintaining the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Nurturing," he emphasized, "includes care not only of our children, but of our animal companions. We must combat the great lies," he concluded, "that the only way to teach is through fear, and that beatings don't do harm." Green called for the formation of multidisciplinary crisis intervention teams in every American community, including animal protection workers, who will treat entire families who are caught in crisis, not just some symptoms of abuse while underlying causes go ignored.

Until and unless such multidisciplinary teams are funded routinely, as a matter of public policy, the burden of intervening effectively for both children and animals lies upon individual caseworkers. Attorney Patricia Toth of the Center for Child Abuse Protection in Alexandria, Virginia, described how long it took her, as a former prosecuting attorney, to realize that the people hauled into court for child abuse, spouse abuse, and animal abuse were often the same people, transferring abusive behavior from one target to another as opportunity permitted. "Every one of us, if we look, will eventually see the connections," she declared. Humane Society of Pike's Peak education and publicity director Phil Arkow noted that Colorado recently became the first state to add veterinarians to the list of professionals, already including teachers, health care providers, peace officers, and humane officers, who are legally obliged to report evidence of child abuse to the appropriate authorities. Utah State University psychology professor Frank Ascione pointed out that British artist William Hogarth illustrated the progression of abuse, from the torture of dogs to the murder of a pregnant wife, over

such a program. Some children will. Child protection people are always worried about the opposite, that the animals are going to scratch or bite the children and possibly expose someone to legal or professional repercussions. Some will. We have to ask ourselves what level of risk we are willing to take to give ourselves the chance of touching one of these young lives and turning a bad situation around."

Founded over 40 years ago, Green Chimneys is one of the oldest animal therapy programs for abused children in the world, and one of the largest, with an annual budget of \$12.7 million. At any given time, 102 children live in Green Chimneys' group homes in the New York City area and at a 150-acre farm in Brewster, New York. Another 30,000 to 40,000 school children per year visit the farm. "Our goal is not to make farmers," Ross said, "but to make people who are going to be able to talk to other people." In accomplishing this, Ross continued, "we find it is very important that all children should have the opportunity to have the companionship of a pet. To children who are alone much of the time, a pet is very very important. So we have pets in our group homes. On the farm, we have domestic rare-breed farm animals. Because there is a market for these animals among hobbyists and fanciers, we avoid having to slaughter any—we can't possibly do that with children who see these animals as pets and companions." Although Green Chimneys does still offer meat with meals, "we do produce a lot of vegetarians," Ross laughed.

Green Chimneys cooperates with a number of organizations who have been targets of protest by animal rights groups. In September, Green Chimneys sent calves to Egypt via Heifer Project International, a program to promote modern animal husbandry abroad. Green Chimneys also works in partnership with the 4-H Club on some projects; 4-H Club animal programs usually end with the animal being auctioned for slaughter. But there are some indications that perhaps because of Green Chimneys' influence the 4-H Club is reappraising this orientation. Barbara Chamberlain of the National 4-H Council Communities for Child Safety stood up after Ross' talk to tell the audience that selling animals for slaughter is not part of a husbandry/therapy project for disturbed adolescent girls now underway in Oregon; the girls work only with heifers who will be added to dairy herds. In addition, Chamberlain said the 4-H Club has commissioned a study of the psychological effects on children of selling animals to slaughter, with an eye toward "making some program changes, in keeping

rationalize aggression by professing that the political or material status symbol sought is to benefit children, even if the children suffer and die during the struggle to attain it. Finally, fathers are more likely to project vicarious aggressive goals onto children, especially sons, who grow up believing they must be aggressive to win parental approval. This doesn't necessarily translate into violence—but for those who are thwarted in politics and commerce, fighting tends to be the next resort. The immediate need, McVey said, is simply to, "Reduce the violence to the vulnerable."

The conference was about how—and how to maintain hope. "I am very pessimistic about what our species is doing as regards the longterm future of the planet," White confessed, "but I am very optimistic about what two or three people can do by thinking globally and acting locally, in their own community...I have to believe we are doing some good to keep coming to work each day,"

"Our responsibility is to be stones in the water," said Frederick Chapman Green, an inner city pediatrician for 40 years and a director of the AHA. "We must go out and have a ripple effect." Green explained that the medical prognosis for an abused child is, "as grim as for leukemia, because we know now that just as many of these children will be dead in five years." He urged attention to parenting, "which is not intuitive or innate. It is learned behavior.

200 years ago. Inevitably, speakers mentioned Mary Ellen, the abused child whose rescue by Etta Angell Wheeler and American SPCA founder Henry Bergh in 1873 marked the real beginning of the movement for child protection laws.

If there is one activity everyone can advance to help both children and animals, most agreed, it is hands-on humane education—already mandated by law in 23 states, but largely neglected nonetheless. Hands-on humane education helps in two ways: by teaching normal children appropriate animal care, and by giving abused and deprived children the opportunity to interact with creatures whose affection may be the first unconditional love and respect they have ever experienced. Hands-on humane education is disfavored in animal rights circles, as Nita Natelson of Concern for Helping Animals in Israel explained, because it exposes animals to stress. Natelson herself cancelled a pet therapy project, she said, because while it might have been beneficial for the children involved, "the needs of the animals were not being met." Most humane organizations including the AHA are opposed to classroom dissection, but People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has rallied support for the abolition of *all* animal use in classrooms.

Summarized Green Chimneys Childrens' Services executive director Samuel Ross, "Animal protection people are always worried that children will abuse the animals in

with our primary mission," which has shifted in recent years from training aspiring farmers to providing social education.

Incumbent U.S. president George Bush spoke of his policies as a crusade for "family values." Challenger Bill Clinton pointed with pride to his wife Hillary's years of service to children's causes. Independent contender Ross Perot said he returned to the presidential race after dropping out once, "because I want my children and your children to grow up to have a chance for a decent future." Commentators pointed out that children had never before been so prominently mentioned in a national political campaign, wondering if the rhetoric would translate into action.

In El Salvador, authorities dug up the bones of 791 people, most of them children, massacred a decade ago by U.S.-trained troops who were frustrated at their inability to contain insurgents. In the suburbs of Milwaukee, Kathy Dorrance marked the 17th anniversary of the suicide of her husband, poet Don Dorrance, whose last words at the end of his last long poem protesting cruelty were, "We have not yet learned we must not kill children." Lynn Loar of the San Francisco Child Abuse Council supervised several sensorily deprived and abused children as they tried, for the first time to grow a plant—an essential step, she believes, before they are entrusted with an animal. On Shaw Island, Washington Mother Hildegard George read a child a story.

"The very most important thing we can do for these children," she told the AHA gathering, "is to give them exteriority, a point of reference beyond themselves."

Nur hauled firewood on his back and dreamed of the time he will again have camels, not so much to work as to talk to.

CHILDREN & ANIMALS

Israel on September 10 banned six British women from giving birth in the Red Sea at a dolphin sanctuary, under supervision of obstetrician Gowri Motha. Motha told reporters she wanted to see whether the dolphins could communicate with the fetuses through ultrasonic waves. "We hope to make these children more in tune with nature," she said. Israeli authorities believed the experiment might jeopardize the survival of the newborns.

Ramona Clark, 11, of Milford, Nebraska, recently formed her own low cost spay/neuter program by persuading a local veterinarian to alter female cats she refers to him for \$20 and males for \$10. At last report, the program was a success—with a start-up budget of just \$200.

The newly published sixth volume of *Humane Innovations and Alternatives*, the journal of Psychol-

ogists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, emphasizes discussion of animal use in education. Copies are \$15, c/o Emmanuel Bernstein, Glenwood Road, Saranac Road, New York, NY 12983.

