



(Kim Bartlett)

Newly found ferret badger rabies strain raises concern about dogs

TAIPEI, Taiwan—A new rabies strain identified in Taiwanese ferret badgers may have the potential to exponentially increase the risk of rabies transmission by dogs. But even if the new rabies strain does not behave in dogs as it does among ferret badgers, it has ignited unprecedented public controversy in Taiwan over the value of animal testing.

First recognized in July 2013, the

ferret badger rabies strain had by September 17, 2013 been found in 131 ferret badgers, one Asian house shrew, and an unvaccinated six-week-old puppy who was known to have been bitten by a ferret badger. Cases were found in nine different cities and counties.

“A total of 556 wild carnivores, 273 wild animals of other types, 714 dogs, 49 cats, (continued on page 18)

Alligators, pigs, pythons & the reptilian ploy to resuscitate sport hunting

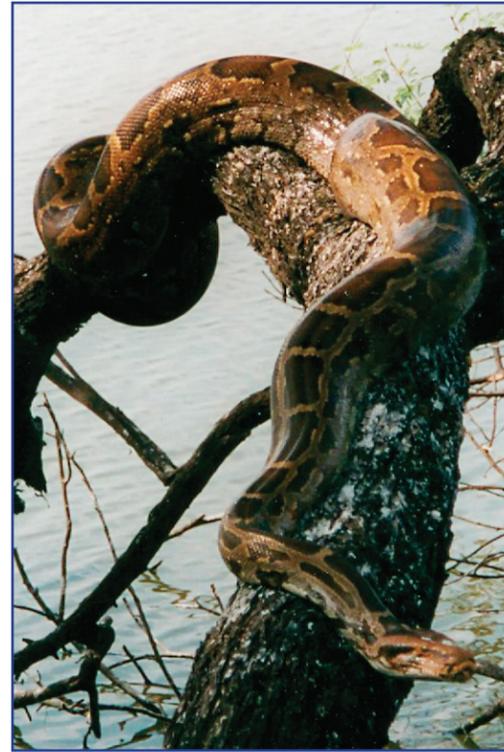
News analysis
by Merritt Clifton

Wildlife managers from Florida to Texas are celebrating modestly rising interest in alligator hunting—possibly the only form of hunting to show a net increase in participation over the past 35 years, if only because alligator hunting has only been legal for 25 years.

Listed as a federally protected threatened species in 1973, but removed from protection in 1987, alligators are now hunted in seven of the eight states that have alligators.

But the 50,000-odd hunting licenses sold or distributed free to property owners, and the somewhat smaller number of alligators they kill, may be of less interest to state wildlife agencies than the largely favorable publicity that attends the killing.

In this context, and in this context almost alone in recent years, much of the public accepts depictions of hunters as courageous dragon-slayers, offering wildlife agencies the



Python at Bharatpur, India. (Kim Bartlett)

chance to burnish the image of hunting generally, in hopes of enticing more people to hunt deer, ducks, doves, and other traditional “game” species.

Media that long ago relegated photos of hunters posing with slain deer and birds to the back pages of sports sections put killings of “record” alligators on page one. In response, wildlife agencies appear to have generated a record number of media releases about “record” alligator kills in September 2013, judging from the volume reaching **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Relatively few people have countered by pointing out that “record” alligators mostly grew to alleged record size because they were out of harm’s way, basking in the sun and minding their own business.

People are understandably afraid of alligators, because we are in fact on the alligator menu, along with our pets, horses, livestock, and favorite wildlife.

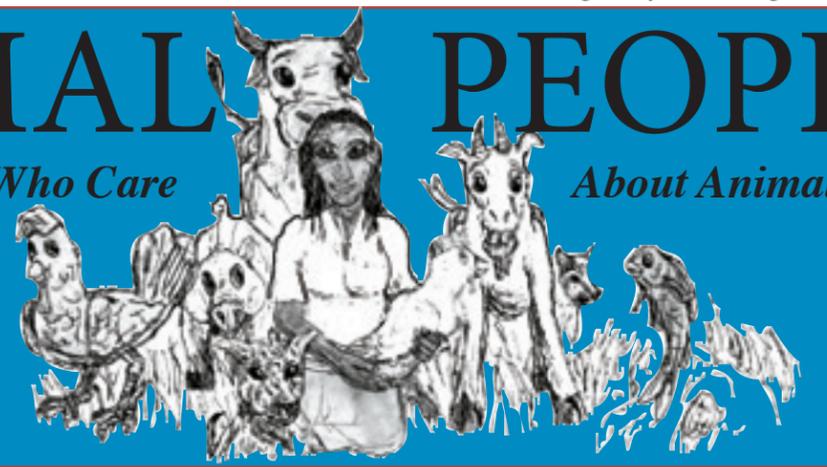
And alligators are expanding their population and range, scaring the bejabbers out of ever more suburbanites when big gators haul out to sun themselves along roadsides.

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ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

September 2013
Volume 22, #6



ASPCA cedes lead role in New York City humane law enforcement to police

NEW YORK CITY—One hundred forty-seven years after Henry Bergh incorporated the American SPCA to enforce the New York state anti-cruelty act of 1860, the ASPCA is transitioning out of the lead role in New York City humane law enforcement.

Since September 1, 2013 the New York City Police Department has officially become the first responder to animal cruelty complaints in the Bronx—as it often has already, throughout the city, due to the great imbalance in personnel available. The NYPD fields 34,500 police officers. The ASPCA had just 17 law enforcement officers as of August 2013, when the transfer of duties was announced.

The ASPCA will continue to handle cruelty complaints in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island for the balance of 2013, but will gradually cede the first responding role to the NYPD during 2014, borough by borough.

The ASPCA will continue to do forensic evaluations in animal cruelty and neglect cases, provide medical treatment and behavioral assessments of the animal victims, and offer legal support and training to the NYPD as needed, ASPCA president Matthew Bershadker told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Cases not yet within law enforcement authority, such as alleged hoarding situations which might be rectified through intervention rather than prosecution, will continue to be addressed by the three-year-old ASPCA Cruelty Intervention Advocacy program, called ASPCA-CIA for short.

Laying off cruelty law enforcement officers but adding management personnel to help with the transition of authority, the ASPCA on October 1, 2013 announced that 25-year NYPD officer George Kline and former Bronx assistant district attorney Elizabeth Brandler had

been hired as liaison to the NYPD and legal advocacy counsel, respectively.

“Kline will serve as the primary point of contact to the NYPD for animal cruelty related issues,” said ASPCA publicist Bret Hopman, “and will also coordinate training of NYPD personnel on animal cruelty matters.”

Kline previously held NYPD positions including chief of detectives special projects unit, and was a member of the NYPD/FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Brandler “comes to the ASPCA after spending nearly six years with the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office, serving as an assistant district attorney in the Investigations Division, Rackets Bureau,” Hopman said.

As an assistant district attorney, Brandler in January 2013 won the conviction of alleged dogfighter Raul Sanchez, 58, for his role in a major dog fighting operation in the Bronx. Sanchez was sentenced to serve from one to three years in prison, and may be deported to Cuba upon release.

Brandler is expected to contribute to the ASPCA presence (continued on page 16)



(Kim Bartlett)

Nairobi terrorist strike alerts the world to new threat to elephants

NAIROBI, Kenya—Four days of shooting at the Westgate Mall in Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya introduced the world to yet another poaching threat to elephants.

Claiming credit for the September 21, 2013 mall invasion, which brought the deaths of at least 61 civilians, six Kenyan soldiers, and five terrorists, the Somali-based Islamist militia Al Shabaab was already well known from previous incidents that began with the 2006 murders of four western aid workers and the Somalis who worked with them.

