



Lawsuit filed on behalf of camel jockeys & other camel news is on page 6. (Kim Bartlett)

## DOGS SYMBOLIZE THE WEST IN IRAN

**TEHRAN**—Radio Free Europe on September 14, 2007 amplified and elaborated upon accounts circulating for more than six weeks that Iran has embarked upon an intensified campaign of harassment against dog keepers.

“Since the creation of the Islamic republic in Iran in 1979,” Radio Free Europe said, “the acceptability of dog ownership has been debated by the authorities.

Friday prayer leader Hojatolislam Gholamreza Hassani, known for his hard-line stances, was quoted a few years ago as saying that all dog owners and their dogs should be arrested.

“In the past,” Radio Free Europe recounted, “dog owners have received warnings or were forced to pay fines for having a pet dog. Despite such harassment, (continued on page 9)

## European Parliament moves to halt monkey use in labs

Malaysia lifts ban on macaque sales to labs &



Malaysian street macaques await possible sale to labs or Chinese butchers. [Page 19] (IPPL photo)

**STRASBOURG**—Four hundred thirty-five of the 785 members of the European Parliament on September 6, 2007 endorsed a two-part written declaration asking the European Commission to “make ending the use of apes and wild-caught monkeys in scientific experiments an urgent priority,” and to “establish a timetable for replacing the use of all primates in scientific experiments.”

The declaration against primate use

drew more support than any previous European Parliament animal welfare measure, “and the third highest number of signatures on any declaration since 2000,” said Animal Defenders International press officer Allison Tuffrey Jones.

European Parliament animal welfare panel chair Neil Parish enlarged the topic to other species, telling news media that the dec- (continued on page 19)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care

About Animals

**September 2007**  
**Volume XVII, #6**



## + Michael Vick case blows whistle on

**RICHMOND, Virginia**—Pleading guilty on August 24, 2007 to felony conspiracy, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick will face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 when he appears before U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson for sentencing on December 10.

By then the 50 surviving pit bull terriers who were seized in April 2007 from the dogfighting kennel that Vick confessed to financing for seven years may have already received the death penalty.

Vick agreed to plead guilty after co-defendants Quanis L. Phillips, 28, Purnell Peace, 35, and Tony Taylor, 34, pleaded guilty to the same conspiracy charge. Each had agreed to testify against Vick if his case went to trial.

Vick admitted in a signed statement that he was present twice when his co-defendants killed losing dogs after test fights at the Surry County property where his kennels and a fighting arena were maintained. The statement said the dogs “were killed by various methods, including hanging and drowning.”

Following Vick’s guilty plea, National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Vick for “cruel and reprehensible” conduct and “significant involvement in illegal gambling,” an offense often punished in professional sports by lifetime expulsion.

Seeking to save his career, Vick apologized at a press conference to Goodell,

Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, coach Bobby Petrino, his teammates, and “all the young kids out there for my immature acts.”

“Dogfighting is a terrible thing, and I did reject it,” Vick said.

“Acceptance of responsibility is one of the factors Judge Hudson will consider in handing down Vick’s sentence,” pointed out Dave Forster of the *Virginian-Pilot*. For a first offense, “The federal sentencing guideline range is projected at a year to 18 months, but Hudson can impose up to maximum.”

Technically Vick is still a member of the Atlanta Falcons, because of financial issues involved in unconditionally releasing him. “The team intends to pursue the \$22 million in bonus money that he already received in a \$130 million contract signed in 2004,” wrote Forster.

“We cannot tell you today that Michael is cut from the team,” Blank told news media. “Cutting him today may feel better emotionally for us and many of our fans. But it’s not in the long-term best interests of our franchise.”

Sixty-six dogs in all were seized from Vick’s kennels, including 52 pit bulls, 13 beagles and mixed breeds, and one dog who was returned to a person who was not charged in the case. Impounded dogs who have been bred and trained to fight are usually killed as soon as their custody is forfeited to the impounding agency, since ex-fighting (continued on page 14)



Above: Kitten rescued from quake rubble in Pisco, Peru, by Unidos por los Animales. Below: One of the many forest fires that hit Central Europe in midsummer 2007 briefly imperiled the Drustvo Za Zastitu Zivotinja dog shelter, overlooking Dubrovnik. All 200 dogs were safely evacuated.

## Summer 2007 disasters challenge the global humane community

**LIMA, DHAKA, GUWATI**—Busy in Peru, Bangladesh, northeastern India, around the Caribbean, and forest fire zones in central Europe and the northern Rocky Mountains, among other disaster scenes, and still working in New Orleans too, animal disaster relief workers took only brief notice of the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina hitting southern Louisiana and Mississippi. Few noticed at all the 15th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew ripping through trailer parks and low-income suburbs in southern Florida after all but jumping over the affluent east coast.

Bringing relief teams into areas that were decades behind much of the rest of the U.S. in providing even basic humane services, Hurricanes Andrew and Katrina transformed humane outreach from providing brief emergency help to preparing for multi-phase sustained missions.

Hurricane Andrew demonstrated the need for pre-prepared response plans, inter-agency coordination, and orderly means of identifying, evacuating, and rehoming lost or abandoned pets whose people may also be displaced and distressed.

Out of Hurricane Andrew came programs that gradually shifted from splinting and bandaging to vaccinating and sterilizing dogs and cats, some of which evolved into sustained feral cat rescue projects and adoption transport networks.

Hurricane Katrina tested on an unprecedented scale the infrastructure developed from the Hurricane Andrew experience, confirmed the power of the Internet in rallying response, and as donors responded, brought commitments from national humane organizations to not only rebuild but expand humane services throughout the stricken region.

(continued on page 12)



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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES



Editorial feature

How to eradicate canine rabies in 10 years or less

“Rabies could be gone in a decade,” BBC News headlined worldwide on September 8, 2007. “Rabies could be wiped out across the world,” the BBC report continued, “if sufficient vaccinations are carried out on domestic dogs, according to experts.”

BBC News went on to quote staff of the Royal Dick Veterinary School at Edinburgh University in Scotland, who were among the cofounders of the Alliance for Rabies Control and promoters of the first World Rabies Day, held on September 7, 2007.

None of the Alliance for Rabies Control spokespersons appear to have actually set any sort of timetable for possibly eradicating rabies, but no matter. Experts have recognized for decades that rabies is wholly eradicable from all species except bats through targeted mass immunization—and the chief obstacle to eradicating bat rabies is that no one has developed an aerosolized vaccine that could be sprayed into otherwise inaccessible caves and tree trunks. Inventing such a vaccine is considered difficult but possible.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control rabies program chief Charles Rupprecht on World Rabies Day formally pronounced the U.S. free of canine rabies, but similar informal proclamations have been issued for years.

“The tools for effective rabies control are available. What is lacking is the motivation, commitment and resources to tackle the disease effectively,” the Alliance for Rabies Control declared. “Mass vaccination of the domestic dog provides the most cost-effective and efficient strategy for controlling canine rabies and hence transmission from dogs to humans,” the Alliance elaborated. “Lacking are the delivery systems, public education campaigns and resources to apply these technologies in the developing world.”

Asserting that rabies kills 100 children per day, worldwide, the Alliance for Rabies Control acknowledged that “Rabies is also a concern for animal welfare, as fear of the disease results in hostile and antagonistic attitudes towards dogs and often inhumane approaches to dealing with suspected rabid dogs by communities.”

The Alliance for Rabies Control emphasizes the need to expand dog vaccination against rabies in Asia and Africa.

“In Asia and Africa,” the Alliance for Rabies Control points out, “the domestic dog is the main reservoir for rabies. As rabies is generally maintained only in a single reservoir population in any given area, control of disease in this population will result in its disappearance from all other species. This has been demonstrated with the elimination of rabies following oral vaccination of foxes in western Europe, where red foxes are the reservoir host. Results from research projects in eastern Africa show that mass vaccination of domestic dogs has the same result, even in areas such as the Serengeti ecosystem, which comprise a wide diversity of wildlife species. When sufficient domestic dogs are vaccinated, rabies also declines in wildlife, and human exposures to the rabies virus are significantly reduced.”

“In areas where there is a high prevalence of rabies, such as Africa and Asia, “the Alliance for Rabies Control added, “the need for vaccination has often been overlooked, despite the fact this would cost less than other health care programs,” including administering post-exposure rabies immunization to save dog bite victims.

The Alliance for Rabies Control strongly favors post-exposure immunization, as well as prophylactic vaccination, but points out that post-exposure immunization is not a rabies suppression strategy, because it does not neutralize the host reservoir.

Subsidized post-exposure vaccination is the standard response to rabies in India, China, and much of Africa. Post-exposure vaccination saves thousands of lives annually, despite many failures when dog bite victims fail to seek treatment soon enough, do not complete the full course of injections, or receive fake, expired, or obsolescent vaccines, a problem particularly prevalent in parts of India and China, where post-exposure vaccines are often made by local suppliers, using formulas elsewhere long abandoned.

While post-exposure vaccination is essential, and should continue, with improvement to achieve consistently positive results, progress toward eliminating rabies has been markedly faster in nations that have emphasized preventively vaccinating dogs. Argentinian

medical doctor Oscar Larghi demonstrated during the mid-1990s, for example, that inexpensive three-month dog vaccination drives could succeed in even the largest and poorest shanty-towns. Larghi also demonstrated that while reducing the street dog population may be of some value in reducing the numbers of dogs to be vaccinated, dog population reduction is not otherwise a significant or essential part of an effective rabies control strategy.

Reported Larghi to the members of the International Society for Infectious Diseases in May 1998, “Control of rabies in developing countries can be very successful if based on appropriate planning, health education of human populations, 70% vaccine coverage of dog populations, and epidemiological surveillance. These parameters, with little emphasis in dog population reduction (less than 10% of the estimated population), were applied in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, Argentina (10.5 million inhabitants), Lima-Callao, Peru (6.5 million inhabitants), and Sao Paulo, Brazil (14 million inhabitants). Dog rabies cases were reduced to zero, from close to 5,000 cases per year in Buenos Aires, 1,000 in Lima, and 1,200 in Sao Paulo.”

In each city, the rabies control teams impounded and euthanized only dogs who appeared to be already rabid, aggressive, or otherwise severely unhealthy.

The preventive vaccination approach also works in wildlife. Anne Arundel County, Maryland, for example, had 97 cases of animal rabies in 1997, when county officials began experimentally distributing oral rabies vaccine pellets to immunize raccoons. Gradually expanding the program, the county had just 10 animal rabies cases in 2006.

An attempt begun a year earlier to eradicate coyote rabies in Texas, by air-dropping vaccine bait pellets, achieved a 98% reduction of canine rabies in all species by 1998.

As long ago as 1973, William Winkler, M.D., of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned in the National Academy of Sciences’ handbook *Control of Rabies*, that “Persistent trapping or poisoning campaigns as a means to rabies control should be abolished. There is no evidence,” Winkler wrote, “that these costly and politically attractive programs reduce either wildlife reservoirs or rabies incidence.” Similar language has appeared ever since in the *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention & Control*, an annual publication of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians.

Good examples and bad

Agriculture and Rural Development director Ferreira da Conceição of Lunada province, Angola, took the necessary approach in August 2007, directing a three-week drive that vaccinated 63,544 dogs, cats, monkeys, livestock, and work animals.

But a more discouraging example emerged in Addis Ababa, the national capital of Ethiopia, just a month after the Homeless Animal Protection Society of Ethiopia seemed to be making headway toward establishing a high-volume dog sterilization and vaccination program after seven years of struggle. As with other sterilization and vaccination programs around the world, the vaccination component would be the essential element in rabies prevention. Sterilization would stabilize the dog population to prevent the other complaints about dogs’ presence and behavior that so often causes public officials to seize upon even the vaguest hint of a rabies outbreak as an excuse to kill dogs.

As the July/August 2007 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** recounted, HAPS in June 2007 rescued four street dogs from a 70-year-old gun emplacement where they had been dumped to die, British songwriter Maria Daines’ recording *One Small Dog*, written in appreciation of the rescue and titled in honor of the bravest dog, on August 2, 2007 reached the #1 position on the Soundclick pop rock chart.

Daines donated all proceedings from her surprise hit to HAPS, but HAPS cofounders Hana Kifle and Efreem Legese had little to celebrate.

HAPS had won a contract from the Addis Ababa government to sterilize and vaccinate street dogs. The contract enabled them to operate a clinic, but the contract was unfunded. As a little-known charity in a remote location, HAPS had difficulty attracting the support required to treat the half million dogs in Addis Ababa who must be sterilized and vaccinated to reach the 70% target necessary to stabilize the dog population and prevent rabies from spreading among them.

Revoking the contract, and HAPS’ authorization to run the clinic, Addis Ababa officials announced that they would use strychnine to poison as many dogs as possible to try to eradicate rabies before the mid-September celebration of the Coptic millennium.

Thereby, the officials demonstrated that they had learned little more about rabies control, animal population management, and urban sanitation than might have been known to the Queen of Sheba, who reputedly lived near Addis Ababa about 3,000 years ago.

Poisoning street dogs had already been introduced as long as 2,000 years earlier in Egypt—and poisoning campaigns that caused dog populations to briefly crash might have contributed to the conditions that drew African desert cats into Egyptian cities to hunt rats and mice. Those cats became the progenitors of today’s domestic house cats and feral cats. Under pressure of medieval cat purges, domestic and feral cats approximately quadrupled their fecundity: the mummified remains of early Egyptian cats reveal that they had only two kittens per litter and one litter per year, like African desert cats, but modern house cats and feral cats often have litters of four or more kittens, and raise two litters per year if conditions permit.

Public policymakers have pursued backward and self-defeating animal control strategies since the dawn of civilization because the logic of exterminating animals who are perceived as nuisances appears inescapable: kill them and they will be no more. Dead animals do not reproduce, the policymakers reason. Neither do dead animals transmit deadly diseases, like rabies, which can only be spread through live hosts.

Yet life had already evolved a counter-strategy many hundreds of millions of years before humans existed. All species, from the rabies virus to blue whales, reproduce up to the carrying capacity of their habitat, as rapidly as possible. If one species succumbs to disease, disaster, or predation so rapidly that it cannot fill the habitat, another species moves in. Never does nature allow habitat to go unoccupied.

Until the carrying capacity of cities for free-roaming mid-sized predators and scavengers is permanently reduced by instituting effective sanitation, campaigns to exterminate street dogs, feral cats, or any other established resident species merely exchanges those animals for others. Killing dogs and cats not only removes a major check on the growth of the rat and mouse population, for instance, but invites in more problematic species to take their places.

Many Asian cities now have hard-to-control populations of feral pigs, macaques, and even jackals, leopards, and cobras in their suburbs, in consequence of rapidly reducing dog populations through sterilization in the more enlightened communities, and elsewhere through the combined effects of extermination and great increases in motor vehicle traffic.

Policymakers in the developing world often seek for their cities the superficially animal-free appearance of a “modern” city that they see in Europe and the U.S., equating this with ridding themselves of rabies. But casual outdoor observation of European and U.S. cities by daylight is deeply deceptive. European and American cities support even more dogs, cats, and wild animals per thousand humans than the cities of the developing world. They have merely achieved a transition from hosting outdoor animals, seen in daytime, to hosting mostly indoor pets and nocturnal wildlife.

(continued on page 4)

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Publisher: Kim Bartlett – anpeople@whidbey.com

Editor: Merritt Clifton – anmlpepl@whidbey.com

Web producer: Patrice Greanville

Associate web producer: Tammy Sneath Grimes

Newswire monitor: Cathy Young Czapla

P.O. Box 960

Clinton, WA 98236-0960

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# How to eradicate canine rabies in 10 years or less (from page 3)

Motor vehicles, rather than any animal control strategies, appear to be the major transitional agents. Motor vehicle traffic reduces street dog populations by killing dogs, obviously enough, but this is the least of the vehicular impacts, and is no different in effect from animal control killing. Busy streets also isolate dogs from each other, inhibiting reproduction. Most important, replacing urban grain storage for work animals with gasoline stations steeply reduces the numbers of rats accessible to dogs. Replacing work animals with cars and trucks also eliminates animal droppings from the streets, an important "filler" food for street dogs.

As street dogs disappear, ceding scavenging roles to raccoons and opossums in the U.S., and pigs and monkeys in much of the rest of the world, feral cats proliferate.

The same factors affect the cat population, but cats are smaller, so are better able to survive on the remaining food sources, without canine competition. Cats are also better able to prey upon mice and rats who live indoors, and cats are able to spend their days away from traffic on rooftops or in crawl spaces, hunting by night.

If feral cat populations steeply diminish, as has occurred in the U.S. and Britain during the past 15-20 years through the introduction of feral cat sterilization programs, the habitat niches that the cats formerly filled are taken over by urbanized wild predators including coyotes, foxes, fishers, bobcats, hawks, owls, and eagles.

But neither dogs nor cats actually decline in numbers, as illustrated by comparing data collected by pioneering dog and cat population ecologist John Marbanks in 1947-1950, when canine rabies still raged in the U.S., to the findings of more recent studies.

Sixty years ago, just after World War II, the mechanization of transportation and establishment of urban sanitation were about as advanced in the U.S. as they are today in Ethiopia, India, and much of the rest of Africa and Asia, as well as Latin America. Not surprisingly, Marbanks found that about 30% of the U.S. dog population were what we would now term street dogs, and about 30 million cats were what we would now term feral, a situation comparable to what we now see in the developing world.

Marbanks estimated that there were only 600,000 street dogs in the already heavily motorized Northeast, but were 3.5 million in the South and 2.3 million in the Midwest, the two most agrarian parts of the U.S.

More than 20 years passed before the U.S. dog and cat populations were again studied in depth. By then, in the early 1970s, the U.S. street dog population had disappeared. The feral cat population rose in the absence of street dogs to a peak of about 40 million circa 1990, then fell with the advent of neuter/return to today's levels of about six million in winter, 12 million in summer.

In the interim, the number of cars and miles driven in the U.S. had tripled. The pet dog and cat populations rose proportionate to the human population. The pet dog population increased by just about exactly as much as the street dog population declined. The biomass of dogs and cats relative to human population remained almost the same.

Canine rabies was already close to elimination, but not because there were fewer dogs. Rather, canine rabies had nearly disappeared because unvaccinated street dogs had been replaced by an almost equal number of vaccinated pets.

## Carrying capacity

In effect, mechanization of transport and improvements in urban sanitation reallocated the carrying capacity of the human environment. Instead of supporting dogs and cats who lived directly off of refuse and rodents, the human environment evolved to support dogs and cats who lived on refuse that was processed into pet food, fed to them in human homes.

This same reallocation of carrying capacity has occurred in western Europe, and is occurring now in eastern Europe, India, China, Ethiopia, and wherever else economic development is transforming former hubs of agrarian commerce into technologically developed modern cities.

Paving streets tends to eliminate feral pigs, since pigs need mud to wallow in. That tends to leave more habitat to monkeys, if free-roaming dogs disappear—mostly macaques in Asia, baboons in Africa. Macaques and baboons do not run from feral cats, bite more often and more dangerously than dogs, are capable of transmitting more deadly diseases to humans than any other animals even though they rarely carry rabies, can outclimb cats, and are often smarter than the public policymakers whose misguided ideas about animal control invite their presence.

Completely eliminating rabies from Addis Ababa and other major cities in the developing world would be a big job, but Larghi's vaccination efforts in Latin America were bigger still. Such a program in Addis Ababa would appear to have

public support, as the plan to poison dogs was not well-accepted, even among Muslims who told reporters—wrongly—that the Prophet Mohammed forbade keeping dogs as pets.

"Dogicide is an act that should be condemned in the strongest words possible," wrote Kassahun Addis of the *Sub-Saharan Informer* weekly newspaper.

Similar defenses of dogs have emerged around the world in recent years wherever dog purges have been waged or even rumored—even in nations with long histories of repressing dissent.

Ahead is the urgent task of educating policymakers about urban ecology and more humane and effective methods of animal control, of which rabies control is part.

Equally important is educating policymakers about how to successfully enlist the support of pro-animal donors and foundations.

Governments have been handing off responsibility for animal control to humane societies by making heavy-handed threats to kill animals by cruel means for 130 years now, beginning in 1877 when the Women's Humane Society of Philadelphia took over the Philadelphia pound to halt the practices of clubbing and drowning dogs and cats.

Of note is that the response of the U.S. humane community included significant wrong turns, which actually delayed the eradication of canine rabies by decades.

American SPCA founder Henry Bergh resisted pressure to take over the New York City pounds, accurately perceiving that the job would sap the ability of the ASPCA to do effective anti-cruelty advocacy, but seven years after Bergh's death the ASPCA did assume the pound job and held it for the next 100 years, killing more than a quarter of a million dogs and cats per year in the 1960s, mostly by gas.

Humane societies increasingly felt themselves compelled to take responsibility for animal control sheltering after policymakers discovered the persuasive effect of selling animals to laboratories. The American Humane Association, as the only national humane society in the U.S. before the mid-20th century, responded by urging humane societies to take animal control contracts—and to boycott compulsory rabies vaccination, as vaccine development and production were perceived as unacceptably cruel to laboratory animals and the sheep whose brains were used to make the early rabies vaccines. (The sheep brain vaccines were long ago replaced in

(continued on page 5)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite readers to submit letters and original unpublished commentary—please, nothing already posted to a web site—via e-mail to <anmlpepl@whidbey.com> or via postal mail to: **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, P.O. Box 960, Clinton, WA 98236 USA.

### Trying to stop net-&-bolt deer killing

About a year ago, I became informed about net-and-bolt deer killing, which is now going on in several cities here in New Jersey, and is extensively practiced around the U.S.

In net-and-bolt deer culls, deer are baited and trapped in nets (usually more than one at a time), and held to await execution by an "authorized agent," who usually has no veterinary experience or other experience in killing animals with minimal pain and distress. The deer are killed by firing a steel bolt into their heads.

Killing hooved animals with a captive bolt gun is approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association for use in slaughterhouses and other situations in which the bolting can be done quickly and accurately, with minimal awareness by the victim animal that something bad is about to happen. However, netting and bolting deer causes great

pain and distress. The deer often do not die instantly. Instead, they may receive several boltings before death, because in order to cause instant death, the bolt must hit a certain part of the brain. This is almost impossible because the netted deer are flailing and throwing themselves around, making it impossible to target one particular spot, which is much smaller for a deer than for cattle, pigs, horses, and sheep, the species for whom the AVMA recommendation was developed. Netted and bolted deer suffer a slow, excruciating death, not to mention broken limbs resulting from their struggles to escape from the nets.

Several of us are banding together to fight this, but we need more support, more help. Please, if there is anything that you can do, contact me.

—Jessica Ross  
Princeton, N.J.  
<ross.jessie@gmail.com>

### Humane Research Council info site

The Humane Research Council recently launched a website, <www.HumaneSpot.org>, which is a free online resource designed exclusively for animal advocates.