Kindergarten teacher Kathleen Ryan of Scio Central School in Scio, New York, has been named 1992 Teacher of the Year by the Natl. Assn. for Humane and Environmental Education. According to the press release, "Ms. Ryan's concern for the welfare of both children and animals prompts her to avoid bringing animals into her classroom. She encourages students instead to care for and observe their own or a neighbor's pet and to watch wild animals such as insects, birds, and squirrels."

Carol Vineberg of Meadow Elementary School in Baldwin, N.Y., has been named Humane Teacher of the

Year by Pioneers for Animal Welfare, an all-volunteer humane education group funded by New York state. The group did 60 humane education presentations in public schools during the 1991-1992 school year.

Respondents to Kidscall, "the news survey for kids" published by *USA Weekend*, during the weekend of Sept. 26-27 voted 4,800 to 200 (96% to 4%) against the use of animals in biomedical research.

Veterinarian Sirel Reeles, 50, and his wife Sondra, 46, of Jackson Township, Pa., were sentenced Oct. 5 to serve three weeks in the Ocean County jail for forcing two boys they were trying to adopt to spend three days apiece in a dog kennel. The Reeles' application to adopt the two boys and their sister was vacated. The Reeles said they would appeal.

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ANIMAL CONTROL & RESCUE

Citing fear of liability if they should inadvertently euthanize a pet, under a new state law directed at pet thieves, the Oregon Humane Society and Multnomah County Animal Control now refuse to accept cats brought to them by private citizens and independent groups who trap ferals and strays. The Portland-based group Committed to Animal Protection, Education, and Rescue charges, however, that fundraising tactics are involved. CAPER cites a letter from OHS staffer Sharon Harmon, who wrote, "Despite the services provided by OHS (to cats brought in by independent rescuers), we received no cash donations for their care. If we had made contact with the owner or finder at the time of surrender, by modest estimation, we could have potentially realized \$18,000 in donations."

The Lexington Humane Society in Lexington, Kentucky, had a rough few days in late September. Sept. 28, staffer Kermit Ray Crawford, 23, pleaded not guilty to second degree arson in connection with a fire that destroyed an LHS truck on August 23. Sept. 29, 50 protesters rallied outside the shelter. One protester, Elaine Robinson, said she was there because LHS had euthanized a cat she surrendered because he frequently got fleas. Simultaneously, the Urban County Council sent to committee for further study two ordinances that would institute cat licensing at \$1.50 per cat per year, and prohibit cats

from running at large. LHS would be responsible for enforcement. "We can't do it," staffer Monique Winter told the council. "We do not have the resources. We do not have the money. We do not have the space."

A Los Angeles city council sub-committee is reviewing a proposal to require all pet stores, breeders, and veterinarians to issue licenses whenever they sell or treat dogs and horses. The measure is intended to improve the license law compliance rate.

Fundraising failures have forced the Sherbrooke (Quebec) Society for the Protection of Animals to dismiss director Alain St. Martin, who twice entered the *Guinness Book of Records* for marathon stays in a portable dog cage set up at a local shopping center to raise funds. The stunt was a whopping success the first year, but a bust the second, when fundraising from all sources brought in only \$45,000 of the \$100,000 the SPA said it needed.

The 123-year-old Women's Humane Society of Philadelphia, the first humane society to take over municipal animal control and a longtime leader in combining animal and child protection services, will relocate to the town of Bensalem in Bucks County next year. The shelter now handles about 4,000 animals a year, down

from 11,000 circa 1985.

Fried's Cat Shelter, a no-kill facility in Michigan City, Indiana, was auctioned for back taxes on October 9, with an estimated 850 to 1,000 cats still inside. The shelter was established about 20 years ago but never legally incorporated as a nonprofit institution by the late Hans Fried, a refugee from Nazi Germany. Conditions at the shelter were so bad in September that Chicago cat rescuer Sue Lukas called it "cat hell," but members of a newly established board of directors said matters had improved more recently.

Wildlife rehabilitators Warren Klatt and Herman Paff of Toledo, Ohio, were treated for PCB exposure Sept. 27 after they rescued an oil-soaked Canada goose from a retention basin at a controversial toxic waste repository left behind by Commercial Oil Services Inc. Just days earlier, state employees shot 25 Canada geese who landed in the retention basin because they could not be safely removed and rehabilitated.

Post offices throughout the Albany, N.Y., division were honored recently for raising the funds to save Olympia, a bald eagle who was hit by a car on Douglas Island, Alaska, in August 1991. With one wing damaged beyond repair, the eagle now

resides at the Berkshire Bird Paradise in Petersburg, N.Y. Funds left over have been set aside for use in acquiring a mate for Olympia.

The glue-trap maker D-Con Inc says the communities that buy the most mouse traps per capita are Houston, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; Salt Lake City, Utah; Boise, Idaho; Baltimore, Maryland; Grand Rapids Michigan; Oklahoma City and Tulsa, both of Oklahoma; and Indianapolis, Indiana. Company spokespersons were unable to explain why all but Baltimore are located in midcontinent.

St. Paul, Minnesota, is pushing ahead with a scheme to net pigeons down town and sell them to pigeon shooters. The municipal government is "very sensitive" to bad publicity, though," according to Mary Britton Clouse of the Animal Rights Coalition, who urges that letters of protest be sent to mayor James Scheibel, 347 City Hall, 15 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102.

"When East Berlin was red," writes Veterinarians for Animal Protection founder Leo Lieberman, "there were no animal protection services. When the wall came down they were inundated with many thousands of feral cats. Germany does not permit euthanasia of healthy animals." Lieberman is now trying to sell the German people on spaying and neutering.

Horse notes...

In the first two years since California began requiring necropsies of all race horses who die while under Calif. Horse Racing Board jurisdiction, on or off a track, 538 horses have been examined—271 in 1990-1991, and 267 in 1991-1992. The examinations are revealing a much greater amount of stress damage from training than experts previously suspected.

Agriculture

The Range Rider, a publication of the USDA Cooperative Extension Service at Colorado State University, is urging sheep farmers to rally in opposition to the Endangered Species Act, now up for renewal. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** had not actually received a copy by deadline, but from a description provided by James Cherry of the AmNet computer network, it would appear to violate fed-

An estimated 150 people participated in a recent two-hour seminar on extricating horses from wrecked vehicles, hosted by the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board and the board of the New Jersey Horse Park. Among the most important tips for rescuers: stabilize the vehicle the horses are in, as unsteadiness can induce panic; promptly put down any severely injured horses, to avoid distress not only to that horse but also to others in a wrecked trailer; approach a horse from behind his or her back, reaching over the horse's body to reposition legs if necessary; plug the horses' ears if noisy equipment must be used; and have another trailer handy before pulling any horses out of a wreck. Proper tying and lifting procedures are too complex to briefly describe, but a video of the whole seminar is available from the New Jersey Horse Council, 609-292-2888.

The Middlefield, Ohio town council is considering an ordinance to make horses wear diapers, for environmental and public health reasons.

An estimated 30,000 to 60,000 of the 2.9 million quarter horses in the U.S. are believed to carry a genetic defect passed along by a particularly esteemed stud that leaves them susceptible to potentially fatal muscle spasms after eating potassium-rich food such as alfalfa. "We now have a nearly 100% accurate test to see if a horse has the mutation, and we could get rid of it in a single generation," says Dr. Eric Hoffman of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, who did much of the necessary genetic detective work. However, because many of the genetically defective horses are show winners, and because so many breeders have heavy investments in the bloodline, the American Quarter Horse Association is apparently reluctant to respond with regulations.