Outside of the intelligence community, however, that Al Shabaab had muscled into the elephant ivory and rhino horn traffic was little recognized. Al Shabaab was previously more closely associated with extortion, hijacking food aid, and “taxing” transportation of agricultural commodities and the ransoms collected by coastal pirates.

That changed in early 2011 after a coalition of Somali, Kenyan, Ethiopian, and African Union forces began pushing Al Shabaab

back from the Somali coast and overland trade routes. In August 2011 Al Shabaab lost Mogadishu, the Somali capital city.

Seeking reinforcements, Al Shabaab allied itself with Al Qaeda, the international Islamist militia. Al Qaeda has reputedly raised funds in part through elephant ivory and rhino horn poaching and trafficking for close to 25 years. The alliance with Al Qaeda brought U.S. drone strikes on Al Shabaab leadership in early 2012, followed by a renewed coalition offensive that included the capture of Kismayo, the Al Shabaab economic stronghold. Suddenly Al Shabaab had to find new sources of support.

“Following the fall of Kismayo,” reported the Nairobi electronic newspaper *Mwakilishi*, “Kenya has seen an exponential increase in ivory-related poaching.” Poachers killed 283 elephants in Kenya in 2011; 385 elephants plus 29 rhinos in 2012; and had killed 235 elephants plus 35 rhinos in 2013 when the Westgate Mall siege began. Poachers have also killed six Ken-

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Don't Let Them Wipe Out Animal Protection Laws

We're facing the most serious threat to animal protection laws ever. The animals need your help.

The version of the Farm Bill passed by the House of Representatives includes the dangerous and overreaching "King amendment," which threatens to repeal dozens of animal protection laws. It could nullify not only measures relating to animal welfare—like farm animal confinement, horse slaughter, puppy mills, shark finning, and even dog meat—but a wide range of other concerns, including food safety, child labor, and the environment.

A House-Senate conference committee will now negotiate the final Farm Bill, and the animals need your help to keep the King amendment out!

TAKE ACTION

Please contact your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators today, at (202) 224-3121. Ask them to help remove the King amendment from the final Farm Bill and oppose this radical attack on animal protection and states' rights.

For more information, or to take action online, visit:
humanesociety.org/king



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Editorial feature

Successful neuter/return must recognize reality

Playing at Parcul Tei in central Bucharest, Romania, four-year-old Ionut Anghel and his six-year-old brother on September 2, 2013 wandered briefly out of sight of their grandmother, through a hole in the park fence, into a large vacant lot that offered dirt piles to climb and access to the marshy edge of the Danube river. They might have mistaken for friendly the six dogs who rose to attack them. The six-year-old, though injured, escaped to tell his grandmother that Ionut Anghel was dead. Rushing to the scene, the grandmother and other Parcul Tei visitors found the dogs already devouring the remains.

Previously impounded by Bucharest animal control in 2008, the dogs had been sterilized, microchipped, and on December 24, 2008 released to the custody of one Lavinia Mirela Nica, identified as a former volunteer for a shelterless rescue incorporated as the *Asociatii pentru protectia animalelor Caleidoscop*. Nica reportedly signed a form stating, "Caleidoscop charity declares that they will never abandon the dog in the streets." But the dogs were apparently left a few hundred yards from Strada Tuzla, the nearest street. And, for a time, the dogs were not "abandoned." Rather, they were fed near where they killed Ionut Anghel. But their feeder had not come for a week or more.

A more catastrophic demonstration of how not to do neuter/release could scarcely be imagined. Habituating any animal to being fed and then stopping the feeding is a prescription for trouble. Releasing any animals one has pledged will not be released, in inappropriate habitat, without food sources, close to a playground, is cruel to the animals and squanders public trust. Even had the fence been fixed, small hands could easily have stretched through the chain link into harm's way.

Contrary to online activist assertions, often illustrated with old photos from as far away as Mexico and China, the Romanian parliament responded with relative restraint. Instead of ordering a purge of all street dogs, as activist alerts have often alleged, the Romanian parliament on September 10, 2013 authorized pounds to kill dogs after a reclaim-or-adoption interval of 14 days. By comparison, the only holding interval required at all by U.S. federal law is that dogs or cats must be kept for five days before being sold to laboratories. Holding intervals before animals may be killed are set by state or local governments in the U.S., and are usually in the range of two days to one week.

The new Romanian law did lead to thousands of dogs being killed, to make room for more impoundments. Since 2007 Romanian pounds had been required to hold dogs indefinitely, with little funding for their upkeep and no effective oversight. Not surprisingly, these "no-kill" pounds often degenerated into squalid, overcrowded canine concentration camps, where the strongest dogs ate the weakest.

Instead of allowing themselves to degenerate, some pounds simply stopped taking dogs, leaving the street dog population to grow back toward the carrying capacity of the habitat, after earlier purges in some cities and sporadic sterilization programs in others had significantly cut the dogs' numbers—for example, from circa 40,000 to circa 25,000 in Bucharest. But 25,000 free-roaming dogs is still a ratio of one per 80 human residents, meaning two or three haunting the alleys around each apartment complex.

Neuter/return programs for street dogs were successful in Oradea, in the northwestern corner of Romania, and in a handful of other places where sterilizing at least 70% of the dog population was achieved, and recolonization of vacated habitat by dumped dogs or dogs wandering in from elsewhere was in some manner prevented.

But even in Oradea, two weaknesses of the neuter/return approach were evident. The first is that sterilizing large numbers of dogs requires an enormous investment that most communities in economically struggling nations are unable to make.

The successful Romanian street dog neuter/return projects, and those that made Costa Rica a no-kill nation, have all been heavily subsidized by foreign donors. The Animal Welfare Board of India has subsidized the Animal Birth Control program in India, which has been successful in some cities, ineffective in others, and has yet to reach much

of the nation. Federal subsidies have also underwritten a faltering national street dog sterilization program in Turkey. Like the Indian program, the Turkish program does not yet reach anywhere close to the entire nation. In no instance, anywhere, have adequate public funds been available to sterilize enough street dogs to effect a permanent population reduction without sustained nonprofit help. Neither has anyone, anywhere, effected a successful transition of a nonprofit street dog neuter/return project to public funding.

In theory such transitions might be accomplished without political resistance if the economies of the communities in question improved rapidly enough that the budget for sterilizing dogs could come out of increased tax revenues. But Romania, India, Turkey, and most other nations with abundant street dogs have been hit far harder by the post-2008 recession than the U.S., and have had no increased tax revenues to invest.

The second weakness of neuter/return applied to street dogs is that it does not quickly remove dogs from places where they are seen as problematic, unwelcome, and dangerous, and are likely to be stoned, scalded, poisoned, or shot, among other cruel fates, if not hit by cars in ever more heavily trafficked thoroughfares.

Neuter/return is an eminently effective means of controlling street dog populations in places where dogs are generally liked and tolerated, so long as there are not too many of them. Usually this requires that rabies has receded as a frequent threat, if it has not been entirely eliminated, and that feeders are discouraged from causing dogs to congregate in public places and behave in hazardous ways, for example chasing bicyclists and mobbing any passer-by who is carrying food or even just a bag that might contain food.

Neuter/return is also a humane and effective means of controlling the populations of feral dogs who live in relatively remote places and want nothing to do with people.

But neuter/return is not and cannot be the only approach to dog population control accepted in public policy. Neuter/return is not workable in every habitat where dogs are found, nor for every dog, even where neuter/return is acceptable for some dogs.

Fortunately dogs tend to vacate habitat that becomes inappropriate, due to decreased food availability and increased traffic—unless feeders encourage the dogs to linger.

