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YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NEW YORK— The July 7 accident stunned New York City. Before dozens of witnesses, a blind woman fell from the platform at Pennsylvania Station, losing her grip on her guide dog's harness. As she scrambled back toward safety, and the frantic dog barked a warning, the 9:18 southbound express thundered into the station, and though the motorman threw his full weight against the emergency brake, it knocked her 20 feet through the air.

Five minutes before 10:00 a.m., when she would have reported for work, Vision Services for the Blind associate executive director Pamela Schneider, 49, died of her extensive injuries.

One of the most prominent and popular advocates for the blind in New York, Schneider had traveled with dogs since her teens. For years she had introduced children

who had lost their sight to the world of the blind, including the necessity for many of trusting a dog to provide mobility, security, and emotional comfort. As Vision Services for the Blind executive director Nancy Weber remembered, Schneider was "highly independent, someone who traveled to every neighborhood" of an often quite hostile city "without fear or second thought," because she always had one of a succession of good dogs with her.

Her guide the morning of her death was Pepper, a four-year-old Labrador retriever personally trained for her by Geoffrey Locke, one of the most experienced staffers at Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Following the accident, Pepper was returned to the family who raised him for the first 18 months of his life.

It was the first such fatality anyone could remember in the fifty years since Morris Frank and Seeing Eye Inc.

of Morristown, New Jersey, introduced the use of guide dogs for the blind to the United States. Blind people and their dogs have been killed together by speeding cars and muggers' bullets, but never before was there even a hint of guide dog failure.

Why didn't Pepper warn Schneider away from the edge of the platform? He was walking on her left, as all

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

Can San Francisco quit killing pet surplus?

SPCA moves toward national precedent

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMUNITY ANXIOUS, SKEPTICAL

SAN FRANCISCO, California—Known for controversial innovation, San Francisco SPCA president Richard Avanzino touched off perhaps the biggest furor of his career in September by proposing that the city pound should stop euthanizing animals purely for the purpose of population control—and offering to take care of adopting out the animals.

Not just an idealistic gesture but a detailed plan, Avanzino's strategy for increasing placement of adoptable animals is backed by a million-dollar special budget and an SFSPCA shelter expansion already underway. If Avanzino achieves the goal, San Francisco will become the first major city ever to achieve victory over pet overpopulation.

And the goal is within sight. Since Avanzino returned the municipal animal control contract to the city in 1989, the SFSPCA has concentrated upon promoting adoptions, discount neutering, humane education, and improving relations between landlords and tenants with pets. The payoff has become evident in plummeting euthanasia rates not only at the SFSPCA itself, which has virtually become a no-kill shelter, but also at the city Animal Care and

Control Department shelter.

"The facts speak for themselves," Avanzino says. "In fiscal year 1991-1992, the Animal Care and Control Department reported 757 adoptable dogs and cats euthanized at its facility. Last year the number was 222, a 71% reduction. These numbers show just how close we are to saving every adoptable pet in our city."

Avanzino defines "adoptable" by criteria he himself developed: immediately adoptable (the 757 and 222); adoptable with medical treatment or socialization; animals with low odds of successful treatment due to the severity of their condition; and animals who aren't adoptable at all. The latter category includes demonstrably vicious dogs, very wild feral cats, very old animals, and animals with incurable injuries and diseases.

Overall in 1991, the SFSPCA placed 4,611 animals while euthanizing just 24, all for health reasons. The San Francisco Animal Care and Control department meanwhile placed about 6,000 animals, euthanizing 10,000. The com-

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Geese rising from a park sure do remind hunters of ducks on a pond. (Photo by Robert Harrison,

Ducks scarce; gunners go after resident geese

Migratory waterfowl populations are down again, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, continuing a 20-year slump, during which mallards, the most commonly hunted species, have declined 33%. This year's fall duck count of 59 million is the lowest on record, down 4.8% from last year, when the count of 62 million matched the then-record low first reached in 1985. Goose and swan numbers increased slightly in most areas, but the Atlantic and southern James Bay flights of Canada geese fell—the latter by 28%.

More than 100 million ducks flew south each year in the 1970s, and 74 million as recently as 1987, when the U.S. and Canada set up the \$1.5 billion, 12-year North American Waterfowl Management Plan to try to rebuild the population.

So far, the effort is failing. The Louisiana-based Delta Waterfowl Foundation recently reported that hunters

have been killing more adult ducks than juveniles for 20 years, the reverse of what would happen if the duck population was growing. The same could be true of geese and swans, but the data needed to know is presently unavailable.

"Given that we are now shooting the adults," New Orleans *Times-Picayune* hunting writer Bob Marshall asked his readers recently, "and knowing the remaining adults are unable to offset each year's losses, how long can we continue in good conscience, to hunt?"

But conscience apparently isn't bothering many hunters, who blame increasing predator pressure and habitat loss for the waterfowl decline. Certainly habitat loss is a major factor. Predator pressure on waterfowl increases, however as flocks diminish, with fewer members left to watch and give warning while the

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Which dogs are overpopulating?

ANIMAL COLLECTORS PREFER SMALL DOGS

Report to Congress on animal rights terrorism

FUR IS STILL DEAD

What do euthanasia numbers really tell us?

Editorials

When more pets don't help

It's no secret that loneliness ranks among our biggest social problems. Those who are lonely won't need convincing, but the available statistics are still staggering. Twelve Americans out of every 100 over age 15 live alone, including nearly a third of those who are 65 or older, 41% of women age 65 and older, and more than half of women age 75 and over. Certainly some people choose to live alone, but among both sexes at all ages over 25, the numbers who are alone closely correlate with the number who are widowed or divorced. More than half of all women will be widowed or divorced by age 65.

The impact of loneliness on many people appears in further statistics. Single people suffer more accidents, poverty, terminal disease, alcoholism, and drug dependency—and commit suicide more often. Men commit suicide three times as often as women; the leading reason for male suicide is loss of a spouse.

Just as otherwise healthy but unloved infants may die from acute depression, called by doctors "failure to thrive," most of the rest of us need to be loved to feel well. As almost all of us who have ever been alone can testify, we were born to be social animals; our social needs don't end with our relationships.

Nor is loneliness restricted to those who are physically alone. The Bureau of the Census doesn't ask how many people feel isolated within unsuccessful marriages, or would like to have friends and confidants other than their spouses, but the numbers would be high. Indeed, psychologists have long identified the need for a same-sex best friend as primary among women, and perhaps strongly latent among men.

Loneliness is of course one of the leading reasons why people adopt pets. People with pets, especially singles, suffer markedly less from depression and alienation—and according to one clinical study, live 3% longer.

As far back as 1860, pioneering nurse Florence Nightingale remarked upon the importance of pets to the isolated and infirm, urging caregivers to keep people and their animals together as long as possible. During the past decade countless pet therapy programs have emerged, giving thousands of shelter animals a welcome place in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and mental institutions.

The momentum has carried over to helping emotionally needy individuals to keep pets at home. In 1987, Ralston Purina committed \$1 million to helping place 10,000 dogs and cats from the 90 largest shelters in 70 cities with people age 60 and over. The company paid for vaccinations and neutering. That program continues, albeit with a low profile, on a smaller scale. The Denver Dumb Friends League, for instance, has averaged 254 placements with seniors a year during the past six years with Ralston Purina assistance. Ralston Purina has undone much of the goodwill the senior placement program earned in the humane community by promoting field trials of coonhunting dogs. But local initiatives such as the Lifelong Friends program of Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection in New Mexico have extended the idea of facilitating placements with seniors, and the North Shore Animal League's new Seniors for Seniors program rivals the Ralston Purina project in scope and scale. (Both Seniors for Seniors and Lifelong Friends were profiled in **ANIMAL PEOPLE** last May.)

Also worthy of note are the efforts of the Pet Owners With AIDS Resource Service in New York City and the Pets Are Wonderful Support Network in Los Angeles, each of which helps hundreds of AIDS patients to keep pets into the last stages of the

There are a disproportionate number of single people in animal care and control work because the pay scale isn't conducive to supporting a family. Animal shelter directors make on average only 89% of the U.S. median family income; assistants make less. The only other fulltime employees at most humane societies and animal control agencies are enforcement officers. Police officers earn only 87% of the U.S. median family income, but cruelty investigators and animal control officers do equally stressful and risky work on a mere 50% of the U.S. median family income. In fact, cruelty investigation and animal control work may be even riskier and more stressful, because almost every case involves both a victim and a perpetrator. There are no interludes of directing traffic. And the animal victims can be just as dangerous as the humans who abuse them. While most cruelty investigators and animal control officers who carry sidearms say they do so mainly to protect themselves from two-legged animals, very few get through a year without having to dispatch or site an unusually aggressive dog, an apparently rabid cat, or an injured and thrashing deer with hooves like knives.

Paid shelter adoption clerks and technicians don't even earn a poverty level income. Adoption clerks and technicians, however, tend to be either near the beginning of their working lives or the second wage-earners in their families. Shelter directors and enforcement officers are almost always experienced people for whom animal work is a serious vocation. Though women make up about 80% of the animal shelter workforce, men still hold the majority of the upper-level positions; but for both men and women, the typical career path begins with part-time service or volunteer work. While the majority of shelter workers remain part-timers or volunteers, in part because of family obligations and the need to make more money, people pursuing animal care and control careers typically take their first fulltime jobs in the field after the loss of a better-paying job in another occupation or a divorce from a spouse with fulltime employment. Either way, economic need is a factor but a smaller factor than the desire to help animals.

Shelter work does attract many young volunteers and part-timers, but those with career goals more often hope to become veterinarians than enforcement officers or administrators—and small wonder, given the low remuneration and lack of social status typically assigned to "dogcatchers." (The growing number of veterinarians with backgrounds in shelter work may be a major reason why more than 10% of all small-animal vets now provide their services to discount neutering programs, and why the veterinary community as a whole has become markedly more concerned about pet overpopulation.)

People who remain in animal care and control work usually find that advancement requires relocation, typically serving with two or three different shelters in different parts of the country before becoming a director. Advancing to directing larger shelters capable of sustaining more ambitious programs may involve further relocation. Each relocation further fractures the individual's social support network, which may already have been damaged by the job transition or divorce that made fulltime shelter work possible in the first place.

In consequence, many healthy, outgoing, caring and attractive shelter personnel who intended to couple and enjoy family life instead reach middle age alone. Not that they've ever had time to acknowledge loneliness: every day is a rush of caring for animals dealing with the public, talking to children in schools, and then there's the inevitable overtime, filling in for part-timers and volunteers who burn out and quit on short notice, or sim-

inevitably fatal illness, then seeks new homes for the animals when the victims die.

But who is helping the helpers? At the recent American Humane Association annual conference in Baltimore, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** discovered loneliness is also an acute and largely unaddressed problem among animal care and control staff. The very people who dedicate their lives to assisting animals and to uniting lonely people with appropriate animal companions tend to suffer from emotional isolation—usually in silence—to such a degree that when asked why they came to the conference the overwhelming majority cited not the many informative lectures and workshops, nor the opportunity to get away from the often stressful shelter environment, but rather the need to talk meaningfully with nonjudgmental peers. The conference occupied four days. Almost every waking hour of those four days, someone told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "This is the only chance I have to talk with anyone about what I'm really feeling all year." Or, "This is the only gathering where I can be myself." Or, "This is the only place where people understand."

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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ply aren't available over weekends and holidays. There are always plenty of purrs and wagging tails, and except when it comes time to perform euthanasia, or when one must read a letter to the local newspaper likening the shelter to a death camp, there isn't the opportunity to even allow oneself to feel grief.

The stress of euthanasia

Performing euthanasia isolates animal care and control people even more than the long hours and relocations. Like war victims and veterans, shelter personnel don't like to talk about what they go through in connection with euthanasia, especially not with those who haven't been there. Yet, also like war victims and veterans, they need to talk about it most especially with those who haven't been there, who need to understand and can most help by listening. The combination of loving animals with the necessity of often killing them variously produces denial, distancing, and sometimes even the "Arsenic and Old Lace Syndrome," the attitude that euthanasia is a positive sacrament, preferable to almost any alternative. Again like war survivors, some people who do euthanasia may resort to alcohol and drug abuse, or at least chain smoking. To the credit of animal care and control people substance abuse, suicide, and other extreme consequences of stress among those of experience appear to be rare. Much more common is emotional withdrawal, because even if the animals don't harshly judge the person who does euthanasia and even if the public doesn't he or she tends to harshly judge himself or herself, imposing a sentence of exile.

Twenty years ago, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor helped facilitate informal peer counseling among a group of shellshocked Vietnam veterans plus one seemingly out-of-place euthanasia technician—who was one of the two other primary facilitators, and as the gentlest man in the group, was the consoler. In the interim, through the outreach efforts of articulate veterans, the public has come to understand "post-Vietnam stress syndrome." Men and women who went to war when barely out of childhood—or had war descend upon them in childhood—eventually remembered how to cry, and though frequently troubled to this day, got help. The euthanasia technician remains alone. Wars end, but until unwanted healthy animals need no longer be euthanized, shelter euthanasia goes on, and as many shelter directors have told us, in tears as often as not, "Better we should do this, and do it gently, and be hurt by doing it, than someone should do it who doesn't care."

Books have been written on euthanasia, including upon how it affects those who do it. The books have quantified and expressed the moral dilemma, but they are not read by the public. They do not help people who are rightly concerned about animal suffering to treat with sympathy rather than outrage those who must address suffering not only with kindness but also with the needle or sometimes the gun. Images of euthanasia have shocked much of the public into addressing pet overpopulation at last, but the psychic price paid by shelter staff who hear themselves called murderers and worse is high. Those images must be balanced by more photos like the one by Dave Gatley, published on the front page of *The Los Angeles Times* on Sunday, September 19. Cucamonga Rancho State Park rangers Laura Itogawa and Earl Jones wept with their shotguns in their hands as they dispatched a starving puma, perhaps a former pet, who had attacked a 10-year-old girl. Instead of sensationalizing the attack and the killing, reporter Tony Perry sensitively quoted them.

"This is the part of the job I hate," Itogawa said.

Added Jones, "This goes against everything I believe."

Animal care and control people go through that every day. We need to face it, talk about it, and realize that people who care deserve to be loved, including those who are alone, suffering with the realities of death and isolation.

Then we need to reach out.

Hunter education

When I speak to groups regarding hunting, I utilize a technique I learned from Bernie Rollin. Using a chalkboard or something similar, I ask participants to tell me why they like to hunt. Comments like, "I like to be in the woods," "I like spending time with my friends," and "I like the solitude of the forest early in the morning" are duly recorded. Of course no one initially says, "Because I like to kill things."

Once the list is complete, I point out that I, too, enjoy the things mentioned, but my enjoyment is complete without the addition of a weapon. We then proceed to the point where the issues of power and killing are raised. I am always amazed at how someone in the group will eventually say something like, "I guess the real reason I like to hunt is that I like the rush I get when I pull the trigger." And they sound faintly surprised, as if the thought never occurred to them before. Then they ask, "Is that wrong?" My answer is generally along the lines of, "I guess that's something you'll have to decide for yourself."

—Vicki Crosetti, Executive Director
Knox County Humane Society, Knoxville, Tennessee

Rabies

The article entitled "Girl's death due to bat rabies in your October edition was most informative. I would, however, like to correct one error. Raccoon rabies, caused by the mid-Atlantic strain of rabies virus, has never occurred in Ontario, Canada, nor have oral rabies vaccines ever been used in Canada for raccoons. On the other hand, foxes have been very successfully vaccinated orally in a n 18,000-square-mile area covering 12 counties in Eastern Ontario, resulting in virtual elimination of rabies in those counties.

—Arthur B. King, DVM
District Veterinarian
Fort Erie District Office
Agriculture Canada

We were misinformed by a source within the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Rabid raccoons were discovered in Toronto, Ontario, in 1985. Over the next five years, the city caught, immunized, and

Hunter harassment

I was interested to see in your September issue the comment on page 16 under "Hunter Harassment" that "Courts in Connecticut and Wisconsin have previously found [hunter harassment laws] unconstitutional."

Since I hadn't heard about this, I wrote to our Attorney General and found out that in August 1991 the Court of Appeals held that the statute, which is limited to physical interference, is *not* unconstitutional, thereby overturning the trial court verdict.

It is interesting that the citation issued by the Wisconsin Department of Resources was for the act of preventing Indians from launching a boat to fish. The hunter harassment came from persons who resented the exceptions granted to Indians to spear fish out of season.

—Romey Schoendinger, Secretary
Wisc. Federated Humane Societies
Delafield, Wisconsin

Thanks for the correction.

Letters

Growth by division

I am writing to expand on your listing under the heading "Growth by division" in your September issue.

About 45 years ago, the American Humane Association failed to respond to the membership's efforts to oppose legislation which enabled biomedical research institutions to seize animals from shelters. This became a major fight, resulting in the founding of the Animal Welfare Institute, the National Catholic Society for Animal Welfare (now the International Society for Animal Rights), and the National Humane Society. The AHA threatened to sue the latter because AHA's magazine was called the *National Humane Review*. The National Humane Society therefore changed its name to the Humane Society of the U.S.

The American SPCA was a leading member of the AHA, which, following the passage of the Hatch-Metcalf Act, sent dogs and cats from its shelters to laboratories. The AWI strongly opposed the release of animals to laboratories by the ASPCA. Even the most blatant abuses, including extreme filth, cramped cages from which the animals were never released for exercise, and other failures of minimal animal husbandry went unnoticed by any inspectors the ASPCA sent to laboratories, despite the fact that they were authorized to insist upon humane standards in the care of the animals the ASPCA released.

It is important to note that both the ASPCA and AHA now have entirely different policies than they did when AWI, HSUS, and

Addresses wanted

As a subscriber to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, I am deeply concerned that you do not list addresses where to write in protest of things going on that are detrimental to animals. Yes, you report the news, but that's it. We can't help the animals if you don't give us the ammunition (addresses) to help. Oh, you may list an address for one or two articles, but that's all. I want to take action and write letters, but I feel helpless when I don't know where to write.

—Christine Ostoppoff
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Identifying targets for letter-writing is properly the job of advocacy groups, not of news media. We tell you who's responsible for particular situations, and provide factual background to inform your letter-writing; we also publish addresses when advocacy groups have started letter campaigns, thereby becoming part of the news item. However, to initiate campaigns would compromise our ability to do our job, which includes gathering perspective by talking to people on all sides of controversial issues. People who don't talk to advocacy groups often respond to our questions, because it is understood that we adhere to standard journalistic ethics. They would understandably be a lot less cooperative if we gained a reputation for partisanship—and you would be less well informed in consequence.

*There is, by the way, an excellent publication that specializes in providing addresses for letter-writing: Bunny Huggers' Gazette, \$13/year, POB 601, Temple, TX 76503. We're sure editor J.D. Jackson will agree that letter-writing activists can't do without either BHG or **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.*

Kafka

Thank you for a very fine publication. I read every word of each issue and then pass it on. As I am also an admirer of Franz Kafka I thought I would call to your attention an error in the review of *The Chicken Gave It To Me*, published in your October issue. Franz Kafka died in 1924 at age 41. His novella *The Metamorphosis* was published in 1915; the date in your review 1937, is not correct.

—Mary Kramer
Ridgewood, New York

We inadvertently gave the date of publication of the first English translation.

Deer overpopulation

Media reports that deer overpopulation is caused by restrictions on hunting really fry me. Can you think of a way for us to put together a list of biologists and wildlife experts who aren't Divisor of Wildlife lackeys? We really need to push for balance in the media. Reporters need non-Division experts to call, preferably a person or two from every state. We'd have to blanket the country with this list of contacts and convince the media to use it for the sake of balance, fairness, and objectivity.