Killer-buyers are getting rough with investigators, reports Ursula Liakos of the Coalition Against the Horse

Slaughter Trade. Liakos told ANIMAL PEOPLE that one woman doing investigative work for the group recently "had her teeth punched out" by a killer-buyer she confronted, and another had her camera smashed. Further details are to be revealed upon completion of the present probe, which focuses on the sale and transport of horses to Canada. The horses are slaughtered upon arrival at any of four major packing plants—three in Ontario, one in Quebec—and their meat is sold to European nations. France is the leading consumer.

Judge Thomas Riordan of the Court of Queen's Bench in Newcastle, New Brunswick, ruled October 14 that four work horses who were to have been shot according to the provisions of rescuer Clive Wishart's will could instead be turned over to the King's Landing Historical Settlement, where they will perform traditional tasks as part of a tourist attraction. Wishart, who died in 1991, willed that the horses should be shot because he feared they would be abused if he wasn't around to take care of them. He had purchased them from a man who used them in pulling contests and a commercial sleigh-ride concession. After a month of deliberation, however, Riordan ruled that shooting the healthy horses would be abusive in itself. The case came to court after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police refused to do the shooting.

A horse named Stitches found a good home in Madison, Mississippi, on October 10, almost three years to the day after Legislation In Support of Animals first rescued her from prolonged abuse. About 550 pounds underweight when initially seized, Stitches recovered once, was returned to her original owner by a judge, and was starved again. While LISA fruitlessly pursued repeated reports that Stitches had been abandoned in the woods, Denise Sudbeck of Madison saw her in a parking lot, bought her, and has nursed her back to health.

eral guidelines regarding impartiality.

Pointing out that the figure of 5.6 billion domesticated animals killed by the U.S. food industry each year is based on the number slaughtered and butchered, rather than on the number born, Alex Hershaf of the Farm Animal Reform Movement urges activists to use the figure 7.8 billion instead—which includes the number of male chickens who are culled and killed immediately after hatching.

The USDA has invited public comment "to help identify potential issues to be analyzed in the environmental impact statement for animal disease eradication activities," which include among other controversial programs the slaughter of bison who wander out of Yellowstone National Park each winter, so they they won't spread brucellosis to cattle. Comments are due by Nov. 23. Call 301-436-8565 to get details on participation.

Beyond Beef author Jeremy Rikin is to address the Society of Environmental Journalists' annual convention Nov. 8 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Spiegel ad

Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns protested outside the USDA head office in Washington D.C. on Oct. 2 to mark the 10th annual celebration of World Farm Animals Day. Established on Gandhi's birthday by the Farm Animal Reform Movement in 1983, activities this year included demonstrations in England, Australia, Israel, Canada, and Poland, as well as at several hundred locations in the United States.

Diet & Health

SPOCK SPEAKS ABOUT MILK

A COUP FOR PCRM? WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

Child-care expert **Dr. Benjamin Spock** advised parents at a September 29 news conference in Boston that babies under the age of one year should not be given cow's milk, and that, "breast-feeding is the best milk feeding for babies."

Spock, who gave up eating dairy products himself last year, at age 88, went on to explain that cow's milk causes some babies to suffer intestinal blood loss, allergies, and indigestion, as well as contributing to "some cases of childhood diabetes."

Spock spoke as part of a panel including Johns Hopkins University director of pediatrics Frank Oski, who wrote a book in 1977 titled *Don't Drink Your Milk*, and Neal Barnard, president of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. Early wire service and TV stories about the presentation indicated Spock had directly supported Barnard in recommending against giving children any cow's milk. The early stories carried vituperative reaction from an anonymous American Medical Association spokesperson, directed at Barnard but tending to heighten the impression that Spock too had seriously challenged mainstream medical opinion.

Then came in-depth follow-ups by Carole Sugarman

of *The Washington Post* and Marian Burros of *The New York Times*—who is known for both thorough reporting on nutritional issues and sympathetic coverage of vegetarianism. Both Sugarman and Burros skipped the fireworks from the AMA and other groups inclined to simply defend an entrenched position. Both concentrated upon setting the record straight. In fact, Spock's recommendations were substantially identical to those issued a year ago by the American Academy of Pediatrics. He had not fully endorsed the PCRM position. He does not favor milk-drinking, at any age; neither does he categorically disfavor it for those who can digest it and want it.

Whether or not Barnard intended to give the wire services the impression they got, Sugarman's follow-up in particular buried the strong statements Spock did make beneath her impression that, "in some ways he had been had...used by PCRM....The group surely had known the impact of having the pediatric legend cast any aspersions on such a sacred cow as milk. The grey areas had gotten lost in sharp headlines and 30-second sound bites."

Medical evidence is growing that iron-rich red meat contributes at much to heart disease as cholesterol. "Avoiding meat may be prudent," *Newsweek* medical reporters Geoffrey Cowley and Mary Hager concluded after reviewing recent studies on the topic in the September 21 issue.

Trans-fatty acids that increase the harmful effects of cholesterol commonly result from cooking with solid or semi-solid margarines and shortenings, suggests a new USDA study whose preliminary findings were made public October 7. Avoiding cholesterol is still a good idea, but so is avoiding partially hydrogenated vegetable oils if you are in a

high-risk bracket for heart disease. Use whole oils instead—"The softer, the better," as Marian Burros puts it.

The American Cancer Society reported October 6 that people who eat lots of fruit, grain, and vegetables relative to other foods have only a third to a have the risk of developing colon cancer, the second most prevalent form of cancer. (Lung cancer ranks first.)

The International Jewish Vegetarian Society has opened a center in Jerusalem. Organized by Philip Pick in 1964 to educate Jews about vegetarian teachings in the Torah, the group is headquartered in London. For further information, write Richard Schwartz, 263 Warwick Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314.

Performing Animals

Wild Willie, the bull who was castrated in front of the Mississippi State University football team in early September, has been saved from the slaughterhouse by Frank Truitt, a steak-eating Army Reserve recruiter, and insurance salesman Billy Walker, a hunter. Truitt and Walker paid \$2,000 apiece for Wild Willie, but hope to recoup their money by using him in commercial promotions.

Falmouth, Pennsylvania, hosted its 13th annual goat race on October 3. Ten thousand people attended; 63 goats and human companions participated. Held almost in the shadow of the infamous Three Mile Island nuclear reactor (about an hour's drive south of Hedges), the event began as a joke, when former state representative Ken Brandt took out a newspaper ad listing his friend Glen Hipple as the organizer of such an event. When people began calling to enter Hipple went ahead and did organize it. The rules call for each contestant to sprint one tenth of a mile, more or less, with a goat on a leash. The goats are reportedly rarely inclined to maintain a pace.

The Oregon activist group Committed to Animal Protection and Rescue asks that letters opposing greased pig chases be addressed to Dave Sorenson, General Manager, Sentry Stores, 6433 S.E. Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222; and Dick McPike, owner, Molalla Sentry Store, 6100 S.E. King Road, Milwaukie OR 97222.

Holiday cards ad

Animal Health

Piliero

The Centers for Disease Control revealed October 8 that a 31-year-old man from Tucson, Arizona, had become the first human plague fatality in the U.S. since 1987. The man, who was not further identified, became infected when he breathed the same air as a diseased cat he rescued from a crawl space under a house in Chaffee County, Colorado, on August 19. He fell ill on August 21, was hospitalized August 25, and died August 26, still undiagnosed. The cat, who also died, apparently got the plague from a flea-infested chipmunk.

Founded in 1977, the North American Veterinary Technicians

Association seeks to maintain and advance professional standards for vet-techs. For details, write to P.O. Box 224, Battle Ground, IN 47920.