Observing the Prime Directive

Similar can, and must, be said of the use of neuter/return for feral cats—a technique which ANIMAL PEOPLE has always advocated, encouraged, and defended, when done appropriately, observing the Prime Directive that no animal should ever be returned or relocated into hostile or otherwise unsuitable habitat.

The very first ANIMAL PEOPLE project, begun almost a year before the debut of the ANIMAL PEOPLE newspaper in September 1992, was a seven-month trial of neuter/return feral cat control in northern Fairfield County, Connecticut. Our goal was in part to vaccinate enough feral cats and reduce the feral cat population enough to prevent a raccoon rabies outbreak from spreading into cats.

Assisted by neighborhood volunteers, we trapped 326 cats from eight separate colonies. Many of the volunteers already fed some of the cats, but we discouraged expanded feeding. We emphasized the importance of not leaving food and food containers unattended and out at night, since this might lure raccoons into greater proximity to cats.

Forty-three cats, or 13%, were found to have health issues when trapped. Of these cats, 24 were successfully treated; 19 either died while in care and under treatment, or were euthanized. Of the survivors, 237 (73%) had safe habitat and reliable food sources. After sterilization and vaccination, those cats were released where they were captured.

Seventy cats (22%) were either young enough to be socialized, or came from habitat we deemed unsafe. We kept these cats to be socialized by volunteers. We adopted out 47 of the 70 during the seven months of the project. We relocated the remaining 23 cats, among whom nine were killed by wild predators soon after relocation. This, a severe shock and disappointment at the time, turned out to be typical of feral cat relocations when we compared results with others, and also turned out to be typical of relocations of other wildlife, which usually are considered successful if half of the animals survive for one year.

The 14 survivors of the translocation had the opportunity to come indoors if they chose to do so. Ten of them eventually became quasi-house cats.

From the beginning, the aim was to reduce the feral cat population at our target sites to zero as rapidly as possible. We estimated that this would take from three to five years. Only one site, the location of the largest colony, still had feral cats after three years. It was down to zero cats by late 1996.

There are two preconditions for zeroing out a cat or dog population through neuter/return. Both were stringently observed.

First, at least 70% of the animals and preferably 100% must be sterilized. Before the 70% figure is reached, there will be no net reduction, because the remaining animals will still be able to breed back up to the carrying capacity of the habitat. ANIMAL PEOPLE made every effort to trap and sterilize 100% of the cats at each site as rapidly as they could be identified. Second, neuter/return sites must be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that all newcomers are identified, caught, and sterilized. Observing the cats by night as well as day is essential, because feral cats who are not accustomed to being fed by humans tend to be nocturnal rodent-hunters.

Feeding, we learned, frequently tempts furtive mousers, whom nobody notices, into becoming diurnal bird hunters, who hunt for recreation while awaiting their food handouts. This does not help the cats, who already had adequate food sources or would not have been there; does not help to control the rodent population; does not help the birds (although dispatching sick birds who might infect others and are on the ground after dark, after others have roosted, is a key ecological role of cats), doesn't help to reduce birder resistance to neuter/return, and doesn't help to demonstrate the efficacy of neuter/return, because even if the neutering reduces the numbers of cats, the feeding increases their visibility—meaning that in most people's perception, there are more cats.

We learned the hard way that highly visible habitat, where feeding animals may encourage people to dump their pets, should be considered unsuitable for neuter/return, regardless of other conditions. The largest cat colony site among our eight trial locations was as big as it was due to abandonments, and persisted as long as it did because abandonments continued until the colony feeder learned to keep his activity invisible.

We cannot over-emphasize our allegiance to the Prime Directive, throughout the Connecticut project and in encouraging neuter/return ever since. Again: no animal should ever be returned or relocated into hostile or otherwise unsuitable habitat.

Hostile habitat is anywhere the animals will be at high risk of being injured or killed, whether accidentally or deliberately, by humans or by other animals. Most especially, hostile habitat is anywhere the community is intolerant of the presence of the animals.

Obviously we erred in relocating the nine cats who were killed by predators, but

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we did not err in removing them from their former habitats, characterized by heavy traffic and local opposition to their presence. If we had not removed them, most would have been killed sooner than they were.

The outcome of trying to “save” animals by keeping them in unsuitable locations is often both an enormous waste of time and money, and a net increase in animal suffering.

ANIMAL PEOPLE found through our own experiment and national surveys of cat rescuers done in 1992 and 1996 that 80% to 90% of all of the places where feral cats take up residence should be considered unsuitable. This appears to be also true of street dogs. Fortunately, the suitable locations tend to have about half of the cats, and probably about half the dogs. Because unsuitable habitats are not hospitable to cats or dogs, the cat and dog populations in those habitats will be relatively sparse—unless feeders encourage cats or dogs to congregate where they could not otherwise survive.

Wildlife response is not a model

From the perspective of our own work and from having reported about neuter/return programs worldwide in every edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, we found Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle’s blog of September 12, 2013 both encouraging and alarming. Pacelle, who was skeptical of our 1991-1992 project, but later came to endorse neuter/return, affirmed his appreciation of the value of the method—but his endorsement this time included implicit encouragement of misapplications of neuter/return and damaging misstatements of why and how it is best used.

Wrote Pacelle, “Our movement may be at the front-end of an ‘aha’ moment with regard to how we respond to the un-owned outdoor cat population. When these so-called ‘community cats’ arrive in shelters—whether brought there by nuisanced or well-meaning neighbors—their fate is often predetermined, and it’s not a good one. What’s more, the volume of cats coming into shelters isn’t enough to reduce the size of the cat population, and the only conclusion is that we aren’t doing much to help curb nuisances, cruelty, or predation on wildlife.”

Pacelle then introduced Kate Hurley, director of the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Hurley alleged, contrary to any credible cat population survey published since 1927, that “The population of un-owned cats in the United States is estimated to be approximately the same size as the population of owned cats.”

This matters, because faulty factual input leads to flawed reasoning and grossly misguided public policy recommendations. In truth, National Family Opinion Survey founders Howard and Clara Trumbull found as long ago as 1950 that about two-thirds of all cats had homes. At least six surveys done by four different organizations between 1989 and 1996 found this percentage rapidly rising to 80%-plus after the advent of neuter/return—90%-plus in the Northeast and along the West Coast.

Since then, the ratio of cats with homes to cats without appears to have stabilized, based on shelter intakes, sterilization program data, roadkill counts, and actual on-the-ground feral cat colony counts. The number of feral cats in the U.S. has declined to circa eight million on year-round average, but remains about 10% of the total cat population because the pet cat population, according to American Veterinary Medical Association research, declined by 18% between 2002 and 2012.

Hurley argued for shelters to “set euthanasia aside as a tool to control cat populations and focus on other alternatives—most notably, shelter/neuter/return.” Hurley also recommended that shelters should help communities to “find strategies to co-exist with cats peaceably, just as we do with other creatures such as raccoons and opossums that might make an unwanted appearance in somebody’s back yard.”

ANIMAL PEOPLE learned through extensive discussion with Hurley at HSUS Expo in Nashville, Tennessee in May 2013 that she appears to be oblivious to the existence of the enormous and growing “nuisance wildlife” control industry in the U.S., whose chief work is killing raccoons, opossums, and other animals, including feral cats. The limited available aggregate data indicates that about 6,000 private “nuisance wildlife” contractors are currently doing \$1.2 billion a year worth of business. Add to that \$72 million per year billed by USDA Wildlife Services, which works mainly for other public agencies. Altogether, Americans now spend almost as much to kill “nuisance wildlife” as the estimated \$2.5 billion spent by animal control agencies and humane societies to control the dog and cat population.