—Donna Robt
Medina, Ohio

*We send **ANIMAL PEOPLE** free to more than 700 other news media; thus at least 700 main stream journalists saw our October cover feature on how wildlife agencies create deer overpopulation by managing the herds for maximum yield. However, not one reporter called for more information and/or*

released hundreds of raccoons, using injections of Imrab, the same vaccine long used to immunize dogs, cats, cattle, horses, and sheep. The Toronto program was rated 98% effective; the spread of rabies was virtually halted. Press accounts linked the Toronto outbreak to the mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic and theorized that accidentally translocated raccoons brought the disease north. Apparently, however, the Toronto outbreak resulted from the Ontario fox rabies virus briefly crossing into raccoons.

We were unaware the Wisconsin lower court ruling, which the Fund for Animals continues to cite, had been appealed. Since we published the item you saw, three more states, for a total of 46, have passed hunter harassment legislation; the last holdouts are Alabama, Nebraska, and Hawaii. Five years ago, when the Fund for Animals adopted hunter harassment as a campaign tactic, only four states had hunter harassment laws—and the National Rifle Association has picked up close to half a million members by advertising its opposition to hunter harassment in hook-and-bullet magazines.

NCSAW were founded.

There was a split within HSUS in 1974 when Cleveland Amory, who had formerly been on the HSUS board of directors, founded the Fund for Animals.

I hope this will be helpful to you and your readers. If you need any additional details, I will be happy to supply them.

—Christine Stevens, President
Animal Welfare Institute
Washington, D.C.

Cat regulation

"Pet overpopulation" is mostly mythical. What we have is cat overpopulation, due in large part to the refusal of animal control agencies to regulate cats to the extent that they regulate dogs. Higher birthrates should mean equal or more restrictive regulation. Mandatory neutering is meaningless without a prohibition on running at large.

—Ron Burch
Animal Control Officer
Adams City, Colorado

fresh quotes. At most mainstream newspapers, stories about deer are reflexively given to the staff hunting writer, who is usually a columnist rather than a reporter, is often a volunteer from a local hunting club and whose perspective accordingly excludes objectivity.

By contrast, a one-line item in our September issue linking a series of horse mutilations in Maryland with similar attacks in England was immediately picked up and amplified by both the Washington Post and People—whose editorial boards include avic riders.

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More Letters

Declawing, continued

I direct a small humane society. We handle 6,000 to 7,000 animals per year, and have mandatory, free surgical alteration of all adopted cats and dogs.

Believe me, I have learned from my 22 years in humane work that whether an adult cat has been previously declawed plays a big part in her being adopted. Frequently a prospective adopter will first ask, "Have you any declawed cats?" Rarely is a declawed cat denied a second chance in a new home. Adult cats with claws are the most difficult to place. So many people prefer a kitten over an adult cat that an adult cat must have some extra quality not found in kittens to be chosen.

I am not in favor of declawing, but if it will save a cat's life, then remove the claws. In my home I have six cats with claws and four who are declawed. My four female Siamese were declawed at the ages of seven and nine years old, to prevent them from doing any further injuries to my older cats. Even at such a relatively advanced age, three of them had no problems and showed no signs of distress. The fourth Siamese had discomfort and walked on her hind legs for a week. Guess what? The other cats are still as afraid of the Siamese, as are my two cocker spaniels.

I have two hanging

As for protection, my cats never go outdoors, and there is no chance they will ever get out. Anyone who says "I can't stop her/him from going out," or "he insists on going out" is full of bull. None of my 10 cats have ever escaped to the outdoors. I have had people in and out and kids in and out, but everyone realizes the cats' safety is foremost important.

As far as "assuming a tremendous responsibility when you deprive a cat of her defenses," (per Priscilla Feral), if more people would realize they are assuming a tremendous responsibility with any animal they have, 90% of all animal care facilities would be gladly out of business. But not everyone is content to live with scratched-up door jambs or wallpaper, and if declawing will give a cat a chance for a good home, I say go for it.

—Carol Konopacki
Humane Society of Hobart, Inc.
Hobart, Indiana

The Editor replies: I guess I'm full of bull. I've had 10-25 neutered cats at a time for the past 16 years. Keeping most inside isn't difficult, but there are always the escape artists, who learn to hide beneath big dogs I'm taking in or out; lurk near a door for hours for the chance to bolt with cheetah-like speed when I have my arms full of

Is Cleek a pimp?

I am still bothered by the guest column "Don't call me a pimp," by dog breeder Margaret Anne Cleek, that you published in September. I can't imagine why you would feel compelled to give a forum to such a person. Surely your readers would have preferred reading about someone who rescues and finds homes for abandoned animals.

—Linda Petrie
New York, New York

As her bio note explained, Cleek is someone who rescues and finds homes for abandoned animals—part of the Malamute breed rescue network.

I have read the guest column "Don't call me a pimp" over and over, trying to fathom such a vicious attack on non-pedigreed animals and to understand your reason for publishing her lengthy thesis when we are trying to turn around the image of the unwanted, inferior animal roaming the streets and ultimately dying in our pounds and shelters for lack of a pedigree. To Ms. Cleek, I respond without hesitation, "no, we can't talk. There are no ideas for us to share while you continue to create a market for and perpetuate the myth of the genetically superior animal. The bumper sticker 'All Breeders Are Pimps' remains."

After this denigration of shelter animals, as well as the equally distressing "Proctor & Gamble debate" in the same issue, where your position in regard to their diminishing use of animals in product testing is made painfully clear, I cancel my subscription.

—Anita L. Mackey
New Yorkers for
Companion Animals

She's not a pimp, but...

For the record, I would not cheer at the demise of purebreds, who make up 20-25% of shelter animals. I do feel, however, that it's incompatible with humane standards to breed dogs with physical characteristics that make their lives difficult because humans decide they're paramount to judging standards. There's certainly no reason not to look for a pet in shelters. And from experience I do not subscribe to the concept that "purebreds give assurance of type and temperament."

Improvements have been made in lowering the number of unwanted pets, but we're still hearing that a great deal more work needs to be done. The Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights stated recently that five to 10 million cats are killed every year and that 50 million feral cats are roaming loose. The Humane Society of the U.S. says the American Kennel Club has registered a record high number in new dogs (1.5 million). Cats are coming into shelters in record numbers, and homeless dogs abound. Neutering programs are not going to be the total answer.

Margaret Anne Cleek is very angry that as a breeder she's been criticized for contributing to pet overpopulation, but it's difficult for me to understand why any breeder who makes no profit would breed dogs to sell and then claim she's not a contributor. It cannot be justified. But I wouldn't, even if I were given one, put a sticker on my car that said "All Breeders Are Pimps," if that's any comfort to her.

—Sue Clark
South Bend, Indiana

NEAVS

I was rather shocked by the article in September about the New England Anti-Vivisection Society. Perhaps I don't understand the inner workings or politics of such as described. I have supported all three of the NEAVS board members mentioned. This made it sound almost like a scam—and such large amounts of money taken out and put into new organizations? I feel I should no longer contribute to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

—V.B. Knowles
Baltimore, Maryland

The article, "Layoffs at NEAVS," described the August 24 dismissal of all but two of the NEAVS staff and the depletion of the treasury through funding activities

"The Fur Flies"

Please find enclosed a copy of *The Fur Flies*, the new Franklin's Insight Study of Animal Rights and Corporate Responsibility Your "Quest for Accuracy" editorial back in June mentioned that one cause of reportorial errors is the reporter's possible confusion from "struggling to master a torrent of information on an unfamiliar subject. This is how I felt about our animal report. Never did we expect it to be so complicated. When Franklin's Insight began research for our new Animal Rights Standards for ethical investors and the accompanying

scratch posts and two standing posts. The declawed Siamese use the posts frequently. In fact, the cats with claws *rarely* use the posts. The declawed cats are the most surefooted and speediest of all my cats. And yes, they are still the best climbers, except for my male Siamese being their equal.

Another view

I wholeheartedly support Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral's position against declawing. As someone who tries to help find homes for homeless cats, I see a tragic population out there on the streets who have been declawed. Because they are defenseless, I've had to pay to have many of them humanely eutha-

Wild Wear ad

something both fragile and heavy; or like Catapuss, gnaw their way through inch-thick wooden doors and even metal screens, then dive a story or two to the ground, only to walk around to the front door and yowl to be let in. I've learned not to harshly judge those who "let" a cat get out, because their sin is mine at least once a week.

nized. Declawing is no guarantee that heartless irresponsible people will keep the felines. Declawing is an amputation affecting cats in many ways, mostly negative, I tell people that if their furniture is more valuable to them than their cat, they should get a pet rock.

—Ana A. Garcia
Astoria, New York

We pointed out that Proctor & Gamble has made more progress toward eliminating animal testing than any comparable corporation, and has spent more money to develop non-animal tests than all its top competitors combined.

It has taken me two weeks to re-read and attempt to respond to "Don't call me a pimp" by dog breeder Margaret Cleek, so angry was I the first time around. Reading it a second time I feel even angrier and more disgusted, for I realize that to answer this two-page spread of outright lies, distortions, propaganda, subterfuge, and plain old rhetoric would take several hours and probably 20 pages...If Ms. Cleek wants to join me in Harlem, feeding and rescuing strays, she's welcome. She's in need of some real research.

—Patty Adjamine
New Yorkers for
Companion Animals

of PETA, PCRM, and the Fund for Animals, whose representatives have controlled the NEAVS board of directors since 1987. We actually mentioned four NEAVS board members—Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco of PETA, Dr. Neal Barnard of PCRM, and Cleveland Amory of the Fund. Since the article appeared, we've received anonymous allegations from purported insiders that some of the many people who were dismissed were using NEAVS funds for their own purposes. Those making the allegations, who are better known to us than they think, have been conspicuous by their reluctance to either provide proof or be held accountable for their stories—and in any event it is doubtful that all of the former staffers together could possibly have appropriated as much to their own use as the \$600,000 the NEAVS board reportedly gave to their own pet projects at one 1988 meeting alone.

report, we budgeted a few months for the project. It actually took over a year. Your help, suggestions, and criticisms were invaluable. Thank you for everything.

If you think your readers might be interested in our report please give us a plug. The cost is \$35, and anyone interested should call Eric Becker at 617-423-6655.

—C.B. Loeb
Franklin Research & Development
Boston, Massachusetts

We told Loeb of her first draft, "It misses the boat." To her credit, she kept at it until she got it right. The Fur Flies is the best-balanced and most accurate attempt we've seen yet to explain animal rights and animal protection concerns to Wall Street and Madison Avenue—a major document that could significantly help to open communications between corporate people and animal people.

Moore & Ahlers Shelter Gang

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Rare accident draws notice to helper dogs *(from page one)*

guide dogs are taught to do. And Lock and Schneider had prepared him to react to just such an emergency.

"Because of Pam's work situation," explained former Guiding Eyes for the Blind president John Kullberg, "she received home training instead of the three-week training usually provided to former students at the Guiding Eyes residential training center. In home training, both dog and student are trained in the actual work and travel routines that the student daily experiences. As such, Pam's training emphasized more subway orientation than would otherwise have been the case. Pam's dog was performing as trained," Kullberg told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

But there were other circumstances. As pedestrian traffic safety engineer John J. Fruin wrote to *The New York Times* two days later, the 12-inch abrasive warning strip at the edge of New York Transit Authority platforms is far narrower than the three-foot strip the American National Standards Institute has required since 1980. There are no guard rails on the platforms. The Pennsylvania Station platform has trains running on both sides, and is relatively narrow itself. According to Fruin, more than 190 people per year are injured in New York City transit system track falls; 55 are killed.

"While all this could have led to some disorientation for the dog, of greater consequence to both dog and caretaker was the heat and humidity," said Kullberg. "Pam was a diabetic, and the heat, humidity, and possible diabetic complications could all have been factors in this tragic accident. Unfortunately we will never know for sure."

For a few days the Schneider case focused attention on the whole issue of whether humans should literally trust their lives to dogs, or any animal. But when the radio talk show callers and letter-writers ran out of second guesses and suggestions about training people on welfare to be guides or inventing robots to do the job, the answer was clear: blind people who have dogs wouldn't choose to live without them. And that includes 2,500 or more of the 25,000 blind residents of New York City, who form a quarter of the mobile blind population of the United States. Nothing else affords equal independence, privacy, protection, and companionship all at once. Seconding voices came from deaf people who rely on hearing dogs to warn them of danger; epileptics whose dogs somehow sense when a seizure is imminent; and quadriplegics and paraplegics, many of whom have discovered the value of a dog

more fully and satisfactorily than the morning rushed walk and the evening romp that many pet dogs are given by their family."

The blind and other people with helper dogs don't get them quickly or easily. "The screening, selection, and training of blind people to work with a dog takes some four months of continuous time," Kullberg explains. "A very small percentage of blind people want a guide dog, even after they determine that a dog would do much to enhance their lives. The principle reason for this is awareness of stewardship responsibilities within a life situation that is already typically more complex" than that of a sighted person. "They must learn to live with dogs at their sides, exercise the dogs, clean up after them, feed them, and attend to their veterinary needs. These last two considerations are of great significance to those blind individuals living on fixed and typically small disability incomes. There is also a need to display extraordinary consistency in voice and hand commands. These realities probably discourage 90% of those legally blind individuals who consider having a guide dog from choosing to have one."

According to Kullberg, "Because of this extraordinary self-screening process, guide dog schools are able to accommodate almost everyone who wants a guide dog and is able to properly care for the dog and complete the training. Responsible guide dog schools do a thorough background check on each applicant, requiring personal references, medical histories, and in-home evaluation visits."

Blind people who have worked successfully with a dog for eight to 10 years may get expedited screening and training, as Schneider did.

In all, the nine institutions belonging to the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools place about 1,400 dogs with the blind per year. Each placement costs about \$25,000, all of it received through private contributions. The U.S. government does not subsidize guide dog programs. At any given time, there are about 10,000 working guide dogs in the U.S. (fewer than in England), a surprisingly low number for an assistance program with such a high profile. There were once more, but due to improvements in occupational safety and medical care, blindness is now mostly a condition of old age, accompanying other serious debilities. As the number of young blind people decreases, the demand for guide dogs is decreasing.

Where the dogs come from

"In almost all cases," PETA charges, "seeing-eye dog programs contribute to overpopulation by breeding dogs, whereas programs providing dogs for the deaf offer rescue dogs from shelters."

Indeed, confirms Hines, "about 85% of hearing dog programs obtain dogs from shelters, 65% accept donated dogs, 30% receive dogs from breeders, and 15% breed their own dogs. Over half the programs will train a suitable dog already owned by a recipient, and half will train an owner to train his/her own dog."

Founded in 1956, Guiding Eyes for the Blind and many similar programs began by attempting to train shelter dogs. But, explains Kullberg, "whereas hearing dogs who are shelter-sourced have a very good track record, shelter-sourced guide dogs do not. The obvious reason has to do with the characteristics that make for a dependable guide dog: even, calm temperament; focused; patient; of appropriate strength; of general good health and bone structure typically attached to one person. Even suitability of coat is a guide dog consideration," because the blind person must be able to identify the dog by touch. "When any one of these characteristics is deficient, the dependability factor is weakened. And, particularly for a totally blind person who greatly entrusts his or her safety to a guide dog, a lack of dependability means an inevitable risk of serious, even life-threatening injury."

There are good guide dog prospects in shelters but accurately identifying them under shelter conditions has proved difficult, and each mistake costs a training school thousands of dollars in time and effort.

"As a consequence," continues Kullberg, "almost all guide dogs are specifically bred for the work. Concern for the blind person and concern about liability dictate this. And the best of the guide dog schools breed with great care, compassion, and safeguards, including programs that achieve optimum humane placement for any dogs who are rejected from training because they do not meet all of the standards that the program requires."

As head of the ASPCA, Kullberg tended to oppose all breeding (although the ASPCA itself never took that position). Through his work with Guiding Eyes for the Blind, he discovered a need "to jump beyond the 'do not breed' ideal to the reality that recognizes a defensible need

in helping them with all the essential chores of life.

What's in it for the dog?

Charges People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, in a position paper on companion animals, "Even when people have the best of intentions, working dogs are often used as a substitute for innovation and programs that intelligently address human needs. They may...even be treated cruelly in preparation for, and during their lives of servitude. Some people with working dogs love them—some don't."

Before spending a year at the head of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Kullberg served 14 years as president of the American SPCA. Few people could be better positioned to judge the relationship between the handicapped and their canine helpers from a humane perspective.

"Some adoption agencies do better jobs than others," he admits. "Some guide dog schools weed out problems better than others. Most guide dog schools go adoption agencies one better: they retain legal title to their guide dogs, so that in the event they determine the guide dog is not being properly cared for, the dog can be taken back. In practice," he continues, "this is an illusory protection, for possession is very much nine tenths of the law. Thus what is in it for the dog ultimately rests on an evaluation of the environment the dog is placed in, and on the character, sensitivity, lifestyle, and commitment of the caretaker."

On those criteria, Kullberg believes, the blind and perhaps other physically handicapped people are uniquely well qualified to have dogs. "The blind are typically more suited to share their lives with dogs than those such as myself," he argues, "who have many obligations away from our dogs. While many might object to the walking harness guide dogs wear," more to enable the dog to drag the blind person away from danger than to help the person control the dog, "the fact is that both the dog and the blind person share their lives as a general rule much

Susan Vosburgh ad

Guiding Eyes dog in training. (Photo by Kim Bartlett.)

Hearing dogs

The use of hearing dogs is up, however. According to Linda Hines, executive director of the Delta Society, a 1990 survey by the Hearing Dog Resource Center discovered 19 hearing dog programs (one of which has subsequently been discontinued). Among them, they had trained approximately 3,000 dogs, and were certifying 440 dogs per year.

"The dogs learn to respond to 10 sounds," Hines said, "with the most common being the alarm clock, smoke alarm, door knock or bell, telephone, baby crying, the owner's name being called, and a timer or microwave sound. If the owner needs custom training for other sounds, most programs will provide this."

Like the average guide dog, hearing dogs typically work for eight to 12 years. The screening of recipients is similar. But the similarities end there. Deaf people usually enjoy a great deal more physical independence than the blind, even without a dog. The training period for the dog is correspondingly shorter, and the training itself less rigorous. The dogs themselves also differ. Guide dogs have to be big enough to pull a blind person away from danger. For hearing duty, says Hines, "A small to medium-sized dog is preferred, one weighing under 30 pounds. Since the dog must place his or her paws on the person or jump on the person to alert the person to sounds, a large dog could knock down or injure an owner unintentionally. The most common hearing dogs are terrier/poodle mixes. A few programs prefer purebred Welsh Corgies, border collies, Shetland sheepdogs, or poodles."

that responsible breeding meets."

What becomes of the dogs?

"When seeing-eye dogs become too old to work," accuses PETA, "they may be separated from their human companions and either 'retired' with another family, always wondering no doubt what they did wrong or where their life-long human companion went; returned to the training center; or even be destroyed."

In fact, like Pepper, most guide dogs who leave service for any reason return to the families who socialized them for a year to 18 months before their formal training began—people they know and trust. They leave most often because of the death of their person. Otherwise, most work until, as with most pet dogs, their mobility fails due to failing health, and they must be euthanized.