Deprenyl Animal Health Inc. of Overland, Kansas, has patented a treatment for senile dementia in dogs, modeled after a treatment used to fight Parkinson's Disease in humans.

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thanks you:
Australian WellBeing; Sally Boulware; Sheila Brown; Sylvia Christiansen; Sue Clark; Marion Copeland; Judy Crane; Chris Delevoryas; Adele Douglass; Jim & Maggie Dunn; Linda Gibson; Carolyn Gill; Rena Grasso; Alison Harlow; Jane Hoffman; Maryann Kirchenbauer; Angelica Koch; Todd Lawton; Eileen Liska; Dorothy McLean; Barry McMahon; Norma McMillen; Helen Orletsky; Margot Palma; Marvin Phillips; Annette Pickett; Steve Ronan; Ann Sadowski; Lisa Seifert; James K. Smith; Betty Smith; Evelina Smith; Barbara Trudell; Anna Bell Washburn; Elaine Woodriff—and thanks, too, to all of our other deeply appreciated supporters.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Crimes Against Animals

Alleged pet thieves David Harold Stephens, Tracy Lynn Stephens, and Brenda Arlene Linville were scheduled for trial November 2 in Eugene, Oregon, on charges that they obtained dogs and cats by promising to find them good homes and then sold them for use in biomedical research. Customers included Oregon Health Sciences University, Oregon State University, the University of Nevada at Reno, and the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. Originally charged under state legislation, the trio were recharged under the Animal Welfare Act after sheriff's deputies and state and federal agents raided their kennels. Their activities were brought to the attention of the various authorities via detective work by Bobbie Michaels of Committed to Animal Protection, Education, and Rescue, a Portland-based activist group.

Mark Leach, 43, of Oxford, England, was fined \$1,600 on October 10 for strangling an Amazonian blue-fronted parrot belonging to one Paddy Williams. Williams had trained the parrot to screech Leach's name up to 100 times a day at a sound level of nearly 90 decibels. Williams has already acquired a new parrot.

A Parma, Ohio, jury on October 7 found Broadview Heights city council member William Navratil not guilty of cruelty and illegal possession of a game animal, in connection with a July 5 incident in which Navratil and constituent James Fair admittedly bludgeoned a raccoon with a baseball bat and a shovel. Afterward, Navratil offered the corpse to mayor Leo Bender as meat for a barbecue. Fair and a third man charged in connection with the killing, Thomas Levak, were to be tried later.

Rural Wisconsin civil court judge John H. Lussow recently dismissed a lawsuit against a raccoon hunter whose dogs killed a cat because of what he called a lack of evidence and a lack of precedent to establish that

a cat has value. "We had an autopsy report that gave the cat's death as 'being shaken in the mouth of a larger animal,'" plaintiff Sally Boulware told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "My husband and I heard the attack, waited for the hunters to emerge from the woods, and found the cat's body where the shots had been fired," that alerted the Boulwares to the presence of the hunters, on posted land. "The hunter had been with his 13-year-old daughter when they killed our cat. He brought her to court. So she learned in a court of law that it's okay to trespass, to kill animals, and to lie."

Ivan Pope, 29, of Chichester, West Sussex, England, was convicted in late September of violating the British humane slaughter law by frightening a chicken before strangling and crushing it while re-enacting a Mayan ritual. Pope, who subsequently became a vegetarian, was fined and barred from keeping animals for three years.

Mary Jane Richards, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, pleaded guilty to attempted animal abuse September 30, six and a half months after the city of Cleveland demolished her feces-filled home as a health hazard with 75 cats still inside. Now living with her mother, Richards has reportedly resumed collecting cats.

Dorothy Rider, 71, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, made local TV news in late September when local police were unable to find a law they could use to remove an estimated 60 cats from her rented trailer home—reportedly swarming with maggots and caked with excrement.

Malahat, British Columbia landlord Fehim Bajric was fined \$600 on September 9 for shooting a kitten belonging to one of his tenants. It was Bajric's first conviction, although he admitted in court to shooting 20 to 30 cats and three or four dogs per year, ostensibly to protect his own freely roaming ducks, geese, and rabbits.

Hunting—

The Michigan Public Broadcasting System on September 24 aired the final episode of *Michigan Outdoors*, a weekly hook-and-bullet show that had an audience of 200,000. The show died after host Fred Trost said in a product review that Buck Stop Lure Co. used cow urine in a deer scent, lost a \$4 million defamation suit the firm filed against him, and declared bankruptcy. Trost was also forced to suspend a magazine he published, *Michigan Outdoor Digest*, circulation 40,000. The latter had also been in trouble, having been sued for copyright infringement at one point by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, whose in-house magazine is called *Michigan Out-of-Doors*. Buck Stop said Trost's attack on its product caused sales to drop 65%. Trost, meanwhile, pledged to regroup, find backers, and get back on the air.

Cleveland Plain Dealer hook-and-bullet writer D'Arch Egan exposed the cruelties of catch-and-release fishing in detail on October 9—including the internal injuries walleyes and other deepwater fish suffer from decompression when abruptly hauled up from the depths, as well as the fungal infections many fish develop from being handled. Two weeks earlier, Egan reported that bowhunters spend, "on average, more than 40 days each year shooting their bows, and bowhunt more than 16 days each season."

Deer reportedly devastated the marijuana crop in Brome-Missisquoi, Quebec, last summer, causing some of the growers to take up jacklighting (illegal night hunting). While marijuana-growing is illegal in Canada, the weed has long been recognized as one of Brome-Missisquoi's top 10 agricultural commodities in terms of dollar volume.

The N.Y. Dept. of Environmental Conservation recently held hearings on a plan to reintroduce wild turkeys on Long

Island, for eventual hunting. Never mind that Long Island has the greatest population density of anywhere turkey restoration has even been attempted, and that turkey hunting is the most risky kind of hunting for both participants and anyone else who happens to be within shotgun range.

One hunter was killed by gunfire, one died of unknown causes, and two more were critically injured on the opening day of the Utah deer season.

A group of hunters found a 57-year-old New York woman on October 16 hours after she fell off the back of a moving Amtrak passenger train near Price, Utah while looking for a restroom—but they left her to suffer with multiple injuries in sub-zero weather. She was eventually rescued by a coal train crew.

Northwest Territories wildlife officials are reportedly re-examining the stories told by six tourists and their half-dozen Inuit guides last spring, after they shot five internationally protected polar bears. The tourists paid \$10,000 apiece in April to take a three-week trek across the Canadian Arctic. The Inuit guides shot polar bears for meat, they said, after the expedition ran out of the seal meat they brought to feed their dogs.

French animal protection advocate and former film star Brigitte Bardot swore out a complaint October 12 against a neighbor who allegedly invaded her property to hunt boars.

Commercial bird-hunting, a traditional occupation of Bedouin Arabs, is in steep decline because the most coveted birds are getting scarce. The bird-hunters traditionally sell their kills mainly to small restaurants in Cairo and Alexandria.

Fur

Activism

Concerned Citizens for Animals, of Springfield, Massachusetts, recently won summary dismissal of a six-count slander suit filed against the group two years ago by Max Zeller Furs Inc. CCA's countersuit against Zeller is scheduled for trial on January 5, 1993.

Information on how to fight SLAPP suits (slander and defamation suits filed by targets of protest to suppress criticism) is available from:

- SLAPP Resource Center, University of Denver College of Law, 1900 Olive St., Denver, CO 80220;
- Coalition Against Malicious Lawsuits, P.O. Box 751, Valley Stream, NY 11582;
- First Amendment Project / California Anti-SLAPP Project, 1611 Telegraph Ave., Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94612-2146.