Educating the public to tolerate wildlife and to use non-lethal methods to avoid conflict with animals has been a lifelong pursuit of all of the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** team. We believe encouraging tolerance of wildlife should become a much higher priority for humane organizations. But meanwhile, how society treats raccoons and opossums—who in much of the U.S. are still recreationally hunted with dogs—scarcely sets an example for how feral cats (and street dogs) should be treated.

“The common thread is to reduce intake,” added San Francisco SPCA co-president Jennifer Scarlett to the remarks by Pacelle and Hurley, “but the tactics for change can run the spectrum from managed intake to diverting all healthy cat intake to neuter and re-release.”

Many animal advocates had the ‘aha’ moment of which Pacelle spoke several decades ago. Many animal control agencies and humane societies have at least tacitly encouraged local neuter/return practitioners for 10 to 20 years. The San Francisco SPCA, a pioneer in the field, has subsidized and assisted feral cat sterilization projects since 1988.

But feral cats are very different from former pet cats whose ‘caregiver’ wants to relinquish them to a shelter, or who abandons them on the streets, or next to a dumpster. Feral cats are also very different from “community cats,” whose needs may be provided by multiple cat-lovers in a non-hostile neighborhood. Authentic “community cats,” like street dogs, now mostly exist in small towns and villages, chiefly in the developing world.

Feral cats, by contrast, are just as wild as raccoons, opossums, and coyotes. Feral kittens who survive to maturity have been taught to hunt by a mother who knows how to train them, and knows the location of food sources. A feral cat has adapted to the habitat, and will stay away from unfriendly people.

Not so former house cats, who may know nothing about survival, except how to beg food from people, making them easy targets for poisoners and other abusers. Former house cats may experience profound sadness at being homeless, whereas the true feral has never had a home with people, and even if given one, may escape at the first opportunity.

What “managed intake” means is that a shelter accepts surrenders of animals only by appointment, with a waiting list for cage space. By slowing the pace of intake, a shelter can avoid overcrowding that leads to killing healthy animals who cannot find homes. But what “managed intake” also means, if there is no open-admission shelter in the community, is that people in the stressed state typical of people who surrender pets may instead dump those animals at large to “give them a chance.” Or animals may be kept longer in atmospheres of domestic instability and violence.

Neuter/return programs have more often than not involved transporting cats (and street dogs) to shelter clinics for sterilization. In the event of surgical complication,

those animals may be housed at the shelters for a post-surgical observation period, or they may be cared for by volunteers at their homes. The Animal Welfare Board of India requires a post-surgical holding period of up to a week. But even for the animals captured to be sterilized who turn out to be tame, and are evidently dumped former pets, there is no intent in a neuter/return program that the animals are “sheltered” in the usual sense of the word. The animals in a neuter/return program are neither surrendered by the public nor impounded by animal control in response to complaints; rather, they are trapped, often with great difficulty, and brought to the shelter clinic by the same volunteers who will return them to their habitat as soon as possible.

The term “shelter/neuter/return” suggests that the animals involved will include animals who have been brought into shelter custody through caretaker surrender or impoundment. This is a very different matter from neuter/return as usually practiced. Former pets surrendered by their caretakers and animals impounded by animal control are brought to shelters because they are no longer welcome wherever they were. They cannot be returned to those places. Release of tame house cats (or pet dogs) to outdoor habitat anywhere is abandonment, and would differ from people abandoning unwanted animals “to give them a chance” only in that a shelter would be doing it.

Even if a shelter does not intend to release tame but unadoptable animals, the term “shelter/neuter/return” implies that releasing an animal who should be sheltered is acceptable. In combination with a “managed intake” policy, publicizing a “shelter/neuter/return policy” practically guarantees that more animals will be dumped by people who are unwilling or unable to keep the animals through weeks on a waiting list.

Animals impounded by animal control may indeed be authentic ferals, with outdoor survival skills, but releasing them belies the purpose of animal control, since many will try to find their way back to their former habitat, and many will become problematic in their new location, too—if indeed unoccupied suitable habitat can be found.

To be remembered is that the purpose of neuter/return is not simply to reduce shelter killing. Rather, neuter/return is meant to remove feral cats and street dogs from their habitat as gently as possible. Much of that habitat is no longer appropriate for any wildlife, and will not be reoccupied, but what remains suitable will soon be filled by native species with their own habitat needs. Releasing cats or dogs into habitat from which they have been displaced by other species is likely to create conflicts which jeopardize both the released animals and the other animals who have moved in.

The U.S. feral cat population was reduced by 75% within a dozen years of the introduction of neuter/return in 1991-1992, but over the past decade has stabilized at about 8-9 million. Most of the feral cats left are in places that are inaccessible to neuter/return volunteers. There is opportunity for animal shelters to extend further help to responsible, well-managed neuter/return programs, so that they can reach more of these cats, but since most of these cats in inaccessible places are not coming to shelters in the first place, extended neuter/return outreach is unlikely to decrease either shelter admissions or killing.

Much of the rest of the “feral” cat population are being maintained by feeders as quasi-outdoor pets. These cats are not really “feral” any more. These cats need a home. The same is true, elsewhere in the world, of most fed street dogs.

Feral cat and street dog populations in problematic places, now as ever, typically result from abandonments of unwanted animals who manage to raise a litter before their early deaths. Thus the surest way to keep these animals from being impounded is to ensure that pets are prevented from reproducing.

Industry Credits HSUS with Increase in Egg Sales

The egg industry's partnership with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has truly become the gift that keeps on giving — to animal abusers.

The United Egg Producers, and the American Egg Board, are now crediting their alliance with HSUS — and the

resulting positive media coverage of cage-based egg production — for an increase in egg consumption in the United States.

Next on the industry's wish list is passage of the federal Rotten Egg Bill. And they have been remarkably candid as to why that is:

“**This bill puts cages in place, puts them in law. That's a huge cave-in on HSUS' part. This legislation says that, yes, it's okay to have chickens in cages.**”

— Rose Acre Farms, Nation's Second Largest Egg Corporation

“**This bill would actually pre-empt all future state laws to ban cages. That's the most important part of this.**”

— United Egg Producers

Then:



“California will be a cage-free state.”

— HSUS' Wayne Pacelle,
claiming credit for “banning” cages

After riding to fame on the backs of those working to outlaw egg factory cages, Pacelle now endorses the very cages he once claimed to oppose — while attempting to smear activists who have maintained their integrity.

Now:



“We got HSUS to endorse these cages. And that's priceless!”

— United Egg Producers,
celebrating Pacelle's capitulation

These cages provide an acceptable existence, according to Pacelle, who is now partnered with United Egg Producers in attempting to take away voters' rights and **overturn state anti-cage laws.**

WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

StopTheRottenEggBill.org

Sponsored by the Humane Farming Association (HFA)

Spay/USA founder Esther Mechler critiques the California Sheltering.org "white paper"

We are extremely concerned about the implications of the recently published California Sheltering.org "white paper" formally titled *Charting a Path Forward: Achieving California's policy to save all adoptable and treatable animals.*

The paper never even pays lip service to the prevention of unwanted litters.

In addition, shelters are encouraged to turn away even healthy, friendly cats rather than run the risk of ever having to euthanize any. Recommends the white paper on page 29: "Best practice: No healthy cat, regardless of temperament, should be admitted by an animal shelter if the admission of that cat would cause the death of that cat or another cat in the shelter... This recommendation also applies to private humane organizations that take in animals."

Of course it is good to work with people to keep cats in their homes—if the cats are wanted. And of course if lots of good foster homes can be found, that is great. However, although there are a few good "new" ideas in the blueprint, they have made such a huge omission by ignoring birth prevention that it just boggles the mind.