Typically a blind person who loses a guide dog responds comparably to someone who loses a spouse. Severe depression and prolonged grief are common. Schneider used to counsel bereaved guide dog owners, having been through the experience several times herself. (Few Americans had relied on guide dogs longer.)

Because of purpose-breeding, relatively few guide dogs flunk screening and training. About half of all potential hearing dogs flunk the screening, but up to 90% of those who pass are then trained successfully. According to the NDRC survey, 79% of the failures are placed in new homes, while 21% go back to the shelters they came from.

September 29, in Garden Grove, California, a six-year-old Labrador retriever named Mercury alerted Pamela Reed, 43, to a midnight apartment fire begun when Reed, who can only see intense light, accidentally left a burning 200-watt bulb in a pile of clothing. For the second time in a year, Reed lost everything, including her Braille typewriter. Her previous fire, caused when she knocked over a lamp, killed her human companion, Angie Gardner. Perhaps Reed shouldn't be living independently. But if not for the dog, rescuers agreed, she wouldn't be living at all.

—Merritt Clifton

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Guest column

We can learn from Detroit

by Margaret Anne Cleek

An open mind is damned near impossible either to have or to find. The response I've received to my September **ANIMAL PEOPLE** guest column, "Don't call me a pimp" bears out the opening premise of it: that we all have our own perceptual set which colors our view of reality. This leads to stereotyping and prejudice, which in turn can produce polarization and counterproductive strategy in pursuit of mutually accepted goals.

To re-introduce myself, I am by profession an industrial/organizational psychologist. I am by avocation a dog enthusiast—not just a purebred dog enthusiast. While I have concerns about the adoption of unsuitable dogs, the true mutt is just plain fine in my book, and I would urge the adoption of the right mutt over the wrong purebred in a heartbeat.

I feel that what I know about dogs and what I know about social science can be integrated in a manner useful to all of us who are concerned about pet overpopulation. And I see a likeness in the evolution of approaches to this issue and the evolution of strategies in the automobile industry, for which I was a consultant in the early 1980s, when U.S. auto makers were at the depths of crisis. The purpose of my work was to break down existing culture and attitudes, to demonstrate the pointlessness of blaming, and to refocus the adversarial relationship between management and unions to develop a new, more effective social technology. In specific, when the U.S. auto industry hit the wall, the reason for their problem was labeled, "Japanese Imports." With the problem thus labeled, the solution was set as import restrictions and trade tariffs, and

just one, among them high interest rates, the strength of the dollar, government regulation, poor labor/management relations, outmoded technology, lack of touch with consumer needs, a centralized decision process, and awkward work design.

Much as the auto industry initially focused upon simply placing blame, I feel many humane organizations have focused too intently upon purebred breeding *per se* as the cause of pet overpopulation, and consequently have promoted legislative action to halt breeding before fully understanding which animals are surplus, where they come from, and what approaches are most likely to effectively reach the people responsible for their existence.

Help needed

While there is no question that we need to encourage and maintain a lower birth rate, the humane community has to learn which births are most essential to reduce, much as the U.S. auto industry had to learn what kind of cars to build. I do not believe the expertise the humane community needs in order to do this is to be found in the advocacy sector, whose *raison d'etre* is campaigning rather than doing analysis. Nor can shelter and animal control staff be expected to have the necessary overview: like the garage mechanics who could readily diagnose the repair and maintenance problems with Detroit cars a decade ago, the people in shelter work and animal control often have an excellent street-level understanding of the symptoms of the problem they deal with, but cannot be expected to have equal perspective on matters of eco-

people buy or adopt the right dog, and am concerned that as surplus numbers drop, more unsuitable dogs will be placed in homes. Animal behaviorists and knowledgeable dog people can help shelter workers develop means of more accurately assessing dogs. We need experienced people who can tell the difference between a good dog in the wrong home, a snooty juvenile delinquent who needs to be shown how to straighten up and fly right, and a dog who is truly unable to function as a family companion.

Some of my best friends are mutts. I really like the "Heinz 57," as dogs of indeterminate ancestry are often called, and would never suggest that they have less intrinsic value than a best-in-show purebred. But not all dogs are created equal. There are bad dogs, including purebreds, crossbreds, and mutts who are genetically bad, not just bad as the result of having bad owners. In our efforts to reduce the surplus, we have not addressed which dogs have been removed from the breeding pool and which have not. I believe that current practices are creating a demographic shift in the dog population that can result in a crisis of vicious and unsuitable dogs.

I maintain that our shelters had mostly surplus dogs 20 years ago, but our past efforts have created a situation where more and more, shelters contain unwanted animals. We have created an overnight change in the evolution of the dog, producing not an across-the-board reduction in the dog population, but rather a restriction of range, skewing the distribution toward larger, more aggressive dogs.

If all factors were equal, as the

in a dangerous dog, such as a highly reactive herding dog crossed with a large guard dog, or a terrier and large guard dog cross. Who needs a 90-pound family pet who is easily pissed off?

Multiple factors have worked in favor of the large aggressive dog. Now I'm not saying there is no place for the large aggressive dog, but anyone with any shelter experience will tell you that while there may be a waiting list for small dogs, there is never a shortage of big dogs. In my community some individuals are purposely breeding small mixed-breed dogs and selling them for up to \$125. There is a WANTED ad for small mixed pups run continuously in our paper by a local pet store. We have created a shortage of small dogs and easily adaptable family mutts. And when demand is created, people will produce pups to meet the demand.

Let me illustrate how this demographic shift has come about. Back in the days when parents could send their children to the store without worrying that their faces would turn up on milk cartons, neighborhoods had dogs like Suzi and Buddy—each a Heinz 57. Whatever breeds were among their ancestry were so mingled that no specifically developed traits were evident. They were just plain dogs. And they were great. Suzi stayed in her front yard without a fence, and Buddy had his route, which he set out on every morning, but he knew just when to come home so he could meet Billy and follow him around his newspaper route.

Suzi and Buddy hadn't been to obedience classes, yet despite the crude and unsophisticated methods of their respective owners, they learned how to please the fam-

it now became the U.S. government's responsibility to impose restrictions. I can't tell you how many times I heard this song-and-dance. The rank-and-file believed we needed to stop the flow of imports, PERIOD—situation solved.

Once a problem is labeled and blame placed, many people feel their work is completed. The belief that the problem is caused by the blamed party is continually reaffirmed with rhetoric. Attention is now focused on a simple, one-step solution: changing the behavior of the blamed party. The development of alternative approaches is ignored. But most problems are not amenable to simple, one-step solutions.

If the U.S. auto industry had succeeded in placing the blame for its woes squarely enough on Japanese imports to obtain a trade embargo, I suspect I would now be driving a piece of crap from G.M. that cost me \$50,000. Instead, the U.S. auto industry gradually recognized that the problems it faced were multifaceted, complex, and influenced by the larger context of economics. Reviving sales of U.S.-made cars required responses to many issues, not

economics and sociology that have a longterm hidden influence upon how the cats and dogs they handle came to be there. Unfortunately, until recently hardly anyone else has cared about homeless animals. In the absence of leadership capable of taking a multidisciplinary open-systems approach to pet overpopulation, the humane community has focused understandably but somewhat naively upon simply reducing euthanasia numbers by preventing births. This approach has brought dramatic positive results, yet the widely accepted philosophy that all dogs and cats are created equal and are therefore equally worth preventing from being born has resulted in some rapid and unintended shifts in dog demographics that may make further progress difficult.

We must bring the expertise of epidemiologists, operation control experts, marketing specialists, responsible breeders, and industrial/organizational psychologists to bear, along with that of the humane community. We have to consider what segment of the population is neutering pets and what pets are being neutered, which has an immense if unseen influence on the nature of the animal population still out on the streets, unneutered.

I have never maintained that only the purebred dog population should be allowed to continue. The purebred simply increases the odds of predictability of type and temperament, in turn increasing the odds that a person will choose the right dog. My family could never have afforded a purebred when I was a child, yet getting a dog was the most important event of my childhood. (Paradoxically, my first dog was a purebred, given to me free by a show breeder who knew I was bonkers for dogs. This dog was much loved and never bred.)

I have always been in favor of affordable and even free dogs to approved homes. And just as I maintain that healthy, wanted purebreds do not displace shelter dogs, I believe shelter adoption does not affect the show breeder's market. People have different reasons for getting one dog or the other. I do have definite concerns that

surplus numbers dropped we would have had an across-the-board decrease in the dog population. But all factors are not equal. For example, large dogs may average nine or ten pups per litter. Small dogs may have only two or three pups per litter. There are many other factors, such as ability to live in semi-feral conditions, which favor the large dog over the small dog, even though fewer and fewer people are able to afford or accommodate large dogs. Whelping small dog pups is often difficult, and medical problems necessitate spaying mothers who were intended for breeding. One commonly advanced suggestion, that breeders should be limited in the number of litters that they register, would assure the demise of some small breeds. Two litters of Salukis may be 22 pups, but two litters of pugs may be only four pups, and there is a much greater market for pugs than Salukis.

When random breeding occurs, larger and more aggressive dogs are more likely to cover bitches. Add to this the human element. Certain segments of the public want large, aggressive dogs, who to some degree may vicariously live out their sexual fantasies.

The role of mutts

If we are successful in eliminating the mutt, as some advocate, then the only dogs available will be expensive purebreds (both well-bred and poorly bred), and accidental liaisons between purebreds. A recent Massachusetts SPCA survey indicated that a whopping third of dog births are accidental, which argues for education about the difficulty of confining a bitch in season, as well as about neutering. I believe that some combinations of purebred dogs are inherently unpredictable and potentially dangerous because of the combined characteristics of the two breeds. Individually the parents may be sound representatives of their breed type, but the cross may be risky.

Shelters have a responsibility to protect the public from any combination of breed traits that have the potential to result

ily and be good dogs.

Suzi's family and Buddy's family loved them and were good people, but in those days people were not aware of the need to neuter and responsibly confine their pets. In fact, Suzi's family was thrilled when she had pups, and of course Buddy was the dad. Suzi was a great mom, and so proud when all the neighborhood kids came to see her litter. Those pups spent more time in someone's arms than they did on the ground. And every kid in the neighborhood pestered his or her parents for a Suzi pup. A grieving Billy carried home one pup, as poor old Buddy was killed by a car. The streets were getting busy.

There were far too many Suzis and Buddys, and ever-increasing numbers of pups were being destroyed because the number of available homes could never match the number of pups being born. Accordingly, concerned groups including breeders initiated the LES program (Legislation, Education, and Spaying). People like Suzi and Buddy's owners, being caring and responsible, responded. Suzi and Buddy's grandbabies if not babies were neutered. And that was the end of Suzi and Buddy's gene pool.

Meanwhile, in the heart of the city where Queenie and Spike lived, crime was increasing and people were scared. Tough dogs became a symbol of empowerment and a mode of defense. It wasn't long before they became a mode of offense, too. Queenie and Spike and other kick-butt dogs became the dogs of choice in deteriorating urban areas. Their owners were not as easily reached by the LES message, and these dogs were not neutered. Because of high population density and lack of fenced yards random breeding was frequent. Offspring were given away and they too reproduced. Many were marginal members of their families and became semi-feral. Unlike Suzi and Buddy's pups, Queenie and Spike's became fruitful and multiplied.

This is just one element of the broader picture that emerges when systems analysis is applied. Going to a systems

Demographics of the shelter dog population

While good statistical data on the U.S. animal shelter dog population is scarce, what is available largely supports Margaret Anne Cleek's contention (left) that large dogs are disproportionately represented, while small dogs remain in strong demand. Before accepting Cleek's commentary, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** checked her various contentions about the nature of dogs entering and exiting shelters with a variety of shelter managers from across the U.S. who were attending the American Humane Association annual conference in Baltimore, October 10-13. None had precise statistics for large dog versus small dog intakes and adoptions, but the experience of the North Shore Animal League, which adopts out 43,000 animals a year, proved typical, even at small rural shelters in remote regions.

"We adopt out about two small dogs for every big dog," NSAL public relations director Marge Stein quoted adoptions manager Michael Arms. "We find we can place healthy poodles and other popular small dogs up to six or seven years of age, but it's very hard to place a large dog, even a very nice purebred, who's older than three."

The only figures **ANIMAL PEOPLE** could find pertaining to large dog vs. small dog shelter admissions came from four shelters that each counted purebreds received during a recent two-year period. Each reported that purebreds made up from 22% to 29% of their total admissions. Among them, they admitted 1,234 purebreds. The 10 breeds most frequently received were:

<u>Breed</u>	<u>Number Euth.</u>
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In all, there were 926 large purebreds received, and only 277 small purebreds (including just one *not* among the top 10 breeds.) In short, three out of four purebreds entering these shelters were large, whereas adoption demand favors small dogs two to one.

Within the large and small headings, the distribution by breed in the shelter sample approximated the apparent distribution of the dog population at large, as measured by licensing data. For instance, the ratio of German shepherds to Labrador retrievers, the two most popular breeds, is 63/37 in the shelter sample and 56/44 in the available licensing statistics. Licensing data, however, indicates that German shepherds make up only 14% of the dog population at large, and Labrador retrievers only 11%. German shepherds came to 28% of the shelter sample; Labrador retrievers are 16%.

American Kennel Club registration statistics indicate that the ten most popular purebreds over the past several years have been Labrador retrievers, cocker spaniels, German shepherds, poodles, golden retrievers, beagles, dachshunds, and then Yorkshire terriers, Chihuahuas, and Pekingese. AKC data can be extremely misleading because the number of registered litters is low enough that a sudden burst of breeding can propel a relatively rare dog into the top 10, as happened in 1992 when Rottweilers ranked second in registrations and Shetland sheep dogs and chows were ninth and 10th. Going into 1992, AKC data suggested there were only 500,000 Rottweilers in the whole U.S.

Still, the AKC order over a

Crystal, with Bobby. (Photo by Gina Spadafori.)

approach to pet overpopulation would allow us to break out of presently unproductive approaches to the problem, and would enable us to anticipate and monitor the effects of our policies on dog population. It would enable us to assess and intervene to assure that appropriate dogs are available to accommodate the needs of the dog-owning public.

Alternatively, if people either buy or adopt inappropriate dogs, shelters will be dealing with an endless flow of dogs that they may label surplus, but are in fact recycled: unable to adapt to any family situation, they are returned to a shelter (often not the same shelter), or are abandoned or left to wander for eventual pickup by animal control. Humane advocates then blame the people, who certainly are not blameless, but it must be recognized that the dogs themselves may be unsuitable. The policies and practices that we adopt to control dog populations should assure the survival of the fittest in loving homes, not the survival of the fittest when left to their own devices

density urban areas would have a shortage of small dogs and an excess of large dogs. If the demand for small dogs is not met, people may adopt large dogs who don't work out and end up back in shelters, or people will intentionally breed small pups for sale. In another area, there may be a surplus of smaller dogs. It is a waste of life to euthanize dogs in one area and create a need for breeding in another, when market analysis, communication, and transport could meet the need.

If we maintain that we do not have the time or the money to do a systems analysis and address the multiple issues involved, we are doomed to face an unending stream of unwanted animals as we burn up our energy and resources on misplacing blame.

An open systems approach requires hard work and detailed analysis. I am encouraged that the Council on Pet Overpopulation recently formed by the leading national humane groups and breeders' associations includes noted epidemiologists. I hope this task force does not take the usual

by the irresponsible.

Taking a systems approach requires that we keep data bases on the type of dogs wanted and the type of dogs available, and intervene with educational programs as needed to keep dog populations in line with demand. We may determine that we need to educate specific groups of owners and provide incentives to stop breeding of certain populations more than others. Certainly we must provide neutering service, along with incentives to neuter, in the communities that animal control records indicate have the highest rates of stray dog and litter pickups. We may need to inform people about the availability of recently developed chemical abortion technology when accidental breeding is suspected. We must transport dogs as needed to accommodate market shifts, and we must market shelter dogs effectively to insure that all those who could be placed well are placed in good homes.

The transport of shelter dogs is a controversial topic. The North Shore Animal League initiated the practice on a large scale some years ago, and has been under continuous attack from some quarters ever since. But we should expect to find different dog demographics in different areas. If my hypothesis is correct, high

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"my agenda versus your agenda and let's compromise" approach. I am an advocate of collaborative problem solving, not compromise and accommodation to appear politically correct.

I would urge the inclusion of an even wider range of professionals. The complexities of pet overpopulation are mind-boggling, and the contingencies extensive. But I am convinced that only such a complex approach complete with flow chart analysis, good data, and continuous monitoring and adjustment of tactics in line with shifting needs will bring us control of the problem. Pet overpopulation is a continuous phenomenon, and continuous phenomena require continuous monitoring and flexible response. Properly approached, dog breeding and the prevention of overpopulation are not mutually exclusive.

[Margaret Anne Cleek, of Sacramento, California, is a fancier/breeder and breed rescuer, and a member of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America. This is her third guest column for ANIMAL PEOPLE examining various aspects of pet overpopulation, following "Alternatives to breeding bans" in June and "Don't call me a pimp" in September.]

German shepherds	342	58%
Labrador retrievers	198	n/a
Doberman pinschers	169	36%
Golden retrievers	143	n/a
Beagles	138	57%
Cocker spaniels	89	n/a
Toy & mini poodles	49	29%
Siberian huskies	32	22%
Irish setters	30	n/a
Pit bull terriers	10	100%

In all, there were 926 large pure-

multi-year period confirms that the bigger breeds are over-represented in shelters, and that the more aggressive big breeds seem to be the most over-represented.

The euthanasia rates in the shelter sample, when known, were approximately the same for the large purebreds and small purebreds, but there were further circumstances to consider.

(continued on page 8)

By special arrangement with LISA (Legislation in Support of Animals)

SANTA CLAWS

is taking orders for personalized Christmas gifts to be sent to your animal friends!

When you fill out the form below and send it in with a \$5.00 contribution to LISA, Santa will pick out a special gift, wrap it, and send it to your favorite animal companion in time for the holidays.

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YES! I want Santa Claws to deliver a surprise Christmas present to my friend listed below:

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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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If you would like to send more gifts, or if you would like to remember animals at a different address, please

Can San Francisco kill euthanasia? *(continued from page one)*

bined record of roughly 50% placement was easily the best of any major municipal area.

Because the SFSPCA received fewer animals in 1992, it also placed fewer: 4,417. Four out of five were cats, and "approximately half (of all the animals) were considered difficult to place," Avanzino states, "because of age, illness, or injury. Most of these animals would have been euthanized in other shelters, but the majority of our animals find a new home within a very short period of time." The demand for pets relative to the present supply at the SFSPCA is so strong, Avanzino says, that "The most common length of stay in our shelter is two days, and the average stay, even when our longest-staying residents are factored in, is two to three weeks, depending on whether the animal is a dog or a cat, male or female.

"A very few animals," Avanzino acknowledges, "generally less than 2%, do take considerably longer and can spend several months in our shelter before finding the right home. Some may say this is too long, but we think, with the daily love, socializing, exercise, and care we provide, life in a loving new home is worth the wait."

The SFSPCA is able to provide extra individual care for animals in longterm custody because the de-emphasis on euthanasia has increased the number of vol-

unteer helpers, and because the declining shelter population has increased the amount of time available to each animal, regardless of length of stay.

Overall, the number of animals impounded in San Francisco has fallen from 20,256 in 1983 to 12,601 in 1992, even as the number of animals kept as pets has increased 18%, from circa 331,000 to an estimated 391,000.

"We don't have to kill."