<www.HumaneSpot.org> provides HRC's comprehensive research database, which **ANIMAL PEOPLE** readers might find particularly interesting. The database has about 450 records currently, including many full reports, and we are adding new items at a rate of 10-15 per week. Our goal is to make this website the most comprehensive database of opinion and behavior research available to animal advocates, and we are already well on our way.

In addition to the database, animal advocates can sign up for "humane spotlights" that deliver new

research and data to them via e-mail and/or RSS. These spotlights can be personalized to match users' interests and preferred e-mail frequency. <www.HumaneSpot.org> is also home to several case studies, articles, and independent research reports provided by HRC.

Those who are actively involved in animal protection work can register for free access to these and other resources provided on <www.HumaneSpot.org>. Working together, we can all be more informed and more effective for the animals.

—Che Green  
Humane Research Council  
P. O. Box 6476  
Olympia, WA 98507  
Phone: 206-905-9887  
<www.humanespot.org>



### PetSmart rabbits

"The House Rabbit Society is hopping mad at PetSmart," in the July/August 2007 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, shows the influence that animal organizations can have against the pet trade, and that animal rights and welfare organizations have had an impact on the huge "Pet Factory Farms." Despite the obvious profitability of selling animals, PetSmart is listening and is working with groups such as the House Rabbit Society, and is selling dwarf rabbits who have already been sterilized. We at The Angry Parrot strongly support the House Rabbit Society, and are here to assist them as needed.

PetSmart recently chose to try parrot adoptions in some stores. We support this idea. We maintain that parrots are not pets, but we would rather see unwanted parrots adopted than have people purchase them as cute babies, to grow up to be yet more unwanted parrots.

—Tami Myers  
Founder and Director  
The Angry Parrot Inc  
PO Box 442  
Thorndike, MA 01079  
413-283-5039  
<tami@thebeakretreat.com>  
<www.theangryparrot.org>



### Resident Intern for Wildlife Rehabilitation Program Wildlife in Crisis (WIC) is seeking a Resident Intern.

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### Quit meat-eating to save the planet

Your front page article, "Animals at risk from drought in Zimbabwe, flooding in India and Bangladesh," and the many other recent reports of severe heat waves, flooding, wildfires, droughts, severe storms, and other indicators of global warming should be wake-up calls that the world is heading toward an unprecedented catastrophe. Changes must be made as soon as possible to prevent it.

I would like to suggest a strategy that the animal rights movement should adopt that might make a difference. A 2006 UN FAO report indicated that animal-based agriculture contributes more greenhouse gases (in carbon dioxide equivalents) than all of the cars, trucks, and other forms of transportation worldwide (18% vs. 13.5%). The same report projects that the number of farmed animals will double in the next 50 years. If that happens, increased greenhouse gas emissions from livestock would negate the reductions from many other positive

changes, such as increasing automobile fuel efficiency, switching to more efficient light bulbs, etc.

Hence, while many things should be done to reduce global warming, an essential step is a major shift toward plant-based diets. Without this shift, and many more positive steps, global climate change will get increasingly worse, with disastrous consequences for humanity and all of creation.

The animal rights movement should organize a campaign to increase awareness that it is imperative that there be a major shift toward plant-based diets in order to reduce global warming's worse effects. This is an essential step in helping shift our precious but imperiled planet to a sustainable path.

—Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
College of Staten Island  
President  
Jewish Vegetarians of  
North America and  
Society of Ethical &  
Religious Vegetarians  
Phone: 718-761-5876  
Fax: 718-982-3631  
<rschw12345@aol.com>



### Anti-rabies walk

We distributed copies of the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** rabies questions and answers flyer at our September 7 World Rabies Awareness Day walk, and are preparing an Urdu translation.

—Mahera Omar  
Pakistan Animal Welfare Society  
<mahera.omar@gmail.com>  
<www.pawspakistan.org>



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# How to eradicate canine rabies in 10 years or less *(from page 4)*

most of the world by vaccines cultivated in hens' eggs.)

For much of the 20th century the chief occupation of U.S. humane societies was killing dogs and cats by the multi-million, in the names of rabies control and population control, while the moral vision and momentum of the early humane movement slumped into despairing self-isolation. The brightest outlook for the future offered by 1963 humane movement historian William Alan Swallow was not that either rabies or pet overpopulation could be contained, but rather that humane societies might take over the pet cemetery business.

As the numbers of impounded dogs and cats only increased, with no money available to subsidize and promote sterilization, many humane societies resorted to killing methods, such as mass gassing and decompression, that were not much less cruel, if at all, than the methods of the private animal control contractors they had replaced.

The lowest point may have come when then-nationally prominent anti-vivisection evangelist Ann Brandt, now long forgotten, was arrested in the act of drowning cats in a barrel.

Much of the U.S. humane community is now out of the high-volume animal killing business, albeit seldom easily and often with considerable misgivings about returning animal control duties to municipal management.

Yet the humane community has learned that while donors will not generously support organizations known for killing animals, they do contribute far beyond anyone's anticipation 30 years ago to prevent killing through sterilization and vaccination. Among the best-known examples are the ninefold increase in donations experienced by the San Francisco SPCA in the decade after it went no-kill in 1984, and the explosive growth of the no-kill Best Friends Animal Society from marginal viability in 1990 into one of the largest and still fastest-growing humane organizations in the world.

Since the early 1970s, sterilization programs subsidized by pro-animal donors have helped to cut the numbers of dogs and cats killed in U.S. shelters and pounds from 115 per 1,000 Americans to 12.5.

Belated humane support of vaccination meanwhile reduced canine rabies to the verge of extirpation within a decade of the late start, and completed the eradication with intensive efforts wherever cases appeared thereafter.

Now the developing world needs to learn from the U.S. experience—and, most critically, needs to avoid repeating the U.S. mistakes.

## Building success

This is not an argument that humane societies should stay altogether out of doing animal control work.

Indeed, humane societies have vital roles in doing the job effectively and kindly. The many highly effective Animal Birth Control programs operated by humane societies in India offer models for the world, along with similar programs in Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia, and parts of eastern Europe. While many of these programs can be improved, they are clearly making progress in the right direction.

Humane societies should avoid assuming financial responsibility for impounding potentially infinite numbers of animals, which often leads to operating death camps. However, humane societies are much better positioned than public agencies, especially in the developing world, to offer sterilization, vaccination, and other lifesaving services, and to do public education.

The critical lesson to impart to policymakers is that extortion does not raise the resources that the humane community needs to do the work it can do best. Neither does impatience help small charities to grow into doing big jobs.

Few if any humane societies in the developing world (or anywhere) have built sterilization programs faster than Animal Help, of Ahmedabad, India, but Animal Help built capacity for six years before it sterilized and vaccinated 50,000 dogs in 2006. Founder Rahul Sehgal frankly acknowledges that the time and practice was essential to subsequent success.

If the municipal officials of Addis Ababa want HAPS to help them purge the city of rabies and a perceived overabun-

dance of street dogs, they must help HAPS to build capacity and demonstrate, step by step, the potential for further growth.

Even more important, the municipal officials of Addis Ababa—and every other city threatening to kill animals if humane donors do not intervene—must understand that donors will not contribute money if they fear that all the animals will be killed no matter what. Humane donors are continually asked to support worthwhile projects, in all parts of the world. Deciding which are most worthy of support, most donors will choose the programs that they perceive are most likely to achieve happy endings.

Programs under stress from unsympathetic governments tend to look like bad bets, no matter what their achievements, as the Bangalore humane societies Compassion Unlimited Plus Action, the Animal Rights Fund, Krupa, and Karuna can testify.

The four charities' internationally recognized ABC programs, cited as positive examples by World Health Organization chief F.X. Meslin, had eliminated rabies from their service areas and had brought the dog population down markedly before 2007.

This year, however, Bangalore city officials wrongly blamed the ABC programs for two fatal dog attacks, which occurred chiefly because the city government failed to stop butchers in areas outside the ABC program limits from dumping meat wastes in vacant lots—despite repeated warnings from the Animal Rights Fund.

The officials' attacks obliged the Bangalore humane societies to suspend their ABC work, and severely harmed their ability to raise funds to resume. Poor administration of the Bangalore municipal animal control program meanwhile allowed rabies to re-infiltrate the city.

Success builds on success. Successful humane societies can eradicate canine rabies worldwide and help communities in even the poorest, most remote places to achieve humane animal population control—but only when policymakers properly understand and contribute to the necessary preconditions.

## Starting an animal charity abroad

If you are an American or European, thinking of founding an animal protection project in India or elsewhere abroad, here are some ideas about getting started:

# Take a cold honest view of your financial situation, so that you can prioritize your work according to the reality of your resources as they stand right now. Yes, you can have good luck at any future moment, but as you invest in the first stages you need to know what money you have.

# Put your mission statement in writing. Keep your first-year-plan small enough to be realistic. Be ready to ask for material aid in a clear way, with a prioritized list of necessities.

# Become able to state with knowledge and authority what is currently going on that you hope to change. Then succinctly explain your strategy for changing it.

# Do not expect to win start-up grants, but look up animal welfare people or organizations in your home community, in your own nation, and explain to them your dream. You may need to start with only whatever help is available from your personal friends and family.

# Visit the local government offices and look for people with whom you can build familiarity and explain your objectives. Ask them for guidance. They may not have guidance to offer, but always ask. This gets the government people invested psychologically in your mission, and it will be helpful for you to know who is the local health officer, who is nice, who is not, etc.

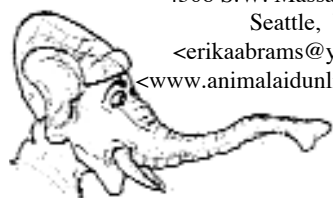
# Call for volunteer help right away, through international web sites, but have in mind specific jobs for the volunteers you are seeking.

# Be sure when hiring staff that if you do not have the money for permanent employment you make this clear, so that your hirees can plan their lives fairly. Look for people who really care about feeding, bathing, walking, holding animals while they're on a drip, etc., who can learn by looking into animals' souls.

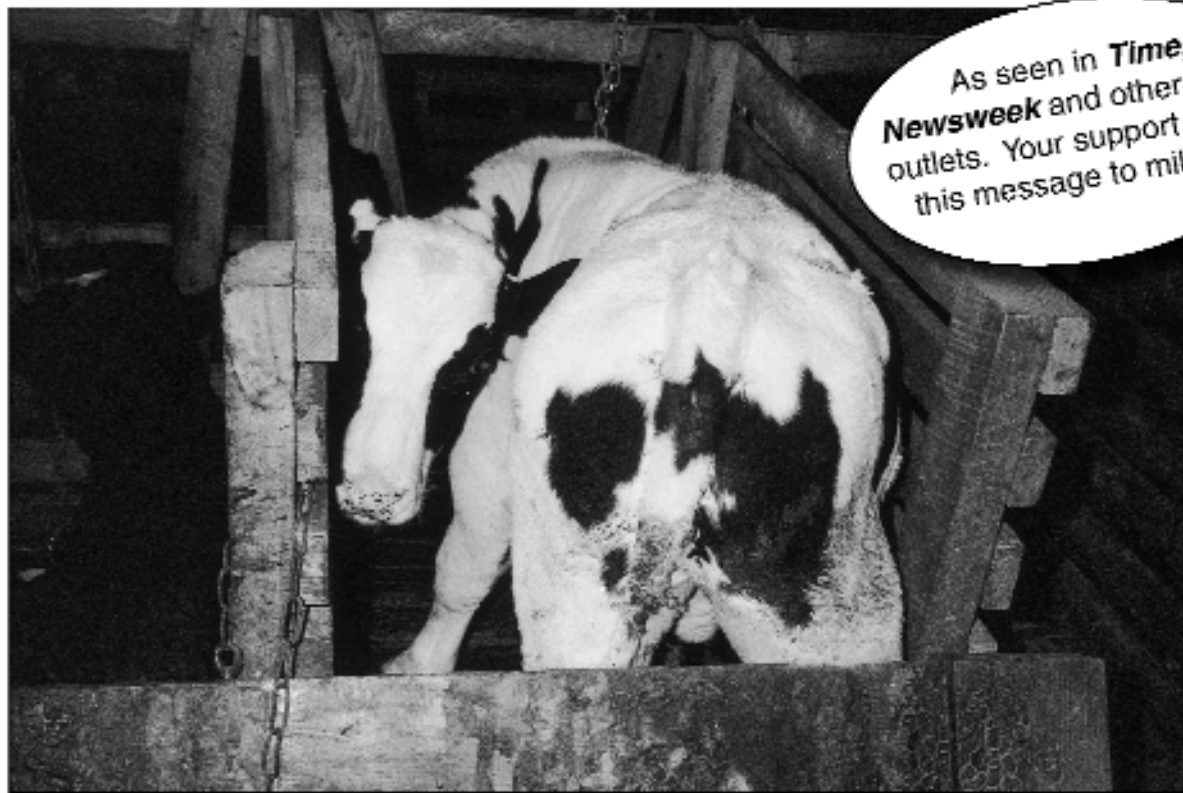
Your staff don't need to know anything at first, but if they care (this is not always easy to find, mind you) the learning will almost take care of itself.

All the hassles are worth enduring to achieve your dream.

—Erika Abrams  
Animal Aid Unlimited (India)  
4508 S.W. Massachusetts St.  
Seattle, WA 98116  
<erikaabrams@yahoo.com>  
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## Q: Why can't this veal calf walk?



## A: He has only two feet.

Actually, less than two feet. Twenty-two inches to be exact. His entire life is spent chained in a wooden crate measuring only 22 inches wide and 56 inches long. The crate is so small that the calf can't walk or even turn around.

Most people think animal abuse is illegal. It isn't. In veal factories, it's business as usual. "Milk-fed" veal is produced by making a calf anemic.

The calf is not fed mother's milk. He's fed an antibiotic-laced formula that leads to diarrhea. He must lie in his own excrement—choking on the ammonia gases. He's chained with hundreds of other baby calves suffering the same fate.

### Tainted Veal

According to the USDA, sulfamethazine (a known carcinogen), oxytetracycline, penicillin, neomycin, streptomycin, and gentamycin have all previously been found in veal.

Doesn't the USDA prevent tainted veal from being sold? Absolutely not. The USDA itself admits that most veal is never tested for toxic residue.

The industry claims that the drugs used in veal have been approved by the FDA. But don't buy it. The fact is: Illegal and unapproved drugs have been widely used in veal calves.

Veal factories maximize profits for agribusiness drug companies because they are a breeding ground for disease. To keep calves alive under such torturous conditions, they are given drugs which can be passed on to consumers.

It doesn't have to be this way. And with your help, it won't be. **Please join us.**

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## Animals Australia seeks to bring livestock transporters to justice

**MELBOURNE, SYDNEY**—Obtaining Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service reports on five 2006 shipments of live sheep and cattle to the Middle East through the national Freedom of Information Act, Animals Australia on August 22 charged two shippers with violating the Western Australia Animal Welfare Act.

Animals Australia executive director Glynis Oogjes warned that live exports from Tasmania might “be a potential breach of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Act,” and asked the Australian Government to prosecute live exporters for “numerous examples of breaches of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock,” documented by the AQIS reports.

“We provided the material to the

Melbourne Age, and it is in the paper,” Oogjes e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Full details of the high mortality shipments are now available on the Animals Australia website,” Oogjes added.

“The AQIS reports on the two worst incidents—the deaths of 1,683 sheep during a shipment from Tasmania to the Middle East in February 2006, and 247 cattle enroute to the Middle East in October 2006—reveal non-compliance with live export standards,” Oogjes alleged.

Winning access to the AQIS reports required a struggle that was in itself newsworthy, wrote *Sydney Morning Herald* freedom-of-information editor Matthew Moore.

“It’s four years since the Common-

wealth Government held an inquiry following the outcry that erupted when Saudi Arabia left 50,000 sheep stranded on a ship, claiming they were infected with scabby mouth,” Moore recalled. “The report prompted by that voyage, called the *Keniry Livestock Export Review*, was one of several inquiries designed to improve the care of animals in Australia’s lucrative livestock export industry.

“If you search the copy of the *Keniry Review* on the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry website,” Moore continued, “you will see the word ‘transparent’ comes up nine times. Search for ‘transparency’ and you’ll find six more mentions, many of them among the recommendations to the then Agriculture minister, Warren Truss.”

However, Moore wrote, instead of practicing transparency, “AQIS originally estimated it would cost \$2156 to provide the documents that Animal Australia sought. Six months of negotiating brought the price down and finally produced the seven-page report that Animals Australia sought from the outset.”

An AQIS-accredited veterinarian described bulls becoming lame after just four days at sea. “Prolonged recumbency and relative difficulty arising on the abrasive flooring [of the ships’ decks] can cause skin damage which becomes infected because of the wet conditions,” the vet summarized. “Once infected, the cattle spend an increased time recumbent. The cause of death is septicemia.”

Other causes of transport death included a ship with 71,309 sheep and 320 cattle running low on feed, and goats dying of heat stress when a sailing was delayed by a credit dispute.

### Halal is alternative

The most intensive coverage of Animals Australia’s attempted prosecution of live transporters came from Lorna Edwards of the *Melbourne Age*, who had just concluded a series of articles exploring controversies over *halal* slaughter as practiced in Australia—the alternative to live shipment, if Australia is to keep Middle Eastern meat market share.

Australian animal advocates have

argued for more than 30 years that the live export trade should be replaced by the export of frozen carcasses—but establishing the frozen carcass trade, now rapidly growing after a slow start, has required demonstrating to skeptical Middle Eastern buyers that Australian slaughterhouses are capable of killing animals by the *halal* method required by literal interpretations of Islam.

Done with a knife, *halal* slaughter is similar to kosher slaughter, required to ship frozen carcasses to Israel. Traditionally, pre-stunning is not allowed in either *halal* or kosher slaughter.

“The Australian standard for religious slaughter, which varies from traditional practice, requires sheep to be stunned with an electric charge immediately before their throats are cut for *halal* meat, and immediately after for kosher meat,” Edwards explained on August 3, 2007. “Some Middle Eastern markets will not accept meat unless it is slaughtered using the traditional method.”

The issue arose when Royal SPCA president Hugh Wirth asked the Victorian Department of Primary Industries to investigate the practices of Midfield Meats in Warrnambool to see if the company’s methods violate the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Australian agriculture minister Peter McGauran announced a review of the ritual slaughter regulations after learning that Midfield Meats and three slaughterhouses in Victoria state, located at Kyneton, Carrum and Geelong, have operated without pre-stunning for as long as 18 years, through special agreements with inspectors.

The four companies together kill about 50,000 sheep per year, less than 3% of the total Australian mutton trade.

Fletcher International Exports owner Roger Fletcher, whose firm sells *halal* meat to 95 nations, told Edwards that slaughtering without electrical stunning “is undesirable not only because of animal cruelty issues, but because it slows productivity and creates workplace health and safety concerns.”

The three Fletcher slaughterhouses kill up to 90,000 sheep and lambs a week.

## Camel jockey civil rights case refiled in Kentucky after Florida dismissal

**LEXINGTON, Ky.**—Plaintiffs including the parents of five unnamed boys who were allegedly enslaved in Dubai as camel jockeys filed a class action lawsuit during the second week of September 2007 against Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktoum, brother of the ruler of Dubai.

The ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, was in Lexington, Kentucky, to attend the annual Keeneland September Yearling Sale, where the family has reportedly paid as much as \$3 million for highly regarded thoroughbred horses.

The lawsuit alleges that Sheikh Hamdan was complicit in enslaving as many as 30,000 children during the past 30 years for use as camel jockeys—a misnomer, since the children, sometimes as young as four years of age, are tied to the backs of the racing camels, and have no ability to control them. Many are thrown and injured, or even killed.

Foreign visitors including Prince Charles of Britain at one time were prominent at high-stakes camel races in Dubai and elsewhere in the oil-rich portions of the Middle East. Camel racing fell into disrepute, however, after human rights organizations documented that the jockeys are often bought from poor families in nations including Bangladesh and Sudan, with the promise that they would be given good jobs and an education. Rarely is the promise fulfilled.

The lives and fates of the camels, meanwhile, are similar to those of racehorses:

## Fungus in feed kills thousands of Saudi camels

**RIYADH**—Contaminated feed is suspected of killing more than 5,000 of Saudi Arabia’s 862,000 domestic camels in less than a month from mid-August to mid-September 2007, along with hundreds of sheep and cattle. The deaths have occurred across most of the southern half of the country, from Mecca to the Yemen border.

Demand for camel meat fell steeply, the Saudi online newspaper *Arab News* reported. Driving the decline was concern that the toxin might be passed from camel to human, amid rumors of camel breeders selling sick animals for any price they could get.

A probable effect of a decline in Saudi camel slaughter would be an increase in slaughter of imported cattle, sheep, and goats, but since camels are usually not slaughtered if they can work, the net effect on live transport of other species would be slight.

The camel deaths may have caused more political unrest than economic impact.

“Breeders are venting their anger at government officials,” Agence France-Presse reported. The daily newspaper *Al-Watan* quoted a camel breeder who alleged that “officials of the Agriculture Ministry have remained with arms folded despite this unprecedented disaster,” which other media have described as a “national tragedy.”

“Many owners have attributed the deaths to the bran fed to the animals recently instead of barley, whose price has been spiraling,” said Agence France-Presse.

The Saudi-owned pan-Arab daily *Al-Hayat* alleged, “It is the bran originating from the [state-owned] silos and mills of Khamis Mushayt,” near the first outbreak of poisoning in Wadi al-Dawasser, that is responsible for this catastrophe.”

Seeking to contain unrest, King Abdullah ordered that camel owners be compensated in the amount 4,000 riyals (about \$1,066) for each loss, “but camel owners cited in newspapers thought this was too little,” said Agence France-Presse.

Deputy Defense Minister Prince

winners live longer. Losers go to slaughter. Injuries are frequent. Drugging and other chicanery harmful to the animals is much more often alleged by losing bettors than proven—and the political and economic influence of the camel racing stable owners, in nations with traditionally low regard for human rights, tends to thwart close policing.

The Kentucky case parallels a 2006 filing against both Sheikh Hamdan and Sheikh Mohammed in Miami. U.S. federal judge Cecilia Altonaga on July 30, 2007 ruled that because neither the sheikhs nor the plaintiffs reside in the U.S., and none of the alleged wrongful actions occurred in the U.S., the case should not be tried in a U.S. court.

“Although the new lawsuit does not specifically name anyone other than Sheikh Hamdan as a defendant,” said Canadian Press, “it includes other unnamed defendants who are accused of being accomplices.” The case was filed both in Florida and in Kentucky under the Alien Tort Statute, an 18th century federal law originally used against pirates and on behalf of sailors who were impressed into service against their will by the British Navy.