Two successful decades of work to reduce the numbers of homeless animals are

going down the drain. I hear some shelters and rescues are again handing out puppies and kittens like candy, as in the old days, "free to a good home," unfixed.

In 1985 we were euthanizing 17.8 million animals annually in U.S. shelters. By 1990 it was 12 million. Today it is about three million. Birth prevention worked.

I do think if we kept the emphasis and support on prevention for a few more years and focus heavily on cats and pit bulls, we could imagine and realize a virtually no-kill nation—but we are not yet at that point. Diluting our focus and momentum is going to slow down progress.

The entire ethos of spay/neuter that we worked so hard to spread is being drowned out by shelters' fear of being seen as killers.

It is disheartening to see how little credit is given to spay/neuter for the reduction in numbers. The steepest decline in shelter intakes and killing came in the early 1990s, when the Spay/USA hotline was ringing fifty thousand times a year, as it continued to do for 20 years. During those 20 years, hundreds of dog and cat sterilization programs and clinics sprang up all over the country. These local and

regional programs worked hard to ensure that all cats and kittens, dogs and cats were altered before adoption—and a movement is now starting up to ensure that young cats and dogs be altered prior to first heat to eliminate the development of problem behaviors and eliminate the possibility of unwanted litters. A petition to encourage the American Veterinary Medical Association to endorse this policy is available at www.beat-the-heat.org.

My guess is there will always be some animals euthanized at shelters. I have asked many people in the field how many, and virtually all of them give the same estimated bottom line: about a million, a third of the present volume. Perhaps some of those could be saved too, but I personally think that if an animal is incurably sick, in pain, vicious, or just plain too old and infirm to live a quality life, it is a kindness to put the animal down. Many of us have had to do this for our own pets, though it is always an agonizing decision.

If we can get shelter intakes down enough, without throwing all the unwanted cats out on the streets, especially by spaying/neutering cats prior to first heat—and work on humane

education—we could go a long way in the next three to five years. As public policy, mass killing did not work. But, like it or not, there are still not enough good homes for all of the cats and dogs born. That leaves birth prevention as a necessity, which has been working and needs to continue. We need to hear from the people who understand this principle—and we need to intensify those efforts, not abandon them.

—Esther Mechler
Marian's Dream

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[Involved in animal advocacy since 1974, Esther Mechler either founded or helped to cofound nine organizations of national prominence, eight of which either still exist or have active descendants. Founding Spay/USA in 1990, Mechler retired as executive director in 2008.]

Turning animals away from shelters merely hides the killing

The logic of the California "Blueprint for Ending Euthanasia of Healthy Companion Animals," seeking to end shelter killing by recommending that shelters should refuse to accept surrendered animals, would not hold up if applied to human services: we learned as a society, long ago, that closing soup kitchens and rescue missions does not prevent hunger and homelessness.

The "Blueprint" recommendations

ACC&D coverage

Many thanks for the ANIMAL PEOPLE coverage of the 2013 Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs conference—very useful. I will post a link, since we often get questions about "why still surgery?"

—Robert Blumberg

Friends of the Tsunami Animal-People Alliance
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Turkey project

I am writing to share with you an ambitious art project which I hope you will share with your readers so they might participate. For the past 15 years I have celebrated Thanksgiving with a personal tradition of painting a turkey portrait. Beginning this year, I hope to create a mini-portrait for each of the 46 million turkeys who will be killed in 2013 for Thanksgiving. Considering the size of the project, and the opportunity it presents to educate and celebrate turkeys, I am inviting members of the general public "to the table" to help create these portraits. More information and additional images, can be found at <http://46millionturkeys.com/>.

During Thanksgiving week the Harlow Gallery, at 160 Water Street in Hallowell, Maine, will host our 46-million turkey exhibit.

—Cheryl Miller
Augusta, Maine
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are especially ominous for cats, and ignores the tragic outcomes already seen where closed-door policies or high surrender fees are in effect, and have encouraged people to simply dump unwanted animals. Why would we adopt policies leading to more of this behavior?

Too many no-kill activists seem to think that the former pet cats who are found starving, the cruelty often inflicted on cats who never learned to hunt and try to beg on the wrong doorsteps, and the huge number of hoarders who prey on these animals are incidental collateral damage and an insignificant aside to all the good they feel they are doing.

To suggest that healthy animals who have had homes are better off on the streets than entering a shelter ignores the reality that animals on the streets are obviously unable to access a safety net on their own if things go wrong. Any plan that leaves domestic animals without care and without a safety net is missing

Coverage of developments in dog & cat contraception

I just happened upon your website, read your July/August 2013 coverage of developments in cat and dog contraception, and found it most informative. I support Alley Cat Allies and the Best Friends Animal Society, and am especially concerned about feral cats. I am hopeful about what the future may hold to avoid the killings of thousands of cats and dogs, especially the immunosterilant research. After finding your site, I sent in my subscription.

—Shelly Pedersen
Blaine, Minnesota
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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.

a big part of the equation.

An obsessive fear of death has turned the need to develop infrastructure for animals upside down by claiming that animals are better off with no infrastructure at all. This is especially odd to hear at this point in time, when shelter killing has steadily decreased over the last four decades, parallel to exponentially increasing numbers of sterilization clinics, shelters, adoption centers, and volunteer rehoming networks.

To fulfill the "Blueprint" recommendations, cats would need to be exempted from the protections of abandonment statutes. Even the need to improve law enforcement response in neglect and abandonment cases would be brought into question. This is not progress for animal welfare.

Slamming the shelter door in the faces of animals who have no one to care for them does not prevent killing; it merely hides it, and allows the suffering and deaths of these

Wildlife update from Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwean government in August 2013 relocated 151 wildebeests, 25 eland, 60 zebras, 100 impalas and 10 giraffes from the Save Valley Conservancy in Masvingo to increase the animal populations in Zambezi National Park at Victoria Falls ahead of the United Nations World Tourism Organization General Assembly. The government is always claiming that we have an abundance of animals. If this is true, why was it necessary to move all of these animals so that the delegates could see some?

Confucian ethics

I really enjoyed Wolf Clifton's commentary "Confucian Virtue Ethics vs. 'Animal Rights & the Predation Problem.'" I loved what he wrote about being humble enough to admit mistakes and accept that the best decisions may not be perfect.

—Peter Marsh
Concord, New Hampshire
<pmarshlaw@hotmail.com>



animals to be prolonged and significantly more gruesome. Any number of cats starving is not acceptable, especially after an alternative was sought and denied to the cats. There are no checks and balances once animals are turned away, taken and dumped somewhere out of sight and out of mind of the shelter personnel who congratulate themselves for preventing the cats from dying in a shelter.

We would not close battered women's shelters on Saturday nights and blithely claim to be reducing domestic violence.

Denying victims open access to a safety net does not resolve the need for one.

—Ruth Steinberger

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Meanwhile a schedule of prices for hunting animals and fish has been issued, listing practically every animal in Zimbabwe, even bush baby and rhino. We wonder who would want to hunt a bush baby, and how would this be done? We have a copy of the schedule if anyone would like to see it.