Chris DeRose, founder of Last Chance for Animals, and fellow activists Aaron Leider, Regina Eshelman, and John Wheatley were sentenced October 2 for their part in vandalizing a UCLA research laboratory and releasing animals on April 21, 1988. Convicted of criminal misdemeanors at a 1989 jury trial, the four were not sentenced immediately because appeals were pending. Derose and Leider each drew 90 days in jail, while Eshelman and Wheatley got two years on probation plus 100 hours of community service.

Fur Free Friday is November 27—the day after Thanksgiving, the traditional start of the peak fur sales season. Get details on demonstrations in your region from either Friends of Animals at 212-247-8120, or Animal Rights Mobilization at 303-388-7120.

The Fur Council of Canada announced a \$1 million publicity blitz on October 20, aimed at reviving the struggling Canadian retail fur market—one of the last markets left to the Canadian fur industry, following the collapse of fur sales in Europe and the U.S. The campaign argues that furs are reuseable and biodegradable, and that the fur trade is an essential part of controlling animal populations—which contradicts earlier industry claims that the majority of animals killed for fur are ranched especially for the purpose.

Barbara Bonsignore of the New Hampshire Animal Rights League again offers an information kit to fellow anti-fur campaigners, free upon receipt of a large SASE. Write her at 8 Hutchins St., Concord, NH 03301.

Protest the inclusion of fur in the current Victoria's Secret catalog (p. 68) c/o P.O. Box 16589, Columbus, OH 43216-6589.

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Council Advised To Keep Pig Law

December 4, 1991, *Detroit Free Press*—
Pet Pig Prompts Court Confrontation

June 7, 1992, *The New York Times*—
This Little Pig's Market Plunged

June 30, 1992, *Los Angeles Times*—
Pet Potbellied Pig Craze Goes Belly Up

It all happened so fast. In the late 1980s the Vietnamese potbellied pig was everyone's darling, intensively publicized as the perfect exotic (and some said erotic) pet—affectionate, unusual, intelligent, trainable, surprisingly clean, and even at times heroic. Potbellied pigs were hailed as one of the only good things to come out of the Vietnam War; were written up in *People*, *The National Enquirer*, and *Life*; were taken to pricy restaurants by rock-and-roll stars. Breeders who actually had pigs for sale reported getting up to 100 telephone calls a week from people wanting them.

Only price, the breeders claimed, was keeping them out of millions of middle-American homes. Once enough potbellied pigs were bred to satisfy the breeders' own demand, they predicted, the price would drop, and soon there would be at least one pig alongside the cat and dog on every living room rug. Speculation on breeding pairs soared; some prize pet porcines fetched upward of

given away in many parts of the country. Some potbellies were actually sold for slaughter.

Conceiving PIGS

Credit Dale Riffle and Jim Brewer with a combination of prescience and perhaps foolhardy courage. On December 23, 1991, as the potbellied pig bust was just barely beginning, Brewer predicted to the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editors that, "Potbellied pigs are going to be the throwaway pet of the 90s. These animals are personable, intelligent, incredibly sensitive and loving, but they are a lot of work, and this is the main fact that isn't being advertised."

Riffle and Brewer had already rescued their first potbellied pig, from "college kids," Brewer said, who had no idea what to do with him, or how, or why. "We weathered through a lot of problems with Rufus when he was a baby," Brewer continued, "i.e., eating drywall, urinating in front of his litter pan instead of in it, aggressive behavior toward our dogs." From that experience, they knew both the rewards and the difficulty of working with a young potbellied pig; they knew most people who had acquired them wouldn't want to put up with all the effort for long; and they knew that somebody, somewhere, had better get a sanctuary started to serve the ever-growing number of abandonees.

Within another few months, Riffle and Brewer would commit their lives to forming the Potbellied pig Interest Group & Shelter, PIGS for short. It involved major lifestyle changes: leaving close proximity to their jobs, selling property, taking big financial and personal risks to get a place in the country suitable for pigs—and they didn't exactly get a lot of encouragement, either, from some of the people and organizations they had hoped would be most helpful and responsive.

"We had hoped to work with other animal

said, 'you are there to take care of the wounded after the men are through playing their macho games.'" The moral support helped, but Couey didn't stop at that. She also donated a pair of large pighouses, 100 pounds of food, and a big tin of pig vitamins.

"We cannot and will not alienate her just because she used to breed these animals," Brewer went on, explaining that PIGS eschews the ideological in favor of the practical, as a matter of getting the most possible compassionate work done. "We are not out to do battle with the breeders," many of whom lost immense amounts of money in naive expectation that a genuine mass market for pet pigs would develop. Rather, Brewer emphasized, "We are out to offer sanctuary to homeless pigs, to make their lives a little better."

Registries

The major potbellied pig registries all backed the PIGS startup with encouraging publicity. Among those Riffle singles out for thanks are the Pot Belly Pig Registry Service of Indiana, the Gold Star International Registry of California, the Pot Belly Pig Registry Service newsletter, and *Potbellied Pig Journal*. Publicity in mainstream media followed. Even before their incorporation procedures are complete, they've found themselves the senior experts on potbellied pig rescue and rehabilitation, by default. The telephone rings frequently, even though PIGS has yet to do any mailings or other conventional publicity work.

"We've talked with people in New York and New Jersey," Brewer ruminated in a relatively quiet moment. "Utah, Colorado, Ohio—there a woman had a pig she was going to use as a stud, and he was driving her crazy. We convinced her to have him neutered instead of breeding. She did, thank God. We've talked

\$10,000 in the trendiest parts of greater Los Angeles and the New York metropolitan area.

The peak of both prices and public enthusiasm was probably reached in mid-to-late-1991. The boom was still on, but those cute little piglets of a year ago were suddenly grown up and getting hard to handle. Anticipating problems, having had experience with fad pets before, city councils began passing anti-pig ordinances, or enforcing old laws that barred keeping livestock within city limits. Some pig enthusiasts challenged the restrictions in court. They usually lost. The pigs had to go. Other pig-keepers, tired of the unexpectedly difficult animals, simply knuckled under and relievedly dropped their pigs off at the local animal shelter—where staffers, already overburdened with dog and cat overpopulation, found themselves swamped in swine they knew nothing about. Few shelters have either the facilities or the experience to properly cope with a rutting, rooting young pig's needs. And even if all the suddenly unwanted pigs were to be euthanized, just how does one give a pig a lethal injection, anyway, through that tough skin, and how much of the solution does an animal that heavy need?

The price of potbellied pigs did drop, all right, from the range of a year-old car to that of a clunker in less than a year. Nor did it bottom out there. By mid-1992 they not only couldn't be sold; they couldn't be

groups," Brewer explained to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "but the only groups taking us seriously are the owners, breeders, and producers. Not all of them, of course."

They decided to go ahead with whatever they could do by themselves, because, "To be quite honest, Brewer continued, "we don't have two years to wait for the animal groups to give us the time of day. There are pigs out there in bad situations and we have to do something today. From an animal rights perspective, we feel we are on our own. We have never done anything like this before, we had no idea how to go about it, but it needed to be done, we were committed to doing it, and we jumped in to do it—and we found the breeders, owners, and promoters willing to work with us in helping homeless, abandoned, abused pigs, whereas the animal rights and animal welfare groups seem to be content waiting for us to prove to them that we are not a mysterious cult. Dale and I thought we would be welcomed as a new addition to the animal movement. We have grown up very quickly," Brewer notes—especially after Riffle approached PETA for advice on incorporation and instead got "the third degree."