“The lawsuit had reached the highest levels of the U.S. government,” Canadian Press said, “with the Emirates leaders appealing directly to President George W. Bush to intervene. The U.S. State Department served notice [in the Miami case] that it would do so, arguing that sovereign immunity protected the two sheikhs from the lawsuit.”

Abdel-Rahman bin Abdel-Aziz offered 300 of his own camels as replacements to some breeders who had lost their herds.

The poisoning attacks camels’ neurological functions, causing them to lose control of their movements. They then suffer a cerebral hemorrhage and complete paralysis, according to the business daily *Al-Eqtisadiyah*.

Saudi Agriculture ministry veterinarian Ali Khalaf al-Hassawi attributed the poisoning, believed to result from a fungus, to “the wrong methods of stocking bran.”

Agriculture Minister Fahd bin Abdel-Rahman Balghnaim disclosed the suspected role of the fungus on September 6, 2007. Testing done in both Saudi Arabia and in France “showed that the samples [taken from dead camels] contained salinomycin, a compound to which camels are highly allergic,” *Arab News* reported on September 9. “Laboratory tests showed that the bran used to feed camels contained this compound in high concentrations. Another contaminant found in large quantities in the fodder was *Aspergillus clavatus*, a fungus which usually appears in places with high humidity as well as high temperature.” Mycotoxins produced by the fungus produce the camels’ neurological symptoms.

“Tests also proved that the samples of bran and those taken from dead camels contained toxic aluminum in large amounts,” *Arab News* said. “The Agriculture Ministry pointed out that most insecticides available in the market contain aluminum.”

Unknown is whether camel keepers or feed dealers might have used more than the recommended amounts of insecticide to try to kill a poorly understood contaminant.

Early in the outbreak, the camel deaths were believed to have been caused by an unknown infectious disease.

*Al-Watan* reported that a similar but more regionally contained rash of camel poisonings occurred in 1995, involving bran from the same importer. The results of tests undertaken in Germany and Egypt were never made public, *Al-Watan* said.



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## Chicago *foie gras* ban a year later

**CHICAGO**—Responding to a complaint that Cyrano's Bistrot, Wine Bar, & Cabaret was illegally selling *foie gras*, the Chicago Department of Public Health on September 5, 2007 closed the upscale restaurant after finding a cockroach-infested kitchen—but no *foie gras*.

The raid indicated that the Chicago ban on selling *foie gras* appears to be holding, a year after the city council approved it 48-1, and that Department of Public Health spokesperson Tim Haddac erred two weeks earlier when he alleged to *Chicago Tribune* restaurant critic Phil Vettel that "Every hour we spend on *foie gras* is an hour we don't spend protecting people against food-borne illnesses."

Vettel reported on the August 22, 2007 first anniversary of the passage of the *foie gras* ban that, "Aficionados can still dine on *foie gras*, if they know where to look."

For instance, Vettel wrote, a restaurant calle Bin 36 "from time to time offers a menu item of a salad 'and the *foie gras* is on us.' City inspectors dispatched to Bin 36 last year concluded that because the *foie gras* was complimentary, the ordinance hadn't been violated." Vettel also singled out Copperblue chef/owner Michael Tsonton for serving "a duck liver dish billed 'It Ain't Foie Gras No Moore,'" a menu pun on the name of alderman Joe Moore, author of the *foie gras* ban.

Only one restaurateur so far has been fined for a violation. Doug Sohn, owner of Hot Doug's, in February 2007 openly defied the ban by selling a *foie gras* and duck sausage sandwich he called the "Joe Moore." Sohn was fined \$250.

The Illinois Restaurant Association and Allen's New American Caf De sued seeking to overturn the *foie gras* ban almost as soon as it took effect, claiming that Chicago has no constitutional right to regulate the sale of a legally produced substance. U.S. District Judge Blanche M. Manning on June 12, 2007 upheld the constitutionality of the ban in a 26-page written opinion.

Chicago Chefs for Choice, formed in opposition to the *foie gras* ban, has promoted two bills to repeal it, but neither has cleared city council committees.

Haddac told Vettel that, "We wouldn't shed any tears," if the ban was repealed. "From the get-go," Haddac elaborated, "we've said that the law, however noble in its intention, has nothing to do with our core mission, which is to protect public health."

Humane Society of the U.S. director of public health and animal agriculture Michael Greger, M.D. holds that banning *foie gras* protects public health, especially in light of research by amyloid-related disorders specialist Alan Solomon of the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville.

Made from the artificially enlarged livers of force-fed ducks and geese, *foie gras* has long been notoriously saturated in cholesterol. But that is not the only *foie gras*-related health risk. Solomon in June 2007 published evidence in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that a protein found in *foie gras* can cause the onset of amyloidosis, a disease which can culminate, summarized Greger, in "extensive organ damage, kidney failure, and even death."

"Eating *foie gras* probably won't cause disease in someone who is not genetically predisposed to it," Solomon told Agence France-Presse. But he noted that, "People with a family history of Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, or other amyloid-associated diseases should avoid consuming *foie gras* and other foods that may be contaminated with fibrils," the protein in question.

On July 30, 2007, HSUS incorporated the Solomon findings into a refiled and expanded edition of a lawsuit it originally filed in August 2006, seeking to prohibit raising ducks and geese to make *foie gras* in New York state. New York leads the U.S. in *foie gras* production.

The amended lawsuit asks the court

## American Veal Association votes to

**WASHINGTON D.C.**—With U.S. veal consumption now less than half of what it was in 1980, a third of what it was in 1970, a fifth of what it was in 1960, and a sixth of the peak circa 1950, the American Veal Association board of directors on May 9, 2007 voted unanimously to phase out crating calves by 2017—but their decision did not reach the public until the Humane Society of the U.S. and PETA claimed victory in early August 2007 press releases, while urging faster action.

The American Veal Association resolution mentioned that "industry must always be aware and mindful of consumer concerns," and that "group housing was imposed legislatively" in Europe in the mid-1990s.

Introduced to the U.S. from the Netherlands soon after World War II, veal crating was almost immediately criticized as inhumane by both animal advocates and farmers using traditional woodlot pasturing and group housing to fatten calves for early slaughter. Intensive campaigning against veal crating, however, was introduced by the Farm Animal Reform Movement and the Humane Farming Association in the mid-1980s. FARM has organized annual Mother's Day protests against veal crating for more than 20 years, while HFA has placed versions of ads similar to the one on page 5 of this edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in national news magazines during the holiday seasons that mark the traditional peaks of veal consumption.

## Foie gras image

Struggling to defend the image of *foie gras*, Canada's largest producer, Elevages Perigord, on July 20, 2007 fired an employee who was videotaped by an informant for the Montreal-based Global Action Network in the act of abusing ducks.

"Only the employee who was fired was identifiable in the three-minute excerpt the network shared with the media," wrote Jasmin Legatos of the *Montreal Gazette*.

Legatos said the video showed "Elevages Perigord employees whacking small or sickly ducks against concrete blocks or metal grates. It also shows workers kicking ducks that are unable to move because of enlarged livers, the result of the force-feeding process that takes place before they are slaughtered. The video also depicts ducks kept in small, dirty cages allegedly covered in regurgitated food the animals could not keep down after being force-fed."

At least four British department store chains have discontinued selling *foie gras* during the past year under pressure from Viva!, the campaign name used by Vegetarian International Voice for Animals.

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**SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES**—Even the storied rivalry of the San Francisco Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers may never have been as heated as the controversy over the California cities’ radically different approaches to reducing the numbers of pit bull terriers who are impounded and killed by animal control—but for those keeping score at home, San Francisco seems to be winning.

“Not long ago, pit bulls occupied about three-quarters of the dog kennels at San Francisco’s Animal Care and Control shelter,” observed *San Francisco Chronicle* staff writer Marisa Lagos on August 27, 2007. “Now, only about a quarter of the unwanted canines at the shelter are pit bulls.”

San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control director Carl Friedman told Lagos that his department has impounded 21% fewer pit bulls since the city passed a law requiring that pit bulls must be sterilized. The number of pit bulls killed in the SF/DACC shelter has fallen 24%.

The law took effect at the beginning of 2006. In the interim, SF/DACC has confiscated 38 pit bulls, Friedman said. Local agencies have sterilized about 500 pit bulls.

“This law has been a success in reducing the euthanization of animals,” acknowledged San Francisco SPCA president Jan McHugh-Smith.

Opposing breed-specific legislation, the San Francisco SPCA had for 10 years previous to the passage of the sterilization mandate promoted special incentives for keepers of pit bulls to get them altered, including offers of cash and merchandise.

The SF/SPCA has also offered intensive screening and training of pit bulls to encourage that they be adopted. In 1996 former SF/SPCA president Richard Avanzino even tried to rename pit bulls “St. Francis terriers,” in hopes of making them more adoptable. That project was suspended within 60 days

after several “St. Francis terriers” killed cats in their new neighborhoods.

Lower profile screening and training has been more successful, but included a high-profile debacle in November 2003 when SF/SPCA volunteer Anastasia Klafter, 27, illegally allowed her adopted pit bull therapy dog to run off leash in Golden Gate Park. The dog chased a police horse, who threw the rider and kicked Klafter in the face. Another police officer shot the dog, who survived, and was required by court order to be leashed and muzzled at all times when outdoors.

Noting the SF/SPCA pit bull program successes, undeterred by the occasional failures, and that 2,442 of the 6,312 dogs who were killed in the Los Angeles city shelters in fiscal 2007 were pit bulls, Los Angeles Animal Services director Ed Boks on July 20, 2007 announced a proposal to turn the South Los Angeles Animal Care Center Annex into a “pit bull academy,” headed by Tia Marie Torres.

Torres, 47, in 1999 founded the Villalobos Rescue Center in Canyon Country, a Los Angeles suburb. The center is reputedly now the largest pit bull rescue in the world.

Like the Villalobos Rescue Center, the “pit bull academy” would employ paroled convicts.

The plan was soon put on indefinite hold, at first because unionized city workers objected that hiring parolees would bypass the civil service employment protocol.

*Los Angeles Times* staff writer Dana Bartholomew on August 8, 2007 disclosed that even as Boks was trying to win over skeptical members of the Los Angeles city council, Torres reportedly told Marlene Garcia of the *Lahontan Valley News & Fallon Eagle Standard* that she bought the former Salt Wells Villa brothel in Nevada in late 2006 in hopes of reopening it. The brothel was closed in 2004 due to permit violations.

“Sex sells,” Garcia quoted

Torres as saying. “It’s the only industry that never fails. That’s when I got the idea to start a brothel and generate money for my nonprofit.”

Torres admitted to Bartholomew that she made the remarks, but said she was joking, and actually intended to use the former brothel to house exotic cats and birds.

While the pit bull academy idea appeared to be politically dead, Boks came under renewed attack from anonymous web critics for reducing animal population control killing at the alleged expense of more animals dying in the Los Angeles city kennels from fighting and disease caused by overcrowding.

Central to the criticism was the claim that Los Angeles city cage deaths rose from 1,150 in fiscal 2005 to 3,059 in fiscal 2007, while policies intended to encourage feral cat care-taking and discourage kitten and puppy surrender halved receipts of unweaned kittens and puppies—normally the animals most susceptible to cage death.

Boks on September 18 replied via the Los Angeles Animal Services web site that only 751 cage deaths occurred in fiscal 2005, 682 in 2006, and 1,101 in fiscal 2007, and that many of the animals actually died “in the care of a private veterinarian or in a foster home.” More died in foster homes chiefly because under Boks the department has done much more fostering.

Similar criticisms preceded the October 2001 firing of former Los Angeles Animal Services director Dan Knapp. Like Boks, Knapp was an ex-minister, and arrived pledging to reduce animal control killing, but ran into increasingly vicious activist attacks after he was unable to achieve results as dramatic as San Francisco.

Largely overlooked by critics is that Los Angeles has cut shelter killing at about the same rate as San Francisco since the start of Knapp’s tenure in 1998, but was then killing three times as many animals per 1,000 human residents.



**More U.S. animal shelter data by city, county, state, and region**

The printed edition of the table “U.S. animal shelter data broken down by city, county, state, and region” published on page 19 of the July/August 2007 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** inadvertently omitted the portions covering the interior western states, the state of Delaware, and Huntington Beach, California, and omitted a decimal place in stating the rate of shelter killing per 1,000 humans residents of Santa Cruz, California. The missing data, below, was taken into account in producing the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** estimate that a low for the past half century of 3.7 million animals were killed in U.S. shelters in 2006, and was included in the electronic edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

	Animals killed per 1,000 people	YEAR	1,000s of people	Animals killed
DELAWARE	15.8	2005	854	13,500
Huntington Beach	2.5	2006	194	485
Santa Cruz Cty, CA	20.0	2005	251	5,000
Salt Lake City	6.0	2005	1,016	6,094
Weld County, CO	8.5	2005	211	1,800
Larimer Count, CO	11.6	2005	267	3,093
Billings	14.6	2004	133	1,941
UTAH	14.4	2005	2,352	33,854
Phoenix/Maricopa	15.5	2007	3,768	58,531
Albuquerque	26.9	2004	581	15,600
Santa Fe, NM	38.2	2005	130	5,000
WEST (41%)	17.3		17,721	306,573



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## DOGS SYMBOLIZE THE WEST (FROM PAGE 1)

dog ownership has increased, especially among young people in Tehran.

"One of them," Radio Free Europe said, "is 23-year-old Banafshe, whose dog was recently detained in Tehran for 48 hours and then released on bail. Banafshe says she was walking her young puppy, Jessica, when Iranian police snatched the dog and took her to a dog jail. The dog's crime was 'walking in public.' Banafshe claims the police insulted her, but out of fear for her dog, she didn't protest. She said she told the police that Allah says in the Koran that nothing bad has been created in this world."

"We want to get rid of Western culture," Banafshe said she was told. "They said, 'You live in an Islamic country. It's not right to have dogs. Are you not Islamic? Why does your family allow you to own a dog?' They insulted me. They even told me that they hoped my dog would die. But there was nothing I could do but cry. You can't imagine how badly I was insulted."

Radio Free Europe alleged that, "The new clampdown on dogs follows a recent order by the head of Tehran's security forces, Ahmad Reza Radan, who said it is against the law for dogs to walk in public."

"If we want to speak about symbols of Western civilization then maybe wearing a suit is also Western," Society to Defend the Rights of Animals secretary Reza Javalchi told Radio Free Europe. "Based on our research," Javalchi said, "domestic dogs were kept in Iran for hunting and guarding maybe long before it became widespread in the West."

Accounts similar to that of Radio Free Europe have circulated since August 3, 2007, when animal welfare organizations in Iran as well as abroad scrambled to try to verify and respond to an Adnkronos International Iran (AKI) news service item headlined "Search for lost dog leads to arrest."

Reported AKI, a web news site that covers Iran from Italy, "A young Iranian who was searching for his lost puppy in a Tehran neighborhood has been arrested and ordered to stand trial for 'moral corruption.' According to the Tehran daily *Etemad Melli*," AKI said, "the young man was caught while putting up a notice in which he was promising a reward to anyone who found his dog."

Tehran police spokesperson Mehdi Ahmadi was said to have told *Etemad Melli* that, "Looking for a lost dog indicates the spread of a corrupt culture, which indirectly popularizes keeping a dog at home, something that is completely foreign to the Iranian culture and Islamic tradition. In arresting this young man, we wanted to send a very clear message to our young people to steer away from the corrupt culture imported from the west."

*Etemad Melli* reportedly then cited Hadith 4:539, from a collection of the sayings

of the Prophet Mohammed as posthumously remembered, compared, and often debated by his closest associates: "Angels (of Mercy) do not enter a house wherein there is a dog or a picture of a living creature (a human being or an animal)."

Hadiths 4:539 through 4:542, each contributed by a different disciple, are widely interpreted in the Islamic world as forbidding keeping dogs for any purposes other than farm work and guarding livestock, along with Hadith 3:515, which includes a similar admonition recalled by one of the same men, but also allows the use of dogs for hunting.

Questions about both the linguistic evolution and context of these passages have been raised for more than 50 years. Some scholars believe they originally referred specifically to Mohammed's imposition of a quarantine in Medina, Saudi Arabia, to stop a rabies outbreak.

## WSPA IS CAUTIOUS

As international blogs and e-mail lists heated up with denunciations of the Iranian government based on the AKI report, World Society for the Protection of Animals director general Peter Davies advised caution, pending verification, and recommended that if the AKI story was verified, comment should be solicited from the Centre for Islamic Studies in London.

"WSPA needs to have authoritative comment from them before we make our deep concerns public," Davies said.

Reported WSPA Middle East projects director Trevor Wheeler, "I have had some communication with our member society, the Iranian SPCA. Their president was aware of the story and had contacted the police about this. The police were very rude to him, but did point out that apparently the person concerned was putting his missing dog posters in an area where posters etc are banned. The SPCA still sent a letter to the newspaper which ran the original story and it was printed, but with some modifications."

"I have explained that our concern is principally the statement from the police which intimates that looking for your lost pet is 'Westernized corruption,'" Wheeler said. "The president is going to see what else he can find out, but I don't think there is much else the Iranian SPCA can do without causing themselves problems."

Radio Farda, which like AKI serves an audience including many Iranian expatriates, several weeks later broadcast a report similar in outline to that of the later broadcast from Radio Free Europe.

"Nowadays a new project which is called the Moral Security Project is being operated by police in Iran," translated Center for Animal Lovers founder Fatemeh

Henri du Plessis of the *Cape Argus*.

The raid came three weeks after three pit bulls belonging to a police officer fatally mauled Austin Pieters, 7, in the Northern Cape district.

The attack caused June Woodman, chair of the 76-year-old Animal Welfare Society of South Africa, to break from the past position of the society in calling for a ban on breeding or keeping pit bulls.

"I'm not saying the dogs are to blame, because they often fall into the wrong hands and are encouraged to be vicious, but something needs to be done," Woodman told Helen Bamford of the *Cape Argus*.



*Iranian dogs. (Center for Animal Lovers)*

Motamedi, who is currently living in the U.S. "If the police sees someone with a companion dog, walking or in a car, the dog will be captured and jailed, but the owner is released. There is a special jail for these dogs that Dr. Javid Aledavud from the Iran SPCA has visited. He says it is in very bad condition. Most of the impounded dogs are small, have had a strong bond with their people, and separation traumatizes and severely depresses them."

Aledavud's remarks were incorporated into the Radio Free Europe report, with credit given to Radio Farda reporters Mohammad Zarghami, Keyvan Hosseini, and Azadeh Sharafshahi.

Founded in 2002, Radio Farda is, like Radio Free Europe, heavily subsidized by the U.S. government. Radio Farda received \$7 million from the U.S. government in 2006, according to SourceWatch, a project of the Center for Media & Democracy, whose information page about the station mentions a September 2006 U.S. Defense Department report recommending that U.S.-supported broadcast media reaching Iran should air more critical material about the Iranian government.

Center for Media & Democracy founders John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton, though focused on other issues, have been friendly toward animal advocacy in several of their six books, including *Toxic Sludge Is Good For You! Lies, Damn Lies and the Public Relations Industry* (1995), *Mad Cow U.S.A.* (1997), and *Trust Us, We're Experts! How Industry Manipulates Science and Gambles With Your Future* (2001).

The Radio Free Europe, Radio Farda, and AKI allegations have apparently not been echoed—at least not prominently—by other international news media reporting from Iran.

Prior to the *Etemad Melli* and Radio Farda reports, most of the recent news about dogs from Iran indicated some easing of the official hostility toward dogs which has prevailed since the January 1979 overthrow of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

"On May 23, 2007," Motamedi relayed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "volunteers from Vafa Animal Shelter [founded by the Center for Animal Lovers] encountered an incident of dog killing by the City of Hashtgerd. As soon as the volunteers heard the shots, they started walking toward the sound. Finally, they found the city employee who was shooting stray dogs, and asked him to stop until they could speak with the Mayor

of Hashtgerd about alternative solutions.

"Volunteers Lida Esnaashari, Kamiar Kashani, and Farah Dakhili offered Mayor Asgari the alternative of capturing the dogs alive, sterilizing and vaccinating them, and then either releasing them back to the streets or finding homes for them. The city asked the Vafa shelter to come up with a written proposal and plan. The Vafa shelter proposed in preliminary talks to assume responsibility for capturing of the dogs and performing the necessary surgery. The city, in return, will provide the shelter with free food for the dogs and possibly vaccines," Motamedi said.

The agreement was to be finalized after the shelter carried out a pilot project.

"This agreement has not been finalized," Motamedi told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in mid-July 2007. "Further talks are scheduled to take place. But, they agreed to do the project for a month and if it was successful, then finalize it. Some of our volunteers have already begun the project by capturing dogs and bringing them to the shelter for vaccination and spay/neuter operations."

The Vafa shelter at last report housed about 150 dogs.

"If this partnership with the government turns out to be successful," Motamedi hoped, "it can open many other doors to us. This is a big project," she said, "and the shelter needs financial support."

[Contact the Vafa shelter c/o Kamiar Kashani, P.O.Box 14335-1451, Tehran, Iran; 0912-3107670.

Contact the Center for Animal Lovers c/o Fatemeh Motamedi, <fatemehmotamedi@hotmail.com>.]

One week before publishing the first report about the claimed Iranian crackdown against dog-keeping, AKI reported that, "Iran's Islamic authorities have issued a fatwa, or religious order, allowing people to breed crocodiles for their hides and other purposes," but prohibiting human consumption of crocodile meat and wearing the hides of crocodiles or other reptiles during prayers and other religious ceremonies.

AKI said "The edict also permits the use of crocodile bone for medical purposes including the treatment of cancer, while the reptile's flesh could be used as food for domestic animals such as cats and dogs," according to an aide to Iranian supreme spiritual leader identified as Hassan Aleml.

—Merritt Clifton

## Calls for dogfighting crackdown in South Africa

**CAPE TOWN, S.A.**—Stellenbosch Animal Welfare Society chair Julia Evans on August 22, 2007 told a mayoral committee that her organization receives as many as three calls per week about dogfights held in Cloetesville, Stellenbosch, and that children as young as eight are used to move dogs from one fight to the next because they are less likely to be arrested.

Evans' testimony, reported by Anel Powell of the *Cape Times*, was supported a week later by Cape of Good Hope SPCA chief executive Allan Perrins.

"The SPCA is in possession of explosive information that could lead to a swoop on organized dog fighting rings across the country," wrote *Cape Times* reporter Natasha Joseph. "Targeted in the SPCA's [proposed] crackdown are lawyers, businessmen, dog breeders, even a veterinarian and a pastor."