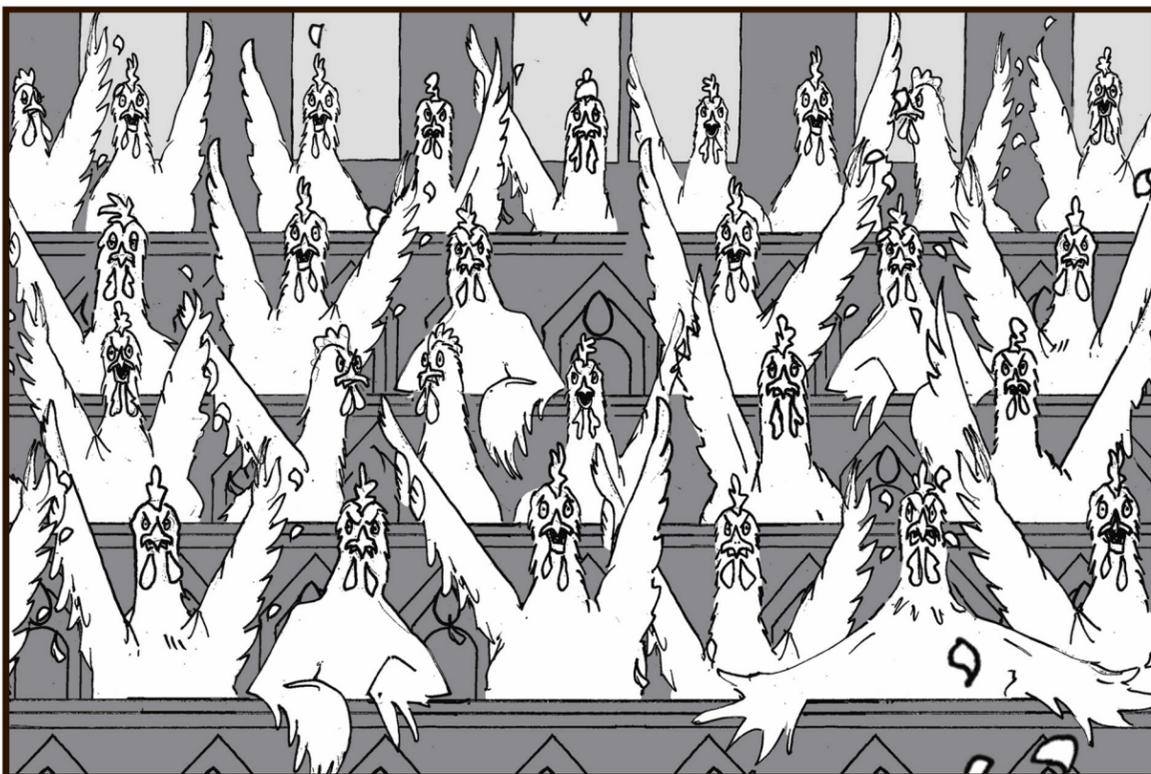
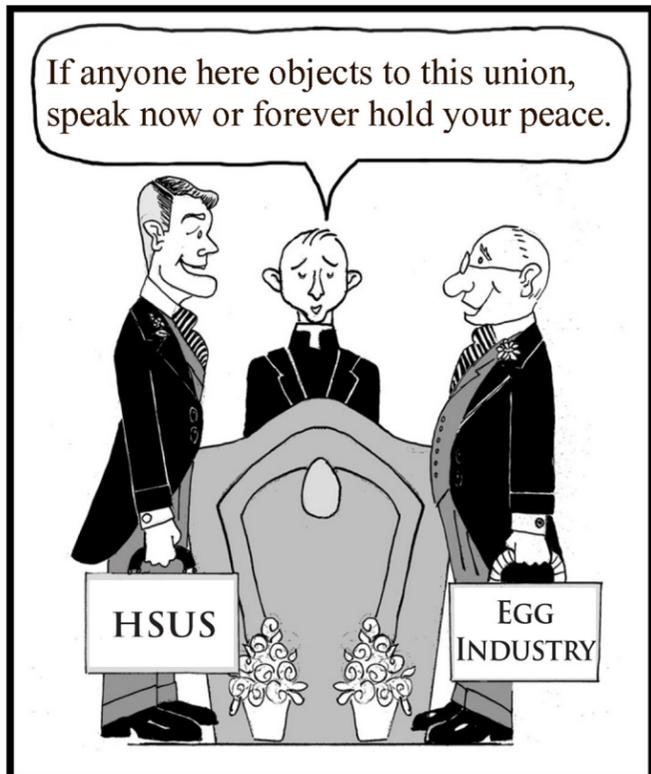
Earlier on in the year, an article appeared in a Zimbabwean newspaper stating that the elephant population was around 45,000. Now, just a few days ago, an article appeared in the *Zimbabwean Financial Gazette* claiming that Zimbabwe has around 100,000 elephants. This is all part of the Zimbabwean appeal to be allowed to sell ivory.

—Johnny Rodrigues
Chair

Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force
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[ADVERTISEMENT]



Largest-ever animal rights demo in Israel

Four to five thousand people, according to my estimate, participated on August 24, 2013 in the largest-ever demonstration for animal rights in Israel.

We marched under the slogan "No longer blind to injustice." The emphasis was on animals exploited for food and on veganism, but the organizers made sure that other issues would be present and visible. There were slogans and signs against vivisection, fur, killing dogs and cats who are without human guardians, destruction of natural habitats, trade in animals, glue traps, and many other forms of exploitation and abuse.

The climax of the demonstration came when we stood quietly, eyes blindfolded, for three minutes, to symbolize society's willful blindness to the agony of non-human animals. Then we simultaneously took off the blindfolds, no longer blind to injustice.

The demonstration was initiated by law professor Assaf Hardoof, a recent vegan and animal liberation activist. The initiative caught quickly through Facebook, and was joined by the main animal liberation groups working in Israel, including Anonymous for Animal Rights, Let the Animals Live, the Israeli Society for the Abolition of Vivisection, 269life, the Anti-Fur Coalition, Behind the Lab's Doors, and more. It also became international, with parallel events announced in 41 cities around the world.



—Yossi Wolfson
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Ag-gag laws & frameworks of perception

I found the ANIMAL PEOPLE May/June 2013 editorial "Ag-gag laws & changing frameworks of perception" most enlightening. I copied it for many people to read.

One thought I would like to add: I firmly insist that Animals' Angels uses horror pictures rarely and only when there is no other way to make others aware of what happens. I made this rule not only because it is a matter of opinion whether any changes are instigated by this, but also because the dignity of the animals is always violated by showing them in their utmost misery. It is bad enough that we have to take these pictures. Our only excuse is that we do it with a loving heart. But

when we use this footage, we ponder carefully whether it really will contribute to the abolition of atrocities. Likewise I object very much to pictures of people shown in distress without their permission. In my opinion the same discretion should apply to animals.



—Christa Blanke
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Who killed Daxton Borchardt?

Six months ago today, on March 6, 2013 in Darien, Wisconsin, pro-pit bull organizations whose lobbyists are backed by millions of dollars killed my son.

Six months ago today, the Best Friends Animal Society, that claims pit bulls are "just like any other dogs," killed my son.

Six months ago today, the National Canine Research Council, Animal Farm Foundation, BADRAP, and Pit Bulletin Legal News Network, among others, killed my son.

Six months ago today, the American SPCA, which admits the dog-aggressive heritage of the breed, but holds to the false claim that pit bulls were once "nursemaid" dogs, killed my son.

Six months ago today, television shows such as "Pit Bosses," "Pit Bulls & Parolees," and "The Dog Whisperer" that keep pushing the lie "It's not the breed, it's how you raise them," killed my son.

Six months ago today, the people at the Humane Society of the U.S. who tell us that responsible ownership is all it takes for a dog to be safe, killed my son.

Six months ago today, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, which dropped the pit bull issue in 1998, made my son the 211th American killed by a pit bull and the 358th in re-

corded history.

Six months ago today, the American Veterinary Medical Association message that "The owner's behavior is the underlying causal factor," killed my son.

Six months ago today, the myth that pit bulls were ever a "nanny dog" killed my son.