But there was some help available. "A friend of ours, Peggy Couey, a former breeder of potbellied pigs who quit because of what is happening to them, knew we were struggling and wrote us a letter. In her letter she

with a man in Washington state who is placing abandoned pigs in that area. Just before he called us, he had talked to a woman in Arkansas who had just discovered a herd of 80 pigs with mange. They were being fed dog food. Yesterday we received a call from Long Island and a call from Savannah, Georgia. The Savannah call was a woman telling us about a pig in a shelter in the Roanoke Virginia area. Dale is calling around today to see if he can find anything out."

Riffle and Brewer estimate that they have the resources to accommodate about 40 pigs eventually, but they're not in a rush to fill all the available places. Knowing there won't be any slackening of need for a potbellied pig sanctuary in the foreseeable future, they try first to help people deal with their pig problems and keep their pigs at home. Potbellied pigs come to PIGS as a last resort.

Still, they are coming. "Right now we have 10 pigs," Riffle explained at the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** deadline. "Of the ten, only one is actually from this state (West Virginia). We have a mix between a potbellied pig and a regular domestic pig that was rescued from a slaughter line on Long Island. He lived with a veterinarian for six months, Dr. Andrea Fochios. Farm Sanctuary wouldn't take him—they only have the big thousand-pounders there, and pigs are aggressive to one another sometimes. He'd have been killed. Finally Dr. Fochios

but now there's hope for potbellied pigs! *(and they even have mud to root in)*

found out about us. We said we'd take him if she could get him here, so she drove the pig down. It took her seven hours each way.

"We have another pig here from Woodbridge, Virginia. She belonged to a family who put their house up for sale, and it sold a lot faster than they'd realized it would, so they wound up taking their baby and going to live with their in-laws, and of course there was no place for the pig. They didn't want to surrender her, so we made a special arrangement, since they obviously did want the pig. The deal is, they can re-adopt her at any time for up to 10 months. After that, she's ours, and we'll have to adopt her out to anyone who wants her and can take good care of her.

"We have two pigs from a breeder in Pottstown, Pennsylvania," Riffle went on, ticking them off. She couldn't sell them even at \$100. They're a brother and sister, and we'll try to adopt them out as a pair, " since pigs do have a strong sense of family when they're allowed the chance to develop one. "There's Wilie, a pig

it just means that because most pigs are kept in confinement barns these days, the Imrab makers have never seen reason to spend \$100,000 on testing to prove it works on pigs, too. "We're definitely looking into getting all the pigs the canine vaccination," Riffle said. "We don't like a case like one we heard about in Utah. There, a pig nipped a woman. All the pigs at the location were confiscated by the state agriculture department. They cut their heads off to test them for rabies, and they all tested negative, but the pigs were dead."

Is there a doctor in the house?

Getting good medical advice was one big reason why Riffle and Brewer decided early on to work with breeders—even though every male pig they get is fixed as promptly as possible, and the females are fixed as soon as they can find a qualified veterinarian who's willing to attempt the surgery. That's no easy matter, as

We're too busy, and there are too many pigs. But we do have to be very sensitive to the signs of stress. Pigs get stressed out quite easily, and when they do, they can get pneumonia just like that and die. It's very quick. They can be stressed out by being in a new place, by being transported, or by being in in an enclosure with the wrong pig. And different pigs always need different things. We had one, Andrew, who always hissed at us. We finally figured out that he needed more fiber than the others in his diet. We started adding a cup of whole oats to his regular rations and it changed his whole personality. Other pigs, the oats doesn't affect."

There are various other animals at the PIGS sanctuary who also play a part—the usual companions and a flock of chickens, too, whose special task is scratching apart the manure pile to pick out undigested oats. In the process, they help it to break down into soil faster. "We have the greenest grass in West Virginia," Riffle claims.

Mainly, though, the work gets down by the

from Morgantown. We got him because when he reached sexual maturity, he quit using his litter pan. There's Missy, a little white pig. She's five months old and definitely a runt. She's only eight inches tall and weighs maybe 15 pounds. Willie, who's the same age, is three times her size. I refer to her as the piranha," Riffle laughed. "We couldn't touch her for three weeks. She's a major biter. Fortunately she still has her baby teeth. Now I can reach down and scratch her, and she's getting used to us."

Missy came to PIGS from Philadelphia, where she lived with "two disabled people who treated her like a princess. But they couldn't keep her. They called us, and we said we'd take her, but we couldn't take the time off to go and get her, so these two guys, Michael and Craig, volunteered to be a pig-taxi. They drove the nine-hour round trip to Philadelphia and got her," just one example among many of the support Riffle and Brewer have discovered among people who maybe don't think of themselves as "animal people" but do somehow appreciate what what it's all about.

Finally, there's Daisy Mae. "She lived in a townhouse and had only an eight-by-ten-foot concrete slab to run around on," Riffle explained. "She didn't have any grass, and so she didn't get to root. Rooting is very important for a pig, not just to satisfy their instincts, but also because they pick up a lot of minerals they need from the soil that way. She doesn't walk right, and we don't know if it's because her feet or legs didn't develop properly while she was on the concrete, or because of something else, like a genetic or nutritional factor. Her owners loved her to death, but she bit a three-year-old kid. The kid went over into her territory, so she ran over and bit him, and ran back to her place, but that was it. Her people felt they couldn't take the risk of keeping her."

Pig bites are a worry; pigs have powerful jaws, and can deliver a bite comparable to that of a pit bull terrier if provoked. The biggest worry for Riffle and Brewer, however, isn't what any of the pigs are going to do; it's how people will react. The PIGS sanctuary is located within the Mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic area, and because the pigs spend most of their time outdoors, living as pigs were meant to, there is the outside chance they will encounter a rabid wild animal. As yet, there isn't an approved rabies vaccination for pigs, of any size. This doesn't mean the Imrab vaccine used to immunize dogs, cattle, horses, and sheep won't work;

apparently only a few dozen veterinarians in the whole U.S. have operated on enough pigs to have any idea how much anesthesia to use and how it lasts. For that matter, few veterinarians—or potbellied pig owners—even guess within 50% of the actual weight of the pigs. "When I talk to regular agricultural veterinarians and ask them if they know how to spay a pig, they look at me as if I'm crazy," Riffle says. "Who'd want to spay a pig? From their point of view, it makes no sense."

One veterinarian in California has spayed approximately 100 pigs, and is willing to talk other veterinarians through the procedure by telephone. That's the best arrangement PIGS has discovered yet. But it's pricy: upward of \$300 per spay, and that's not even counting the telephone bill.

Linking up with the breeders' network proved to be a matter of necessity, but in the beginning, "Dale and I struggled long and hard about our decision to work with them," Brewer admits. As with dog and cat overpopulation, they saw breeders as a big part of the problem. "We finally decided we had to work with them—we need the health information they can provide. It isn't available anywhere else."

Becoming part of the informal breeders' network has further advantages, Riffle and Brewer have found, in that even as the PIGS sanctuary remains obscure or unknown among most of the mainstream animal protection community, "we will at least be known by the owners, breeders, and promoters of these animals who know where the animals they bred are and what is going on with them." Many breeders, Brewer emphasized to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "recognize that problems are cropping up, and they are willing to help us help as many animals as possible."

Where living like pigs is good

Riffle and Brewer anticipate adding facilities to their newly acquired sanctuary eventually; right now it's little more than a former farm, converted to a different use. "We're still living out of boxes," Riffle laughed. "The pigs come first."

Which is how Riffle and Brewer have gotten to be pig experts in a hurry. They literally live among pigs, making the most of observation. "Most of these pigs were the centers of attention where they came from," Riffle said. "We can't give them that kind of attention.

same two guys who started the place, who pay the bills, deal with the red tape, and make the repairs.