Notice of dogfighting in the Cape Town area increased after a late July police raid on a home in Woodstock produced evidence that dogfighters had invaded the home of a blind person, using the home as a never-cleaned kennel and fighting arena until neighbors complained. Eight pit bull terriers and a trained guide dog were impounded, reported

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Spain turns against bullfighting

MADRID—"Pursued across open countryside, jabbed at with spears and finally fatally stabbed by a man wielding a lance, a bull called Enrejado suffered a long, frightening and sadistic death in front of an eager crowd at Tordesillas, Castilla y León, northern Spain," recounted *Guardian* correspondent Gilles Tremlett from Madrid on September 13, 2007, but unlike British correspondents of a generation ago, his subject was not perceived Spanish indifference toward animal suffering.

Rather, it was Spanish outrage against such events, which are increasingly viewed as rural anachronisms.

"Pictures of the wounded, blood-drenched animal being stabbed with the lance were published on the front page of *El País*, Spain's biggest-selling daily newspaper, as it denounced the survival of this primitive, medieval spectacle," Tremlett wrote.

"The regional government of Castilla y León, run by the conservative People's party, has formally declared the festival to be 'of interest to tourists.' Local people, however, shooed photographers and journalists away so they could not witness or capture the final moment of death."

That was a bit of an understatement. Video posted to <www.youtube.com> on September 11 showed a mob beating a female reporter and the videographer who recorded the attack, while their studio anchor team

watched in helpless shock.

"They allow the bull to be traversed by spears but do not want critics to cast their eyes on it," wrote Carmen Moran of *El País*. "This event gives off a powerful odour of poorly interpreted manliness."

The Tordesillas bullfighters beat the TV crew about six months after the government-owned Television Española network dropped live coverage of bullfighting, "ending a decades-old tradition out of concern that the deadly duel between matador and beast is too violent for children," reported Daniel Woolls of Associated Press.

Bullfighters and bullfighting promoters have been fuming ever since.

"Television Espanola's first broadcast in 1948 was a bullfight in Madrid," Woolls recalled. "But for the first time in the network's history, none of its channels have shown live fights this season, only taped highlights on a late-night program for *aficionados*."

"In practical terms," Woolls assessed, "the unpublicized decision by the Socialist government is largely symbolic. Of the hundreds of bullfights during the March-October season, state-run TV only tended to broadcast about a dozen. Pay TV channels and stations owned by regional governments are full of live bullfights."

But the symbolism is significant. Observed Tremlett, "At times of political ten-



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sion the regime of rightwing dictator General Francisco Franco reputedly programmed bullfights against protests. How many people, the logic apparently went, were going to join a march for freedom if the sex symbol matador Manuel Benítez El Cordobés was on the television?" The bullfighting audience today is middle-aged or older, a demographic of declining value to broadcasters, and the celebrities of interest to younger TV viewers tend to cultivate images of kindness toward animals.

Bullfighting in France drew critical notice for similar reasons in mid-August 2007, reported *Guardian* Paris correspondent John Lichfield. "A TV ad calling for a ban on bullfighting has been declared unacceptable—because it shows violent scenes at bullfights," Lichfield wrote. "If stabbing and slaughtering bulls in public is too violent for family viewing on prime-time television, critics ask, why are children allowed to attend bullfights?"

"The decision by France's advertising watchdog has drawn attention to the bizarre legal status in France of "Spanish-style bullfighting," Lichfield continued. "Bullfighting is banned in France, but legally tolerated in those areas which can claim an unbroken local tradition. In practice, French courts have allowed bullfighting to spread to towns in the south where no such tradition exists."

"The true bullfighting tradition in France is not *La Corrida*, which arrived from Spain in the 1850s," Lichfield noted. "The French tradition, in which the bull survives to fight again and again, is still to be found in the Camargue, in the Rhône delta, and in the Landes, south of Bordeaux. The bullfighter or bullfighters have to retrieve ribbons tied to the horns," a much more dangerous undertaking—if anyone frightens the bull—than wounding and killing a bull with long weapons.



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## Coming events

**Sept. 24-28:** *Animal welfare, livelihoods, & enviro conf.*, Nairobi, Kenya. Info: <www.kendat.org>.

**Sept. 28-30:** *15th Annual Animal Law Conf.*, Lewis & Clark U., Portland, Ore. Info: <www.lclark.edu/org/saldf/conference.html>.

**Sept. 29-30:** *World Vegetarian Weekend Celebration*, San Francisco. Info: 415-273-5481; <www.sfvcs.org>.

**Sept. 30-Oct. 6:** *Intl. Vegan Fest*, Murdeshwar, Karnataka, India. Info: <www.ivu.org/vegan-fest>.

**October 1-2:** *Chemical Immobilization of Animals*, Bend, Oregon. Info: 608-767-3071; <safecapture@aol.com>; <www.safecapture.com>.

**Oct. 1-12:** *East Coast Animal Control Academy*, Sykesville, Maryland. Info: 410-386-8100 or hchoma@carrollcc.edu.

**Oct. 4:** *World Animal Day*. Info: Naturewatch, 44-1242-252871; <www.worldanimalday.org.uk/index.asp>.

**Oct. 4-7:** *Intl. Animal Rights Protection Film Festival*, Kiev, Ukraine. Info: <www.cetallife.com.ua>.


**October 6:** *Intl. Vegetarian Day feast*, Long

(continued on page 11)

## TRIBUTES

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## Norwegian whaler scuttled at dock

**OSLO**—Sabotage was suspected in the August 30, 2007 dockside sinking of the whaling vessel *Willassen Senior* in the northern Norwegian port city of Svolvær. No injuries were reported.

"On the night of August 30th we decided to celebrate the end of commercial whaling in Iceland by removing a large section of cooling pipe in the engine room of the Norwegian whaler *Willassen Senior*," said an anonymous e-mail forwarded on September 11, 2007 from Norwegian activist Daniel Rolke to Dolphin Project founder Ric O'Barry, who shared it with **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The e-mail was signed "Agenda 21," the name of a United Nations Environmental Program protocol.

"This is the fifth Norwegian whaler that has come under attack for illegal whaling activities since 1992," e-mailed Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson from Friday Harbor, Washington. "The others were the *Nybraena*, scuttled at dockside in December 1992; the *Senet*, scuttled at dockside in January 1994; the *Elin-Toril*, severely damaged in 1997; and the *Morild*, sunk in 1998."

All were refloated and repaired.

## Supreme Court of India upholds bullfight ban

**NEW DELHI**—A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India on July 27, 2007 overturned a March 9, 2007 Madras High Court judgment dismissing a petition seeking enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to prohibit harvest festivals and bullock cart races.

Called *jallikattu*, the bullfights and bullock cart races as practiced mostly in rural Tamil Nadu somewhat resemble the mob attacks on bulls practiced at festivals in parts of Spain, Latin America, and South Africa.

Participants beat the bulls and throw chili powder in their eyes, ears and mouths to enrage them, Animal Welfare Board of India

witnesses testified. Spectators and participants are often gored or trampled to death, "and the number of injured fighters has often run into the hundreds," noted Reuters.

Goa SPCA chair Lynn De Souza in mid-August 2007 charged that traditional bull-against-bull fights are continuing, though illegal, because "Leading politicians and influential people are patronising this game. Authorities don't dare to act, although organising bullfights amounts to contempt of the court," violating a 1997 ruling by the Goa High Court. "As politicians are backing it, the police are also reluctant to act," De Souza told *The Hindu*.

## Iceland halts commercial whaling

**REYKJAVIK**—Iceland fisheries minister Einar K Guðfinnsson on September 3, 2007 announced that Iceland will not issue new commercial whaling quotas.

Iceland in 2006 joined Norway in unilaterally defying the 21-year-old International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whaling by issuing itself permits to kill 30 minke whales and nine endangered fin whales. Anticipating a market in Japan for whale meat, Icelandic fishers killed seven minke whales and seven fin whales, but were

unable to get permission to export the meat.

"There is no reason to continue commercial whaling if there is no demand for the product," Guðfinnsson said.

Iceland, like Japan, has sustained a remnant whaling industry despite the IWC moratorium by authorizing whalers to hunt in the name of research. Iceland issued "scientific whaling" permits to kill 38 minke whales in 2003, 25 in 2004, 39 in 2005, and 60 in 2006—far below the Japanese toll of 6,795 whales killed in research whaling since 1987.

## Five Makah arrested for killing whale without permit

**NEAH BAY, Washington**—Frustrated by eight years of failing to obtain a new federal permit to kill gray whales, after killing one in May 1999, Makah tribal whaler Wayne Johnson, 54, and four other Makah—Theron Parker, Andy Noel, Billy Secor and Frank Gonzales Jr.—on September 8, 2007 killed a whale without a permit and without tribal authorization or awareness.

"Crew members plunged at least five stainless steel whaling harpoons into the animal. Then they shot it," wrote *Seattle Times* staff reporter Lynda V. Mapes. "The Coast Guard, alerted to the hunt by onlookers, was on the scene within hours. Johnson and the others quickly found themselves in handcuffs," recounted Mapes. "The Coast Guard confiscated the gun and their boats, and cut the

whale, harpoons and all, loose to drift on the current. By evening, the whale was dead, and sank out of sight.

"After questioning, the Coast Guard turned the whalers over to tribal police. They spent most of Saturday night at the tribal jail on the reservation, then were released on bond," Mapes said.

The Makah Nation claim a right to kill whales under the 1855 agreement that brought the tribe into the U.S. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 2002, however, that the Makah must obtain a waiver of the Marine Mammal Protection Act before they may hunt whales again.

Johnson said he had been told by a tribal lobbyist that obtaining the waiver might take two more years.

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## Events (continued)

Beach, Calif. Info: <www.AnimalAcres.org>

**October 8: Move To Act presents Nathan Winograd**, Indianapolis. Info: <info@movetoact.org>

**Oct. 12: Fur Ball for Big Cat Rescue**, Tampa. Info: 813-493-4564; <MakeADifference@BigCatRescue.org>

**October 13: Dogtoberfest**, Jacksonville, Fla. Info: 904-338-9039; <janet-wesley@fcnmhp.org>

**Oct. 14: Feral Cat Summit 2007**, Forestville, Maryland. Info: <www.pgferals.org>

**October 15-Nov. 30: Wishbones for Pets** collections for animal charities. Info: <www.wishbonesforpets.com>

**Oct. 16: National Feral Cat Day**. Info: Alley Cat Allies, <www.NationalFeralCatDay.org>

**October 19-21: Dog Therapy Camp**, Valley Cottage, N.Y., conducted by Hudson Valley Humane Society Visiting Pet Program. Info: 845-267-8795; <HVHS-Visiting-Pets@aol.com>; <www.HudsonValley-VisitingPets.com>

**October 20: Fur Ball for Merrimack River Feline Rescue Soc.**, Newburyport, Mass. Info: 978-462-0760; <www.mrfrs.org>

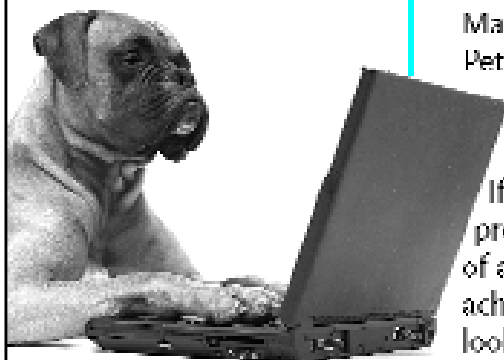
**October 25-27: The Fix It Forum**, Oakbrook, Illinois. Info: <www.petsmartcharities.org>

**October 31-Nov 2: Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conf.**, Berlin. Info: <www.icawc.org>

(continued on page 11)



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Maddie's Fund®, The Pet Rescue Foundation, (www.maddiesfund.org) is funded by PeopleSoft and Workday Founder Dave Duffield, and his wife, Cheryl, to help create a no-kill nation. Maddie's Fund® is named after the family's beloved Miniature Schnauzer who passed away in 1997.





## Disasters present global humane challenge *(from page 1)*

None of the late summer 2007 disasters were of Hurricane Katrina magnitude, nor brought a comparable financial response from the public. The August 15 Peruvian earthquake, however, measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale, killed and injured more people and animals than Hurricane Andrew, and like Hurricane Andrew may be remembered as a signal event, awakening the international humane community to Peruvian humane needs and the emergence of a growing Peruvian humane movement.

The first of three missions sent by the Lima-based organization Unidos por los Animales to the quake-wracked cities of Cañete, Chíncha, Pisco, Paracas, and Ica reached the region within 24 hours, well ahead of most of the human disaster relief aid. Volunteer veterinarians Wendy Flores and Julio Rodríguez, with six assistants, found "hundreds of bodies buried in the rubble. More than 3,500 animals have been affected," they estimated, "mostly dogs, but collapsing barns also trapped cattle."

As the extent of the earthquake became more apparent, Unidos por los Animales increased their assessment of the numbers of animals in urgent need to more than 5,000.

Each Unidos por los Animales mission treated more than 1,000 animals. The third mission, reaching Pisco 15 days after the earthquake, spent eight days vaccinating 1,051 animals, treating 623 animals for conditions associated with dust inhalation, treating 256 animals for other illnesses and injuries, and collaring all of the animals for quick identification, amid rumors that stray animals would be poisoned to prevent rabies.

The Peruvian Association for the Protection of Animals, Amazon CARES, Huaw Huaw, Amigos de los Animales, Grupo Caridad, and the Asociación Defensora de la Fauna y Flora horse and donkey care project at Huancavelica

also reported mounting rapid responses.

Working with Ica veterinarian Carlos Bellido, whose clinic had been destroyed by the earthquake, Huaw Huaw did emergency surgery on injured dogs and cats in both Ica and Pisco, said president Francisco Caverio Alprecht, through Best Friends Network translator Michael G. Rodrigue. Also providing food and anti-parasite treatments, Huaw Huaw then relocated to Pisco to assist another local veterinarian, Miguel Hernandez, who had also lost his clinic.

Like Unidos por los Animales, Huaw Huaw tried to prevent panic-driven dog poisonings in response to unconfirmed rumors of rabies. "Drastic measures taken in emergency situations, such as those in the affected areas where there are large number of dogs in the streets, can be very radical and unethical," warned Alprecht.

The first help from outside Peru may have come from Los Angeles-area Hurricane Katrina veterans Gerald Pool, Marcia Maxwell, and Thea Martin, who worked in Ica with ASPPA and Amazon CARES.

Pool in an August 31 e-mail to Best Friends described "Fourteen to 16-hour days feeding, spraying for fleas, and feeding emaciated strays, or animals from families who cannot find food for themselves. Many animals were trapped on second floors and roofs, and have to be brought down on makeshift ladders," Pool wrote. "More than 350 animals have been treated."

The Canadian Animal Assistance Team, formed by Vancouver veterinary technician Donna Lasser after Hurricane Katrina, deployed a 15-member team of vets and vet techs on August 27, headed by Shari Artadi, and sent a relief team and reinforcements on September 3.

Best Friends rapid response manager Richard Crook,



*A dog in the ruins of Pisco, Peru. (Unidos por los Animales)*

Peruvian-licensed veterinarian Aldo Wilson, and photographer Molly Wald arrived on September 4. Working with CAAT, they fed, vaccinated, and sterilized animals in Guadalupe on September 8, reporting excellent local response, but on September 9 in Pisco "found residents angry and frustrated over the failure of food, clothing and other supplies to reach them,"

*(continued on page 13)*

### Events (continued)

**Nov. 2: Nathan Wino-grad signs book Redemption** for Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project, Seattle. Info: <Julie@feralcatproject.org>.

**November 3: Wine country hike & benefit** for Romania Animal Rescue, Kenwood, Calif. Info: <www.romaniaanimal-rescue.com>.

**Nov. 9-10: Equine Practitioners Conf.**, Cornell U., New York. Info: <www.vet.cornell.edu/conferences/EquinePrac / 2 0 0 6 / > . <SSL37@cornell.edu>.

**Nov. 9-10: Animals & Bioengineering** conf., Durham, N.C. Info: <ashley@law.duke.edu> ; <www.law.duke.edu/aba-animalconference>.

**Nov. 10: Natl. Feral Cat Summit**, Orlando. Info: <feralcatsummit@yahoo.com> ; <www.neighborhoodcats.org>.

**Nov. 10: League of Humane Voters 6th Anniv. Gala**, New York City. Info: 212-889-0303 ; <http://lohvsix.eventbrite.com>.

**Nov. 18: Touched By An Animal Thanksgiving benefit**, Skokie, Ill. Info: 773-728-6336.

**December 1: Neutering Dangerous Dogs & Prosecuting Reckless Owners** conf., New York City. Info: <www.abanet.org/-

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# Disasters are global challenge *(from page 12)*

reported Best Friends magazine senior editor Michael Rinker. “As frustration among locals grows, so does concern for the safety of our team. For the rest of their time there,” Rinker wrote, “they will restrict their visits to areas that have a military presence.”

World Society for the Protection of Animals disaster relief operations manager James Sawyer mentioned that one of the Peruvian organizations had also encountered hostility and withdrew from the earthquake zone rather than completing a needs assessment.

WSPA supported Unidos por los Animales in “liaising with the General Authority for Environmental Health to secure an agreement for humane control of the large stray population, and have recommended that an urgent sterilization program is needed,” e-mailed Sawyer.

## Caribbean theatre

WSPA also responded to Hurricanes Dean and Felix in the Caribbean, and a third straight year of heavy monsoon flooding in India and Bangladesh, which as result of global warming may be becoming “normal.”

“Noah’s Ark Spay & Neuter Group reports many injured free-roaming dogs in Kingston,” e-mailed Pegasus Foundation senior program officer Anne M. Ostberg on August 27, after Hurricane Dean. “The Jamaica SPCA, also in Kingston, is working to address increased demand for housing lost and injured pets. Animal House Jamaica in Ocho Rios lost part of its roof and most of its fencing, but all of the Animal House people and animals are safe. The Belize Humane Society in Belize City sustained some damage to their shelter.”

Among the human fatalities from Hurricane Dean was a 62-year-old man in St. Lucia who drowned when he tried to retrieve a cow from a rain-swollen river.

WSPA, Humane Society International, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare funded emergency feeding and watering at the badly damaged Chetumal Zoo in Mexico, and agreed to fund a new veterinary clinic at the zoo.

A WSPA needs assessment team was in Managua, Nicaragua, planning a response to Hurricane Felix as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press.

## Monsoons

WSPA had just finished perhaps the first major disaster relief project on behalf of animals in Bangladesh, a nation with only one WSPA member society, the very small Dhaka-based Bangladesh Animal Welfare Organization, and little other humane infrastructure. Much of Bangladesh was inundated by runoff from the monsoon torrents that hit Bihar and Assam states in India.

Working with the Bangladesh Livestock Department and the nonprofit Human Development Program, WSPA invested \$150,000 in emergency feeding and anti-parasite treatments to assist about 50,000 livestock and work animals belonging to about 20,000 families. Four to five times more animals needed help, according to WSPA director of disaster management Philip Russell’s preliminary assessment, but there was little way of effectively providing it.

“Destruction of grass and stored hay resulted in grazing animals being fed water reeds and cuttings from banana trees,” Russell reported. “This was inappropriate, and the animals either rejected it or, if they did eat it, it was of little nutritional value. This caused a serious imbalance in many animals’ blood acidity levels, increasing the risk posed by harmful bacteria. Flood waters carried high levels of parasites, deposited on vegetation and consumed by many animals. Transmission of parasites from animal to animal also happened, through close contact or exposure to infected feces.”



*Unidos por los Animales team treats a pig after the August 15, 2007 earthquake.*

Suffering himself from throat cancer, Russell took time off for treatment upon returning to England in September. WSPA appointed former Society for Protecting Animals Abroad technical Ian Dacre as interim director of disaster management. Dacre had been senior lecturer in equine health and dentistry at Massey University in New Zealand.

Though the waters subsided in early September, there was danger as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press that the Bangladesh flooding could recur.

Upstream, “Assam is experiencing a third wave of floods at present which has affected 17 districts in the state,” e-mailed news videographer Azam Siddiqui on September 11. “There has been significant loss of human lives and livestock. Forest guards and rangers in Kaziranga National Park, the Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary and elsewhere are spending sleepless nights to keep a watch on the wildlife.”

Assisting was a joint Friendicoes/Wildlife SOS relief team dispatched from Delhi, including three Assamese veterinarians and Wildlife SOS cofounder Kartick Satyanarayan.

Poachers exploiting the crisis, villagers trying to protect their property, and heavy vehicular traffic on roads near Kaziranga took a steep toll on wildlife, reported the *Assam Tribune*.

“The people of Bokakhat appealed to the Kaziranga National Park authority to create more highlands for sheltering the flood affected animals,” the *Assam Tribune* added.

## Elsewhere

European humane workers continued to assist into mid-September in the wake of midsummer fires that raced over the drought-parched hills of Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, and Greece. Some of the fires were accidents, some were arsons, and some, alleged the Italian national animal welfare society ENPA, were caused by careless hunting practices. Brother and sister Nikos and Maria Dimopoulos, both over 70 years of age, were killed near Zaharo, Greece, while trying to rescue their donkey. Altogether, more than 70 people and thousands of farm animals perished due to the blazes.

Typhoon Man-Yi hit Okinawa on Friday, July 13. Reportedly the strongest typhoon that ever reached Okinawa, it blew the roof off the Okinawa-American Animal Rescue Society shelter and seriously damaged two prefabricated buildings used for puppies, kittens, and post-surgical recovery, spokesperson Liz Rouse told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“WSPA and Humane Society International will be assisting financially to make repairs and make it a little bit more typhoon proof,” Rouse said.

—Merritt Clifton

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## Michael Vick case blows the whistle nationwide on dogfighting (from page 1)

dogs are believed to present an unacceptably high risk toward shelter staff, other animals, and prospective adoptors and their families.

Because of an outpouring of public concern for the Vick dogs, however, the court authorized American SPCA science advisor Stephen Zawistowski to lead a team of certified applied animal behaviorists in formally evaluating their behavior.

The ASPCA invited the San Francisco-based nonprofit organization Bay Area Doglovers Responsible About Pit Bulls to help identify dogs who might be successfully fostered and eventually adopted.

A coalition of eleven organizations headed by the National American Pit Bull Terrier Association filed a friend-of-the-court brief asking that Vick be ordered to pay more than \$10 million to rehabilitate the dogs—a request going well beyond the scope of the sentencing guidelines.

Apart from whatever risk the Vick dogs might pose themselves to people and animals, they might become attractive to thieves who in recent years have made pit bulls the breed of dog most often stolen. Pit bulls of significant notoriety and/or fighting pedigree are especially coveted, as the humane community was reminded when the Humane Society of the U.S. on August 30, 2007 posted a reward of \$5,000 “for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for removing dogs from an alleged dogfighting kennel in Malad City, Idaho” on August 29.

The dogs were impounded on August 28. Alleged kennel operators Andrew and Tiffany Willard were charged with dogfighting and felony drug offenses.