Six months ago today, the phrase "All dogs bite" killed my son.

Six months ago today, parents who post photos of their pit bulls and children on Facebook killed my son.

Six months ago today, my son was killed by the truth not being told to the American public.

Six months ago today, we were duped by the myths, misinformation, and lies that took the life of 14-month-old Daxton James Borchardt.

All of the people and organizations that I just mentioned are as responsible for the death of my son as the pit bulls who turned "dead game," holding and shaking Dax in a sustained 15-minute attack that ripped his face off and crushed his skull.

The truth not being told killed my son six months ago today.

—Jeff Borchardt
East Troy, Wisconsin



Events

Oct. 14-16: Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conf., Barcelona, Spain. Info: <www.icawc.org>

Oct. 16: National Feral Cat Day. Info: <www.alleycat.org/NFCD>

Oct. 19: Elephant Grape Stomp, Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary, San Andreas, CA. Info: <newsletter@pawswab.org>

Oct. 26: Twin Cities Veg Fest, Minneapolis. Info: 612-276-2242; <unny@exploreveg.org>

November 8-10: 1st Intl. Elephant Congress & Ministerial Meet, New Delhi. Info: <igtpe@yahoo.com>

Nov. 2: Celebration for the Turkeys, Farm Sanctuary, Orland, CA; **Nov. 9**, Acton, CA; **Nov. 16**, Watkins Glen, NY. Info: <info@farmsanctuary.org>

Nov. 8-10: Alley Cat Allies national conference, Arlington, VA. Info: <www.alleycat.org/Conference>

Nov. 16: Green Mountain Animal Defenders 30th Anniversary Gala, South Burlington, VT. Info: <info@gmad.info>

Nov. 21-22: British Veterinary Assn. Congress, London. Info: <www.bva.co.uk>

2014

January 13-17: Asia for Animals conf., Singapore. Info: <www.asiaforanimals.com>

March 17-18: The Science of Animal Thinking & Emotion conf., Washington D.C. Info: <sentientanimal@hsus.org>

July 21-23: Summer School on Religion & Animal Protection, Oxford, U.K. Info: <www.oxfordanimaethics.com>



IF YOU ARE HOLDING AN EVENT, please let us know—we'll be happy to announce it, and to send free samples of ANIMAL PEOPLE for your guests.

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YES! I'M AN ANIMAL PERSON!



—Wolf Clifton

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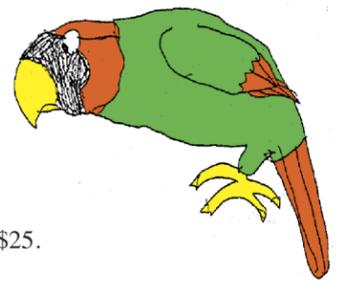
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Why are Pennsylvania animal advocates not helping to stop pigeon shoots?

In 1989 I drove from Illinois to Montauk Point, New York to indulge in shark fishing, then my favorite pastime. I had no idea that a detour to the small town of Hegins, Pennsylvania would change my world forever.

I vividly remember to this day my shock and disgust at what I saw in that bloody Hegins park. I also remember the terrific people I met who nonviolently fought against the abuse. The people I would formerly have considered to be on "my side," the creeps with the guns, were completely outclassed by the people who stood for compassion.

It took a while first for me to realize, then accept, that I was on a new course, and would soon be leading a whole new life. I went from being a prolific animal killer who aimed guns and other killing tools at animals, to being an activist who aims cameras at animal abusers.

There was never a question in my mind that the Hegins pigeon shoot would be stopped, though it took 10 years. The ethics, energy, intelligence and dedication of those fighting on behalf of the animals could not be defeated.

But 13 years into the new millennium, 14 years after the Hegins shoot ended, live pigeon shoots continue elsewhere in Pennsylvania. Damn the evil and corrupt National Rifle Association. Damn the corrupt police and district attorneys who refuse to enforce Pennsylvania Humane Law 5511. Damn Pennsylvania's corrupt legislatures who dance to the NRA's tune, and are led around by the nose to do its bidding. Damn Pennsylvania's media for not reporting these wanton slaughters.

While we're at it, how about we give a double damn to those who just might have more to do with the continuation of pigeon butchery than all the other guilty parties combined? I am speaking about Pennsylvania's humane movement. Pennsylvania's live pigeon shoots have for decades been the most blatant animal abuse issue in the state, if not the country, but you wouldn't know it from the paucity of Pennsylvania residents actively involved in efforts to stop these wanton slaughters.

Pennsylvania has a population of well over 12 million people, yet I can count the number of Pennsylvania citizens actively involved

in documenting, exposing or protesting pigeon shoots on two hands, with fingers to spare.

A trip to China a couple years ago reminded me of what real activism looks like, and hasn't looked like in the U.S. for two decades. Chinese activists with far fewer freedoms take great risk in their efforts, but they don't flinch and they don't quit. The U.S. animal protection movement needs to pay attention.

The effort to expose Pennsylvania's live pigeon shoots is being conducted mainly by people from Illinois and New Jersey. Pennsylvania's so-called humane "leaders" not only ignore pigeon shoots, but actively avoid even mentioning them.

I recall with disgust a planned rally of PA "activists" at the capitol in Harrisburg a few years ago, whose organizers adamantly refused to bring up pigeon shoots until I threatened to expose their cowardice and do everything I could to scuttle the posturing opportunity for Pennsylvania's so-called humane leaders.

NRA lobbyist John Hohenwarter brags publicly about keeping pigeon shoot slaughters going. Pennsylvania humane "lead-

ers" should be in his face and fighting. Instead they tiptoe around as if trying not to be noticed.

Pigeon shoots certainly are not the only cruelty issue in PA. As anywhere else, there is plenty of other abuse. But the shoots stand alone in torturing and killing animals by the thousands for no reason other than the thrill of killing.

SHARK will continue to expose Pennsylvania pigeon shoots and the corrupt officials who allow them. SHARK stands ready to work with any and all in Pennsylvania who are ready to work to stop pigeon shoots. But besides the six to eight Pennsylvania residents who have actually been doing something, is there anyone else who is serious about this humane issue?



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Hoping for translations of *Animal Welfare in Islamic Law*

I came across your website and saw the English and Arabic version of Kristen Stilt's book *Animal Welfare in Islamic Law*. I hope you can have another version in Bahasa Indonesian, as Indonesia has the highest number of Muslims in any nation and not all of them understand Ar-

abic. It was heartening to learn there is a provision for animal welfare in Islam. I hope more people will come to learn of this too. Translations to more languages may help.



—Laura Tan
 Bahasa, Indonesia

Vegan strategies

Concerning your November/December 2012 editorial "Politics, personal conduct, & the Vegan Police," it is a consistent annoyance to me that overlooked is what we have not yet done to achieve a wider base of reasoning, to make the connections to dietary choices that go beyond a brief glimpse at environmental impacts and the innate suffering of animals raised and killed for meat. Strategies should adapt to changing political and economic external environments, so should not be static. Most discussion of this editorial's subjects appear to me to be, like the positions of vegetarian and environmental organizations, anthropocentric positions based on personal and some historical contexts, none of which predict the future we are influencing and shaping. That the external environment we work in is changing more rapidly than ever before, at least in our lifetimes, should remind us that we are not locked into so few pathways to change. I am, however, happy you keep bringing these opinions to the community.



—Will Anderson
 Seattle, Washington

Editor's note:

Will Anderson is author of *This Is Hope: Green Vegans and the New Human Ecology*, subtitled "How we find our way to a humane and environmentally sane future." Info: <will@ThisIsHopeTheBook.com>; <www.ThisIsHopeTheBook.com>.