What keeps them going? "I don't know if you know anything about pigs," Brewer concluded after some thought, "but they have uncanny eyes. Very similar to humans. In Rufus' eyes you can see love and gratitude and trust. So on those days when we wake up and wonder, why are we doing this?, we think about Rufus, and his eyes, other pigs in similar situations, and we keep going. We both believe what the pigs give us is far greater than anything we'll ever be able to give them."

(PIGS is located at R.R. #1, Box 317-X, Charlestown, West Virginia 25414; 304-725-PIGS.)

Dogs And Cats

Starting in January and incorporated just last July under the name Every Creature Counts, Lisa Booker, Pat Peluso, and Joy Skow of Lyons, Colorado, had rescued an estimated 400 cats among them by the end of September, picking up strays and ferals from Loveland to Denver. They practice a combination of neuter/release and pick-up-for-adoption.

Eighteen of 38 cats whose pictures are on cat-food boxes or cans in the supermarket closest to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** are orange toms.

Lauren Thain, seven, of Philadelphia, insisted that her parents do something for Sara, a four-year-old Samoyed mix she saw sitting and growling at a stone retaining wall. Eventually they fetched Brian Myers of the Women's Humane Society, who looked behind the wall and discovered the dog's master, 61-year-old Donald Strickland, clinging to a branch in the Schuykill River.

Dogbite statistics kept by the Centers for Disease Control indicate that the number of fatal maulings in the U.S. ranges from 13 to 24 per year—but the species involved tend to change with fashion. In 1987, pit bull terriers caused 82% of the bites, but in 1991 the majority of attacks were made by huskies, malamutes, chows, rottweilers, and wolf hybrids.

Cheri and Clem Bergenthal of Metairie, Louisiana, have allowed their cat to become pregnant three times since she gave birth to a two-headed kitten last year whose remains attracted an offer of \$2,000 from Ripley's Believe it or Not.

Harmony With Horses. By Maurice Wright.

J.A. Allen Horsebooks (1 Lower Grosvenor Place, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0EL, United Kingdom). 1991. 127 pages. Inquire for current U.S./Canadian price.

If more of us understood the generous and willing spirit of horses, fewer horse people would approach them as "a gladiator, not an educator," as horsetamer John Solomon Rarey put it nearly 150 years ago—and fewer animal rights activists would attack the use of horses for work, pleasure, and performance. Strangely, however, despite the prominence of horses in human culture since prehistory, understanding horses hasn't been a priority even for many of those most involved with them. There was a gap of nearly 2,000 years between Xenophon's instructions to cavalry masters to treat horses gently, without whips, and the 1550 publication of Federico Grisone's book on horse training, which emphasized dominance, and became the basis for many of the myths, misunderstandings, and downright cruelties afflicting horses today. It was only within the last few years, for example, that the veterinary profession banned "firing," the medieval practice of applying hot irons or caustics to an ailing horse. Tail-docking is still commonly performed.

In *Harmony With Horses*, Maurice Wright exam-

BOOK REVIEWS

ines the contradictions and anomalies of practice among those who claim they know horses. Like Grisone, many are more mechanics than psychologists, as the use of hobbles, side-lines, sackings, cruel bits, drugs, and surgery to modify horse behavior all testify. Not for them the book published 70 years after Grisone's: Antoine de Pluvinel urged the benefits of knowledge in horse training, showing Science, her nose in a book, leading a winged, spirited steed with ease. Force, next to her, cannot control his unruly animal even with a spiked bludgeon.

Wright was riding the thousands of acres of his family's Australian cattle station before he could walk. In World War II he was a member of the Australian Light Horse cavalry. He has been a Royal Show judge and exhibitor throughout Australia, a rodeo participant, polo player, racehorse man, and campdrafting competitor at the championship level. He continues to raise and train Australian stock horses at his New South Wales station. From this perspective, Wright assesses an historic register of trainers, with appreciation of the intelligence some horses use in resisting abuse. He demonstrates that these horses deserve much better than they get. Wright learned a gentler

and more effective approach over 35 years ago from the late Kel Jeffrey. Like Rarey, Kel manipulated a horse's balance to keep him or her under control while the horse learned to accept his approaches.

Wright detailed the Jeffrey Method in two previous books, *The Jeffrey Method of Horse Handling* (1975) and *The Thinking Horseman* (1983). Cited results include: a five-year-old stallion, fresh off the range in the morning and never handled, used for cattle droving in the afternoon; racehorses, Jeffrey-trained by Bill and Vicki Kelly, whose ease of handling and consistent winnings are the wonder of Australia; and two dozen unbroken quarter horses trained by Wright and his wife in days for the sale ring—and sold.

Harmony With Horses examines the historical prejudices that work against sympathetic training despite its proven success. Appealing to stockmen, drivers, and riders, whether professional or for pleasure, this book could also prove useful to humane advocates as a demonstration that there is, indeed, a better way to treat horses than much of what we see going on around us.

—Sharon Cregier

(Sharon Cregier is vice president of the Canadian Wild Horse Society.)

OBITUARIES

Photo of Phyllis Wright

Phyllis Wright, 65, Humane Society of the U.S. vice president for companion animals 1983-1991, died of cancer October 3. Wright had worked for HSUS since 1969, and though officially retired, continued to head the organization's "Until there are None, Adopt One" campaign to promote pet adoptions from animal shelters. Wright became professionally involved with animals as chief of the U.S. Army War Dogs Receiving and Holding Station during the Korean War. Leaving the military in 1954, Wright ran a boarding kennel in Washington D.C. until 1960, when she became manager of the Washington Animal Rescue League shelter. She simultaneously served, first as a staffer and then as a board member, with the

BOOKS BRIEFLY NOTED

The Myth of Wild Africa: Conservation Without Illusion, by Jonathan Adams and Thomas McShane. *W.W. Norton & Co., 1992. 266 pages; hardback; \$21.95.*

Adams and McShane, both officials of the World Wildlife Fund, advance the WWF view that only hunting and "culling" marketable species can provide impoverished African nations with sufficient economic incentive to insure that the animals will otherwise be protected. The case of the African elephant demonstrates, however, that the presence of a legal market for wildlife parts in one nation only stimulates poaching in others where there is no

"marketable surplus." Further, only a small percentage of endangered animals are in any kind of market demand. Those who don't happen to share habitat with the marketable species would be doomed if conservation were permitted to become strictly a matter of utilitarian principle. Yes, give Africans and others the economic incentive to protect wildlife—but do it by providing funding and equipment for well-trained, well-paid, thoroughly professional native ranger corps, who understand that their job goes a long way beyond just playing cowboy to endangered livestock.

Bat Bomb: World War II's Other Secret Weapon, by Jack Couffer. *University of Texas Press.*

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Karen Koritz, 39, copywriter for numerous animal and child protection TV spots, died of cancer October 19 in Boston. Born in Boston, she relocated to Los Angeles and became a top copywriter in the commercial advertising industry, but wanted to accomplish something more in life.

"She appeared in my life and in the animal rights movement in 1987," longtime associate Patrice Greanville of the Voice of Nature Network recalled, "when she wrote to me and offered her services. Karen went on to participate in many campaigns." Working on projects for Friends of Animals through VNN, Koritz helped script an award-winning spot on saving the African elephant, a spot on dolphin protection that contributed to securing international regulation of driftnetting, and a controversial spot on pet overpopulation that used black-and-white footage to dramatize euthanasia of unwanted healthy animals. Koritz also contributed to famine relief efforts by Save The Children. She was survived by her husband of five months, Bob Estock.