“Police had asked the Pocatello Animal Shelter and Idaho Humane Society to help impound and care for the pit bulls, but needed to keep the dogs at the property overnight,” the HSUS reward announcement explained. “A deputy ordered to guard the dogs was called from the scene to respond to another call, and when another deputy arrived to take over guard, all 30 dogs were gone.”

Some of the Vick dogs are rumored to be of the same lineage as 50 pit bulls seized in April 2004 from David Tant, formerly of Charleston County, South Carolina. Tant was sentenced in December 2004 to serve 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to 41 counts of dogfighting and assault and battery. He was arrested after a surveyor stumbled into a tripwire on his property set to deter possible dog thieves, and was wounded by a shotgun blast.

### Task force

The Tant case gave impetus to the anti-dogfighting efforts of the South Carolina animal cruelty task force, formed in 2004.

Former South Carolina assistant attorney general William Frick told Alan Judd of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* that a confidential informant in late 2003 or early 2004 told a task force investigator that Vick had a “dog yard” in South Carolina. The task force found no supporting evidence, but Vick in pleading guilty to the Virginia charges acknowledged entering a pit bull named Big Boy in a 2003 fight in South Carolina.

Both the Humane Society of the U.S. and PETA claimed to have received reports since 2004 that Vick was involved in dogfighting in Virginia, but the tips were “not specific enough that we or anyone else could do anything else with it,” said PETA assistant program director Dan Shannon.

“Three years ago, South Carolina attorney general Henry McMaster was laughed at when he tried to place dogfighting on the national agenda,” recalled *Charleston Post & Courier* reporter Jessica Johnson. Since the Vick case broke, however, McMaster and the South Carolina animal cruelty task force have emerged as national exemplars of how to respond to dogfighting. The South Carolina task force investigations have brought 42 dogfighting arrests in less than three years, resulting in 17 guilty pleas and one jury conviction, with many of the cases still pending.

Former HSUS North Carolina state director Robert Reder, who retired on September 7, 2007, told *Raleigh News &*

*Observer* staff writer Jim Nesbitt that North Carolina attorney general Roy Cooper should form a similar task force, which like the South Carolina task force would include a criminal investigator and a prosecutor focused specifically on animal fighting.

North Carolina already has an *ad hoc* task force on animal fighting, headed by Chatham County animal control chief John Sauls. “We need structure, we need some staff, we need a home,” Sauls told Nesbitt.

Currently, Nesbitt pointed out, “North Carolina law restricts the ability of Cooper’s special prosecutors and the State Bureau of Investigation to jump into local jurisdictions. Except where the legislature grants them the power to do so, the SBI can’t initiate an investigation, and special prosecutors can’t take over a case unless invited in by a sheriff or district attorney.”

The North Carolina legislation keeping state-level law enforcement out of local jurisdictions appears to have originated decades ago as protection for the Ku Klux Klan, which had heavily infiltrated county sheriff’s departments and reputedly raised funds through dogfighting and cockfighting.

“Cooper did not respond to interview requests. A spokeswoman did not say whether he favors a dogfighting task force similar to the one in South Carolina,” Nesbitt wrote.

### N.C. connections

“The Vick indictment is peppered with North Carolina references,” Nesbitt noted. “Three of the four confidential witnesses reside in North Carolina. A court filing entered by Purnell Peace, one of the three Vick co-defendants who pleaded guilty, outlined a 2003 trip the four made to the state to fight a pit bull named Jane against a dog owned by Lockjaw Kennels of North Carolina. A web search showed on-line sites for two Lockjaw Kennel pit bull breeders in North Carolina—one in LaGrange, the other in Fayetteville.

“The owners of the LaGrange kennel said they weren’t involved in the fight against

Vick’s dog and denounce dogfighting on their Web site. The web site for the Fayetteville kennel was recently taken down but could be traced to Walter Little, whose name was listed as the site’s administrator.

“Court records show that Little, 49, was charged with dogfighting in Cumberland County in 2000, but that felony count was disposed of with a deferred prosecution,” Nesbitt added. “Little said he was arrested as a spectator at a dogfight that ended before he arrived. He denies owning the Lockjaw Kennel in Fayetteville and said he was not involved in the match against Vick’s dog.”

Raids on alleged dogfights in 2005 and 2006 in Madison County, Illinois, also had North Carolina connections, pointed out Brian Brueggemann of the *Belleville News-Democrat*. Arrested in both raids were Basil Sitzes, 34, who owned the property, and Jason Bland, 33, of Brighton, Illinois. Also arrested in the second raid was Kimberly Columb, 43, of Alton, Illinois, whom Brueggemann identified as a former housemate of cancer researcher Alane Koki.

Koki, whose last known address was in Hillsborough, North Carolina, was on February 6, 2007 appointed to an Orange County citizens’ committee formed by the county commissions to study an anti-chaining ordinance proposed by Dietrich von Haugwitz, 79, who died on June 26, 2007.

Koki resigned after Ashley B. Roberts of the Orange County *Independent Weekly* exposed what Roberts summarized as “her long history of breeding pit bulls...and her association with local kennel owner Tom Garner, a nationally known breeder of pit bulls and a convicted dog fighter whom commissioners declined to appoint to the committee the same night they approved Koki.”

Roberts described archived versions of Koki’s Thundermaker Bulldogs web site listing three of Garner’s dogs as sires and grandsires of her dogs; a conversation between Koki and Wisconsin dogfighting and drug trafficking defendant Robert Lowery, taped by the Dane County sheriff’s department; her efforts to obtain possession of nearly 50 pit bulls who were seized from Lowery; and the 2006 discovery of about 50 pit bulls on property Koki owns in Pennsylvania. Licensed to keep up to 26 dogs there, she eventually moved all but 11, Animal Rescue League of Berks County executive director Harry Brown told Roberts.

Madison County Assistant State’s Attorney Amy Maher told Brueggemann that she had received a call from an attorney who said Garner owned one of the dogs seized in Illinois and might want the dog back, but had heard nothing further after that conversation.

### Legislation

Despite the high visibility of dogfighting in North Carolina, HSUS has identified Idaho, Wyoming, Georgia, Nevada, and Hawaii as having “the weakest dogfighting laws on the books, allowing some aspects of the cruel practice to go completely unpunished, and punishing others with little more than a slap on the wrist,” after analyzing all applicable U.S. legislation.

“Idaho and Wyoming are last on the list,” explained an HSUS press release, “because they remain the only states in the nation that do not consider dogfighting a felony. Worst-ranked Idaho carries misdemeanor penalties with a minimum \$100 fine and a maximum six-month jail sentence.

(continued on page 15)

## National dogfighting crackdown vindicates Laura Maloney

**NEW ORLEANS**—Pronouncing herself “Extremely disheartened” by alleged judicial and mainstream law enforcement indifference toward dogfighting on April 17, 2007, former Louisiana SPCA executive director Laura Maloney saw attitudes change abruptly before her August 31, 2007 departure to join her husband Dan in Australia.

Previously curator at the Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans, Dan Maloney now heads Zoos Victoria in Melbourne.

Laura Maloney left the Louisiana SPCA two days after the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Katrina destroyed the Louisiana SPCA shelter, and drove much of the organization’s donor base out of New Orleans. Yet, while rebuilding the Louisiana SPCA was Maloney’s biggest challenge, combating dogfighting was her passion and greatest frustration.

Even when dogfighting appeared to have been suppressed to the verge of extinction in most of the U.S. more than 20 years ago, high stakes gambling on dogfights persisted in New Orleans. Maloney and Humane Society of Louisiana founder Jeff Dorson targeted dogfighting more aggressively than anyone in New Orleans ever had before, including the 2005 arrest of reputed longtime dogfighting breeder Floyd Boudreau, 70, awaiting trial on 64 related charges.

But on April 16, 2007 they were bitterly disappointed when Judge Benedict Willard found alleged dogfighter Cleveland Harris not guilty of separate dogfighting felony counts filed in 2003 and 2005.

“Evidence in the 2003 and 2005 cases,” Maloney recited, “included two championship awards presented to Mr. Harris by the *Sporting Dog Journal*, an underground dogfighting magazine which has not been published since owner James Jay Fricchione was convicted of dogfighting and animal cruelty in 2004,” an extensive array of drugs and paraphernalia often associated with dogfighting, and “multiple scarred dogs, one with a seriously damaged face and missing lip.”

The dogfighting case was lost when Hurricane Katrina destroyed the Louisiana SPCA evidence room. Maloney and Louisiana SPCA humane law enforcement director Kathryn Destreza testified that video tapes which could no longer be viewed had showed Harris and his dogs in a fighting pit, but without the actual tapes, Judge Willard convicted Harris only on 16 counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty in the 2003 case and eight counts of cruelty in the 2005 case.

Eight days after the Harris acquittal, police began impounding pit bull terriers and dogfighting paraphernalia from the Surrey, Virginia property of Atlanta Falcons quarter-

back Michael Vick. On the same day, Maloney was called to assist after a federal cocaine trafficking investigation in Mississippi turned up more than 40 alleged fighting dogs.

From then until almost the moment of her flight to Melbourne, Maloney was in constant demand as a dogfighting law enforcement expert and quotable source.

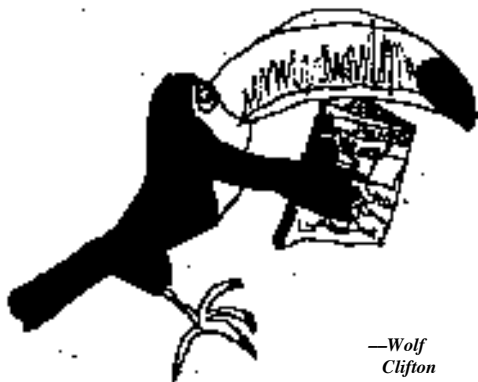
Contrary to popular perception, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** files indicate, the Michael Vick bust was not followed by increasing numbers of arrests and dog seizures in alleged dogfighting cases. The 33 arrests and 244 dogs seized during the next five months were consistent with the numbers recorded over similar intervals in every year since 1998. Between 1997 and 2001, the U.S. dogfighting arrests soared from 11 to 75, and the numbers of dogs impounded increased from 95 to just under 900.

Never before the Vick case, however, did dogfighting receive such intensive media coverage. Major alleged dogfighting arrests, involving 10 to 40 dogs each, came in 12 states.

Several of the biggest busts of 2007 came before the Vick case broke, however, including the seizures of 136 pit bull terriers in a series of related raids in the Dayton and Cincinnati areas that started in July 2006. At least 38 alleged participants were indicted.



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## Michael Vick case blows the whistle nationwide on dogfighting (from page 1)

"It is legal to possess dogs for fighting in Georgia and Nevada," the release continued, "and it is legal to be a spectator at a dogfight in Georgia, Montana, and Hawaii.

"Strong felony penalties for dogfighting, including being a spectator at a fight, are essential to controlling this criminal multi-million dollar industry," emphasized HSUS manager of animal fighting issues John Goodwin. "No one who fights dogs or who is complicit in this horribly cruel activity should be able to escape the law."

HSUS endorsed the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act, H.R. 3219, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Betty Sutton (D-Ohio), which would increase federal penalties for dogfighting and add penalties for dogfight attendance.

The HSUS anti-dogfighting campaign was bolstered on August 27, 2007 by \$200,000 from the Holland M. Ware Charitable Foundation of Hogansville, Georgia. HSUS used the funding to double the rewards it offers for information leading to the arrest and conviction of animal fighters, and "to produce and air public service announcements on animal fighting throughout the U.S."

Introducing improved state legislation against dogfighting will have to wait in most states until the beginning of the 2008 legislative session.

### Humane education

Meanwhile, a coalition of Chicago city officials, clergy, and animal advocates introduced an anti-dogfighting community education program called "Safe, Humane Chicago." Building on work begun by the Anti-Cruelty Society, documented in the 2002 humane education video *One Last Fight: Exposing the Shame*, "Safe, Humane Chicago" aims to reach children and their parents through church and community groups, emphasizing the link between dogfighting and

other violent crime," wrote *Chicago Tribune* staff reporter Monique Garcia.

"This isn't just about dogs," alderman Walter Burnett told a news conference at the Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church. "Violence breeds violence."

Dog Advisory Work Group executive director Cynthia Bathurst told Garcia that approximately 70% of dogfighting and animal abuse offenders in Chicago have also been arrested for committing violent felonies against people.

Actress and comedienne Whoopi Goldberg on September 4, 2007 emphasized the failure of humane education to reach all segments of society in remarks on *The View*, an ABC television talk show. Speaking of Vick, Goldberg said, "You know, from his background, this is not an unusual thing...It seemed like a light went off in his head when he realized that this was something the entire country really didn't appreciate, didn't like...This is a kid who comes from a culture where this is not questioned."

Goldberg's comments were widely construed as a defense of Vick, but she made clear in follow-up remarks that they had no such intent. "Some of the media had me eating dogs and swinging them by the tail," Goldberg complained to Fox News.

Commented ESPN environmental columnist Gregg Easterbrook, "I can't help feeling there is overkill in the social, media, and legal reactions to Vick, and that the overkill originates in hypocrisy about animals. Thousands of animals are mistreated or killed in the United States every day," Easterbrook pointed out, "without the killers so much as being criticized...Ranchers and farmers kill stock animals or horses who are sick or injured. Greyhound tracks routinely race dogs to exhaustion and injury, then kill the losers. Hunters shoot animals for sport.

"From the perspective of the animal," Easterbrook suggested, "there seems little difference between a hunter shooting a

deer and Vick shooting a dog."

"Much more troubling," Easterbrook continued, "is that the overwhelming majority of Americans who eat meat and poultry—I'm enthusiastically among them—are complicit in the systematic cruel treatment of huge numbers of animals. One of Vick's dogs was shot, another electrocuted. Gunshots and electrocution are federally approved methods of livestock slaughter.

"Vick's lawbreaking was relatively minor," opined Easterbrook, "compared to animal mistreatment that happens continuously, within the law, at nearly all levels of the meat production industry, and with which all but vegetarians are complicit...We won't lift a finger to change the way animals die for us. But we will demand Michael Vick serve prison time to atone for our sins."

Among Vick's few actual defenders were Southern Christian Leadership Conference president Charles Steele, who told Ernie Suggs of the Atlanta *Journal-Constitution* that SCLC "would find some way to honor and recognize" Vick, for his past contributions to the organization.

Noted Suggs, "Media mogul Russell Simmons and activist and former presidential candidate Al Sharpton both condemned Vick and called for his corporate sponsors to break ties with him. But R.L. White, president of the Atlanta branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, urged the public and the media not to rush to judgment against Vick."

Heading Sharpton, the Upper Deck and Donruss trading card companies removed Vick's card from their 2007 NFL sets, a day after the athletic apparel makers Nike and Reebok suspended promoting items associated with Vick. The trading card removal may have been a boon, however, to collectors who already have 2007 Vick cards. Topps, the largest maker of baseball cards, tried to expunge obscure first baseman Ed Bouchee from their 1958 set, after Bouchee was convicted of a morals offense—and thereby ensured that Bouchee is remembered because the few

of his 1958 cards that escaped the purge fetch some of the highest prices paid for any sports card.

### Other celebrity cases

*Los Angeles Times* staff writer Gary Klein noted the contrast between the attention paid to the Vick case and the minor notice given to former NFL running back Todd McNair in the 1990s when he was twice convicted of charges resulting from dogfighting investigations.

McNair, now running backs coach for the University of Southern California, was charged with animal neglect in July 1993, found guilty, fined \$500 and put on probation, according to a case summary posted by <www.Pet-Abuse.com>.

"As part of the probation agreement, he was to donate \$250 to an animal shelter," the summary states. "The judge issued a warrant for contempt of court after McNair paid the fine but did not make the donation. He was fined \$100 for contempt and sentenced to community service, which he fulfilled."

In 1996 McNair was charged with 81 offenses involving 22 pit bull terriers, including 17 adults who were found chained to trees on his property and five puppies. A grand jury did not indict McNair for dogfighting, however. Convicted in October 1996 of 22 counts of misdemeanor neglect, McNair paid fines and restitution totaling \$16,226.50.

McNair was not penalized by his teams or by the NFL. Following the Vick case, however, NFL players will be warned against dogfighting. The NFL already makes annual presentations to players about issues including substance misuse and sexual misconduct. Added this year will be warnings about dogfighting, using materials prepared by the American SPCA.

As the Vick case moved toward a conclusion, another possible celebrity dogfighting case broke in Maricopa County, Arizona. Leigh Munsil of the Arizona Republic reported that sheriff's deputies found three dead pit bull terriers, 12 others in a state

## A dogfighting case rocks Gaelic football

**BELFAST**—A 17-month undercover investigation of dogfighting by BBC Northern Ireland's *Spotlight* program, aired on August 30, caught County Tyrone Gaelic football star Gerald Cavlan, 31, boasting in front of a hidden camera about a dogfighting club he cofounded called Bulldog Sanctuary Kennels.

Cavlan's alleged use of the "sanctuary" ruse appeared to be a first in the British Isles, but U.S. dogfighters have often been caught in recent years operating behind false front "sanctuaries" and "rescues." Some have collected pit bull terriers and "bait" dogs and cats from unwitting members of the public.

"The BBC program deployed an undercover specialist from England who duped organizers of two dog-fighting clubs in Northern Ireland and two breeders of American pit bulls in Finland who supplied dogs to Cavlan and other Northern Ireland-based dog fighters," reported Shawn Pogatchnik of Associated Press. "All were filmed discussing the tricks of their trade and methods of evading detection."

The two BBC crew confronted Finland-based breeders Robert Gonzales and Paul Dunkel with evidence of their activities before police arrested them.

"The program displayed documents showing Cavlan acquired a pit bull named Cannon Ball from Gonzales, and traveled to Finland to observe dog fights," Pogatchnik wrote. *Spotlight*, the flagship investigative program for BBC-Belfast, also secretly filmed a dogfight in Finland involving Gonzales and Tom Bell, an organizer of another Northern Ireland dog-fighting club called the Farmers Boys.

In April 2007 Cavlan pleaded guilty to possession of a dangerous dog—Cannon Ball—after the Ulster SPCA seized more than a dozen alleged fighting dogs from a kennel that Cavlan co-owned with an alleged Protestant extremist and drug dealer.

Cavlan was fined \$1,300 and ordered not to keep terriers, but was not suspended by the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Cavlan's dogfighting operation was small compared to that of the Farmers Boys, said Stephen Philpott of the Ulster SPCA. "The Farmers Boys are the Manchester United of the dog fighting world," Philpott asserted. "Over the last 25 years they have established trading partners in inner city Britain, and are now selling their dogs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, and London."

BBC reporter Mandy McAuley, a member of the undercover team, explained that the dogfighters exploit the relatively open border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which unlike Britain allows possession of pit bulls.

"They can bring dogs from other countries to Dublin, then drive them up," McAuley said. "Then they can either keep the dogs for their own breeding or fights, or put them on a ferry over to Britain. We did this ourselves and saw how easy it was."

"The team went to Finland and bought a pit bull from a breeder, who provided fake documents identifying the dog as a boxer-Labrador cross," said BBC News. "They also witnessed a fight in Finland which ended in the death of one of the dogs...a badly injured dog was electrocuted."

The Ulster SPCA followed up the BBC exposé with raids that impounded two suspected fighting dogs and alleged dogfighting equipment.

In absence of an applicable national law, the Dublin city council on July 1, 2007 banned 11 dog breeds from public housing, including English and Staffordshire bull terriers, American pit bulls, German shepherds, Rottweilers, Dobermans, Rhodesian ridgebacks, Akitas, bull mastiffs, bandogs, and Tosas.

## Fourteen of 26 defendants

**BIRMINGHAM**—Fourteen of 26 defendants in one of the biggest dogfighting cases brought to British courts in decades pleaded guilty on September 3, 2007, and were fined from £500 to £1,300, plus £80 court costs.

The case is unusual in that all 26 men arrested at the February 2006 dogfight are Muslims—as is Birmingham Magistrates Court district judge Kal Qureshi, who lectured the men about their "sadistic and cruel" behavior.

"The event itself is best described as sadistic," Qureshi said.

"In my view it involved inflicting unimaginable pain without any pity for the animals."

Qureshi fined them less than the maximum £2,500 because they were first-time offenders.

Dogfighting in Britain has historically not involved immigrants and ethnic minorities, and in recent years has often been a pursuit of so-called skinheads espousing anti-minority attitudes.

Twelve defendants elected to go to trial, including the two men who allegedly organized the fight. Both dogs involved were killed.

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# The Watchdog

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

**LOS ANGELES**—The *Los Angeles Daily News* and KNBC-4 television on August 30, 2007 amplified emergency appeals from Wildlife Waystation founder Martine Colette for funding she said was urgently needed to keep the 31-year-old sanctuary operating.

“We are \$1 million in debt, and we have no funds left,” Colette told *Daily News* staff writer Dana Bartholomew. “Things as they are today will not continue for the next week, or two weeks, without help.”

Colette suggested that if an immediate infusion of cash was not forthcoming, the 400 Waystation animals would “become the county’s problem, the state’s problem,” a threat she has issued before in years of disputes with regulatory agencies.

Closed for 110 days by the California Department of Fish & Game in 2000, Wildlife Waystation never fully regained the permits it needed to host donors’ visits, which until then were the sanctuary’s chief revenue engine. More than just generating on-the-spot donations, visits tended to inspire new donors to give regularly, and established donors to give more.

“Trying to obtain a permit is a long process,” Colette told KNBC. “There are many regulations we have to meet in order to get a permit, and we cannot meet those regulations at all. In the meantime we have gone broke trying to run the sanctuary without being open to the public.”

Colette estimated that Wildlife Waystation operating costs currently run at about \$5,000 a day. This is consistent with the most recent Waystation filings of IRS Form 990. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has found that determining the balance of Waystation program expense, fundraising costs, and administrative expenditures has been difficult, however, because of idiosyncracies in how the forms have been completed.

“Last month,” wrote Bartholomew, “five of the eight Waystation board members quit, apparently burned out over troubles at the beleaguered agency.”

## Court awards no fees to Primarily

**AUSTIN**—Travis County Probate Court Judge Guy Herman on September 10, 2007 denied the request of Lee Theisen-Watt for “Payment of Receiver Fees and Reimbursement of Attorneys’ Fees” for the time she spent as court-appointed receiver at the Primarily Primates sanctuary near San Antonio, Texas, from October 15, 2006 until May 1, 2007.

Herman noted that Theisen-Watt testified “she had agreed to offer her services pro bono, that her original attorney would represent her pro bono, that she assumed her original attorney would pay for the fees of her other attorneys, and that she gave a charitable receipt from Primarily Primates to the original attorney for the \$42,000 the original attorney said he paid” to another law firm.

Theisen-Watt’s tenure as receiver ended after the Texas Office of Attorney General agreed in an out-of-court settlement to “fully and completely release, acquit, and forever discharge Primarily Primates,” founder Wally Swett, other staff and board members, and Friends of Animals, which absorbed the sanctuary in August 2006, from “all claims” brought against them.