Fewer animals are out on the streets, and many of those who are at large are cats enrolled in neuter/release projects coordinated and supervised by the SFSPCA. Often criticized by conventional humane societies for endorsing neuter/release, which the Humane Society of the U.S. inaccurately describes in official publications as neuter/abandonment, the SFSPCA takes the view that cat feeders are going to be feeding stray cats anyway, as long as they can find some, and that working cooperatively with the feeders to make sure the cats are not reproducing, are vaccinated, and are supervised on a daily basis is far more productive than driving the feeders underground. (The consequences of the opposite approach are evident in Chicago, where Anti-Cruelty Society executive director Jane Stern oppos-

es neuter/release so vehemently that although **ANIMAL PEOPLE** knows of five active neuter/release projects within the "Chicagoland" metropolitan area, none of the coordinators were willing to identify themselves when Stern asked several months ago if we could recommend a model neuter/release colony that she could visit.)

"We don't have to kill animals to get across our message that altering pets is a vital part of responsible pet ownership," Avanzino insists. "Last year the SFSPCA altered 5,871 dogs and cats at our low-cost neutering clinic. We also alter the sexually mature animals in our shelter before they are adopted, as well as some of the animals in the city shelter. And we regularly set aside months, including May, June, and July this year, to provide free neutering surgery for cats, in addition to offering free surgery throughout the year for feral cats and the pets of seniors. These efforts have paid off, and we will continue them."

In all, the combined record of the SFSPCA and San Francisco Animal Care and Control is markedly better than the SFSPCA alone achieved during the 121 years that the 125-year-old organization performed the city animal control services. Then, Avanzino explains, as a non-tax-supported public charity the SFSPCA devoted a disproportionate share of its resources

to impoundments and euthanasia, the costs of which were only partially covered by the pound contract. Meanwhile the reputation of the SFSPCA as an agency for helping animals was tarnished by the association of the shelter with "dogcatching," as animal care and control work was generally described and mostly consisted of until recent years.

This in turn not only hurt revenue but increased pet overpopulation, Avanzino argues, because public knowledge of the euthanasia rate inhibited people from surrendering pets they could no longer keep. Instead, Avanzino charges, citing case studies, many people preferred to abandon surplus dogs and cats on the streets or in public parks, thinking this at least gave the animals a chance of finding a new home or surviving in the wild.

Ending abandonment

Avanzino contends that ending euthanasia of adoptable animals altogether will effectively halt abandonments, saving huge sums now spent for animal control because stray pickups are demonstrably the most costly job animal care and control departments perform on a per animal basis and keeping strays for the mandatory five-day holding period in case they might be reclaimed by someone is the most costly part of animal care and control overall.

"When the killing stops," Avanzino says, "we will put an end to one of the most compelling reasons behind animal abandonment, 'the perception that the animal is better off on the streets than being killed at the pound. To save the lives of these animals, we need to get them into shelters before they are abandoned and become sick, injured, or traumatized,' rendering them unsuitable for adoption."

Further, Avanzino states, "Under

Shelter demographics *(continued from page 7)*

We knew from the newsletters of the respective shelters that most of the 138 beagles received were hunting dogs who had been surrendered at the close of the hunting season. Having been kept outdoors and having had minimal human contact, as well as having been trained to chase other animals, they were mostly not suitable for adoption. We also suspected that many of

more than 200, three had more than 300, and one—a purported rescuer, not an intentional breeder—had 750.

Only 220 of the 3,734 cats were identified as purebreds, but they represented 14 different breed classifications. All 220 came from the same breeder, who was initially raided as a dog collector; the cats, in equally sad shape, were simply discov-

Four factors may explain the disproportionate representation of small dogs in the collector/breeder raid sample: the greater likelihood that small dogs will be kept indoors, out of sight, sound, and smell of neighbors; the greater vulnerability of small animals to abuse without physical risk to the abuser; the psychological need of collectors for animals they com-

the poodles and cockers had been rescued from puppy mills and animal collectors, had serious health problems, and were therefore also unsuitable for adoption.

To look at the percentage of animals received from puppy mills and animal collectors in any small sampling of shelters could be very misleading, because of the huge number of animals received in any one raid, the likelihood that most of the animals taken from a given site would be of the same breed type, and the relative infrequency of such raids: because of the high cost of impounding large numbers of animals at once, most animal control agencies can't afford to raid more than one or two puppy mills and/or collectors per year.

Instead we opened our files on animal collector and puppy mill raids across the country and tallied up what breed and species data we could cull from the press accounts. (No accounts provided any other hints about the size of the dogs rescued.) We had animal counts from 101 cases in all, 80 involving collectors and 21 involving breeders whose activity fit the collector pattern (individual or family operation, noncommercial property, similar apparent psychological profile including social isolation and hostility toward euthanasia even of seriously ill or injured animals).

In nine cases involving 2,053 dogs and cats, the balance of species could not be determined. Among the others, 48 individuals had more than 10 cats; 76 individuals had more than 10 dogs. The raids took in totals of 3,734 cats and 6,091 dogs.

The average number of cats possessed by individuals with more than 10 was 93. The median range (18 individuals) was 40 to 85 cats. Thirteen individuals, however, had more than 100 cats, five of them had more than 200, and one had 470.

The average number of dogs possessed by individuals with more than 10 was 86. The median range (32 individuals) was 20-50, considerably lower than the median range for cats, but 19 individuals had more than 100 dogs, of whom five had

ered on the premises.

However, press accounts identified dogs by breed or breed type after 48 raids. The breakdown:

<u>Breed</u>	<u>Raids Impounded</u>	
Akit a	1	1
Aussie shepherd	1	19
Beagle	3	5
Borzoi	1	118
Chihuahua	5	293
Chow	1	2
Dauschund	2	49
English sheepdog	1	5
Fox terrier	2	41
German shepherd	3	18
Greyhound	3	183
Maltese	1	15
Mini pinscher	1	28
Pomeranian	1	10
Schnauzer	1	55
Siberian husky	1	27
Pekingese	1	15
Pit bull terrier	3	40
Rat terrier	1	67
Rottweiler	1	1
Shar Pei	1	110
Shi Tzu	1	28
Spitz/Samo yed cr.	1	18
Toy/mini poodle	10	718
Wolf hybrid	1	20
Yorkshire terrier	2	53

In all, 16 raids caught people seriously neglecting an average of 17 large dogs apiece, for a total of 273. Two other raids caught breeders with 178 greyhounds and 110 Shar Peis, respectively, but the numbers in these two cases were so far beyond the norms of the others that including them in the averages would build in gross distortion.

By contrast, 33 raids (twice as many) caught people seriously neglecting an average of 49 small dogs apiece (three times as many) for a total of 1,508. The chihuahua owners seriously neglected 59 apiece, on average, and the poodle owners seriously neglected 72 apiece. Neither the chihuahua line nor the poodle line was distorted by including any one person with far more of these dogs than anyone else had.

only refer to as "babies"; and market demand for small puppies.

Because small dogs are disproportionately represented in mass seizures, it is altogether possible that across the U.S., mass seizures do bring in a greatly disproportionate number of the small dogs in shelters, and that accordingly the euthanasia rate for small dogs, whatever it is, does not directly reflect the high demand for them in the same manner that the high euthanasia rate for large dogs does directly reflect the evident surplus.

Seven of the 21 breeders whose animals were included in the above tally were breeding large dogs; only the two mentioned above had more than 27 dogs total. The remaining 15 breeders were producing small dogs; eight of them were among the 19 individuals with more than 100 dogs.

Thus one could even argue that the imbalance between the supply of animals at shelters and market demand is helping to keep puppy millers and backyard breeders in business.

The catch is that we have no data on the size distribution of the 4,000-odd dogs seized from collectors and puppy mills for whom press accounts did not provide breed identification. We also have no data on the number and size of animals acquired by animal collectors as strays, as opposed to the number produced by unintentional breeding among an unneutered and neglected colony.

We don't even have data, as yet, on the percentage of animals in shelters who come from collector and puppy mill raids. Without this information, accurately measuring the influence of collectors and puppy mills on shelter intake, adoption and euthanasia rates is impossible. What we can safely say is that an influence exists and needs to be looked at in greater depth as better information becomes available.

—Merritt Clifton

our proposal the city shelter would not have to keep a single animal longer than is already required under state and local law.' Surrendered animals can already be euthanized immediately, and still could be it unsuitable for adoption. "The only new thing the city shelter would have to do is offer to us or any other qualified humane organization each healthy, adoptable dog or cat whose time has run out at the city facility. For our part, we will take all of these animals and see that every one gets a loving home at no cost to the city—an arrangement that could save city taxpayers more than \$150,000 a year and could, over time, save millions of dollars. We are ready," he continues, "to commit our resources, increase our adoption space, expand our services, and take whatever other steps are necessary to make sure every adoptable animal who comes to us gets a new chance at life."

The string attached, Avanzino explains, is that San Francisco must pass a special ordinance or in some other way make a firm, legally binding commitment that "healthy, adoptable animals won't be euthanized, whether by the city shelter or by a private shelter. Without that guarantee, we will not eliminate the reason behind so many tragic cases of animal abandonment, the

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If it can make it there, it can make it anywhere

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Richard Avanzino of the San Francisco SPCA is quick to point out that he hasn't announced his plan to end population control euthanasia as a blueprint for anyone anywhere else. He explains carefully that it is intended as an experiment, taking advantage of the unique conditions in San Francisco, and that other cities should in turn learn by the San Francisco experience before attempting anything similar.

Nonetheless, there could be implications for New York City. Acknowledging the example of the SFSPCA, the American SPCA announced last April that it would cease providing animal control service to New York City in November 1994, exactly 100 years after it took on the job. Like the SFSPCA, the ASPCA will then focus upon arranging adoptions, neutering, humane education, and improving landlord/pet keeper relations.

The demographics of New York City and San Francisco are comparable. New York City has a population density of 23,700 people per square mile, the most in the U.S., 59% of whom belong to racial minorities, and per capita income of \$22,150. San Francisco has the fifth greatest population density in the U.S., at 15,500 per square mile, 55% of whom belong to racial minorities, and per capita income of \$22,450. New York City has .42 pets per resident, 15,432 per square mile; San Francisco has .53, 8,373 per square mile.

Despite the stunning pet population density, New York does not appear to have a remarkable number of homeless animals. New Yorkers for Companion Animals recently rescued 28 cats and six dogs in a nine-month concerted effort to capture all homeless animals on

two representative blocks of Harlem. Assuming the number of animals NYCA missed roughly equals the number of animals from other blocks they caught, and projecting the findings to the 4,000-block whole of Manhattan and the Bronx, the total homeless animal population of those two boroughs would be 56,000 cats, equal to 9% of the owned cat population, and 12,000 dogs, equal to 2.5% of the owned dog population.

Comparing these numbers to the number of ASPCA animal control pickups indicates that animal control is impounding about one homeless cat in 50 and one homeless dog in three. Available data from other cities suggests that these figures are within the U.S. metropolitan norms. In New York, however, as in most cities, animal pickups account for only a fraction of the incoming animals, most of whom arrive via guardian surrender. Adding Manhattan/Bronx surrenders to the equation suggests that 10% of the total Manhattan/Bronx cat population and 3.9% of the dog population become homeless in any given eight-to-nine-month period, of whom the ASPCA handles 15.5% of the cats and 61% of the dogs.

Projecting the figures out over a year, about 85,000 cats and 25,000 dogs from Manhattan and the Bronx might need sheltering at some point. As recently as 15 years ago, the ASPCA reportedly euthanized that many Manhattan/Bronx animals per year, but in 1992 it euthanized only 33,857 from all five boroughs combined. Thus the number of euthanasias in New York per capita now is virtually the same—two per hundred residents—as the number in San Francisco when the SFSPCA gave up its pound contract.

Voltaire & Zooky, reduced 26%.

Pound refugees Voltaire and Zooky. (Photo by Kim Bartlett.)

notion that an unwanted pet is better off on the streets than in a shelter. To save these lives and prevent the suffering animal abandonment can cause, we need a legal mandate that stops the killing."

There are no formal studies of the reasons for pet abandonment, because of the difficulty of identifying and questioning an adequate number of the people who do it. However, there is a wealth of supporting evidence for Avanzino's belief about the motives from other quarters.

Most dramatically, in 1989, John Freed, then executive director of the Greenville Humane Society in South Carolina, contracted to send surplus puppies and kittens to the North Shore Animal League, and announced the shelter

Colorado, who objected in a September 24 letter to Avanzino that, "The proposal to legally prohibit animal shelters and humane organizations in San Francisco from killing any adoptable dog or cat places sole responsibility for stopping the killing of homeless animals on the backs of humane organizations. It implies that adoptable animals die because shelters choose to kill them rather than find them loving homes. By advocating legislation to stop the killing in shelters, you reinforce the idea that shelters euthanize animals unnecessarily," instead of as "a last recourse."

Continued Blacksher, "It is highly commendable that pet overpopulation has been substantially reduced in San Francisco, but elsewhere, the problem remains immense.

ANIMAL HEALTH

The September newsletter of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association told members that the MVMA backed the state veterinary medical board in establishing clinic and hospital inspections because inspection was inevitable and otherwise the inspectors "would probably be non-veterinarians and possibly animal rights activists," whose agenda might "roll over veterinary practices." Exactly how and why was not explained.

Dr. James Serpell, author of several

would no longer euthanize healthy young animals. "The dogs and cats were always out there," Freed told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** shortly before his retirement last spring, "but they weren't coming to us. They were being passed along from family to family and not getting neutered, and were having litters, and some were ending up in pet stores or puppy mills and with bunchers for laboratories because we weren't part of the loop. Instead of being left out and cutting our euthanasia rate by not getting the animals, we got ourselves into the loop. We promised we'd find homes for the puppies and kittens, and people who didn't want to have anything to do with us before because they thought we were just going to kill the animals suddenly started coming in." This gave the humane society the opportunity to promote neutering among a portion of the public it hadn't previously reached. The number of animals the shelter received soared from 10,500 in 1988 to 22,000 in 1992. But the percentage of euthanasias dropped, from 76% in 1988 to 50% in 1992, as the number of adoptions shot from 2,800 in 1988 to 5,650 in 1992—and every animal adopted was neutered before leaving the building, at an in-house clinic partially funded by NSAL.

The psychological influence of euthanasia as a factor in cats being out on the street was confirmed by a 1992 survey of nearly 200 cat rescuers undertaken by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** with financing from the Massachusetts SPCA. The survey found that while 38% of the rescuers take sick and injured cats to animal shelters, 80% do not take healthy cats to shelters, apparently because of the likelihood that they will be euthanized instead of being successfully adopted out.

In addition, the psychological profile of animal collectors assembled in 1981 by researchers Dooley Worth and Alan Beck identified inordinate fear of death as their apparent motivating characteristic. Vicariously transferring this fear from themselves to animals, they typically refuse to have any animal euthanized.

Finally, criticism of animal shelters from outside the animal protection community almost always centers on euthanasia—for instance, the scattershot tabloid offensive waged intermittently for more than a decade by Joan Dahlberg-Meisenholder (see "Watchdog," page 11). Public concern over euthanasia rates and methods may actually exceed concern about pet overpopulation itself.

Oppositor

Opposition to Avanzino's approach has come chiefly from conventional humane societies and animal care and control departments, including, Avanzino notes, San Francisco Animal Care and Control. Numerous shelter directors and animal control officers have seconded Steve Blacksher, executive director of the Longmont Humane Society in Longmont,

Your legislative proposal sends a strong message nationwide that overpopulation is no longer an issue and that irresponsible owners are no longer to blame. All we have to do to stop the killing is simply make it illegal for humane organizations to do so. I'm appalled to think what breeders, puppy mill operators, and pet shop owners will do with this message," Blacksher concluded. "They've been arguing all along that this pet overpopulation stuff is a bunch of hoopla, and your message only adds fuel to their fire."

Blacksher rejected Avanzino's implication that "the killer image of animal shelters is the primary reason that animals are abandoned. My belief," Blacksher stated, "is that animals are abandoned because of an appalling lack of responsibility on the part of pet owners. I think it is ridiculous to suggest that pet owners abandon their animals on the street rather than take them to shelters because they are interested in the animals' welfare. People abandon their pets simply because they don't care about them. Let's focus our legislative efforts on the true culprits here—those people who abuse, neglect, and abandon their animals."

However, despite the popularity of Blacksher's view among colleagues, abandoning dogs and cats has been illegal in most of the U.S. for decades. Because of the difficulty of proving abandonment of animals found at large, the number of successful prosecutions in any given year, nationally, can almost be counted on the fingers of one hand. Virtually all successful prosecutions under abandonment statutes instead pertain to neglect of animals still in custody.

Parallel to pound seizure

Led by the late Robert Sellar, then president of the American Humane Association, humane societies recognized as long as 50 years ago in connection with the use of impounded animals for biomedical research that an association with killing animals could inhibit people from bringing in dogs and cats they were unable to keep. As Animal Welfare Institute founder and president Christine Stevens puts it in her book *Animals And Their Legal Rights*, "If forced to surrender animals for painful experiments, the entire structure (of a humane society) would lose its moral basis as a sanctuary for animals where they would be safe from inflicted suffering." Providing surplus animals to biomedical research nonetheless became commonplace from the late 1940s into the mid-1980s, before the majority of humane societies recognized the deleterious impact of the association with vivisection upon public trust and support.

No matter how necessary, the impact of euthanasia upon public perception may be similar. Richard Avanzino is determined to find out.

—Merritt Clifton

books on the human/animal relationship, has been named to fill the new Marie A. Moore Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

The new New York state budget includes \$200,000 for rabies control research—and the state is cooperating with Canada in an attempt to use Raboral, the oral anti-rabies vaccine, against the spread of fox rabies across the Canadian border into Clinton and Franklin counties. About 20 cases of the Canadian fox rabies strain were reported in northern Vermont during the summer, along with 63 cases in the adjacent part of Quebec during August alone. The fox rabies outbreak and the mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic underway since hunters released 700 rabid raccoons in West Virginia in 1977 have been expected to meet in Vermont, New Hampshire, and upstate New York for several years now, but so far remain about 100 to 150 miles apart.

HomeoVetix

FoA ad

FoA ad

Dog logo

The Watchdog

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

More on *Roseland's Sizzle*

CHICAGO, Illinois—ANIMAL PEOPLE readers in the Pacific Northwest recognized a pattern in our coverage last month of Joan Dahlberg-Meisenholder and her semi-anonymous nationally distributed tabloid attack on animal shelters, *Roseland's Sizzle*. Issued from the Chicago suburbs in late summer, *Sizzle* categorically accused shelters of keeping animals in squalid conditions, performing needless mass euthanasia, and cremating them alive to cut costs. She cited no specific cases and provided no documentation. At least 6,000 copies of *Sizzle* were sent to pet stores from coast to coast. A second issue is reportedly in production.

"Joan was very active in Oregon for many years," remembered Bobbie Michaels and Dana Entler of the Portland group Committed to Animal Protection, Education, and Rescue. "She was one of the people responsible for outlawing the use of the decompression chamber for euthanasia. However, her opinions and methods also hurt our cause more than once. She worked against our pet theft bill, which is now very effective," and which CAPER has used to convict at least three people who stole animals for laboratory use. "She also encouraged people to set strays loose rather than turn them over to a shelter."