An unknown soldier for kindness, an old man in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, was gunned down by sniper fire October 7. "No one in the neighborhood seemed sure of his name," *New York Times* correspondent John F. Burns reported. "All that was certain as he lay face down in the drizzling rain with bullets in his back, was that his fancy for feeding pigeons, even amid heavy gunfire, had made him the latest victim... People recalled seeing the slight figure appearing about mid-morning every day, always alone... Always tucked under his arm was a loaf of bread in a white plastic bag... Part of the loaf was gone, and what remained, still grasped in his right hand, attracted flocks of pigeons that settled near the body, seemingly oblivious to volleys of tank fire that had everyone within blocks running for cover." The bread, hard to come by in the besieged city, undoubtedly came out of the man's own food ration.

Petra Kelly, 44, cofounder of the German Green Party, and her companion, retired general and pacifist **Gert Bastian**, 69, were found shot to death in their home near Bonn circa Oct. 23. The shootings, ruled a murder/suicide by police, apparently occurred circa Oct. 5. Police said Bastian shot Kelly in bed, then shot himself. Kelly

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Three major wildlife protection acts cleared Congress during the first week of October. The bitterly contested *Wild-Caught Birds Act* in final form imposes an immediate bar on the import of 10 endangered parrot species and phases out the import of all birds recognized as endangered or threatened by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. More stringent than the exotic pet trade wanted to accept, the act is weaker than New Jersey and New York state legislation that it supersedes, and is much less sweeping than animal protection groups had envisioned when it was introduced as an attempted ban on the import of all wild-caught birds (whose mortality between capture and arrival in pet stores runs upward of 25%.) The *International Dolphin Conservation Act* authorizes the U.S. to join an international agreement to phase out netting tuna "on dolphin" (casting nets above dolphin schools to catch the tuna who often swim below) by March 1994. Defenders of Wildlife praised the act, Greenpeace called it, "a mixed bag of good intentions and bad precedents," and Richard Athison of the American Tunaboat Assn. said it will wreck the U.S. tuna industry. The third new law establishes heavy U.S. sanctions including mandatory embargoes on fish imports against nations who violate the United Nations ban on driftnetting, to take effect on January 1, 1993.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 27 declared the marbled murrelet a threatened species. The robin-sized seabird inhabits the same old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest as the spotted owl; the listing is expected to escalate the ongoing controversy over old-growth logging.

One of the two California condors who was released in the Los Padres National Forest near Los Angeles last January was found dead October 10 of unknown causes. The other condor remains at large. The two were the first California condors to fly free since the last of the species were taken into a captive breeding program at the San Diego Zoo in April 1987. There are now 62 California condors in captivity at the zoo.

The Biodiversity Legal Foundation and Friends of the Alabama Sturgeon served notice of intent to sue Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan on October 26, charging that Lujan has illegally delayed adding the Alabama sturgeon to the Endangered Species Act. The legal papers called the sturgeon, native to both Alabama and Mississippi, "the rarest unprotected native fish species in the U.S....In completing a status review for the sturgeon...(the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was)...only able to locate 32 specimens, one of which was a mounted specimen in a bait shop." The ESA listing is vigorously opposed by Alabama governor Guy Hunt, who told vice president Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness on April 22 that protecting the sturgeon would cost the state \$10.5 billion over the next 20 years.

After discovering in 1989 that 10% of all the Atlantic sturgeon caught in the St. Lawrence River had rubber bands on their snouts, Canada Post ordered mail carriers to quit throwing the bands into gutters, from which they might wash into the river. Three years later, fewer than four percent have rubber bands on their snouts.

Peter Jackson, chairman of the Switzerland-based World Conservation Union cat specialist group, warned that the fat-rising price of tiger bone in the Chinese medicine trade is driving a rise in poaching that could exterminate the species in the wild. Only 7,000 wild tigers remain; 20 were poached in Ranthambhore National Park, India, just over the past two years, leaving just 15 tigers still there. Already, some Chinese entrepreneurs are raising tigers for their bones. One farm that began with 14 Siberian tigers in 1986 now has 62, and projects production of up to 300 tigers a year using new breeding methods.

Under orders from the province, the owners of the historic Capleton Mine in Ascot Township, Quebec, capped the shafts in early October, entombing thousands of bats alive—but drilled bat-sized openings in the caps after spelunker Yves Bourassa and bat expert Donald Thomas pointed out the ecological consequences of losing a major portion of the local bat population. The mine shafts, opened in 1863, were abandoned in 1907.

Proliferating seagulls and double-crested cormorants have fish farmers along the Gulf Coast and anglers around Lake Champlain and Lake Ontario screaming for an amendment to federal bird protection laws that would allow the gulls and cormorants to be hunted. More than 100,000 gulls and cormorants spent last summer at Little Galloo Island, New York while another 50,000 took over Young Island, Vermont. Competing with anglers for bait fish at the lakes (they don't pursue trout or whitefish), they then fly south and spend each winter raiding fish farms.

Primatologist Russell Mittermeier, president of Conservation International, has confirmed the 1985 discovery of a previously unknown marmoset species in the Amazon rainforest. The new marmoset, now dubbed *Callithrix mauesi*, brings the number of known primates to 244.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has identified 443 vertebrate species in greater Philadelphia, including 27 amphibians, 30 reptiles, 275 birds, 39 mammals, and 72 fish.

Entomologists are stumped by an apparent 90% decline in the monarch butterfly population this year. Most unclear is whether the species is in decline due to habitat change, or if the decline was just a one-year phenomenon possibly caused by adverse weather.

Wildlife experts are still toting up the damage done to Kauai, Hawaii, in late September by Hurricane Iniki. The Hawaiian duck, Hawaiian coot, Kauai Akialoa, and Kauai thrush, already close to extinction, may have been all but finished off, along with much of the rainforest that provided their cover.

Damage done to the Everglades by Hurricane Andrew is also still under assessment. At the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** deadline, endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers hadn't been seen in some time, but egrets, herons, and vultures were all reportedly thriving, as were at least 18 of the last 19 surviving Florida panthers. Compounding the hurricane damage to coastal Louisiana, a burning drilling rig leaked about 80,000 gallons of oil during the first week in October. About 200 oil field workers, wildlife officials, and volunteers turned out to rescue birds, but were able to save only one pelican during the first week after the spill—possibly because few birds survived the hurricane.

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. on September 27 announced that national parks and forests will be considered open to mineral extraction unless the government has acquired the mineral rights along with the surface area. Coal industry sources and the National Wildlife Federation agreed that the cost of purchasing all mineral rights from the present owners could run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. The ruling, to take effect shortly after the November presidential election, is consistent with recent court decisions regarding property rights and conservation.

Trees for the Future, headed by former chicken farmer David Deppner of Miamisburg, Ohio, planted over six million trees in the Third World last year, primarily leucana, a fast-growing Guatemalan tree whose leaves can be used as fodder.

Despite the end of the Cold War, the U.S. government is still trying to build a complex of 16 to 22 500-foot-high broadcasting towers in the Arava Valley of the Negev desert in Israel, to serve the Voice of America radio network. "The towers and their supporting network of guide wires, power lines, and transmission wires would pose a hazard to millions of migrating birds in the world's second largest flyway," says Yael Dayan, chairwoman of the Labor Party environmental caucus in the Knesset.

Pease Air Force Base in Newington, New Hampshire, was rededicated as a wildlife sanctuary on October 9.

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was suffering from a kidney disease, and had become "a paranoid loner," according to *Newsweek*, following her 1990 loss of the first Green seat in the West German parliament and her 1991 ouster from the Green Party executive body. But no note was found, and she had been energetically optimistic about making a political comeback as recently as Sept. 26, prompting friends to charge she was assassinated, possibly by skinheads. During Kelly's involvement with the Greens, the party took strong stances against the fur trade, vivisection, sport hunting and habitat destruction.