The Texas Office of Attorney General had seized Primarily Primates based largely on allegations by two former employees who had been dismissed for cause, forwarded by PETA counsel for research and investigations Leona Stormont. Stormont sent the allegations shortly after Ohio State University retired nine former research chimpanzees to Primarily Primates, with an endowment for their care and housing, against PETA objections.

Wrote Judge Herman, Theisen-Watt “admitted that subsequent to the settlement hearing, she decided to charge for her services and that of her lawyer because she was unhappy with the terms of the settlement.” While

Colette at the end of August laid off general manager Alfred J. Durtschi, who was paid \$107,153 in the most recently reported fiscal year, and also laid off half of the 48 Waystation caretakers and groundskeepers.

Colette told news media that Southern California Edison had threatened to cut off the sanctuary electricity due to unpaid bills, and that the Waystation was also about to lose propane delivery.

Former Waystation board chair Robert Lorsch resigned on July 1, 2007, after five years of intense involvement.

Lorsch, recounted *Los Angeles Weekly* “City Beat” columnist Marc B. Haeefe in January 2007, “founded a big phone card company called SmarTalk that cratered in the [2001] dot-com meltdown with accusations of insider trading. Bill Gates reportedly claims Lorsch helped make Microsoft Windows 1.0 a huge success. He’s a friend of astronauts and wants to sell billboard ads on space shuttles. He donated a pavilion at the Museum of Natural History, and this season has given high-end political fundraisers at his vast Mulholland Drive mansion for politicians including presidential aspirant and right-wing U.S. Senator Sam Brownback of Oklahoma.”

Haeefe reported that Lorsch’s father and Colette dated and lived together.

Before Lorsch became involved, Haeefe summarized, “Wildlife Waystation was investigated by a special county interagency task force that included planning, fire, and health officials, presided over by the County Counsel’s office, looking into allegedly deficient animal care and unsecured animal exhibitions, inadequate fencing, sanitation that put waste in a local stream, plus persistent fire safety problems. Critics of Wildlife Waystation allege that Lorsch’s high-level intervention caused the county to dissolve this force. Lorsch didn’t acknowledge he had done so, but characterized the force as ‘a horror,’ and said, ‘Every time the Waystation tried to fix something, they were hit with a citation.’”

Haeefe recounted federal court testi-

mony by Lorsch about the extent of intercessions with public officials he acknowledged, in his efforts to keep the Waystation open. The hearing was held after the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service charged that Wildlife Waystation had repeatedly violated the federal Animal Welfare Act while on probation due to past violations.

“Deputy U.S. Attorney Colleen A. Carroll said that if her findings were upheld, the Waystation would lose its federal operating permit and its officials—including Lorsch and founder Martine Colette—might be fined,” Haeefe wrote. “Lorsch and Colette maintain that if they lose, Wildlife Waystation must close.”

“Martine wanted control over everything, and that has been problematic,” Lorsch told Bartholomew after resigning. “I can’t speak for the others, but it got tiring.”

“My job now is to find a solution to this crisis and dilemma,” Colette said. “And to save the animals at the Waystation.”

Longtime board member Peggy Summers on September 17, 2007 took an optimistic view. “We still have some regulatory issues,” Summers acknowledged to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “We have lost board members, but people are coming out of the woodwork to volunteer very important fund development services. Martine has stepped up to the plate and taken over many aspects of things, and is doing a great job. USDA was just here for a full facility inspection,” Summers said, “and we passed with flying colors. We are developing other very promising ideas as well. We are going to come out of this somewhat changed....but even better. The animals are

depending on us, so the three board members left are giving it our all.”

But at least some of the “promising ideas” may not materialize quickly, if at all.

One much discussed possibility was that Wildlife Waystation might partially relocate to Palm Springs. Dean Seymour, who succeeded Lorsch as the Waystation board president, told Stefanie Frith of the *Palm Springs Desert Sun* in early August 2007 that the Waystation hoped to obtain 80 acres of donated land and \$300,000 with which to build a modular office and habitats for chimpanzees, lions, and tigers. Reported possible land donors included two Native American tribes and actress Suzanne Somers, whose attorney confirmed her interest to Frith.

“Most of the [Waystation] animals would relocate to Palm Springs,” including most of the chimpanzee colony, Frith wrote, “while the Waystation would keep 20 acres of its 160 acres in Los Angeles County for other animals,” according to Seymour’s plan.

“Mayor Ron Oden is enthusiastic about the Waystation, and introduced the idea during the July 25 city council meeting,” Frith added. However, while Seymour hoped to be ready to move the animals by the end of the year, Oden indicated that the permitting process alone might take up to a year.

## Special master speaks

“The county has appealed to the public for donations to help support the place,” former court-appointed Waystation special

(continued on page 17)

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Theisen-Watt “suggested that her approval of a settlement was a condition prior to her providing her services pro bono.” Herman continued, “such a condition, if it existed, was unknown to the parties and was not agreed upon by any of the parties or the Court.

“The condition precedent theory of fees offered up” by Theisen-Watt “in this case is an attempt to interfere with the judicial process,” Judge Herman found, “and violates the Receiver’s supposed third-party neutrality. The Court cannot and will not countenance such effort by awarding fees and expenses.”

Among Theisen-Watt’s actions as receiver was relocating many of the animals who lived at Primarily Primates.

At the time the July/August 2007 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral and Primarily Primates executive director Stephen Tello believed that Theisen-Watt had sent some Primarily Primates animals to the Duke University Lemur Center, as well as to several sanctuaries, and were quoted commenting about the suitability of Duke as a home for sanctuary animals. Feral later notified **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that Duke did not receive any Primarily Primates animals, although Duke had received an inquiry about possibly taking some.

Chimps Inc., of Eugene, Oregon, the International Primate Protection League, and New Mexico land owner Marguerite Gordon on June 25, 2007 sued Primarily Primates, respectively seeking to keep two chimps, 12 gibbons, and a longhorn steer whom Theisen-Watt sent to them.

Friends of Animals on August 6, 2007 sued Chimp Haven, of Shreveport, Louisiana, seeking return of the seven surviving former Ohio State University chimps. Two of the chimps died of pre-existing heart conditions soon after arrival at Primarily Primates.



How does Wal-Mart reconcile selling live turtles in China with “sustainable” policy?

**BENTONVILLE, Arkansas**—In October 2005, Wal-Mart chief executive officer Lee Scott declared that as the world’s largest retail store chain, Wal-Mart has a special responsibility to be a “good steward for the environment.” In October 2006, *Newsweek* published a gruesome account of how live turtles, fish, crabs, and clams are sold and killed to order “in the grocery section of a Wal-Mart in north Beijing.”

In January 2007, Care for the Wild International chief executive Barbara Maas suggested to Clifford Coonan, Beijing correspondent for *The Independent*, that Wal-Mart and other retail chains including Carrefour of France, Metro of Germany, and Tesco of Britain should set better examples in China by not stocking turtles and frogs.

“Tesco told us that it has commissioned research into the stunning of turtles, with the Chinese Institute of Science and Technology,” Maas said. “But our research has found dozens of scientific publications that demonstrate that turtles cannot be killed humanely for food.”

While Carrefour, Metro, and Tesco make little pretense of being anything other than giant retailers, the Wal-Mart web site—while saying nothing of humane values—continues to emphasize “sustainable procurement,” including with a page about how “Wal-Mart shoppers can now find the Marine Stewardship Council’s independent blue eco-label on ten fish products.” Wal-Mart Seafood & Deli vice president Peter

Redmond calls the labeling “an easy way for consumers to identify seafood from fisheries that meet the MSC’s strict environmental standard.”

“How does Wal-Mart reconcile selling turtles (and frogs?) for human consumption in your stores in China with your policy of sustainability?”, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** asked, not just once but multiple times in August and September 2007.

“Surely you are aware,” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** continued, “that both turtles and frogs of all species are in global decline, due to a combination of environmental factors and heavy human exploitation. Surely you are also aware that turtle ‘farming’,” cited by Tesco as their turtle source, “actually consists chiefly of raising turtles to market weight in captivity after taking them from the wild, since raising them to market weight from hatching would typically take from five to 10 years (depending on species.)

“Surely you also know,” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** continued, “that the overwhelming majority of herpetological conservationists believe that the continuing existence of any legal trade in either turtles or frogs will tend to keep eating them socially acceptable until many species (especially those native to Asia) have declined past the point of no return.”

Corporate flacks usually can give glib answers to questions such as these, whether or not they square with reality or make sense. But not Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart in repeated tries

could not even manage to dispatch a form letter that so much as mentioned the company’s sustainability policy.

Networking with other veteran reporters, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** learned that this seems to be routine.

Former corporate ladder-climber turned environmentalist and adventurer Peter Bray had more to say in web postings about Wal-Mart turtle-selling in China that Wal-Mart itself did. “To the point of Wal-Mart’s decision to sell turtle meat,” Bray opined, “one has to be concerned that legalizing these products and distributing them far and wide will only increase consumer demand. In central China, where turtle meat is not traditionally served, most consumers now prod and poke and look curiously at the turtles, perhaps not sure what to make of them. But, with Wal-Mart’s discounting and marketing and sales, we’re sure to have plenty of new turtle eaters. And that’s a bad thing for wild and highly endangered turtles.”

But **ANIMAL PEOPLE** did discover at the Wal-Mart web site a declaration that among the company’s top three environmental goals is to “Design and support Green Company Program in China.”

And CEO Lee Scott’s personal page offered one relevant thought about, “What are the biggest challenges for Wal-Mart as far as environmental sustainability is concerned?”

“We’ve got a very long way to go,” Scott said. “Our biggest challenge is achieving our own potential.”

Wildlife Waystation founder says the sanctuary is

master Gini Barrett told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “A new benefactor may step in, although it is difficult to imagine who that might be. The public may cough up enough money to keep the place open a few more months.”

But Barrett was not optimistic.

Barrett, then western regional office director for the American Humane Association, was in September 2000 named special master to supervise efforts to bring Wildlife Waystation into compliance with California Department of Fish and Game regulations.

“I spent three years negotiating the settlement of the Fish and Game case and initially was very supportive of the Waystation and Martine,” Barrett said. “Yes, they had many, many, many environmental, health and safety code violations and problems. But the animals were in pretty good shape, even if they were living in old-fashioned cages, rather than more modern habitats. The only real horror show was a big chimp facility, meant to be a temporary place when the chimps arrived quickly,” following the 1995 closure of the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery In Primates at New York University.

“The Waystation had tried to build a new and modern facility,” Barrett recounted. Unfortunately they sited it on someone else’s adjacent land,” specifically part of the Angeles National Forest, within which the Waystation is an inholder, “and did not have the required inspections or permits. They got shut down and went no further.

“When I got involved there had been no progress on this project for several years. Martine seemed to have lost interest when she could not do what she wanted to do. No further efforts to relocate those chimps had been made—either onsite or at other facilities,” Barrett alleged. “I focused a lot of attention on trying to get new cages built for those animals.

This eventually got done, but it was a really difficult struggle, and I have to admit, county employees worked overtime to block progress on this much needed improvement.

“I have been in politics a long, long time,” Barrett said, “but I learned a lot in the process of trying to get some decent housing for these chimps about the use and abuse of power by government agencies. I was disappointed, disillusioned and often disgusted by the tactics of a number of county employees. I understand getting frustrated with a facility operator. I don’t understand channeling that frustration into tactics that harm the animals more than they harm the operator.

“In addition to everything else, the County and the Waystation were at a major legal juncture,” Barrett explained. “The Waystation’s long standing conditional use permit had expired. Technically, the county could have closed the place.”

The Los Angeles County administration “was rightly horrified,” Barrett conceded, “by the aging, junky, illegal mess the Waystation had evolved into. In addition, all the government agencies that had struggled with Martine over the years were now comparing notes and sharing information. As each agency learned more about the problems other agencies were having, that affected each agency’s willingness to work collaboratively with, or believe or trust, Martine.

“Additionally there was a simultaneous campaign of complaints to each of these agencies, especially the county, by a collection of former volunteers and others, even a former board member.

Getting things fixed

“I saw my role as getting things fixed,” Barrett said. “Unfortunately, there were some real logistic and physical realities that Martine could not easily solve and would not deal with realistically. The Waystation acreage is extremely hilly and rolling and the cost to bring a piece of land like this up to current codes on road improvement, hillside stabilization, water supplies and storage for fire protection, sewage disposal, etc. is just way too prohibitive for a nonprofit animal facility. While I was involved, the estimates for infrastructure improvement, not including any cage or habitat improvements, were in the \$30 million range, and would likely be higher now.

“From an animal care and welfare point of view,” Barrett observed, “this facility is old, founded in the 1970s and still stuck in the type of caging that was common then. We have learned a lot about animal behavior and needs since then. Zoos across the country are being forced to sink lots of money into better and more modern caging and habitats to improve the well-being of their animal residents. Sanctuaries, while having more limited funding, should also be providing better facilities. To my knowledge, the Waystation never considered these issues seriously. Martine’s emphasis,” Barrett charged, “seemed to be focused on building more small cages so more animals could be saved.

“The only practical thing to do would have been to sell this land,” Barrett opined, “and work out a move to a flatter location, where all the legal requirements would be at least economically feasible, and—hopefully—build all new, larger, more humane animal habitats.

Colette told Bartholomew of the *Daily News* that she has been offered between \$2.5 million and \$3 million for 120 acres of the Waystation.

“I had the impression,” Barrett continued, “that the longer term board members and Martine felt that Lorsch would somehow come up with the millions to put in all the roads and infrastructure. I don’t know if Lorsch initially thought that it might be possible to raise that kind of money or not. Certainly as he gained insight into the facility, the obstacles, and this type of nonprofit fundraising, I am sure he came to realize what an immense hurdle this would be.”

As of 2000, the Waystation housed nearly 1,200 animals. Under pressure to reduce the population, Colette removed horses and cattle from the premises.

“She also lost her native wildlife rescue and rehab permits, so all of those animals and related traffic were eliminated,” Barrett said. “While other wildlife rehab organizations grew, none are as centrally located or as well known as the Waystation, so injured native animals have lost an important resource.

“Age and attrition have further reduced the population. No large rescue operations have brought animals to the Waystation in recent years,” Barrett said. “The place has been better managed in the last few years than in decades.

“I have a lot of respect for what Martine has accomplished,” Barrett said, “but I also have come to understand that many of the Waystation’s problems are of her own making. She does exactly what she wants to do, whether or not it meets regulations—and often regardless of whether it benefits the animals. I have never come to understand her reasoning, but I have come to understand how she has developed such a long list of people who are angry with her.

“I hate to see the place fail,” Barrett concluded. “Los Angeles can support this needed work. There was no good reason for

New animal protection laws in Texas, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Maine

**New Texas legislation permits felony prosecution of people whose dogs kill or maim other humans**, but attorneys familiar with handling dog attack cases and representatives of the animal control officers who will have the primary duty of enforcing the new law told Roy Appleton of the *Dallas Morning News* that it does not actually eliminate the ancient “one free bite” rule for determining if a dog is vicious, and will require animal control officers to do criminal investigation, whereas the typical animal control offense is a summary infraction. “This is better than what we have now,” said Dallas attorney and Animal Legal Defense Fund president Robert Trimble, “but whether it solves the problem, I guess we’ll have to wait and see.”

**Texas also banned keeping dogs tethered between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.**, and limited tethering to three hours within any 24-hour period. Waco police department animal control chief Clare Crook noted to Waco *Tribune-Herald* staff writer David Doerr that enforcement may be complicated by thin animal control staffing during night hours, but felt the law would be helpful.

**In addition, Texas extended anti-cruelty protection to homeless animals**, increased the penalties for dogfighting, banned horse-tripping (a common event in so-called *chareada* rodeo), and for the first time expressly required that animals be given adequate water.

**New York Governor Eliot Spitzer** on August 28, 2007 signed into law the first state ban on electrocuting animals for their fur. Spitzer a week earlier endorsed into law a requirement that all fur garments regardless of price be labeled in a manner that accurately identifies the species from which the fur came. A similar federal law exempts garments priced at under \$150.

**Illinois and Massachusetts** in August 2007 became the most recent of 34 states to ban so-called “Internet hunting,” in which penned animals are shot with weapons from afar, using a computer mouse or joystick.

**Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich** on September 4 signed into law stronger penalties for cock-fighting, including the possibility of winning a felony conviction on a first offense. The new law also allows courts to order forfeiture of animals to an animal control officer or animal shelter upon conviction of an animal keeper for cruelty, aggravated cruelty, or torture. In addition, the law elevates injuring or

killing a police dog, service animal or rescue dog to a felony.

**A new Maine law** taking effect on September 21, 2007, pushed by dog breeders, requires anyone other than a state-licensed

breeder who advertises puppies or kittens for sale to obtain a \$25 permit. Licensed breeders pay \$75 per year, and pay \$25 per animal sold to the Help Fix Maine Program, to subsidize pet sterilization.

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## Malaysia plans to export street macaques to labs & live markets

**KUALA LUMPUR**—Malaysian natural resources and environment minister Seri Azmi Khalid at a September 5, 2007 press conference asserted that the government had not lifted a 23-year-old ban on exporting long-tailed macaques, but admitted that plans are proceeding to export macaques captured in cities to laboratories and Chinese live markets.

“I did not use the word ‘lift.’ The media quoted me wrongly,” Seri Azmi Khalid claimed, according to Loh Foon Fong of the *Malaysia Star*.

Bernama, the Malaysian National News Agency, reported on August 17, 2007 that “Malaysia has lifted the ban on the export of long-tailed macaques.”

“The cabinet has decided to lift the ban because we want to reduce the number of long-tailed monkeys in urban areas. The lifting of the ban is only for peninsular Malaysia and does not cover Sabah and Sarawak,” Seri Azmi Khalid was

quoted as saying.

Reporting about the same speech, Elizabeth John of the *New Straits Times* wrote that Seri Azmi Khalid said the export ban had been “lifted.”

Seri Azmi Khalid asserted that 258,406 long-tailed macaques inhabit urban areas in peninsular Malaysia, while 483,747 remain in forests.

“Follow the money trail and trace who the benefactors are,” suggested Mohd Khan Momin Khan, former director-general of the Malaysian Wildlife and National Parks Department. Heading the department, called Perhilitan, from 1972 to 1992, Mohd Khan Momin Khan “was instrumental in getting the 1984 trade ban,” wrote Hilary Chew of the *Malaysia Star*.

Continued Chew, writing with S.S. Yoga of the *Star*, “Last week, Seri Azmi Khalid candidly told participants at a

climate change workshop that he had been approached by ‘some bright people who saw that money could be made from exporting monkeys.’”

Wrote Chew and Yoga, “Sources said the proposal to export monkeys came prior to the retirement of Perhilitan director-general Musa Nordin last October. In a telephone interview, Musa said he was ‘indirectly involved’ in the trade, but declined to comment when asked if he had teamed up with a wildlife trader. When pressed further, Musa said ‘Go talk to Perhilitan. They’re the one making the policy. I’m retired.’”

“Sources reveal,” Chew and Yoga added, “that at least one company has submitted a business plan to the ministry proposing an export volume of between 12,000 and 20,000 monkeys per year. Each shipment will carry between 2,000 and 2,500 specimens. The business plan lists the likely buyers as two laboratories and one breeding center in China. One of the laboratories is the Kunming Primate Research Centre, which is affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The center was set up in 2005 as a research base for experiments against infectious diseases and bio-terrorism.”

Ardith Eudey, author of the World Conservation Union’s Action Plan for Asian Primates, warned that the plan to capture urban macaques could cover for bootlegging macaques out of the wild.

“It looks like the government is attempting to create an export market,” Eudey said,

“Eudey pointed out that urban monkeys are not desirable, as they have been in contact with humans,” wrote Chew. “A country such as the U.S. wants clean monkeys for research purposes, meaning captive bred, Eudey said.”

Mohd Khan Momin Khan agreed that it is “a misconception”

(continued on page 19)

## Monkey traffic heats up in Cambodia

**PHNOM PENH**—Masked gunmen on August 19, 2007 removed 52 macaques from the premises of the Angkor Bright company in northern Kampong Thom province, Cambodia, Kampong Svay district deputy police chief Pen Kheng acknowledged three days later to *Asia-Pacific News*.

Though the raid was the first to become known to the outside world, “This is becoming very common in this district,” Pen Kheng said, “and has happened to Angkor Bright and another company, Chen China group,” also known as Golden China, “many times lately. So far,” he said, “we have no suspects.”

Reported *Asia-Pacific News*, “He declined to say why the company had so many monkeys on its premises, but

wildlife officials have previously said they suspect Cambodia is becoming a transit point for primates destined for China and Vietnam, where animal testing is legal, monkey meat is a delicacy, and animal rights protesters are virtually unheard of.”

International Primate Protection League founder Shirley McGreal shared with **ANIMAL PEOPLE** excerpts from e-mails she said were from informants, indicating that some laboratory monkey dealers are selling macaques who were purportedly captive-bred in Cambodia. The monkeys are said to be several years older than those of either the Angkor Bright or Golden China companies, which are the only known Cambodia monkey exporters.

## Malaysian humane community stops Selayang dog-catching contest

**SELAYANG, Malaysia**—The Selayang Municipal Council on September 13, 2007 cancelled a dogcatching contest begun the previous week, which had offered 78,000 ringgit—about \$22,200—in cash prizes.

The cancellation displayed the growing influence of the Malaysian humane movement, which draws support from all of the major ethnic and religious communities in a nation where politics often split along ethnic or religious divides.

Selangor council president Zainal Abidin Azim opened the dog-catching contest on September 5, in response, he said, to receiving about 80 complaints per month about stray dogs. Teams or individuals were required to catch at least 150 dogs in six months to qualify for awards of 15,000, 13,000, and 11,000 ringgit.

The contest started out with the endorsement of Rawang state assembly member Tang See Hang, who posed for photographers “capturing” a cardboard cutout of a dog.

Asked what would become of dogs caught during the contest, Tang See Hung told media, “Anyone who wishes to rear the dogs will be welcome to pick them up. Otherwise we would dispose of them through the council’s own methods.”

Amended Selangor First Minister Mohamed Khir Toyo, after Tang See Hung’s remarks were fiercely denounced in the letters columns of the *Malaysia Star* and *New Straits Times*, “All the animals caught will be given to the SPCA, and the dogs would be housed, or even put to sleep, based on their reasonable expertise.

“Competitions like this are good,” Khir Toyo continued. “Dog-catching must be done, as strays could attack children or even adults. The animals could also spread diseases, as the strays rummage through garbage and get skin diseases.”

But Khir Toyo told Edward Rajendra of the *Malaysia Star* that too much prize money was offered. “We have to create a commitment among the public to control the number of strays,” Khir Toyo said, but not with such exorbitant prizes.”