Retired National Animal Control Association president Mike Burgwyn remembered that at one point Dahlberg-Meisenholder petitioned successfully to have Portland residents vote on a proposal to abolish the city animal shelter and instead turn the animal control contract over to her. "She kept charging us with doing cruel euthanasia and raking in contributions from the public, and we were having to fight the thing with

WISE USE WISEGUYS et al

PORTLAND, Oregon—About 100 ranchers, loggers, furriers, animal breeders, and biomedical researchers attended the initial conference of the National Animal Interest Alliance in Portland on September 19. Speakers included Edward Taub, who was twice convicted of cruelty in connection with his use of monkeys in biomedical research but won reversals each time on jurisdictional technicalities; Joan Berosini, wife of Las Vegas orangutan trainer Bobby Berosini; FBI special agent Januz Bogdon; seal hunt defender Janice Henke; Teresa Platt of the Fisherman's Coalition, a front for tuna boat owners who resent dolphin protection regulations; and Pam Roach, a Washington state senator who recently introduced an unsuccessful bill to force animal shelters to turn animals over to biomedical research.

Also speaking was Marshall Meyers, attorney for the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, whose October newsletter identified the Humane Society of the U.S. and the American SPCA as "anti-pet charity organizations." This description no doubt surprised the executives and staff of both HSUS and ASPCA, both of which have extensive programs to encourage pet adoption and proper pet care.

The NAIA is a new anti-animal protection group formed by Patti Strand, a Portland

Report to Congress on Animal Enterprise Terrorism

WASHINGTON D.C.—The newly released Department of Justice/USDA Report to Congress on Animal Enterprise Terrorism mandated by the Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1992 found that "The FBI has categorized only a few animal rights-related incidents as acts of domestic terrorism," Assistant U.S. Attorney General Sheila Anthony and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Branstool stated in presenting it.

Therefore, they explained, "for purposes of this report, the term 'animal rights extremism' includes all acts of destruction or disruption perpetrated against animal enterprises or their employees."

Thus widening the topic to include petty vandalism, the report recorded 313 "animal rights-related incidents" from 1977 through June 30, 1993. None involved significant injury to either people or animals. Among the incidents were 160 cases of petty vandalism, 77 thefts or releases of animals, 29 personal threats, 26 cases of major vandalism, 21 arsons, 16 bomb threats, 14 fire bombs, nine bombing hoaxes, and three actual bombing attempts. The report failed to note the role of security agents hired by U.S. Surgical Corporation in encouraging, aiding, and abetting Fran Trutt in the best known bombing case. Trutt, who had only marginal involvement in animal rights, served a year in jail for placing a pipe bomb in the U.S. Surgical parking lot in November 1988—paid for by the operatives for U.S. Surgical, one of whom drove her to the site.

The incidents peaked in frequency during 1987-1988, when 105 of the 313 occurred. Of the rest, 31 came in 1984, 37 in 1989, 22 in 1990, and 37 in 1991—followed by just 24 in all of 1992 and the first half of 1993. All 16 incidents that did more than \$10,000 worth of damage actually did at least \$58,000 worth; 13 of them did at least \$100,000 worth; and 10 of them did at least \$200,000 worth. The targets in these

money from our own pockets, because the city wasn't allowed to spend money on a ballot issue," Burgwyn said. "We won the vote, but it was close."

In 1989 Dahlberg-Meisenholder published at least one issue of a forerunner to *Sizzle*, called *The Pet Owners' Tribune*, also a thick tabloid attacking animal shelters. The *Tribune*, however, did name various Portland-area shelters, and did not carry paid advertising, whereas *Sizzle* carried numerous paid ads from well-reputed companies, more than 80% of which subsequently claimed to have been misled about the nature of the publication and to have withdrawn their support. In the *Tribune*, Dahlgren-Meisenholder identified herself as an animal rights activist, praised Roger Troen, who was convicted of releasing animals taken from an Oregon State University laboratory by the Animal Liberation Front, and attacked pet stores. *Sizzle* praised pet stores and blasted animal rights activism.

dog breeder and co-author of a book entitled *The Hijacking of the Humane Movement*, together with attorney Andrew Ostitis. Ostitis represented laboratory dog and cat vendor Joe Hickey, of S&H Supply, who was fined \$10,000 and lost his license to sell animals to labs for a year in 1991 for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Joe Hickey took over S&H Supply from his father James Hickey in 1988, after the latter was fined \$40,000 and lost his vendor's license for 25 years—the stiffest Animal Welfare Act penalties ever imposed.

Flush Rush Quarterly, summer 1993, reports that Doris Day is a Rush Limbaugh fan, but disagrees with his anti-animal protection views. *FRQ* is \$14/year from POB 270525, San Diego, CA 92198.

cases included 11 biomedical research centers and five meat plants.

Overall, the targets of recorded incidents included 92 biomedical research centers (39%), 60 fur retailers (16%), 43 private homes, 33 butcher shops, 28 feedlots and slaughterhouses, 21 private research facilities, and no more than seven of any other type of facility. There were only two attacks each against stables and rodeos, and just four against cosmetic companies, but five against mainstream animal shelters.

Sixty percent of the incidents were attributed to the Animal Liberation Front, the only perpetrator believed to have links to England, where as many activism-related incidents have occurred in some single years as in the U.S. in the past 15. The release of the report coincided with eight firebombings against hunting publications in Windsor, England, by the Hunt Retribution Squad, last heard from in 1984. The bombings were purportedly a response to recent accidental death verdicts in connection with the deaths of Thomas Warby, 15, and Mike Hill, 18, during hunt sabotage. Warby was crushed by a horse trailer last February at a Cambridgeshire Foxhounds hunt, while Hill was run over by a trailer belonging to the Cheshire Beagles Hunt.

Debra Hartman

Heartland

The Warm Store, a not-for-profit business of Woodstock Animal Rights Movement, is now making its exciting collection of cruelty-free, environmental, and nature products available in a catalogue:

- Socially conscious kids gifts
- Body care & cosmetics
- T-shirts
- Nature recordings
- Non-leather accessories
- Buttons & bumper stickers
- Realistic plush animals & hand puppets
- Non-toxic paints, stains, detergents & cleaners
- Animal jewelry
- Vegan & vegetarian cookbooks
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By shopping at The Warm Store, you are helping to make

Wildlife:

wolves and elephants and turtles and bison and bats and bears—oh my!

The North American Free Trade Agreement could harm endangered species and wildlife sanctuaries along the U.S./Mexican border, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service impact analysis says. "There are serious habitat problems and endangered species problems on the border now, and we expect that NAFTA may in fact exacerbate some of them," USFWS international affairs specialist Doug Ryan told the *Los Angeles Times* on September 27. The USFWS report confirms the view of the majority of national animal and habitat protection groups; see "Animal and habitat protection groups split" on page 6 of the October issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Alaska's plan to massacre up to 80% of the wolves in a 4,500-square-mile area south of Fairbanks and east of Denali National Park was delayed by lack of snow as we went to press. Once there is enough snow for the wolves to leave tracks easily recognizable from the air, hunters are expected to make short work of the wolves, whom the state government has slated for death to reduce predation on moose and caribou. The latter, coveted by trophy hunters, have been depleted from record highs to historically average numbers in the area in question by the combination of heavy hunting and poaching with adverse weather during recent calving seasons. Although Alaska denies encouraging hunters to chase radio-collared wolves to exhaustion from aircraft and then land and shoot them when they drop, anyone with a \$15 trapping license is allowed to shoot a wolf if he or she is at least 300 feet from the aircraft. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service admits it hasn't the staff or equipment to enforce the federal Airborne Hunting Act in Alaska, while a recent legislative audit of the Alaska Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection found it full of conflicts of interest that could sabotage its ability to enforce any law about anything.

Zimbabwe, thwarted in attempts to lift the global ban on ivory trading, and therefore reluctant to shoot elephants who have allegedly overpopulated their habitat, declared success October 15 in relocating nearly 500 elephants. Three hundred fifteen were trucked from the overcrowded Gonarezhou National Park to private hunting resorts; 150 went to the Madikwe national park in South Africa. Eight tranquilized elephants died during the operation, mostly from falling on their trunks and suffocating, but veterinarian Ewan Anderson was happy. "It has proved there is a viable alternative to culling," he said. Costs were covered by the British group Care of the Wild, which put up \$225,000, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, contributing \$200,000.

The introduction of Texas cougars to north Florida as potential mates for genetically almost identical and highly endangered Florida panthers doesn't seem to be working. Two have been shot after wandering into Georgia; a car killed one; another ate several deer at a game ranch; and another ate an exotic goat at a game ranch.

Japan plans to begin captive breeding using artificial insemination next year in an attempt to restore the Tsushima yamaneko mountain cat population. From 85 to 125 of the cats hunt frogs and mice on the island of Tsushima, off the northwestern coast of Kyushu, close to Korea. The small wildcats are amber-colored with red stripes on their heads. Japan has never before attempted artificial captive breeding of a mammal.

The Nature Conservancy released 300 bison on a 5,000-acre tract near Pawhuska, Oklahoma, on October 18, the last step in the first phase of an ambitious attempt to recreate the tallgrass prairie discovered by the first settlers. The tallgrass sanctuary will eventually encompass 36,000 acres, now being cleared of introduced plant species through controlled burning.

The construction of a long-awaited truck route through the Aspe Valley in the Pyrenees may doom the last dozen wild brown bears in western Europe by dividing their territory in half. There were 40 bears left when killing them was finally banned 20 years ago, but their habitat is already so fragmented that they rarely meet and mate successfully.

World Wildlife Fund researcher Leonora Sheeline reports that the Chamorros tribe of Guam and other Pacific islands are eating so many fruit bats—a rare delicacy at \$25-\$40 apiece—that the survival of the species in the Philippines and other exporting nations is in jeopardy. Fewer than 500 fruit bats remain on Guam itself. The Chamorros, 45% of the human population of Guam, import about 7,000 bats a year, many of them illegally. Before the bats got scarce, circa 1989, they imported 15,000 or more.

The National Academy of Sciences on October 5 endorsed Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's formation of a National Biological Survey, to inventory U.S. flora and fauna—and said it should be given the means to fund research grants, with status equivalent to that of the National Institutes of Health.

A new report from the Clean Water Fund says Michigan is neglecting protection of endangered species. Michigan has 71 endangered species and 258 threatened species; 48 native species have gone extinct since record-keeping started.

Seventy-nine nonindigenous animals and plants, among the 4,500 now resident in the U.S., have done \$97 billion in damage since 1906, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment reported in early October. Another 15 "high impact" foreign organisms are expected to soon begin contributing significantly to annual damage now totaling circa \$2 billion a year. A similar study done by biologist Brad Griffith several years ago found that of 93 intentional introductions of foreign species to new habitat in

—Photo by Sue Clark

the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand between 1977 and 1986, stocking game species for hunting and fishing accounted for 90%. His study didn't cover plants and insects.

Red-eared and snapping turtles imported from the U.S. as pets, have been dumped by the thousand in French and British waterways during the past eight years and are now devastating water birds. The highly territorial turtles snap the heads off any chicks who swim near them.

A Colorado State University study published in September found that 62% of the 1,200 Coloradans surveyed want to take trips to view wildlife, but only 26% actually do; 61% want to fish, but only 30% do; and 28% want to hunt, but only 14% do.

The Biodiversity Legal Foundation and Restore The North Woods on October 3 asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to declare the Atlantic salmon an endangered species. Despite 40 years of restorative efforts, the Atlantic salmon still numbers only 4,000, up from a low of 2,000.

The Delhi Sands flower-loving fly, native to five sites near Colton, California, or September 22 became the first fly to be added to the U.S. endangered species list.

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Biomedical research

A George Washington University research team revealed October 25 in *Science* that it recently cloned and destroyed a number of human embryos, which were available for experimental use because they had genetic flaws. It was the most advanced genetic engineering experiment to date using human tissue. The announcement came less than a month after 300 scientists gathered in England to discuss xenography—animal-to-human organ transplants—made theoretically possible after a century of failures by implanting human genes into animals raised as donors, which would give the organs a human configuration and help to overcome tissue rejection. Simultaneously, Andrew Kimbrell of the Foundation on Economic Trends warned in a keynote address to the American Humane Association annual conference in Baltimore that the humane community is not prepared to deal with either the ethical or practical issues that genetic engineering could soon pose.

Primatologist Jane Goodall on October 12 asked the American College of Surgeons to try harder to find alternatives to the use of animals as organ donors for humans. She drew support from a surprising ally—Dr. Thomas Starzl, who unsuccessfully transplanted baboon livers into several human patients last year. Starzl said he had sworn off using chimpanzees in research after hearing Goodall speak on a previous occasion, and was worried about the status of both chimpanzees and baboons in the wild.

Already under fire over the deaths of five of 15 patients who took an experimental drug called fialuridine in a four-week clinical test, National Institutes of Health division of digestive diseases and nutrition chief Dr. Jay Hoofnagle was rapped again October 22 by acting NIH director Dr. Ruth Kirchstein for trying to cut off further treatment to test subject Paul Melstrom, of Arizona, who had publicly criticized Hoofnagle for ignoring complaints about painful side effects of the drug. Fialuridine was cleared for human trials after beagles used it without complications. The drug was intended to treat hepatitis-B.

The USDA on September 26 rejected a request from the Humane Society of the U.S. to expand its reporting requirements about pain to include use of a specific pain evaluation scale; enumeration of particular painful experiments such as the LD50 and the Draize eye irritation test; an explanation of the scientific purpose of each experiment; and notation of the source of animals used.

The French personal care products firm L'Oreal announced October 11 that it will cease testing cosmetic products on animals. Animal testing of pharmaceutical products and new ingredients, required in many nations by law, will continue.

R.C. Bard, one of the world's biggest manufacturers of medical equipment, agreed October 15 to plead guilty to more than 390 counts of fraud and improper experimentation on humans for selling inadequately tested heart catheters, which caused at least one death and 22 emergency heart surgeries. R.C. Bard allegedly concealed animal test data that revealed defects in the heart catheters from the Food and Drug Administration.

A computer analysis of 64 potential non-animal-based replacements for the LD50 toxicity test shows that a combination of five of them yields results as reliable as the LD50 rat and/or mouse tests, says Dr. Bjorn Ekwall, managing director of validation for the Multicenter Evaluation of In Vitro Cytotoxicity. The findings were shared at the recent 11th annual congress of the Scandinavian Society for Cell Toxicology.

California State Attorney General Dan Lundgren has responded to an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit alleging the gas chamber is cruel by proposing to insert balloons into the anuses of 60 rats and inflate them until the rats squeal, then give them cyanide gas to measure the degree to which it kills pain. The experiment would cost \$13,952. The ACLU evidence in the case includes the *1986 Report of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia*, which rejected the use of cyanide gas on animals.

Birds

Cowbirds, native to the midwest, invaded California 10 to 15 years ago and are now blamed for extirpating at least four threatened or endangered songbirds from key parts of their range. Female cowbirds indirectly kill as many as 48 young songbirds apiece per nesting season by laying their eggs in songbirds' nests. The songbird parents then raise the fast-hatching cowbird offspring—who push the songbirds' own eggs out before they hatch. Songbird species such as the Bell's vireo, willow flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, and white crown sparrow are believed capable of withstanding losses of 10% of their eggs, but decline quickly when the losses exceed 20%. Studies of white crown sparrow nests in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park indicate losses to cowbirds may exceed 50%. Hopes for the eventual recovery of the highly endangered Bell's vireo were raised this year when one or two pairs reportedly nested along the Ventura River, near Santa Barbara, for the first time since 1908—but a lone Bell's vireo seen in Monterey County, a former stronghold of the species, failed to find a mate. Bell's vireos apparently haven't nested successfully there since the cowbirds arrived, circa 1983.

Longline tuna boats from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Russia, the Ukraine, and the U.S. kill 44,000 albatrosses a year in the Southern Ocean and south Indian Ocean, charge New Zealand ornithologists Barry Weeber and Sandy Bartle. The global albatross population is estimated at only 200,000 breeding pairs, including just 10,000 pairs of the wandering albatross—half as many as a decade ago. Mating for life, the wandering albatross has a normal lifespan of up to 50 years, and lays just one egg every two years. The parents take turns guarding the egg in 55-

day shifts, during which they fast, never leaving the nest. Between shifts, they soar away on feeding flights up to 9,300 miles long over open ocean. The albatrosses are hooked and drowned, along with petrels, mollymawks, and other seabirds, when they try to snatch bait from the longliners' 80-mile strings of as many as 2,500 tuna hooks. One longliner reportedly killed 500 seabirds in three weeks recently, while another killed 200 albatrosses on a single string.

The California Forestry Association on October 6 asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove the California spotted owl population from the endangered species list. The USFWS put the total spotted owl population at 5,000 when it was declared endangered in 1990, but recent studies funded by the timber industry claim there are 8,500 spotted owls in California alone. Although 18 species have been removed from the endangered species list due to extinction or recovery, none have ever been removed either at request of industry or because of erroneous population data. The CFA action came one day before the White House announced it had settled lawsuits filed by 12 environmental groups on behalf of the spotted owl with a pact that would allow limited old-growth logging between now and next year, when a 10-year forest management plan engineered by the Clinton administration is to take effect. Several of the groups charged that the White House strongarmed them into accepting the concessions by threatening to exempt the 10-year plan from existing environmental laws.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on October 11 proposed removing the Arctic peregrine falcon from the endangered species list. Only about 2,000 peregrines remained in the U.S. in 1970, when they first got federal protection. Absorption of DDT accumulated in the body fat of their prey caused the falcons' eggs to crack prematurely.

Since DDT was banned, the peregrine population has grown to 5,000-10,000, many of them dwelling on the sides of tall buildings in big cities, where they eat pigeons. The Peregrine Fund has turned its attention to the aplomado falcon, jeopardized by pesticides used on cotton crops and rarely seen in the U.S. during the past 40 years. In 1985 the Peregrine Fund imported several pairs from Chihuahua state, Mexico, and demonstrated that they could breed in captivity, releasing 24 offspring at the Laguna Atacosta National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Before going ahead with full-scale captive breeding, the Peregrine Fund asked the federal government to ban use of the suspect pesticides in Cameron County, which includes Laguna Acosta, and has an abnormally high rate of birth defects in humans, similarly linked to pesticide exposure. After protracted negotiation, local cotton growers agreed to change their pesticide application methods instead. Up to 50 aplomados are now to be released in each of the next 10 years.

Areas rich in biodiversity aren't necessarily rich in rare species, according to a comparative study of 2,500 grid squares of 10 kilometers each done in Great Britain by the Center for Population Biology at the University of London's Imperial College. Counting birds, butterflies, dragonflies, aquatic plants, and liverworts, the researchers found little overlap in their most favored habitats, and often found the scarcest species in the least favorable habitat. The findings a challenge the theory of habitat protection advanced by U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, who hopes to shift the focus of endangered species protection from protecting species one by one to protecting critical habitats for multiple species. The British study indicates that the scarcest species tend to be those with highly specialized adaptations to essentially unfavorable habitat.

Canada goose: tame, but not quite sitting ducks.
(Photo by Robert Harrison)

Ducks dive (from page one)

others rest or feed. And the flocks are diminishing because year after year hunters rather than wild predators kill the margin that most species breed to offset predation.

Despite the habitat conservation programs of Ducks Unlimited and similar groups, most of the political pressure from the hunters' side of the issue is toward opening up seasons on alternate targets. Forced to cut migratory waterfowl hunting quotas, the New York, New Jersey, and Michigan state fish and game agencies experimented in September with seasons on resident Canada geese, descended from oversized birds who were raised as live decoys until the practice was banned about 30 years ago.

New York now has about 30,000 resident geese, while New Jersey has 50,000 and Michigan has 200,000. Proliferating throughout the northeast, the geese are often hated because they defecate heavily on clipped lawns and beaches. The new hunting seasons often "kill two birds with one stone" by coinciding with appeals for goose control. The only apparent organized opposition so far has come from the Coalition to Prevent Destruction of Canada Geese, based in Rockland County, New York, and headed by Ann Muller, who also leads one of the factions contending over the remnants of the Coalition to Abolish Sport

Hunting, after the death of founder Luke Dommer in August 1992.

Hunters were expected to kill about 10% of the resident geese in each state during the experimental seasons. The toll in Connecticut's eight-year-old resident goose season is believed to be as high as 14% of a population numbering 10,000 to 12,000. However, in New York and New Jersey at least, the resident geese conspicuously avoided the designated shooting areas.

Other approaches to resident goose control have been equally unsuccessful, and rarely kinder. Volunteers and game wardens in Strongville and Reminderville, Ohio, annually round up and relocate truckloads of geese, over protest from activists about alleged rough handling. Others illegally kill geese. The Governor's Land Management Corporation, of Williamsburg, Virginia, was recently charged with illegally poisoning 39 geese, while Jeffrey Todd Monroe, 18, and Thomas Chester Johnson, 20, of Purcellville, Virginia, drew 30 days in jail apiece for beating a goose to death with a baseball bat, smashing her eggs, disembowling her, and hanging her remains from a tree. The admitted thrill killing was applauded in open letters by frustrated lawn owners.

Other alternatives offered to wingshooters include a perennial attempt to open a mourning dove season in Ohio, recently blocked—apparently—for the rest of this legislative session; and in many states, expanding put-and-take pheasant hunting, both on public lands and at private preserves. State wildlife agencies have traditionally stocked ringnecked and Sichuan pheasants, neither native to North America, to give beginning hunters something easy to find and kill. Like most activist groups, Saratogians for Animal Rights of Saratoga, New York, had never heard of put-and-take until after they picketed a private captive pheasant shoot in nearby Greenwich during September (whose patrons include the American Business Women's Association, 9100 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64112-3389). Learning fast, they soon propelled New York's \$500,000 put-and-take pheasant program into the headlines across the state. Each year, New York buys 60,000 captive-reared pheasants for release in popular hunting areas the day before hunts are scheduled. Hunters actually bag only half the pheasants; predators eat the rest. Less than a tenth of a percent of them survive the winter.

"The people who complain that the pheasants aren't wild enough are right," said pheasant farmer Mike Meagan. Bills to end the New York put-and-take program have been introduced many times by fiscal watchdogs in the state legislature, but have always died in committee.

HUNTING

Despite the scarcity of ducks, Ohio taxpayers are shelling out \$40,000 to elevate Clark Road in Franklin Township so that wildlife officials can open dams on nearby Killbuck Creek without flooding it, which in turn will bring ducks closer to the road for the convenience of hunters.

John Paul Self, 18, of Grovetown, Georgia, was in critical condition October 19 after Johnnie L. Sinns, 18, shot him in the back of the head as both allegedly tried to poach the same deer from beside their pickup truck. Sinns and a third alleged poacher, Paul Albert Johnson, 17, were charged with six misdemeanors including hunting under the influence of marijuana. Johnson was also charged with possession of marijuana, while Sinns was charged with felony misuse of a firearm.

Gunnar L. Smith, 34, of Glens Falls, New York, was charged October 5 with reckless endangerment for practicing bowhunting by shooting arrows straight up into the air over his yard. One arrow narrowly missed a neighbor. Smith blamed the wind.

Deer hunter Scott Jouett, 22, of Santa Ynez, California, started a week-long fire September 25 by dropping cigarette ashes. It burned more than 34,500 acres of the Los Padres National Forest, causing minor injuries to 10 firefighters.

Legal Action for Animals has asked the Environmental Protection Agency to prevent the New York Department of Environmental Conservation from poisoning five Adirondack lakes with rotenone, deliberately killing both native and non-native fish in order to restock the lakes with "pure" native species favored by Trout Unlimited and other fish-and-game clubs because they struggle longer when hooked. The state has similarly poisoned over 100 lakes since 1948.

Statistics kept by the Fund for Animals during this year's Labor Day pigeon shoot at Hegins, Pennsylvania, showed that of the 4,449 target birds, 30% were killed outright, 47% were crippled by gunfire and killed by teenaged attendants, 11% were crippled but not captured, and 11% apparently weren't hit at all. Thus two-thirds of the pigeons who were killed did not die quickly. Protest this year was muted, as the Coalition to Stop Live Bird Shoots planned to picket a similar but more upscale private shoot at the Powderbourne Gun Club near Philadelphia instead. That shoot, however, was cancelled a few days earlier.

Hunters in Deer Ridge, Indiana, made *Newsweek* recently for seeking to bar a children's picture book called *The Cabbages Are Chasing The Rabbits* from the local elementary school library, claiming it "could breed intolerance for hunters in children's minds." Their efforts have precedent, as hunters have been trying to kill anti-hunting episodes of Bugs Bunny for 40 years. In Trumbull County, Ohio, meanwhile, hunters picketed the *Warren Tribune* for taking an "anti-gun" editorial stance.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation claims more than 15,746,000 Americans bought hunting licenses in 1992, up 28,000 from the year before, but the numbers are questionable. The annual NSSF hunter counts consistently show more than a million more hunters than the more rigorously controlled U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service counts, chiefly from failing to account for all holders of multiple licenses and the effect of regulatory expansion of permit requirements.

Twenty-two Vermont hunting clubs have formed the Vermont Sportsmen's Coalition to counter anti-hunting activity. The VSC will attempt to persuade Vermonters that growing concern about hunting accidents—which killed three state residents last year—is all part of an animal rights plot to ban pets, rodeo, and dairy farming.

Nova Scotia Agricultural College chemists Robin Robinson and Glenn Stratton have developed a protein test to quickly identify meat by species of origin. The test is expected to help win convictions against deer poachers, who commonly disguise venison by mixing it with hamburger.

The League Against Cruel Sports manual *The Red Fox: Friend or Foe* refutes the myth of fox as livestock predator. Get ordering info from 83/87 Union St., London SE1 1SG, U.K.

The Fort Leavenworth Hunt Club, founded in 1835, is the oldest active fox hunting club in the U.S.—and is based on U.S. Army property. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** subscriber Andi Sandstrom is probing the extent to which tax funds are involved and wildlife is harassed or killed. Ask your own questions c/o Commandant, H.Q., Combined Arms Center & Fort Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-5050.

Between 200 and 300 skinned alligator carcasses washed up along a one-mile stretch of the Intracoastal Waterway south of New Orleans in late September, indicating that not all Louisiana gator hunters respect tag rules and bag limits.

The House of Representatives on September 31 killed a proposal by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., to kill the 90-year-old Civilian Marksmanship Program. Sponsored by the Army, the program mainly teaches hunting skills to Boy Scouts and 4-H groups.

Douglas S. Drummond, a city council member in Long Beach, California, allegedly asserted in a recent speech that gay people should not be allowed to adopt children, that people with AIDS should be quarantined, and that gay political influence would be short-lived because AIDS and nonreproductive sex would soon extinguish the gay community. He then ducked media questions by going hunting with city manager James Hankla.

PetNet ad

PetNet ad

Animal Control & Rescue

The Connecticut Humane Society, long under fire from local no-kill groups for a "high" euthanasia rate that is in fact better than average for big shelters, has ceased accepting animals from other shelters for euthanasia, and is accepting animals for euthanasia from rescuers only by special arrangement. "I don't want to be in the business of euthanasia," president Richard Johnson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "I want to do saving and adoption." CHS will now pay for neutering any animal adopted by anyone from any municipal shelter in Connecticut, Johnson said.

The American Humane Association has given the new Republic Pictures film *Tomcat* a rare negative rating because scenes of surgery on a cat were not produced under humane society supervision, and the producers have refused to provide technical details about whatever they did.

The Dallas, Texas, Animal Control Division expects shelter intakes to increase from 36,000 to 40,000 next year—because it is hiring five more field officers, boosting its total pickup force to 29. The present euthanasia rate of 83% will probably jump as well, but in the long run, planners expect, the numbers will drop because more staff doing pickups means fewer animals at large to breed. The Dallas Animal Control Division primarily handles dogs.

Mission Viejo, California, opened a new \$2.3 million animal shelter October 11, including skylights, heated floors, and a park where prospective adoptors can romp with would-be pets. To house up to 36 dogs and 64 cats, the shelter has caught political flak because it will cost \$329,000 a year to run, \$129,000 more than the city's center for the aged—but the improved adoption facilities may substantially reduce euthanasias, now averaging about 250 animals per year.

An investigation of the Humane Society of Greater Miami conducted at the request of the Florida Attorney General's Office by Nicholas Gilman of the Humane Society of the U.S. last January was released to

duced in January, which would transfer regulation of pet facilities from the Department of Health, which has refused to do the job without more money, to the Bureau of Animal Protection within the state Department of Agriculture. The new bill was drafted by a coalition of animal control officers, shelter staff, breeders, rescuers, and pet dealers.

The Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation has announced that the number of animals it impounded dropped 11.8% in fiscal year 1992-1993, while the euthanasia rate fell 10.9%. The LADAR credits the improvement to the replacement of a 20-year-old system of public neutering clinics with a more cost-efficient voucher program.

The Atlanta Humane Society raises \$16,000 a year by setting up \$20 photo appointments for pets each holiday season, according to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. The local Fox Photo Lab donates labor and supplies. For details, contact Cardin Wyatt, community relations coordinator for Atlanta Humane, 981 Howell Mill Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318; 404-873-5564.

Teamsters Local 244 began a rare strike against the Cuyahoga County Kennels on September 27, seeking a 5% raise. Two shelter workers make circa \$10.50 an hour, one gets \$9.96, and four get \$7.40—below average even in an underpaid line of work.

A New Jersey appeals court on October 19 upheld a death sentence given to an Akita who allegedly attacked a 10-year-old girl on Christmas Day, 1990. Owners Lonnie and Sandy Lehrer immediately appealed again, to the state Supreme Court. The dog previously killed another dog in a fight, but was neutered before the girl was injured—by a paw that accidentally snagged her lip, the Lehrers claim, not a bite. The Lehrers have spent \$25,000 defending the dog. Bergen County has spent \$60,000 on the prosecution, and impoundment costs total over \$18,000. At stake is not just the life of the dog, but the enforceability of the New Jersey vicious dog law. Like vicious dog laws in many other

Mike Capuzzo, left; AHA demonstration. (Photo by Merritt Clifton)

Get thee to a shelter, Bill!

BALTIMORE, Maryland—More than 600 participants in the American Humane Association annual conference told President Bill Clinton on October 13 to get the golden retriever he covets from a shelter rather a breeder. Syndicated columnist Mike Capuzzo told the group that in May, Clinton unsuccessfully bid \$3,500 for a golden retriever at an auction held at the Sidwell Friends School, which his daughter Chelsea attends. Later he bid unsuccessfully on a golden retriever puppy owned by Robert Wood Johnson IV, great-grandson of the founder of Johnson & Johnson Inc. Capuzzo urged Clinton to emulate the late Lyndon Johnson, whose favorite dog was a mongrel stray his daughter Lucy found at a Texas gas station.

In other business, the AHA honored Colorado State University dean of veterinary medicine and biomedical science Jim Voss; animal control officer Mike Lucas of

Fairfax County, Virginia; and the Martin/Williams advertising agency of Minneapolis.

Under Voss, the CSU veterinary school was among the first in the U.S. to abolish the practice of reviving animals used in surgical practice for repeated operations; to abolish all invasive animal use at the freshman level; to create an alternative program for students who are unwilling to harm animals in learning surgery; and to encourage students to do neutering for a local humane society in order to gain surgical experience.

Lucas was shot and abandoned as he screamed for help on December 28, 1992, after approaching two suspected deer poachers. The shooter got just 10 days in jail for reckless discharge of a weapon while hunting. Lucas is now back on the job.

Martin/Williams produced TV public service messages to promote adopting older dogs that in September won two Clio Awards for creative excellence.

How much of pet overpopulation do euthanasia statistics measure?

the press in October. The report listed numerous problems at the shelter, including poor living conditions for the animals and charged executive director Elton Gissendanner, DVM, with breeching ethical boundaries by serving as both volunteer head of the organization and one of several paid staff veterinarians. Gissendanner responded that he only became executive director a few months before the report was prepared, has cut the shelter budget by \$250,000 a year, and has modernized operations since Gilman visited. He added that HSUS produced a biased report because it competes for donations with local humane societies, although it does no sheltering itself and contributes no funds to local shelters. Gilman is due to revisit the facility this winter.

Louisiana judge Jules Edwards on October 18 granted Legislation In Support of Animals a permanent injunction against the continued operation of the Vermilion Parish Animal Pound, ruling that the substandard pound conditions constitute a criminal violation of the state anti-cruelty statutes.

Puppy mills run by the Pennsylvania Amish have cut deeply into the traffic from midwestern puppy mills. In the last year alone, the number of federally licensed breeding kennels in Pennsylvania has grown from 72 to 104, 65% of them in heavily Amish parts of Lancaster County. According to Chester County SPCA director Dr. Michael Moyer, one consequence is that 40% of the dogs the shelter receives are purebreds, far above the national average of about 25%. A breeder front group, the 1,900-member Pennsylvania Kennel Committee for Higher Ethics, has so far beaten back legislation that would force breeders to cover veterinary costs resulting from the sale of sick puppies, or to refund the cost of those who die. PKCHE head Robert Yarnall says the provisions should be extended to animal shelters as well as breeders, and that the seller rather than the buyer should choose the attending veterinarian, as otherwise vets would have no incentive to hold costs down.

Faced with the expiry of legislation authorizing licensing and inspection of pet shops and kennels, the Colorado Joint Legislative Sunrise/Sunset Committee on October 6 recommended passage of a new Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act, to be intro-

states, it allows a dog one unprovoked attack before imposing a death sentence.

Public animal shelters in Saratoga County, New York, are severely understaffed following the adoption of a new county law requiring all personnel to be vaccinated against rabies. The requirement means the county shelters can no longer get help from volunteers and jail inmates—unless they can afford to have themselves vaccinated.

Copies of the Cat Fanciers' Association policies on neuter/release are available for a SASE from Joan Miller, 6257 Gordon Valley Road, Suisun, CA 94585. The guidelines are quite similar to those presented by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett and Massachusetts SPCA vice president Carter Luke in our June issue.

Lennoxville on October 12 became the first city in Quebec to require cat licensing. The fee is \$5.00. Cats must be vaccinated, and cats in heat must be kept indoors. There is neither a neutering differential nor an identification requirement. Progress toward instituting ID for cats is reported from other quarters, however. September 7, the **Central Vermont Humane Society** began ear-tagging all cats adopted out—apparently the first shelter in the state with a system of permanent feline ID. September 18, the **San Diego County Department of Animal Control** began microchipping all cats as well as dogs adopted from the county shelter. October 6, the **Peninsula Humane Society** announced that it had identified more than 100 lost animals in one year of using microchip implants; 1,274 dogs and 1,687 cats were microchipped during the time. Director Penny Cistaro said the rate of identification and return of lost pets could only go up, as more animals get the ID chips.

The Tribune-Review, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the News-Sun of Waukegan, Illinois, have markedly boosted adoptions of older pets from shelters in their communities by first publishing photos of the homeless candidates for adoption, as many papers do—and then publishing the photos again, with the names of the adopting families. The quarterly *Tribune-Review* promotion has placed 500 pets in three years, while the *News-Sun* version placed 30 animals the first time it was tried.

Somehow in the deadline rush we mislaid a letter we'd intended to publish from Cam Martinez of San Diego, California, who asserted that all the published shelter euthanasia statistics are far low in providing an index of pet overpopulation because they don't include the animals euthanized by veterinarians, or killed by pet owners using various do-it-yourself methods.

Martinez claimed we should take the highest available number and multiply it at least by 10 to get an accurate count of the surplus puppies and kittens born each year.

In fact there have been several serious attempts to estimate total pet births and mortality, but none have yielded figures on that order:

- Using random survey data, Rudy Nassar found a 13.6% rate of turnover in the Las Vegas pet population during 1983, including 7.2% mortality in shelters and 6.4% non-shelter mortality.

- Using veterinary survey data, David C. Cooke in 1984 put veterinary euthanasias (primarily of elderly or terminally ill or injured animals) at 50% of the total number of shelter euthanasias.

- In August of this year, Lewis R. Plumb of the Promotion of Animal Welfare Society in Paradise, California, projected that 24% of dog deaths occur in shelters and 5% are owner-administered population control. Plumb's projection was based on a model of the total U.S. dog population, attempting to reconcile recently published statistics from a variety of reasonably reliable sources.

- Early in 1994, the Delta Society journal *Anthrozoos* is to publish a paper by Gary Patronac and Lawrence Glickman, based on survey data and projecting a 12.4% annual rate of turnover in the dog populations of Washington and Iowa., with 4% shelter mortality and 8.4% non-shelter mortality.

Though they come at the question from different directions, all four estimates essentially agree that the overwhelming majority of dog killing due to overpopulation does take place in shelters. There is no reason to believe that cat killing due to overpopulation follows a different pattern. In fact, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** survey of nearly 200 cat rescuers published in November 1992

found that of the mortality they had observed among homeless cats, 49% was from shelter euthanasia. Other population control-related killing accounted for 10%. These death rates are twice as high as those Plumb projected for dogs, but the shelter euthanasia rate for cats overall is also markedly higher: 56% of all dogs received, but 76% of all cats received, according to the shelter-by-shelter euthanasia counts from nine states published in our October issue.

Those counts, covering a representative 39% of the U.S. human population (balanced for region, race, education, and income), projected total shelter euthanasias at about five million a year. Taking into consideration that 15% to 20% of shelter euthanasias and the majority of veterinary euthanasias are for medical reasons rather than population control, the total number of population control-related dog and cat killings in the U.S. per year is probably close to 7.5 million.

It is finally worth noting that the fading practice of kitten-drowning, once common in rural areas, probably never had any significant impact on the cat population (as some of the people who did it undoubtedly came to suspect), and has even less impact today, now that approximately 90% of owned cats and 80% of feral cats live in cities, where kitten-drowning is generally considered socially unacceptable, while only 2% of Americans still live on farms.

Customarily, kitten drowners spare one kitten to placate the mother and keep her nursing, so that she won't come into heat again. But kitten mortality is so high from respiratory ailments, accidents, and predation, that from a third to a half of all kittens who are born will die before weaning anyhow, even under the best conditions, and only about half of the survivors live long enough to breed a litter. Since the kitten who is spared gets her mother's full attention and usually becomes something of a pet at least through kittenhood, her chances of survival to breeding age are greatly enhanced.

If one kitten is not spared from drowning, the mother typically soon produces another litter—and does a better job of hiding them.

—Merritt Clifton

Horses

Days End Farm Horse Rescue is offering a cash reward for "any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the recent assault and mutilation of horses in Maryland." The reward fund is named for Star, a mare who was sexually assaulted and subjected to mutilation resembling an internal episiotomy in Urbana on October 5. Similar attacks occurred in the area on August 26 and September 4; in Great Falls, Virginia, last year; and have been baffling police in England for a decade. The attacks may be linked, as they seem to be done by someone skilled at horse-handling, and there is considerable traffic between the horse communities of England and the greater Washington D.C. area. Days End Farm Horse Rescue also seeks information about similar attacks anywhere, at any time, by anyone, in an effort to build a psychological profile of the perpetrator. Send material to P.O. Box 157, West Friendship, MD 21794.