Rebutted SPCA Selangor chair Christine Chin, “We can’t propagate a fun and festive mood in dog catching, as the whole idea is wrong. Having such a competition encourages cruelty.” Chin further pointed out that the SPCA Selangor is

not a municipal animal control agency. “The SPCA does not catch or destroy animals,” Chin said. “In fact it is wrong to say that the dogs would be handed to us. Our role is to prevent cruelty to animals, promote kindness to animals, and encourage responsible pet ownership.”

Other Malaysian humane societies amplified Chin’s criticisms.

“We believe, this inhumane competition will not only subject stray dogs to cruelty, but will cause dognapping, because it will be easier and faster [to catch tame dogs] to fulfill the prize eligibility,” said Nick Josh K. Karean of the Humane Society Independent Group of Malaysia. Karean started a worldwide electronic petition against the contest.

Furry Friends spokesperson Sabrina Yeap recommended that the reward fund should be spent instead to hire professional dog-catchers, whose methods would meet acceptable humane standards.

Explained Malaysian Animal Rights & Welfare Society president and attorney N. Surendran to Mazlinda Mahmood of the *New Straits Times*, “The only proven way to solve the problem is a comprehensive spaying campaign, coupled with a public education program to teach owners to neuter their pets and not abandon them.”

Surendran recommended the introduction of licensing with discounts for sterilized pets, and alleged that the Selangor council “is committing cruelty to animals and exposing the public to danger. Who’s going to be liable,” Surendran asked, “if someone is bitten? The council could be sued and taxpayers would have to foot the bill.” Agreed veterinarian Lynnette Low, displaying scars on her arms to Mahmood, “Even professionals get hurt when they deal with dogs.”

Said dog rescuer Natasha Valerie Fernz, “When dogs are cornered, their natural reaction is to bite. Then people will blame the dogs and say they should be destroyed.”

As the issue heated up, Selayang Municipal Council president Zainal Abidin avoided humane delegations by taking a leave of absence. Hecklers confronted 30 animals advocates on September 11, but failed to provoke a hostile response.

The Selangor campaign paralleled the humane response a year earlier, after 13 dogs were shot by order of the

Seremban Municipal Council. An *ad hoc* Coalition Against Dog Shooting & Other Inhumane Methods formed, including six animal welfare organizations and two organizations focused on human rights and welfare.

Another dog shooting followed, in front of more than 100 young witnesses in the compound of a secondary school in Ipoh. Under pressure from the children, many of their parents, and the Coalition Against Dog Shooting, the Ipoh City Council voted to “use tranquilisers instead of bullets from now on,” explained mayor Mohamad Rafiai Mokhtar to news media.

### Protest saves pigs

Protest based on ethnic and economic grievances, more familiar to most Malaysians, meanwhile saved as many as 150,000 pigs in early September 2007—at least until they reached normal slaughtering weight.

For most of the day on September 4, about 100 villagers including women and children stood off between 200 and 300 police officers, half of the police in riot gear, after the police descended on Paya Mengkuang, Malacca, with six excavators to dig mass graves for culled pigs, plus several trucks outfitted with water cannon.

The Malacca state government had ordered the closure of 15 farms with a combined total of 150,000 pigs.

Similar stand-offs reportedly came at Ayer Molek and Bukit Beruang villages.

Agence France-Press said late in the day that the pig-killing had finally started. “More than 60% of Malaysians are Muslim and consider pigs and pork unclean,” Agence France-Press explained. “The country’s pig farmers are mostly from Malaysia’s sizeable Chinese population.

Malaccan government spokespersons denied on September 5 that any pigs were killed. Instead, they announced, an agreement had been reached whereby the farmers agreed to sell 2,000 pigs per day to reduce the pig population to 48,000 by September 21.

**TOLEDO**—The Ohio Supreme Court on August 1, 2007 upheld the right of Ohio cities to regulate possession of pit bull terriers.

The court unanimously reversed an appellate ruling that overturned a Toledo ordinance limiting pit bull possession to one per house and setting conditions on how pit bulls may be confined.

The court also upheld a state law that defines pit bulls as a “vicious dog,” a definition which has the effect of enabling dog wardens to respond to potential threats from pit bulls before they actually bite someone. Dogs have historically not been legally defined as vicious until they inflict an unprovoked bite, but the “one free bite” standard has become increasingly unrealistic as breeds of dog whose first bite can kill or maim have proliferated.

Wrote Chief Justice Thomas Moyer, “Evidence presented in the trial court supports the conclusion that pit bulls pose a serious danger to the safety of citizens. The state and the city have a legitimate interest in protecting citizens

from the danger posed by this breed of domestic dog.”

“Three years ago,” recounted John Seewer of Associated Press, “the Ohio Supreme Court essentially struck down a state law that said a vicious dog is one that kills or injures people. But it did not address whether pit bulls were automatically considered vicious. Paul Tellings, formerly of Toledo, challenged the city’s pit bull law after he was convicted of owning three pit bulls. One dog was confiscated and destroyed.”

Justices Paul E. Pfeifer, Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Terrence O’Donnell, Judith Ann Lanzinger and Robert R. Cupp concurred with Moyer.

“Justice Maureen O’Connor concurred in judgment only,” wrote Seewer, “and entered a separate opinion expressing her disapproval of the provision of state law classifying all pit bulls as ‘vicious dogs.’ She wrote that data cited by the trial court regarding pit bull attacks did not reflect inherent violent characteristics of the breed, but rather arose from deliberate efforts by some

owners, including drug dealers, to increase a dog’s aggression and lethality through abuse or aberrant training.”

The Ohio Supreme Court ruling came six weeks after a Washington state appellate court in Tacoma upheld the assault conviction of Robbie Hoeldt of Vancouver, Washington. Hoeldt claimed he was innocent because a dog is not a weapon. Hoeldt’s dog attacked a Vancouver police detective who was attempting to arrest Hoeldt at his home. The police officer shot the dog dead.

Along with almost every article from back editions, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** web site offers translations of key items into French & Spanish ... Lewyt Award-winning heroic & compassionate animal stories...vet info links... downloadable handbooks... fund-raising how-to... our guide to estate planning... bios and photos of the people

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## Malaysia plans to export macaques to labs & live markets *(from page 18)*

ception that there is a demand for macaques caught from urban areas," Chew continued, since "Urban monkeys are known to have tuberculosis and assorted intestinal diseases. They do not make good test subjects, and are not appealing to exotic food importers," either.

"Eventually, senseless poaching of wild monkeys will ensue to fill the demands of importers," Mohd Khan Momin Khan warned.

"Allowing urban monkeys to be hunted almost certainly will lead to trapping of monkeys in the jungle," affirmed Malaysian Animal Rights & Welfare Society president N. Surendran, questioning whether Perhilitan even has the capability to monitor macaque captures, or to distinguish urban-caught macaques from those trapped in the forest.

Surendran and others formed the Malaysian Animal Rights & Welfare Society as a coalition opposed to the macaque exports. Coalition members include the SPCA

Selangor, Malaysian Animal Assisted Therapy for the Disabled Association, Parti Keadilan Rakyat, and the Malaysian Association for Responsible Pet Ownership.

The coalition "lodged a police report against Seri Azmi Khalid and [wildlife] ministry officials for violating Section 92(f) of the Protection of Wildlife Act 1972" in rescinding the macaque export ban, Chew wrote.

Wrote Surendran in a *Malaysia Star* guest column, "No country can call itself civilized when it ill-treats its wildlife in so cruel a manner. We call upon Khalid to immediately restore the ban on trade of macaques; halt all pending macaque shipments overseas; release all macaques currently in captivity and awaiting transport; and consult with animal welfare groups and experts to humanely respond to macaque problems."

"In a way, this is a success story," the *Malaysia Star* editorialized. "The peninsular population of long-tailed macaques declined by 25% between 1957 and 1975, when their trade was unregulated." While the macaque population recovered, the *Malaysia Star* recounted, "Urban and industrial development pushed back the forest. Without a 'countryside' to speak of, there are few if any buffers between forest and human habitat" in many areas, "which has allowed wild monkeys freely to invade urban areas. They are famously adaptable animals, at home everywhere from the seashore to mountain-tops. Urban environments are positively appealing to them, with virtually unlimited access to abundant food.

"They are at best pests and at worst menaces," the *Malaysia Star* asserted. "Trapping them for relocation has been tried, but was found to have deleterious effects on the ecosystems where they are released. Expatriated urban macaques clash with forest-domiciled troupes over territory," with the urban monkeys tending to prevail because they tend to be larger and more aggressive. Decriminalizing the export of macaques as exotic cuisine has two dubious advantages," the *Star* suggested. "The trade is nothing new, having persisted illegally during the 30 years of the ban; and it can make money."

A Perhilitan study conducted between March and

June 2007 looked at the possible effects of exporting urban macaques for five years at rates ranging from 20% of the population per year to more than 90%. At 20%, the macaque population would remain stable and might even grow. At 90%, if such a high capture rate could be achieved, only 31 monkeys would remain in urban areas.

Macaque experts did not endorse the Perhilitan recommendations. "If the root of the problem is people feeding the macaques, teaching them that humans equals food, then more should be done to educate the public," Chris R. Shepherd of the World Wildlife Fund subsidiary Traffic Southeast Asia told John of the *New Straits Times*.

Eudey recommended "positive educational and control programs," citing the examples of Hong Kong and Singapore, and invited Malaysia to participate in the next Congress of the International Primatological Society, at Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2008, "when the pest problem posed by macaques will be examined in detail."

In Barbados, Eudey added, "Despite trapping and exporting 10,000 vervet monkeys for research over 14 years, crop raiding has not been reduced and the monkey population remains stable," as the wary survivors of capture efforts continue breeding up to the carrying capacity of the habitat.

"The catch phrase 'monkey menace' is common now in many urban areas, from New Delhi to Kuala Lumpur," observed primatologist Govindasamy Agoramoorthy, of Tajen University in Taiwan. "It's easy to blame the monkeys for creating havoc in urban areas. But are the monkeys really to be blamed? With ever shrinking natural forest and less availability of natural food sources, the monkeys are adapting to the unique human creations of concrete jungle and palm plantation."

Unmentioned amid the Malaysian macaque debate is that in Malaysia, as elsewhere throughout Asia, monkeys are also taking advantage of steeply declining street dog populations to extend their range—as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out in January/February 2002 and June 2007 cover features.

—Merritt Clifton

## European parliament moves to halt monkey

laration "sends a clear message to the Commission that animal experimentation should be phased out."

European laboratories use about 10,000 nonhuman primates per year, according to ADI. About 40% of the total are used in Britain. The nations next most involved in doing nonhuman primate studies are France and Germany.

"A European Commission survey from 2006 found that 80% of Europeans are against the use of primates for scientific purposes," said Agence France-Presse.

Pushing the declaration forward was British songwriter Maria Daines' second pro-animal composition of the summer to top the independent online pop rock charts. Daines released *Monkey In A Cage* about one month after producing *One Small Dog* to benefit the Homeless Animal Protection Society of Ethiopia. As a publicity stunt, Daines and several other celebrities posed in a primate transport case.

ADI tactics included distributing monkey doorhangers to the members of the European Parliament, plus "novelty bags with serious reports...alongside credit card-size monkey mints and bathtime luxuries," said Tuffrey Jones.

The campaign gained momentum after Justice John Mitting of the British High Court ruled on July 27, 2007 that the British Home Office improperly understated the degree of suffering that marmosets would experience when it licensed invasive brain experiments at Cambridge University.

"The case was brought after a 10-month undercover investigation by the British Union Against Vivisection at a Cambridge neuroscience lab during 2000 and 2001," summarized Mike Taylor of *The Independent*. "The investigation revealed that the Home Office had assigned a 'moderate' suffering category to experiments which included such procedures as removing the top of a marmoset's head and part of the brain to induce strokes. Guidelines state that any procedure which 'may lead to a major departure from the animal's usual state of health and wellbeing' must be categorised as 'substantial.'"

The Home Office intends to appeal the verdict.

Justice Mitting rejected three other BUAV contentions.

In April 2007, the parliament of Bremen state, Germany unanimously asked

the University of Bremen to halt macaque brain experiments conducted by neuroscientist Andreas Kreiter. The experiments are licensed to continue to the end of 2008.

"Neither the state parliament nor the state government can order the university to close down the [brain research] center," explained Quirin Schiermeier in *Nature*, "but Kreiter fears that political pressure will force the local authorities not to approve further experiments."

## What's New at Primarily Primates? Just About Everything.

**P**rimarily Primates is North America's pioneering primate refuge. It was founded in 1978 and incorporated as a non profit sanctuary in Bexar County, Texas. The refuge houses several hundred non-human animals, primarily monkeys and apes.

A court settlement in 2007 has made it possible to move ahead with new leadership. Priscilla Feral, appointed president, will help direct the future policy and administration of the sanctuary. Stephen Tello, who has worked with animals since 1986, was named the sanctuary's new executive director.

With the help of workers, donors and supporters, now construction and renovations are evident everywhere. Nearing completion are new living spaces for nine chimpanzees; just one of many important projects initiated with the new leadership.

The first priorities for Priscilla and Stephen are to assure the health and safety of the animals and workers, and to move forward on construction projects to redesign new spaces and sleeping areas for refuge animals and to expand exercise



and recreational equipment for the apes and monkeys.

The goals under the new management are to make this sanctuary a model of excellence for refuges worldwide.



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# Get Political for Animals *and win the laws they need* by Julie E. Lewin

National Institute for Animal Advocacy (6 Long Hill Farm, Guilford, CT 06437), 2007. 276 pages, paperback. \$29.00.

"Becoming a power player in the lawmaking arena requires learning to think and function as a lawmaker does—politically and strategically—with the arithmetic of elections foremost," Julie Lewin emphasizes in *Get Political for Animals*. "Ignorance of political dynamics leads to repeated, avoidable failures—and to thinking small.

"When voting on legislation," Lewin elaborates, "a lawmaker cares only about his constituents who vote. He doesn't care about his constituents who don't vote or what the broader public thinks. Hearing from advocates who live outside his district wastes his time, which he doesn't appreciate. It also shows him we're politically naïve.

"In the absence of voting blocs, lawmaking is driven by money. When casting a vote means choosing between a wealthy business interest and a politically organized grassroots group, a lawmaker goes with the grassroots group every time. Why? She knows that otherwise the voting bloc will punish her on Election Day—by endorsing her opponent and directing members in her district to vote for her opponent. She knows that the wealthy interest cannot protect her from that."

Variants of these paragraphs recur every few pages through *Get Political for Animals*, along with real-life cases in which a small amount of political organization accomplished a great deal, while huge investments of money and effort in other approaches achieved either nothing or negative outcomes.

Lewin points out repeatedly that hunters have influence hugely disproportionate to their numbers—barely 4% of the U.S. population, a fifteenth as many as people who keep dogs or cats, outnumbered even by vegetarians—because they are politically organized. Foes of hunting have barely begun to mobilize.

Many of Lewin's most instructive examples come from her own experience of

decades as an animal advocate. As a former newspaper reporter and magazine writer, Lewin at first put much effort into media campaigns. She learned that, "Media attention almost never achieves strong laws or public policies...If media coverage is not buttressed by political power, the resulting laws, if any, are cosmetic and weak, and are not enforced.

"Media coverage of proposed legislation is often harmful," Lewin adds, "because it gives your opposition ink and air time to attack it—and alerts opponents who then contact their lawmakers."

Much of the opposition to pro-animal goals was rallied in response to the success of pro-animal media campaigns which were not backed by political mobilization.

Chapter 9 of *Get Political for Animals* extensively covers how and when to seek publicity. Unfortunately, Lewin offers one pointer in the wrong direction. "Get over the notion," Lewin writes, "that today's reporters do real research. You have to hand-feed them everything except opponents' views, which they manage to find on their own."

Today's reporters actually spend much more time on research than when Lewin was a reporter. Journalism education today far more heavily emphasizes research technique. But changes in how research is done feed into Lewin's other points about how both successful politics and obtaining publicity depend on having local angles and being prepared.

Today's reporters no longer work much out of press clubs. Most attend far fewer press conferences than 30 years ago. Fewer newspapers, with smaller staffs, mean reporters spend less time on research that requires leaving the office. Sifting through documents obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, a new reporting technique in the 1970s, died with the advent of the Internet.

But today's reporters typically use

web-searching to check the backgrounds of sources and subjects, and to find varied perspectives on issues. The typical news article of 30 years ago used two sources. The typical article today uses four—and an embarrassing action or stupid remark today is far more likely to follow a source or subject for years.

In addition, the Internet has hugely increased the use of "value added" reporting, in which a reporter grafts a local angle to syndicated material. "Value added" reporting resembles the team reporting of 30 years ago, but the team members may be scattered worldwide. This increases the breadth of reportage while decreasing the prominence of primary sources, except in their own communities.

Conversely, a national story is much more likely to be given a local angle if local activists are already making the angle known. The importance of local organization has accordingly never been higher.

But effective local organization must take a form that has political leverage.

"Demonstrations and protests almost never achieve meaningful laws or public policies," Lewin notes, having staged many protests herself before learning that this was ineffective, "because they in no way hold individual lawmakers accountable to their own voting constituents."

Lewin is also critical of petitioning as it is usually practiced. "Unless petitions are designed politically and strategically, they do not create one-to-one accountability of any individual lawmaker to his or her own constituents," Lewin points out. "In contrast, a highly effective petition is addressed to a specific lawmaker; asks that lawmaker to take a specific position (support or oppose a specific bill or proposed ordinance); is signed *only* by the lawmaker's own constituents; includes the home (voting) address of each signer; and includes the phone and e-mail addresses of

signers who are willing to provide them. These petitions are joyously effective, because the lawmaker sees that you have the contact information to let each signer know exactly what actions he takes."

Lewin provides extensive tactical advice on GOTV, short for Getting Out The Vote, the most basic component of effective voting bloc organization.

Chapter six offers a detailed introduction to all of the various levels of lawmaking and regulation, which may save many activists years of fruitlessly seeking change at the wrong levels. For example, the administrators who execute public policy rarely have authority to amend it, but the policymakers may be quite content to let the administrators take the brunt of public protest.

Time and again, Lewin reminds that protests are usually futile. "In my many years of work at the [Connecticut] state capitol," Lewin testifies, "I never saw a lawmaker decide to vote for or against an animal-related bill because of a protest. Law-makers often view protests as infantile, engaged in by people who don't understand the dynamics of power and marginalize themselves. Protests retard our political advance for animals," Lewin believes. "They miseducate new enthusiasts about the dynamics of change. They subliminally reaffirm the protesters' self-image as outsider rather than mainstreamer. They cause malaise among some segments of the public, strengthening the psychological barrier between the public and the facts we want the public to understand."

But beyond all else, "Protests use time poorly," Lewin believes. "If 100% or 50% or 20% of the time and effort put into organizing and attending protests had been spent instead recruiting members to voting blocs for animals, *how far along we would be!*"

—Merritt Clifton

## Could a U.S. "Party for the Animals" politically succeed?

**GUILFORD, Conn.**—Should U.S. animal advocates form a "Party for the Animals," to consolidate support and seek leverage?

Dutch Party for the Animals founder Marianne Thieme, elected to the Dutch Parliament in November 2006, has already visited the U.S. twice to promote the idea, most recently at the Animal Rights 2007 conference in Los Angeles.

Similar Parties for the Animals have already formed in Britain, Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Luxembourg, and Austria. The idea of starting a U.S. Party for the Animals has gained momentum from their example, and because all of the declared candidates for the 2008 U.S. Presidential election have either weak or negative records on animal issues except for Democratic contender Dennis Kucinich.

Kucinich, a longtime Ohio Congressional Representative, is rated only an outside chance of winning the nomination.

But National Institute for Animal Advocacy founder Julie Lewin warns—as author of a recent book on political organization entitled *Get Political for Animals and Win the Laws They Need*—that investing time and money in organizing a U.S. Party for the Animals would be a mistake.

"Marianne Thieme is remarkable," Lewin concedes. "Yet our political systems are very different. Most importantly, we have a two-party system and the Dutch have a parliamentary system," as do all the other nations which have Parties for the Animals.

"Attempting a U.S. Party for the Animals could weaken us,"

Lewin told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "First, U.S. lawmakers would doubtless be terrified that by voting for a piece of animal rights legislation, or voting against a piece of anti-animal legislation, they would be labeled as supporters of a 'radical' animal rights agenda," as already happens, but without the opportunity to attach the allegation to a fringe political structure.

"This fear would lose us lawmakers' votes, even on mild legislation," Lewin believes. "The way for us to become power players in the lawmaking arena at any level of government is to organize locally, from the ground up, in local political groups" capable of mobilizing the few dozen or few hundred voters whose support often decides closely contested city, county, state, and Congressional elections.

## Body Shop founder Anita Roddick

**Anita Roddick**, 64, who founded the 50-nation, 2,000-store Body Shop cosmetics store chain with a single shop in Brighton, England, in 1976, died on September 10, 2007 from a major brain hemorrhage. Roddick had acquired hepatitis C from a blood transfusion in 1971, while giving birth to a daughter, but her chronic illness had no evident connection with her death.

"Roddick, known as the 'Queen of Green,' was lauded around the world for trailblazing business practices that promoted environmentalism and other causes dear to her heart, from human rights to Third World debt relief," memorialized D'Arcy Doran of Associated Press. Added PETA vice president Dan Matthews, "Before Body Shop you could only find cruelty-free products in hippie shops. Now they are everywhere." Said Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle, "Her commitment to ending the use of animals in cosmetics testing, first in the European Union and then in the world, was never overshadowed by the economic success of The Body Shop. Untold numbers of rabbits and other animals were spared due to her staunch 'against animal testing' policy."

However, the Body Shop image took a hit in 1994 from two-time Emmy Award-winning ABC and NBC television news producer Jon Entine, who won a National Press Club award for an exposé published in the journal *Business Ethics*. Initially, Entine alleged, Roddick "didn't have any interest in animal testing as an issue. Her cosmetologist, Mark Constantine, insisted on having a no-animal-testing policy, and then she got interested when it made money." Entine argued that the

Body Shop maintained a no-animal-testing façade through a policy of not using any substance within five years of it being tested on animals, which he contended means little because animal testing of new products is often done more than five years before they reach the market; by purchasing ingredients from wholesalers who don't develop new products and therefore don't do any testing; and by circumvention.

"In an internal memo dated May 19, 1992," Entine wrote, "the Body Shop's purchasing manager acknowledged that 46.5% of its ingredients had been tested on animals, up from 34% the year before." Body Shop memos issued in 1991 and 1992 indicate that from 53.2% to 59.7% of ingredients as of then were not animal-tested, while about 28% had been animal-tested within a decade."