Belgium on September 28 banned the 137th running of the annual trotting horse race through the cobblestoned streets of the village of Sint-Elois-Winkel, due to "the risk of a confrontation between those who are for the event and those who oppose it," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. The race has long drawn protest because of frequent injuries to the horses.

The 32-member Horsepower 4-H Club, based at the Horse Amour stable in Castleton, Vermont, buys ailing horses at slaughter auctions and has so far successfully rehabilitated 15 of 20 for recreational riding, finding homes for the other five. One horse, Jade, was purportedly too spirited, and still is for most people, but has proved quite protective of a severely handicapped 24-year-old who cannot sit up unassisted and can only communicate with a symbol board. "With her," says Horse Amour owner Sue Cook, "he's so quiet, and he moves in tiny, little bitty steps."

(Photo by Kim Bartlett)

Zoos

Trying to share World Series publicity, the Philadelphia Zoo wagered the loan of two white lion cubs against the loan of two Tasmanian Devils from the Toronto Zoo on October 17—and incensed some Philadelphians who thought the deal showed a casual attitude toward the fate of the animals. Both zoos are well-reputed, and the animals were apparently scheduled to be moved elsewhere anyway.

The San Diego Zoo, barred from renting two giant pandas from China at \$1 million a year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is trying to decide what to do with a new million-dollar panda cage and an extensive stock of panda souvenirs. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt ruled that the deal might contribute to "irresistible pressure for the capture and export of pandas," contrary to the best interest of the highly endangered species, even though it was billed as a breeding loan and China was supposed to spend the revenue on panda conservation projects—which have included such only vaguely related activities as building hotels and hydroelectric dams in the recent past. The deal also contradicted policy of the American Society of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

COURT CALENDAR

Freedom at last for Ivan the gorilla?

TACOMA, Washington—Bankruptcy judge Philip Brandt ruled October 26 in favor of a Chapter 11 reorganization plan presented by B&I Shopping Center minority owner Mary Ann Borgert that includes selling the property and moving Ivan, a lowland gorilla who has spent 29 years there in solitary confinement, to an appropriate zoo. The Columbus Zoo, in Ohio, appears to be the most likely destination, having 18 gorillas already, including potential mates for Ivan, but the National Zoo in Washington D.C., the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, and the Atlanta Zoo, which rehabilitated a gorilla kept in solitary confinement almost as long, are also possibilities. The Dallas Zoo, which reportedly tried to buy Ivan at one point, no longer has a place for him. B&I principal owner Ron Irwin had always refused cash offers because, he said, Ivan was "like family." Ivan was imported nearly a decade before the passage of the Endangered Species Act cut off private gorilla acquisitions. The Progressive Animal Welfare Society and the American Society of Zoological Parks and Aquariums met October 23 to review contingency plans for Ivan's hoped-for imminent move—but Borgert said she wouldn't make a relocation decision quickly.

Humane Enforcement

Concluding a three-year probe begun in September 1990, the USDA in October charged **American Airlines** with multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Seventy-one animals died aboard U.S. domestic flights in 1990, the worst toll since the USDA began monitoring air transport of pets in 1976. Numerous airlines were charged. 1992, however, was worse yet, as 50 puppies died aboard a single TWA flight from Missouri to St. Louis. The puppies were *en route* from breeders to pet shops.

In other recent USDA enforcement actions, Burlington Air Express was fined \$3,000 for transporting animals in improper cargo space and failing to monitor their health. **Mr. and Mrs. Stan Kopunec of Fairplay, Colorado**, were fined \$10,000 for operating a roadside zoo called **Western Safari Ranch** without a permit. **David and Marietta Thielen of the Gatorama** roadside zoo in Palmdale, Florida, were fined \$2,500 with \$5,000 suspended, for repeated violation of health and safety standards. Animal dealer **Ethel Muck, of Puppyland Kennel in Gordon, Nebraska**, was fined \$10,000; lost her license to sell animals for 10 years; was ordered to cease and desist from all dog

Judge Randolph Reeves of Montgomery County, Alabama, on October 14 fined a local architect \$500 for failing to give his dog heartworm medicine. The architect contended that Montgomery County Humane Society executive director Mary Mansour was out of line in ordering him to get veterinary care for the dog, campaigned against her in local media, and threatened to sue her, but Reeves would have none of it. Mansour, profiled here in July/August, apparently has the best conviction record of any cruelty officer in the U.S. who has handled at least 50 cases.

Police in Rochester, New Hampshire, are seeking vandals who massacred more than 3,000 fish, rabbits, snakes, turtles, iguanas, and reptiles September 29 at the TLC Pet Shop and Aquarium. Some victims were stabbed more than 20 times.

More than 130 animals at the Shanghai Zoo died during the summer from abuse by visitors, according to the *China Youth Daily*. Among them were 11 members of endangered species and eight members of other protected species. Most died from having been fed inappropriate objects such as plastic bags and metal bottle caps. In addition, a hippopotamus was injured from being poked in the eye with an umbrella, and golden monkeys kept in a protective cage were nonetheless harassed until they became seriously ill.

The New Jersey State Aquarium in early October killed or seriously injured more than a dozen tunny, a small relative of tuna, while trying to capture two for exhibit, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported. Last year the aquarium also caught tunny, all of whom died within days.

1993 United Nations Global Environmental Award winner Birute Galdikas, noted for field study of orangutans, helped open the Houston Zoo's new \$6.7 million primate exhibit on September 10. The natural habitat exhibit replaced a facility built in 1949. An elevated walkway enables visitors to view monkeys at close range as they swing through treetops in a rainforest planted to take advantage of the hot, humid Houston climate.

The Otto Orkin Insect Zoo at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. reopened September 12 after expansion and renovation. The work on the insect zoo, the first of its kind when founded in 1976, was funded with a grant of \$500,000 from the Orkin Pest Control company. Explained Orkin spokesperson Linda Linahan-Menna, "We're always trying to educate people about what are harmful insects and what are not."

Parc Safari at Hemmingford, Quebec, killed 79 of its 950 animals in mid-October due to an outbreak of tuberculosis. Agriculture Canada halted the killing of 207 more (mostly deer and bison) pending autopsies on the other suspected TB victims.

—ADVERTISEMENT—

Watertown, New York, has a new humane natural habitat zoo. Many thanks to all who helped. For cards and material on needed federal zoo and circus law, contact POB 428, Watertown, NY 13601-0428. Specify number.

Marine mammals

U.S. president Bill Clinton told Congress on October 4 that while the Norwegian resumption of commercial whaling in defiance of the International Whaling Commission warrants trade sanctions, he believes they should not be imposed "until we have exhausted all good faith efforts to persuade Norway to follow agreed conservation measures." Clinton did, however, direct his staff to inventory products imported from Norway that might be placed under embargo. Pending federal action, the Animal Welfare Institute on September 28 called a boycott of Norwegian fish, cheese, clothing, and sonar equipment. Alaska governor Walter Hickel meanwhile announced that he's reached a deal with Norway: Alaska won't criticize Norwegian whaling if Norway won't join an international tourist boycott called to protest the impending Alaskan wolf massacre (see "Wildlife," page 12). Iceland confirmed October 15 that it also intends to resume commercial whaling soon, likewise defying possible sanctions.

Autopsies of stranded whales indicating that many have suffered hearing loss have moved the National Marine Fisheries Service to consider limiting the amount of noise that can be made in U.S. waters. Oceanographers are upset over a proposed restriction of scientific sound-making to 120 decibels or less. A 1991 underwater signaling experiment involved a 209-decibel impulse. Dolphin calls average 220 decibels, ship engines 180, polar ice movement 150, and breaking waves 130. However, whales have been observed to avoid sounds of as little as 90 to 135 decibels. The open air threshold level for human pain is 110 to 120 decibels, but the underwater equivalent is 195 decibels.

The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks agreed October 20 to fund improved conditions for Keiko, the orca star of the film "Free Willy," including a new filtration and cooling system for Keiko's too-small tank, a better diet, and medical care for a serious skin condition. When Keiko recovers, AMMP hopes to move him from his present home at a Mexico City amusement park to a more appropriate facility in the U.S.

breeding during the next 10 years; was ordered to dispose of all of her animals within 60 days, to USDA-licensed dealers or exhibitors only; and was barred from engaging in any activity that would require a USDA permit. Muck was accused of multiple health and safety violations and failure to keep records on the acquisition, description, and identification of animals, which in USDA parlance often indicates suspicion of trafficking in stolen pets.

Activism

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled September 17 that *Eco Warriors* author Ric Scarce has no "scholar's privilege" to refuse to testify to a grand jury investigating an August 1991 Animal Liberation Front raid on Washington State University. The court ruled that neither scholars nor journalists have a legal privilege to withhold information from a grand jury. Scarce is believed to have sheltered fugitive Rod Coronado while the latter planned the raid. Coronado is under indictment for allegedly leading a similar raid at Michigan State University in early 1992, but has not been seen for about two years. Scarce has been in jail for refusing to testify since May. On October 5, Oregon activist Kim Trimview, 21, joined Scarce in jail for refusing to talk to the same grand jury, which had summoned her three times since

last March. Similar grand juries are sitting in Oregon, Michigan, Utah, and Louisiana.

October 1, the Alberta Crown Prosecutor appealed the suspended sentence given to Darren Thurston, 23, on August 19 in exchange for pleas of guilty on charges he burned trucks belonging to a fish company in December 1991 and broke into a University of Alberta laboratory in June 1992. The Crown is arguing that the sentence should have been three years in prison, in keeping with "the principle of general deterrence."

British Columbia Supreme Court Justice John Bouck on October 15 shocked 44 protesters who blocked a logging road in the Vancouver Island rainforest last summer with 45 days in jail apiece, except for a two-time offender who drew 60 days, plus fines of from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Among the jailed were B.C. Green Party leader Stuart Parker.

Crimes against humans

Los Angeles has a murder warrant out on Michael Anthony Leslie, 23, who on September 31 allegedly shot a German shepherd in the leg without provocation, and then fatally shot owner Transito Velado, 39, in front of his wife and five

children, laughing as he ran away. Nicknamed "Psycho," Leslie was on parole for manslaughter.

Los Angeles area police are also seeking alleged burglar Eric Ross Baer, 30, known for feeding pets as he sacks the loot.

Crimes against wildlife

October 6, the California Department of Fish and Game announced that a six-month undercover effort had culminated in the arrests of 12 alleged frog poachers and the seizure of 800 live bullfrogs from five different sites in the northern part of the state. The gang purportedly caught 1,400 frogs a week, taking in

\$15,000 a month by selling them to fish markets that serve the ethnic trade.

Jean-Marie Guillette, 42, of Stornoway, Quebec, has been fined a record \$45,625 on 27 charges resulting from his alleged role as leader of a gang that illegally captured whitetailed deer for resale to game ranchers and canned hunt

AGRICULTURE

A House/Senate conference committee agreed October 7 to raise the grazing fee on federal land from \$1.86 per animal unit month to \$3.45 over the next three years, and to increase government supervision of ranching activities on leased federal land. The higher fee—still far lower than the going rate for leasing privately owned grazing land—is expected to sharply reduce the number of cattle and sheep on the range in 16 western states. Final approval of the grazing bill is pending. October 16, both the House and the Senate voted to eliminate \$500 million in subsidies to the slumping sheep industry. Wool and lamb prices have fallen to record lows in each of the past three years. The American Sheep Industry Association predicted 25% to 30% of U.S. sheep ranches would go out of business.

The Vermont milk processing firms Stonyfield Farm and Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc. told media in early October that they would continue to purchase only milk produced without the use of the production-boosting synthetic hormone BST, and promote their products as BST-free, despite the threat of a lawsuit from Monsanto Inc., one of the four BST manufacturers.

The United Food and Commercial Workers union estimates that at least 50 of the 650 workers at the Lundy Packing Company pig slaughtering plant in Clinton, North Carolina, have contracted brucellosis during the past three years due to unsanitary conditions. The USDA has found 43 cases of significant human exposure to brucellosis bacteria among the 154 employees tested. Only 84 human cases of brucellosis were detected in the whole nation last year. The disease, usually found in cattle, can cause miscarriages.

The USDA is now providing 24-hour-a-day information on state and federal animal protection laws to dealers and exhibitors licensed under the Animal Welfare Act at 1-800-545-8732.

Agricultural engineer Robert Kok of McGill University in Montreal is designing a factory insect farm to produce 10,000 tons of

Fat City lunchroom

A USDA-sponsored survey of 545 schools released on October 25 found that 38% of the calories in the federally subsidized school lunches came from fat, 25% more than the dietary guidelines jointly published by the USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services. Fifteen percent of the calories came from saturated fat, 50% more than recommended—and the lunches contained two-thirds of the total recommended daily sodium intake. The excess fat and sodium comes largely from animal products supplied to the schools by the USDA. The research was done in 1992 by Mathematica Policy Research, of Princeton, New Jersey.

bug meat per day, for use in synthetic hamburgers and lunch meats. Press accounts have erroneously described such products as “vegetarian.” Large-scale insect farming for food is already underway in at least six nations.

October 2 “was the most successful observance ever of World Farm Animals Day,” says Farm Animal Reform Movement president Alex Hershafft, “with nearly 200 events throughout the U.S. and several other countries.” Hershafft began the annual day of protest against raising animals for meat in 1982.

Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Food Animals has moved to Box 18024, 2225 W. 41st Ave., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6M 4L3.

The Coalition for Non-Violent Food offers *Factories of Despair*, a brochure on factory farming, in bulk quantity for the price of postage. Inquire at Box 214, Planetarium Station, New York, NY 10024.

FUR IS STILL DEAD

Industry numbers confirm collapse, despite claims

Daniel A, the successor to the bankrupt Antonovich fur chain, itself declared bank-

Diet & Health

Men who eat a lot of animal fat, especially the fat from red meat, have more than two and a half times the risk of developing prostate cancer than men who eat little or none, a team of Harvard University and Mayo Clinic researchers reported in the October *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. The study investigated the eating habits of 47,855 men. Over 165,000 American men develop prostate cancer each year, often losing their sexual function in consequence; 35,000 American men per year die of prostate cancer.

The September 29 introduction of a vegetarian field ration for U.S. troops and foreign refugees who have religious scruples against eating meat became a public relations fiasco just a week later when a fruit snack included in it proved to contain gelatin made from the hooves of pigs. The manufacturer, Brock Candy of Chatanooga, Tennessee, said it had never been told not to use meat byproducts. The discovery came after 160,000 of the civilian version of the ration were dispatched for distribution to starving Bosnians and 55,000 were promised to India in the wake of the disastrous September 31 earthquake, which killed more than 10,000 people. Most of the recipients in Bosnia were to be Moslems, whose religion forbids eating pigs, while those in India were to be both Moslems and strictly vegetarian Hindus.

Federal district judge James Nowlin of Austin, Texas, on October 14 blocked the USDA's attempt to require labels explaining safe cooking on all packages of uncooked meat. The requirement was initially to take effect one day later, but on October 8 the USDA extended the deadline for compliance to April 15. Saying the USDA did not

follow proper procedures in imposing the safety labeling, Nowlin ruled on behalf of the National American Wholesale Grocers Association, the National Grocers Association, and the Texas Food Industry Association. The labeling was not contested by the American Meat Institute. The USDA immediately appealed Nowlin's verdict.

Archer Daniels Midland Co. and the Green Giant division of the Pillsbury Co. have teamed up to produce a new vegetarian burger, the Green Giant Harvest Burger, to be introduced in mainstream supermarkets nationwide this month. ADM and Pillsbury expect to sell \$100 million worth of the vegetarian burgers a year, more than the total sales of all meat substitutes now on the market. Right now the fastest growing meat substitute maker may be Yves Veggie Cuisine of Vancouver, British Columbia, begun 10 years ago by Yves Potvin, a 27-year-old Quebecois chef who bicycled across Canada in 55 days and didn't go home until he became a success. Now 37, Potvin employs 65 people, has sales of \$6.2 million a year, and has increased sales an average of 50% per year for the past nine years.

U.S. district judge Benson Legg on October 4 followed a precedent set last year by the New Jersey Supreme Court in striking down the Baltimore city kosher food ordinance. Legg ruled that the employment of rabbis to form the Bureau of Kosher Meat and Food Control violates the constitutional requirement that church and state be separated. The ruling reversed a fine of \$400 imposed on vendor George Bargout, 57, in 1990, for selling “kosher” hot dogs that had been contaminated with grease from non-kosher meat products.

Those who maintain “Meat is murder” may be cheered slightly to know the Baltimore homicide unit investigated the September 2 police shooting of a bull who escaped from the Charles J. Schmidt & Co. slaughterhouse. Explained the *Baltimore Sun*. “The unit looks into all incidents in which

PERFORMING ANIMALS

Iditarod race critic John Suter has poodle skeletons in closet

Reporter Doug O'Hara of the magazine *We Alaskans* revealed October 17 that Iditarod sled dog race critic John Suter, of Chugiak, Alaska, is "the man who drove poodles in the trans-Alaska race until the practice was effectively banned as inhumane two years ago." Suter has mailed more than 2,000 letters to animal rights groups since, alleging cruelty by trainers and breeders, including dicing cull puppies to feed adult dogs. His letters have been used as source material by numerous national organizations in organizing opposition to the Iditarod.

Before the Iditarod was restricted to "northern breeds," O'Hara wrote, Suter "garnered the sort of attention usually given an Iditarod champion—an invitation to the Johnny Carson show, for instance. But during the races, Suter's experiment with poodles constantly ran into problems. In 1989 one of his dogs froze to the ice on the McGrath runway. In 1990 another poodle had to be dipped in a hot tub in McGrath after becoming hypothermic. In 1991 one of Suter's poodles died in a blizzard outside Unalakleet."

Suter admits being "highly pissed off" over the poodle ban, but says revenge is not his goal.

The Anchorage-to-Nome race recently lost TV sponsors ABC-TV, Chrysler-Dodge, and Alascom telecommunications, but picked up Tesoro Alaska, an oil distributor. A new race-related scandal erupted October 1, however, as 1983 Iditarod and frequent Yukon 200 competitor Norman MacAlpine, 29, was charged with leaving 20 dogs to starve for five days in mid-September. Four died before the situation was discovered. "I fed the heck out of them before I left," MacAlpine said. "They just got sick and up and croaked."

ruptcy in early October. The high-profile collapse, on the heels of a previous collapse, underscored the continuing crash of the fur trade. Despite the Fur Information Council of America claim that retail fur sales rose to \$1.1 billion last year, ending a four-year decline, other data newly released by the fur trade itself confirms the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** projection based on garment and pelt prices that sales actually fell to between \$648 and \$750 million. Evans Inc., annually accounting for about 10% of U.S. fur sales, sold \$107 million worth of goods—but trim items with minimal fur content accounted for \$30.4 million of it. The fur trade claimed mink pelt prices were up 30%, but Wisconsin, accounting for nearly 25% of U.S. mink production, recorded a 16% drop in sales and a 13% drop in revenue, indicating only a marginal price rise. The number of U.S. fur garment wholesalers also fell, from 2,200 at the start of 1992 to just 1,500 going into this winter. Finally, a study of the fur trade done by Southwick Associates for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies confirms the accuracy of the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** model of fur trade economics, coming within 11% of the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** projections in 17 of 18 major categories of information. The only wider variance is in the estimates of retail jobs produced: Southwick found four times as many by counting all employees of retailers who sell fur, instead of counting only those who actually work in fur sales. The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** model was developed in early 1988 by editor Merritt Clifton, under contract with the Humane Society of the U.S., and has been used to produce yearly estimates of fur trade economic data ever since. The Southwick Associates model is based on 1990 statistics obtained directly from the fur trade and state wildlife departments.

About 14 million mink will be skinned in 1993, worldwide, according to Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection mink marketing production specialist Jim Smith. Global mink production in 1988 totaled 44 million, and came to 23 million in 1992. Approximately 9.6 million animals will be trapped for fur this year, worldwide, including about 2.5 million in the U.S., **ANIMAL PEOPLE** projections indicate.

Indigenous Alaskans killed 750 sea otters for fur and their genitals in the first six months of 1993, up sharply from about 200 in recent years. The genitals are sold to Asia as aphrodisiacs. Only indigenous Alaskans are allowed to hunt the otters, whose body parts may be sold only if used in "native handi-

crafts," but "native handicraft" is often loosely interpreted to include pelts only slightly modified. The indigenous Alaskans, the fishing industry, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game—the same one that wants to kill wolves to make moose and caribou more plentiful for trophy hunters—blame sea otters for a drop of two-thirds in the southeastern Alaska sea urchin population. Only about 2,000 sea otters survived when they first gained protection from fur hunters in 1911. There are now an estimated 100,000-150,000 in Alaska alone, and they again range as far south as California.

The Society for Animal Protective Legislation is petitioning the International Organization for Standardization to reject "humane" trap standards being developed by a technical committee dominated by fur interests. The proposed standards would permit use of so-called padded leghold traps. At sub-zero temperatures, the difference in impact on an animal's leg between the hard rubber padding and naked steel is nil. Get petitions from POB 3650, Washington, DC 20007.

Fur Free Friday is November 26. For details of the annual Friends of Animals demonstration in New York City, see page 10. The 7th annual Animal Rights Mobilization March Against Fur will be held at noon in Chicago, beginning from Daley Plaza. Numerous other events are scheduled in cities

police officers fire their weapons."

Animality ad

AESOP ad

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Must kindness have a reason?

Animal Welfare & Human Values by Rod Preece and Lorna Chamberlain. Wilfrid Laurier University Press (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3C5), 1993. 334 pages, hardcover, \$45.00 U.S.

Early in *Animal Welfare & Human Values*, authors Preece and Chamberlain acknowledge that, "Sometimes the philosophical complexities (of constructing arguments against cruelty) are greater than the difficulties of making judgements themselves." They then quote Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, the 18th century head of the English judiciary, who advised fellow judges to, "Consider what justice requires and decide accordingly. But never give your reasons; for your judgement will probably be right, but your reasons will certainly be wrong."

Why then write yet another learned tome on the philosophical rationale for animal protection? Respond the authors, "Tempted as one may be to forget the reasons and rely on the judgements, that is only fruitful once a degree of consensus has been reached on what interests (and in what proportions) are entitled to consideration—and to date there is no consensus."

Preece and Chamberlain attempt to advance the development of an intellectual consensus in favor of animal protection much as many others have before them, by outlining the objections most of us have to animal use and abuse in hunting and trapping, entertainment, biomedical research, and agriculture, together with closely reasoned arguments for their reform or abolition. Preece and Chamberlain acknowledge the efforts of their predecessors, but suggest consensus has not been achieved because previous arguments were flawed by partisanship. Presumably they believe their own arguments are less flawed because they come out on the side of "animal welfare," as a practical objective, rather than "animal rights." Overlooked is that opponents of animal protection tar animal welfarists with

have to be used instead. Either way, one will be used for research and may suffer but if the pound animal is not used then both the purpose-bred and the pound animal will die, one of them needlessly."

What if, instead of categorically refusing to sell animals for any biomedical use, shelters could set the sale price (traditionally set by law), and could review the procedures for which the animals would be used? Flexible pricing could put the Class B dealers and many of the purpose-breeders out of business, while humane society review of experiments could put an end to those that cause significant suffering for dogs and cats.

Preece and Chamberlain have opened a debate here that could fill a few books by itself. While it might make the animal protection community uncomfortable, the authors compensate a few chapters later by setting forth another argument that will equally irk the fur trade, and could be used against much other animal abuse as well. "It is significant," they write, "that the economic loss is deemed important when we consider the fur industry but is never suggested as a relevant factor when, say, we hear indignant voices raised against the pornography industry. Such voices rightly tell us that the moral issue is too great to allow economic considerations to outweigh it. Much of Canada is an ideal place to grow marijuana and the cash crop income would presumably exceed \$600 million a year (the maximum value of fur exports to Canada during the past decade) if it were legal."

Though the literary and historical scholarship Preece and Chamberlain put into *Animal Welfare & Human Values* is substantial, they seem oddly unfamiliar

What it means to lead a dog's life

The Hidden Life of Dogs, by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. Houghton Mifflin (215 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003), 1993, 148 pages, hardcover \$18.95. ISBN 0-395-66958-8.

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, who has studied primitive human cultures and wolves, in *The Hidden Life of Dogs* casts an anthropologist's eye on a species in some ways related to both. Like all such experiential narratives, hers is less hard science than informed observation. Her interpretation of life among a family of dogs (her own) is unashamedly anthropomorphic. She recognizes, too, the influence of her own emotional bonds and weighs them in the balance. The result is both informative and unexpectedly moving.

Fortunately for Thomas, dogs are not particularly secretive about their habits. Without direct human guidance, most will just naturally do what dogs do best. And, as she discovers, they don't mind if humans want to tag along. Her first subject, a friend's companion, wasn't especially bonded to her, and Thomas seemingly exerted very little influence on his behavior. Subsequently, dogs in her household received no overt training and were allowed to form their own hierarchy.

Dogs do go feral, of course, some willingly, others by necessity. Alone or in pairs, they seldom survive long. But packs of dogs, bound by loose ties to "owners", neighborhoods, or other base camps, manage handily for long periods of time, in all sorts of conditions. In time, the author's pack became almost feral, free to wander afield in all seasons, free enough to construct their own den in home territory.

But then, except for two pugs at the beginning, her pack was primarily huskies and some wild dog mixed breeds. Huskies are especially hardy dogs, close in behavior to the wolf, as Thomas aptly illustrates in several anecdotes. They're affec-

tionate and expressive, can become vicious if abused, and revert readily to feral ways.

A young dog like the subject "Misha" may wander until he or she establishes a pack. "Our" husky mix, Sherman, is content to stay home, but a sibling patrols the village all night (as do other dogs). Their mother went wild when the pups were born, hunting deer for them until she was destroyed. Any breed of dog, however, will join a pack if allowed to run free. As people who live in towns without leash laws will attest, packs can include spaniels, dachshunds, boxers and beagles, though they're usually led by mixed breed females.

Like the wolf and the human, each dog has her/his place in pack society, as well as appropriate rituals. To the dog, Thomas discovers, status is everything. Without status a dog cannot mate, care for her young or, in some cases, survive. The plight of the dingo, Viva, and her doomed pups is just one example. "From a dog's point of view," she writes, "[it] was unavoidable" that the dominant female in the pack would kill Viva's litter, to improve the odds of survival for her own. Though such situations may be difficult for humans to comprehend—and read about—to dogs they make perfect sense.

Thomas describes the dog's perspective vividly and with great compassion. At times her reactions veer from objective to passionate, yet she always remains true to her pursuit of the canine sensibility. *The Hidden Life of Dogs* is lucid and well crafted, often practical, occasionally spiritual. It's a celebration of life among dogs, each with a unique personality, each a product of his or her own species' ethic.

—Cathy Young Czaplá

the animal rights brush in public debate, not because they don't know one from the others, but because they do—and they want to frighten the uncommitted into rejecting any change in the status quo. Much of what Preece and Chamberlain have to say is accordingly beside the point. No matter how good their case, opponents of animal protection won't be moved; uncommitted people aren't likely to care enough to read their book; and those who will read it are already persuaded.

Although *Animal Welfare & Human Values* does not offer enough original insight to warrant the hefty price for any but the most dedicated scholar, it does include occasional provocative discussion. For instance, Preece and Chamberlain point out that abolishing pound seizure, a long-time goal of many activists, may actually increase animal suffering—even if random-source (Class B) dealers, bunching, and pet theft to supply biomedical research could be simultaneously halted. “Since, customarily at least, animals are only released from pounds after they have been scheduled for euthanasia,” they write, “if they are not then released a purpose-bred animal will

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with the present quantification of animal-related issues despite their background as chair and vice-chair of the Ontario SPCA. On page 126, for instance, and also on pages 144-145, they lament an alleged lack of verifiable information on the economics of the fur trade. They also cite a variety of purportedly conflicting statistics with no apparent awareness that they come from different years during the past decade, when fur sales, prices, trapping activity, and trapper income first hit all-time highs, then fell to their lowest levels since 1953. The facts they complain they don't have are right in front of them; they just don't know what they're looking at, even though the explanations are readily available from multiple sources in both animal protection and the fur trade itself. When they can't resolve such simple conflicts, one's faith in their ability to resolve the major conflicts involving animal welfare and human values must be rather slim.

—Merritt Clifton

The Golden Song, by Jan Brinckerhoff Chase. J.N. Townsend (12 Greenleaf Drive, NH 03833), 1993. 32 pages. \$16.95, hardback.

Pictures and story lilt across the pages of a sunny picture book about a little old lady, Mrs. Thackeray, who adores above all else her canary named Caruso. His happy music charms every moment of her otherwise quiet life. She recognizes his longing to join the wild canary flock that brightens her garden one day, but she fears that any avian companionship might end his singing. She broods about the potential loss, but finally gratitude and love impell her to the pet shop to choose a big cage and their prettiest female canary. When the others fly that night, and he and the cage come in, is she wrong to expect a cheerless silence where there had been joyful song?

It is good to see a book about feathered pets. I suspect this meets a real need for the many children who can only keep, or who prefer, birds as pets.

reduce 25%

A Gathering Of Cats, by Era Zistel. J.N. Townsend (12 Greenleaf Drive, NH 03833), 1993. 125 pages. \$11.95, paperback.

I sometimes share with the rulers of old a certain frustrated rage with messengers. Era Zistel does not exactly make me want to attack her as the messenger, but she does engage the reader's interest in each of her cat protagonists' uniqueness, for baby cuddliness, for aged gallantry, for friendship from the cat beyond gratitude for food and home, and then hits with the manner of the cat's demise. The cats in *A Gathering* were all once hers. Five fell to hunters, “for fun.” If I were a cat rescuer, like Zistel, this end for my cats might soon send me to join Jean Harris and other ladies of refinement turned convict, as a huntress of hunters. Another cat was accidentally euthanized upon arrival at a shelter, yet another by an unskilled and uncaring veterinarian. Such stories arouse disturbing emotion; but Zistel also beguiles and tantalizes with the mysteriousness of cats and their ways. Some of the protagonists are still alive, and of course give her great joy, and her readers will enjoy the skillful and loving photographs she uses throughout.

Peter Gethers and Norton. (Crown photo.)

A Cat Abroad, by Peter Gethers. Crown, 1993. 256 pages. \$16, hardback.

Norton, not diamonds, not blondes, not the ladylove, is Mr. Gethers' best friend. Norton is a small, quiet, self-assured, astute and worldly grey gentleman with flat ears. He is that aristocrat, a Scottish Fold, the hero of Mr. Gethers' previous book, *Norton: The Cat Who Went to Paris*. Norton is the cynosure of all as he travels about the south of France in a shoulder bag enjoying Provencal cuisine, the scenery and populace with perfect aplomb. The French, often accused of hauteur, really warm up to a feline guest in their restaurants and hotels, as what greater challenge could there be than to please a Discriminating Taste? A cat won't patronize with civilities when things aren't up to four-star standards. Provence enthusiasts and cat aficionados will find recreation in these pages.

—Phyllis Clifton

[Phyllis Clifton is a retired schoolteacher, now living in Concrete, Washington.]

Stolen For Profit: How The Medical Establishment Is Funding A National Pet Theft Conspiracy, by Jude Reitman. Pharos Books (New York), 1993.

[Reviewed for Rocky Dell Resources, a library information bulletin; reprinted by permission.]

The *Stolen For Profit* jacket blurb informs the reader that author Judith Reitman is an "investigative journalist," but her book owes far more to romance novels than it does to hardnosed and accurate reporting. In purple prose worthy of a Danielle Steele, Reitman recounts several stories of pet theft—stories which were fully described in newspaper accounts that were presented to Congress upon the introduction of the Pet Theft Act in September 1988. She has taken these stories and created docu-melodramas out of them, in which dialogue, often suggestive, is attributed to the players. Witness this passage describing Barbara Ruggiero, during her trial for stealing dogs in California:

As Barbara smiled at her attorney, her cheeks dimpled, she wore no makeup and looked very demure.

"How does a girl get so many men to do those things for her?" a woman in the gallery wondered aloud. There has been much speculation about Barbara's method of coercion.

While a fascination with Ms. Ruggiero's dimples and seductiveness may be appropriate to pulp fiction, it and many similar passages only serve to distract readers from the serious issue of pet theft. One wishes the author had shown the same eye for detail and context when dealing with the facts, cases, and laws of pet theft. Reitman cites no sources. And her book is filled with breathless conspiracy theories, which are based on little or no evidence and are at best implausible.

One egregious example of Reitman's obsessive attempt to find conspiracies where none exist involves **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton's 1992 national survey of pet owners to ascertain the incidence of pet theft. Reitman devotes a chapter to outlining the supposedly hidden agenda behind this survey, implying that Clifton (a journalist, then with *Animals' Agenda* magazine) was somehow subverted by a grant the magazine received from the Parks Trust (which only funds animal protection projects) to produce a report that found the number of stolen

BOOK REVIEWS

pets was much lower than the estimates produced by Mary Warner of the advocacy group Action 81, and further found that not all of the stolen pets were ending up in research laboratories. The basis for Reitman's claim is that Dr. Andrew Rowan of the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine was the chair of the grants committee that decided to make the award for a pet theft study to *Animals' Agenda*. Reitman infers that because Tufts has received large donations from the founder of a laboratory animal breeding concern, Rowan could have been influenced to "buy" a survey favorable to the animal suppliers' interests. This elaborately constructed theory has so many holes it is hard to know where to begin pointing them out.

Anybody who has even passing familiarity with university structure should be well aware, to cite a parallel example, that because the University of California at Davis receives very large sums of money from animal agribusiness does not then mean that faculty member Dr. Ned Buyukmihci, cofounder of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights, is secretly serving their interests. One needs at least some evidence before making such a leap. Second, the grants committee of the Parks Trust consists of five other persons, in addition to Rowan, who represent animal welfare and animal rights organizations. Since all decisions are made at an annual meeting, presumably they too would have been part of the conspiracy. Third, the notion that anybody could buy Merritt Clifton's opinion is the most outrageous claim of all. Clifton is controversial and a number of activists disagree with some of his positions and articles, sometimes strongly. But even those who have been strongly criticized by Clifton agree that it is just not possible to buy him. Finally, if one reads Clifton's report on pet theft, he actually parts with Mary Warner only on a matter of degree. Warner insists that more than two million dogs and cats are stolen per year. Clifton found that the actual number is a still appalling 800,000, and that about 600,000 of these animals end up in research and educational institutions while most of the rest are victims of individual sadistic abuse.

Reitman also gets her history wrong. The successful campaign for the passage of the Pet Theft Act of 1990

should be a central element in any book that deals with pet theft. Unfortunately, it gets scant treatment, and the few pages devoted to the law are filled with inaccuracies. For example, Reitman implies that a key figure behind the passage of the act was Mary Warner. Most people familiar with the issue would agree that Mary Warner has run a tireless crusade to deal with pet theft, but she was only one person among many individuals and organizations who worked for the passage of the act. The author's talent for innuendo and inference is demonstrated by her statement that, "Senator Ford's files bulged with documentation on pet theft...The figures presented to Congress came from a lady in Virginia who had started a citizens' network to battle nationwide pet theft. Ford told legislators, 'Few people in this country know more about pet theft than Mary Warner.'"

It is true that few people know more about pet theft than Mary Warner. It is also true that her data was submitted to Senator Ford (by representatives of the American Humane Association, because to my knowledge, Mary Warner did not lobby Congress in person). However, the inference that Warner's data led to the passage of the Pet Theft Act is without foundation. Senator Ford's filing cabinets were bulging with information submitted by the AHA, Massachusetts SPCA, and Humane Society of the U.S., whose lobbyists along with those of other organizations did the vital ground work among Congressional staff that lies behind and is essential for the passage of any piece of legislation. Finally all those who actually lobbied for the bill knew that Mary Warner's material was not in a form that was suitable for submission to Congress, and thus her statistics and stories had at best minimal impact upon either Congress or others involved in the campaign.

Today, pets are still being stolen. Numerous unscrupulous individuals continue to profit off the brokering and suffering of these thousands of animals. We are in need of a serious investigative report on pet theft, that goes beyond old newspaper stories and tabloid scenarios to fully examine the economic incentives and bureaucratic inadequacies that allow this criminal trade to continue. Ms. Reitman has not provided this much needed book.

—Adele Douglas.

[Adele Douglass, Washington D.C. director for the AHA, coordinated the campaign for the passage of the Pet Theft Act, and continues to lobby for effective enforcement.]

OBITUARIES

Dates &

CLASSIFIEDS

Greg Miller, 38, cofounder of the **Primarily Primates sanctuary** in San Antonio, Texas, died October 7 at his home in Allegan, Michigan, of complications resulting from a prolonged bout with AIDS. Local newspapers took note of his courage. "Greg's greatest joy in life was working with animals," relatives agreed. He joined Wallace Swett in starting **Primarily Primates** in 1978, after gaining experience with monkeys during a stint at the San Antonio Zoo, and remained involved with the sanctuary until 1988.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Mickey, who loved little animals.
—Kim and Rousseau

In memory of Mickey, the little feller, who died September 4, 1993, age 17 years.
—D.E. Reynolds

In memory of Zenith.
—Lair Scott

Gunalan Subramaniam of Humane Ethics for Animal Life requests donations of literature to be used in connection with a major exhibition on animal protection to be held next July. Address **HEAL at BLK 25, #09-203, Marsiling Drive, Singapore 2573.**

Projects

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

November 5: "The Sociology & Politics of the Animal Research Controversy," 10th anniversary seminar of the Tufts Center for Animals & Public Policy, in Grafton, Mass. Info: 508-839-7991.

November 13: Vegetarian Society of South Jersey health expo, in Westhampton, N.J. (Info: 609-983-3964), followed by Animals Need You vegetarian dinner dance in Ridgefield, N.J. (Info: 201-866-8968).

November 14-30: Get info on Thanksgiving vegetarian potlucks in the Philadelphia area from 215-887-0816.

November 20: Thanksgiving potluck in Moorestown, N.J., held by the Vegetarian Society of S. Jersey. Info: 609-983-3964.

November 21: Thanksgiving potluck in Baltimore, held by the Vegetarian Resource Group. Info: 410-366-VEGE..

November 25: Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Vegetarian Society of Washington D.C. Info: 301-889-0722.

November 26: Fur Free Friday. See ad, page 10, and "Fur" news section.

Religion & Animals

Blessings of animals were held in churches around the world on October 3, the feast day of St. Francis, with the biggest at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, coordinated this year by Mary Bloom, whose photos often appear in **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. The blessing that got the most media attention, however, was at the Philadelphia Police Administration Building two days earlier, where the Rev. David. Hockensmith of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Frankford, Pennsylvania, blessed five German shepherds and four patrol horses, including Bart, a retired sulky racer.

"We'll take whatever help we can get," said police Sgt. Theresa Young.

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