A German court in 1989 barred the Body Shop from using statements such as, "We test neither our raw materials nor our end products on animals," on grounds this would be misleading advertising. Upon appeal, the verdict was upheld by the Higher Regional Court of Dusseldorf, which found no substantial difference between the animal testing policy of The Body Shop and that of other cosmetics manufacturers.

Roddick and her husband withdrew from directing the Body Shop chain in 2002, and in 2006 sold it to the French firm L'Oreal, a longtime target of PETA boycotts, for \$1.14 billion.

"Roddick said it was a chance for Body Shop, which remains independently run, despite its new owners, to teach its new parent company," wrote Doran.

"Third," Lewin says, "just like lawmakers, most people whose voting behavior would be influenced positively by your local group's political endorsements would shy away from supporting a candidate who carries a U.S. Party for Animals label. You would be asking them to cross the threshold of an ideological divide.

"Fourth, the notion of structuring and organizing an effective national political party is enormously difficult and time-consuming," Lewin reminds. "Other issue groups, and Ralph Nader, all politically sophisticated and experienced, have tried and failed.

"One partial exception," Lewin concedes, "may be the Working Families Party. But WFP formed through the already politically established, experienced, heavily funded and heavily staffed labor movement. It operates solely through local chapters for local legislation, not nationally, in six states that allow cross-endorsement of candidates. And it is multi-issue. And in some areas it has no real structure. It exists simply to warn Democratic lawmakers who take labor endorsements for granted, but don't fervently support the labor legislative agenda, that if they don't get with the labor program, the WFP candidate will draw votes away from these Democrats and be spoilers who throw elections to Republican candidates. WFP's influence is possible only because the labor movement is already organized."

Barely remembered today, there was in 1947 an attempt to start

a pro-animal political party. Incumbent U.S. President Harry S. Truman had succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt after Roosevelt died in office during his unprecedented fourth term. Truman was believed to have little chance of winning reelection if he could not mobilize support from outside his own Democratic Party. Therefore numerous independent parties organized to try to win platform concessions from either Truman or Republican nominee Thomas A. Dewey.

Reported the August 11, 1947 edition of *Time* magazine, "In Manhattan last week, 500 delegates to a convention of the American Naturopathic Association formed the American Vegetarian Party and nominated a 1948 presidential candidate. Their man: Dr. John Maxwell, 84, Jove-bearded, pint-sized proprietor of a Chicago vegetarian restaurant, who says he has tasted no meat for 45 years. He hoped to get some 5,000,000 votes: 3,000,000 from vegetarians, the rest from 'prohibitionists, anti-vivisectionists, anti-cigarette groups, and other people of similar high moral principle."

*Time* appeared to be less skeptical of the political viability of an anti-meat, anti-vivisection octogenarian candidate than of his prospect of winning Prohibitionist support. The Prohibition Party, *Time* pointed out, had already nominated Los Angeles clergyman and former minor league ballplayer Claude A. Watson, 62. Watson had received 75,000 votes running on the Prohibition ticket in 1944.


—Merritt Clifton

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## Shaggy Muses:

*The Dogs Who Inspired Virginia Woolf, Emily Dickinson, Elisabeth Barrett Browning, Edith Wharton, and Emily Bronte*

by Maureen Adams

Ballentine Books (1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019), 2007. 320 pages, hardcover. \$24.95.



*Shaggy Muses* presents mini-biographies of female literary celebrities, as seen through their relationships with their pet dogs. It is also a heart-breaking exposure of the struggle of intellectual women to keep their sanity in a stultifying male-controlled world.

"Ranging from lapdog to mastiff, their dogs acted as loyal companions, staunch protectors, and patient comforters."

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was offered a cocker spaniel puppy when she was very ill, not only with a fever but also with the heartache of losing a mother and two brothers. Her father, alarmed by his daughter's condition, reported "It is a wonder to me that she lives." The diversion of receiving the puppy and its arrival lifted the sombre atmosphere in the house. Elizabeth was entranced by this little dog and valued him because he was devoted to only her. Flush had lifted the misery and she made a promise, which she would keep for the rest of his life: "He & I are inseparable companions, and I have vowed him my perpetual society in exchange for his devotion."

Emily Bronte's private writings were destroyed by her sister Charlotte. Thus the most vivid portrait of Emily and Keeper, a huge dog descended from mastiffs, is from Charlotte Bronte's novel *Shirley*, which was intended as a tribute to her sister.

After losing her mother and sisters at a very early age, Emily was prone to unbearable anxiety whenever she left home, and so she turned her affection towards animals. Writes Adams, "She never showed regard to any human creature; all her love was reserved for animals."

Her attitude and way with the family dogs was sometimes violent and at other times very gentle. Her book *Wuthering Heights*, which was seen as autobiographical, received shocked reviews from the conservative nineteenth century critics. Wrote one, "How a human being could have attempted such a book as the present without committing sui-

cide before he had finished a dozen chapters is a mystery. It is a compound of vulgar depravity and unnatural horrors."

This prompted me to read *Wuthering Heights*, a copy of which has been languishing on my book shelf for many years. It is a tragic description of the repression of women.

Emily Dickinson was given a Newfoundland puppy by her father, who thought that the dog would "act as a buffer between his daughter and the world that so frightened her."

Emily became emotionally dependent upon Carlo. "In the year that followed Carlo's death she wrote almost nothing. Her creativity would never again reach its previous peak," Adams reports.

Edith Wharton, writing in her autobiography when she was in her seventies, remembered "that with the gift of the puppy, a new life began for me."

This was because, as a well-behaved little girl in a family whose highest value was conventionality, Edith had scant outlet for her emotions until Foxy arrived in her life.

Thereafter Edith was never without the companionship of her dogs.

Virginia Woolf's life was a litany of tragedies. She was molested at the age of six years old by her 20-year-old half brother. This had a damaging affect on her emotional state, and indeed her whole life. She later had a lesbian affair during her childless marriage.

Woolf too became emotionally dependent upon her pet dogs, and "composed entire sections of books by talking them out loud while she walked with her Pinka (a spaniel) in a state of trance-like swimming."

At age 59, when Woolf started to hear voices and knew she was going mad, she committed suicide by filling her pockets with rocks and walking into the Ouse river.

*Shaggy Muses* is a reflection on the times in which these women lived and wrote, and would be as interesting to feminists as it is to animal lovers.

—Beverley Pervan

## Getting Lucky

by Susan Marino with Denise Flaim

Stewart, Tabori & Chang (115 W. 18th St., New York, NY 10011), 2005. 144 pages, hardcover. \$18.95.



*Getting Lucky* is the story of the Angel's Gate animal hospice as founder Sue Marino wanted to tell it, through the stories of 18 of the many animals who have lived their last days or years in her care. Located in Fort Salonga, on Long Island, New York, Angel's Gate has become probably the best known animal hospice in the world, through frequent positive news coverage and Marino's guest appearances on Animal Radio.

Unfortunately, soon after *Getting Lucky* appeared, the Angel's Gate story took a different twist, and Marino has for more than a year now been battling town officials who rewrote the local zoning to exclude Angel's Gate—after it had already been operating for more than a dozen years. The Smithtown Town Court on July 10, 2007 fined Angel's Gate \$800 for noise violations.

Said Marino, "The good news is that a property in the Catskills has become available and we may be able to afford to buy it. It could prove to be Angel's Gate's home one day, and/or an annex for our farm animals. Also, a benefactor has offered to purchase property for us on Long Island, so no matter the outcome of our court appeal, it looks like Angel's Gate will be able to continue to serve Long Islands neediest creatures."

The Angel's Gate case, driven by hostile neighbors, is hardly unique. The Oasis Animal Sanctuary operated by Eddie Lama, profiled in the Tribe of Heart video *The Witness* (2001), is also facing fines and the threat of closure. The Town of Callicoon has revoked a kennel variance permit that Lama has held since 1998, asserting that a sanctuary is a "nonconforming use" of the property.

The dispute started when Lama handed town officials proof of nonprofit status and asserted that Oasis is entitled to a tax exemption under New York law. Lama has paid \$130,000 in property taxes over the past 10 years, according to Mary Esparra of the *Middletown Times Herald Record*.

A court order meanwhile forced Pat Klimo of Ringwood, Illinois, to close the 15-year-old Pets In Need shelter at the end of June 2007. Klimo had fought zoning com-

plaints for more than 10 years, while helping as many as 18,000 animals to find new homes, she told Jeff Long on the *Chicago Tribune*.

Barking dogs are a perennial irritant that animal shelters are just beginning to learn how to contain. Claims to an exemption from property taxes are seldom welcomed by any community. Yet the most difficult issue for Marino may be that few people understand what she is doing.

The only other animal hospice of prominence in New York state is operated by Bruce Van Bramer of Lake Katrine, who is also fighting allegations that he is in violation of zoning. The Ulster County Sheriff's Office in September 2006 seized 56 dogs and 29 cats from Van Bremer, but the county grand jury refused to charge him with an offense, and ordered the Ulster County SPCA to return the animals to him.

Care standards and control of infectious diseases have been issues in the Van Bramer case. Marino's care and sanitation at Angel's Gate are reputedly up to the human hospital standards she learned to maintain in 30 years as a pediatric nurse.

As a nurse, Marino cultivated the warmth and patience to explain her work over and over to anxious and uncomprehending people. *Getting Lucky* committed her favorite illustrative examples of her animal work to paper, in a surprisingly upbeat voice. Though Lucky the dog and the other animals whom Marino profiles were doomed, they retained nobility, dignity, even a sense of humor, and had lessons to teach the observant.

Marino views hospice care as a natural extension of the other roles of animal sheltering, for those who truly value animals' lives and individual personalities. To her, the major question about her work is not why she does it, but rather why so few others provide similar care.

Animal hospices have existed to provide terminal comfort to favored animals for as long as animal shelters of any kind. Indeed, the original role of the temple animal sanctuaries of India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand was to keep spent cows and draft animals, who in other cultures are slaughtered and eaten.

Yet the hospice concept has struggled almost from the beginning. Many an Asian temple sanctuary has degenerated into thinly disguised commercial animal husbandry. Secularizing Indian *pinjarapoles* in the mid-20th century was meant to reform the tradition, but instances of unscrupulous operators allowing cattle to starve in order to sell their hides still come to light appallingly often.

In the U.S., providing lifetime care to exotic animals is easily the form of sheltering most attractive to donors, relative to the numbers of animals helped. Conversely, euthanizing dogs and cats is so thoroughly accepted that the whole notion of giving a terminally ill or incapacitated dog or cat special care has until recently attracted little donor support, and a great deal of misunderstanding.

Angel's Gate may be the first U.S. animal hospice to build a broad donor base. As the status of animals rises, it almost certainly will not be the last. —Merriitt Clifton

## African gray parrot Alex, 31, taught the world about bird brains

Alex, 31, African gray parrot companion and experimental subject of Brandeis University and Harvard University comparative psychologist Irene Pepperberg since 1977, was found dead in his cage of an unknown cause on the morning of September 9, 2007.

Pepperberg, then a doctoral student in chemistry at Harvard, bought Alex at a pet store. Despite centuries of anecdotal evidence of avian intelligence, and documented evidence that pigeons could quickly learn complex tasks through operant conditioning, scientists then had little appreciation of the depth and range of bird intelligence.

Alex, however, quickly demonstrated that he was not only a "talking parrot," but

a parrot who understood at an early age how to assemble words to communicate complex and original ideas. Pepperberg changed her career focus to explore in a series of peer-reviewed studies just how much Alex could learn.

Alex developed a vocabulary of 50 to 100 words, identified colors and shapes, counted to five, and in early 2007 demonstrated through volunteering information during an exercise that he grasped the concept of zero.

While there is no scientifically accepted protocol for demonstrating a sense of humor, Alex was also by many accounts a wit and a prankster, who would often use various ruses to end experiments he found tedious.

His fame contributed to popularizing

the acquisition of African gray parrots as fadish pets, leading to intensive wild captures and export under conditions causing the deaths of more birds than reached the U.S. and Europe safely. Exposés of the traffic and disease outbreaks associated with it eventually brought the passage of the 1993 law forbidding the import of wild-caught birds into the U.S.

In his final days Alex was working with Pepperberg to learn compound words and hard-to-pronounce words. Wrote Benedict Corey of *The New York Times*, "As Pepperberg put him into his cage for the night," the evening before his death, "Alex looked at her and said, 'You be good. See you tomorrow. I love you.'"

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—Wolf Clifton

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## Mystories of the Savannah

by Margaret Hehman-Smith

Trafford Pub. (Suite 6E, 2333 Govt. St., Victoria B.C. V8T 4P4, Canada), 2007. 171 pages, paperback. \$17.95



Margaret Hehman-Smith, widow of pioneering animal behaviorist Donald Leon Smith, contributed an essay on the intelligence of fish to the March 1993 edition of animal people which remains timely and relevant.

If Hehman-Smith had the literary skill of Michael Crichton, the ideas she outlines in *Mystories of the Savannah* about non-human primates organizing resistance and retreat in response to human invasions of their territory might make a best-seller and hit film. Her rogue biologist who teaches a baboons to use a rifle might become a cult hero.

Unfortunately, what we get is more a plot summary than the page-turner that Hehman-Smith had in mind. —Merriitt Clifton



## OBITUARIES

**Marjorie Goodness Kelley**, 59, on August 4, 2007 "was on her Harley motorcycle, turning into her driveway, when a car struck and killed her," e-mailed White Mountain Animal League president Mickey de Rham, who credited Kelley with naming the League. "Marge was a board member and co-founder of WMAL in 1989," de Rham wrote. "For someone who promotes spay/neuter, I greatly admired Marge as a dog breeder. She had started a book about Apple, a red Doberman bitch, who was really something. I wish that book could have been finished. I just found out," de Rham added, "that Marge was writing a tribute to Bossie, our 'Old Man of the Mountain' cow, spokesperson for the WMAL, who was euthanized shortly before she herself died." De Rham acquired Bossie, noted for markings resembling the "Old Man of the Mountain" rock formation that is the New Hampshire state symbol, at about the same time the White Mountain Animal League was formed. She was subject of a children's book, *Hey Bossie, You're A Spokescow*, by de Rham, illustrated by Leigh Gusterson, published in 2004 to benefit WMAL.



*Bossie, with recent visitors Carol Marnell of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, left, and Lisa Cordle of Franconia, New Hampshire.*

**Rocky Spencer**, 55, carnivore specialist for the Washington state Department of Fish & Wildlife, was killed on September 8, 2007 when he walked into a helicopter rotor while helping to move bighorn sheep from the Yakima River canyon. Wrote Ralph Thomas of the *Seattle Times*, "Cougars and black bears were his latest specialty. His job was to find ways to prevent them from coming into conflict with humans. What he and fellow researcher Brian Kertson were finding is that cougars are in our midst—hunting, mating and raising their young—far more often than we ever imagine. While some may find all of this alarming, Spencer and Kertson saw it as proof that, with proper precautions, cougars and humans can and do coexist without much trouble. Spencer and Kertson examined about 150 cougar kill sites," Thomas wrote. "Spencer said what they saw was that pets and livestock made up less than 2% of cougar prey in their study area. Mostly, he said, cougars feed on deer and smaller critters, such as raccoons and rabbits—animals often drawn to the suburban fringes by backyard gardens, garbage, and feeders. One surprise to the biologists was how often cougars feast on beavers."

**Robert Henry Degroot**, 67, died of cancer on September 16, 2007, his wife Carolyn notified **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Degroot was a frequent contributor of information to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for nearly 15 years. A former naval officer and retired IBM employee, Degroot founded the Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation, after many years of involvement with the Sierra Club and a variety of environmental coalitions. He campaigned on behalf of protecting wildlife habitat and attracting wildlife to backyard habitat, and opposed wind power because of the toll that wind turbines often take on birds and bats, but his deepest interest was in establishing



*Butch, originally a New York City street cat, was sent to the Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah after testing positive for FIV. Becoming personal cat of then-Best Friends national outreach coordinator Bonney Brown, he was her office assistant later at Alley Cat Allies and the Nevada Humane Society in Reno, where she has been executive director since January 2006.*

wildlife corridors. As Nathaniel H. Axtell summarized of one of Degroot's conference presentations in 2001, "He dreams of a day when eastern cougars can travel unimpeded by development from the mountains of Pennsylvania into the Maryland hill country and across the spine of Appalachia into Virginia and West Virginia—all without leaving the protection of forest." Degroot also dreamed of a day when coyotes would be properly appreciated and respected. "I hope the public officials responsible for killing these animals make a real effort to educate themselves, and learn why the coyote is important to our environment," he wrote in 2005. "In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Bob's name to the Humane Society of the U.S.," Carolyn Degroot said.

## MEMORIALS

In memory of Duchess Rofu Christine.  
—James Townsend

In memory of Twinkie,  
dog of Laurie Goodman  
—Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Miller

In memory of Butch.  
—Bonney Brown

In memory of Miles Davis D'Angelo.  
—Joseph D'Angelo

In memory of my little dog Que,  
who was put to sleep August 28, 2006.  
Dear, sweet Que, we miss you so much,  
never will forget you.  
You are in my thoughts every day.  
—Hilde Wilson

In memory of Tina, companion dog to  
Champa Fernando for 13 years.

In memory of Purr Box (12/3/87),  
Prometheus (3/21/81), Friendl (10/30/87),  
Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85),  
Miss Penrose (11/18/98), Duke (11/1/98),  
Purr Box, Jr. (5/1/04), Mylady (8/1/06),  
Blackie (9/9/96), and Honey Boy (11/1/05).



—Wolf Clifton

## AUTO RACER, AUTHOR, AND ANTI-VIVISECTIONIST HANS RUESCH DIES AT AGE 94

**Hans Ruesch**, 94, died in Massagno, Switzerland, on August 27, 2007, after a prolonged illness that brought several premature reports of his death.

Born in Naples of a Swiss mother and German father, Ruesch briefly studied law at the University of Zurich, but quit at age 19 to race his M.G. sports car. Soon switching to a much faster Maserati, Ruesch won the first 12 of his eventual 27 victories in international auto racing competition during the next three years, proving especially successful in hill climbs and races on ice.

Moving rapidly to the top level of European auto racing, Ruesch drove an Alfa Romeo to third place in his 1932 Grand Prix debut. Competing chiefly on the Grand Prix circuit after 1934, Ruesch was an independent car owner in a sport dominated by German and Italian factory teams who raced with Nazi and Fascist subsidies.

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Taking the lead in the 1936 British Grand Prix on the third lap, and holding it, Ruesch on the 60th lap, as an apparent gesture of sportsmanship, turned his car over to Dick Seaman, the most renowned British driver of the era, and shared his first Grand Prix victory with Seaman.

Ruesch took his Alfa Romeo to South Africa for the winter of 1936-1937, where he raced chiefly against the Nazi-subsidized Auto Union team.

After four Grand Prix wins among a career-best six victories in 1937, Ruesch appeared to be on the verge of Grand Prix stardom. According to some sources—but not others, including his authorized online biography—Ruesch in 1938 joined the Alfa Romeo factory team; traveled to the U.S. with the Italian racing great Tazio Nuvolari in mid-year, after the Alfa Romeo cars proved uncompetitive and dangerous; and in July 1938 jumped to the Auto Union team with Nuvolari. The official Ruesch biography mentions no events of 1938 after April.

"In 1939 with the political situation in Europe deteriorating," the official bio recounts, Ruesch "moved to Paris, where he began writing...He had made a scouting trip to America in 1938, and with the Germans one day away from Paris and the borders closed, he headed for Spain...He was arrested in Madrid but, with the help of a female friend,

managed to get released and continued on to Lisbon where he stayed for six weeks...He settled in New York, studying creative writing. He took up writing full time and had short stories published by *Redbook*, *Colliers*, *Saturday Evening Post* and *Esquire*."

Post-World War II, Ruesch authored two novels, *Top of the World* (1950) and *The Racer* (1953), which were made into films starring Anthony Quinn and Peter O'Toole, and Kirk Douglas, respectively.

An attempted racing comeback in 1953 ended after Ruesch crashed his Ferrari in his first event, killing a Italian policeman and seriously injuring three other people.

Ruesch produced several more novels during the next 23 years, but founded the Center for Scientific Information on Vivisection (CIVIS) in 1974, and abandoned fiction writing to produce the influential exposés *The Slaughter of The Innocent* (1978) and *The Naked Empress* (1982). Both were instrumental in boosting support for the early animal rights movement.

CIVIS chapters founded around the world in support of Ruesch were among the most active incubators of animal rights activism, but lost much of their momentum and leadership to other organizations, as Ruesch became embroiled in often one-sided disputes with perceived rivals. Ruesch eventually lost a protracted libel suit brought by the

Italian League Against Vivisection. *Animal Liberation* author Peter Singer, another frequent target, mostly ignored him.

Eventually Ruesch outlived the central premise of his argument. Ruesch held that animal experiments are invalid predictors of the effects of drugs and medical procedures on humans because animals are inherently too different from humans to permit accurate cross-species extrapolation.

Introduced by antivivisectionists more than two generations before Charles Darwin authored *The Origin of Species*, this approach was eroded by advances in genetic research which have increasingly established how closely humans are related to other species—even mollusks. Thus, while whole organisms may respond very differently to particular conditions or substances, specific tissues or systems sometimes respond identically.

As the science of the "scientific" argument that Ruesch favored changed, the emphasis of anti-vivisection campaigning tilted heavily toward making the case that animals should not be experimented on because they are enough like humans to deserve equivalent moral consideration.

Ruesch argued in his last published essay—as he often had before—that the turn away from his approach came because universities both employ moral philosophers and host animal experiments. —Merritt Clifton

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# BACKYARD BREEDERS: Creating a Cycle of Cruelty



Each year millions of unwanted animals are euthanized in the United States alone, and backyard breeders are a major contributor.

The term backyard breeder is used to describe people who keep several dogs allowing them to procreate regardless of physical, genetic, and/or emotional health. Often called irresponsible breeding, backyard breeding is one of the greatest causes of the pet overpopulation crisis in this country. North Shore Animal League America takes pet overpopulation very seriously and works tirelessly in its efforts to eradicate it.

### Here's What We Know About Backyard Breeding

Backyard breeders are a silent enemy, often breeding their animals for fun, profit or simply because they do not care enough to take steps to stop breeding.

Some backyard breeders have few animals, but with continued breeding, the numbers increase, and they find themselves unable to care for the animals. Others, who mass breed for profit, are often referred to as owners of puppy mills. They generally have no concern for the animals' well-being.

### North Shore Animal League America Faces Backyard Breeding

At North Shore Animal League America, we met the cruel reality of backyard breeding with our rescue of three sweet Chihuahua puppies, Venus, Pablo and Carmen. The offspring of over-bred parents, all three were born without their front legs, part of a litter of five – two who were normal and subsequently sold. Deemed valueless by the breeder, they were abandoned. North Shore Animal League America rescued the trio and have been lovingly caring for them ever since.

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