Trusting shelters

William Hageman of the *Chicago Tribune* reported on July 29, 2013 that a study commissioned by the Best Friends Animal Society found that 46% of the survey participants between the ages of 18 and 34 were more likely to purchase a dog from a breeder or pet store than to consider adopting from a shelter. Only 31% were more likely to adopt from a shelter.

In addition, nearly 46% of the 18-to-34-year-old respondents see shelter dogs as less desirable than those from breeders. Forty percent don't believe shelter dogs are at risk of being killed.

How strange! Shelters tell everyone they are going no-kill, then are surprised when people think dogs don't get killed in shelters. Shelters pass pit bulls off as Labs, boxers, and so forth, then are surprised when people think all shelter dogs have problems. Shelters tell people any dog may have a life-threatening or fatal response if even the tiniest mistake is made in raising them, then are surprised when people want to raise their own dog from puppyhood.

Dishonest behavior meant to encourage pit bull adoptions is backfiring on shelters, and is hurting normal dogs who end up in shelters. Even here in the Netherlands, a good part of the public won't consider a shelter dog because they are afraid the shelter management will lie to them about whether the dog is part pit.



—Alexandra Semyonova
 Den Haag, Netherlands

Animal agriculture swamps Pakistan again

At least 267 people were killed, with 22,250 displaced and thousands of animals killed and displaced in August 2013 by the second round of catastrophic monsoon flooding to hit Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Baluchistan.

Similar flooding in 2012 killed more than 2,500 people and displaced 21 million, with a toll of 1.2 million mammals and six million poultry killed and as many as 22 million animals displaced, according to the Pakistan Department of Livestock.

If the animal losses in 2012 were proportionate, about 120,000 mammals and 600,000 poultry lost their lives in 2013.

The repeated animal losses showed the futility of efforts by livestock gift charities, the Pakistani government, and even the World Society for the Protection of Animals to rebuild herds and flocks after the crisis—as ANIMAL PEOPLE editorially predicted in your July/August 2010 editorial feature "How expanding animal agriculture swamped Pakistan."

—Khalid Mahmood Qurashi
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 Animal Save Movement Pakistan
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 <thetension@hotmail.com>



Dog & cat meat

Thanks for your superbly written July/August 2013 editorial feature, "Asian dog & cat meat trade could be on the way out."

You mentioned, however, that in 1939, when the Shanghai SPCA successfully prosecuted two men for selling dog and cat meat as rabbit, "instead of commanding a higher price than rabbit meat, as dog and cat meat does today, the dog and cat meat was disguised as one of the cheapest meats available."

We are finding more frequently in market situations today that dogs and cats are stolen in such massive numbers that they now often bring a cheaper price than goat and rabbit. Thus dog carcasses are now sold with counterfeit health and safety stamps describing them as goat, and cat carcasses are again sold as rabbit.

Our "Friends...or Food" campaign has, since it began in 1998, endeavored to portray that the suffering of any food animal cannot be justified. While animal therapy programs such as Dr. Dog can more graphically portray the value of companion animals as friends and helpers in society, and thus provide a better framework for removing them from the food chain, the "Friends...or Food" notion can be extended to other animals, such as those who are intensively farmed, and are equally intelligent and deserving of our respect and compassionate treatment.

—Jill Robinson
 Founder & CEO
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 <info@animalsasia.org>
 <www.animalsasia.org>



Fukushima

We announced in 2012 that we would sterilize at least 1,000 animals from Fukushima during 2013. On September 16, 2013 we reached 1,093 sterilization surgeries in Fukushima, including 555 cats and dogs from within 20 to 30 kilometers of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, where all four reactors have now been shut down. Twenty percent of our surgeries were early-age. I have reset our target for early-age surgeries to 30%.

—Hiro Yamasaki
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2013 Watchdog Report

Will you publish a 2013 edition of the ANIMAL PEOPLE Watchdog Report on Animal Charities?

"The science of how behavior is inherited in aggressive dogs," by Alexandra Semyonova's and "Promising tests—but no immediate hope for female nonsurgical sterilants" by Merritt Clifton in your July/August 2013 edition are great tech articles in their fields. Your dog breed danger and death data is great for supporting presentations to animal groups. Keep it up!



—Jack Meeks
 Penn Valley, California

Editor's note:

The 2013 edition of the ANIMAL PEOPLE Watchdog Report on Animal Charities has just been published, covering 163 charities in all, and is available at \$25 per copy. Completing it, the most extensive update of the Watchdog Report since inception in 1999, took a month longer than the time we had initially budgeted for it, and is why this "September" edition of the ANIMAL PEOPLE newspaper is actually appearing in early October.

Clinic in Vietnam

Emma Bolton and I run the Vietnam Animal Welfare Organisation in Hoi An, Vietnam, 30 kilometers south of Da Nang in Central Vietnam. We are a new organization, started in February 2013. We moved into our new shelter at the beginning of September 2013, after completing renovations. The shelter will house our cat and dog rescues, offered for adoption, as well as our vet clinic, which will focus on providing services such as sterilization surgery for local pets. Ours is the first proper sterile veterinary operating theatre in Central Vietnam.

Once the building is properly set up, and depending on funding, we will begin our animal welfare education programs, providing subsidized vet care for local pets, and hosting training sessions for local vets.

We are currently in the process of applying for non-profit status in both the U.S. and the United Kingdom. We look forward to expanding our operations to include work toward ending the dog meat trade, on both the supply and demand side, and seeking legislation in Hanoi to improve laws related to animal welfare and health.

—Catherine Besch
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The long and winding road to environmentalism

I have been involved in animal rights since 1985, and am grateful for the way that our movement has grown and evolved. When I first began practicing animal law, the idea that animals had rights to which we must pay heed was revolutionary. Courageous activists went to jail to put it on the agenda.

To date, the main thrust of our movement has been to publicize issues of animal abuse and, most significantly, the fact that animal exploitation is so woven into the fabric of our culture that we don't see it. Institutionalized cruelty—factory farming, animal experimentation and hunting—are not recognized as cruelty because they are so pervasive. They are like the background to a painting which is so familiar that we no longer see it or perceive its impact. Our job has been to define that background in red so that people can, if they choose, see it for what it is, disengage from automatic acceptance of its premises, and refuse to participate in its enormities.

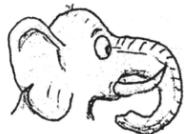
But let's also see ourselves as environmentalists. For a long time the animal rights movement and the environmental movement have perceived themselves as separate though largely parallel world views. The animal rights movement has promoted vegetarianism and veganism, a view that was not adopted by early environmentalists who believed that people could eat animals, as long as we were not greedy enough to destroy the ecosystems upon which those animals depended. That is changing and today there are a growing number of environmentalists who have embraced veganism.

The animal rights movement, for its part, has tended to ignore issues of pollution and human overpopulation, except as they impact animal populations. I went to an animal rights conference in Los Angeles a few years ago where there was one small workshop on human overpopulation. Meanwhile, there were dozens of talks and workshops on animal cruelty, legislative tactics, and factory farming. These are worthy topics,

March for the Elephants

I attended the October 5, 2013 March for the Elephants, an event held around the world, in San Francisco. I thought the Chinatown speaker, Wayne Hsuing of Direct Action Everywhere, was wonderful—deeply moving and passionate, as were the others. I found myself marching behind a group from the Performing Animal Welfare Society and had a few nice words with cofounder Ed Stewart. He said that if his late partner and cofounder Pat Derby was there, she would probably have gotten into a fistfight [at the live markets] in Chinatown. It was one of the most emotional days of my life.

—Stephanie Fearnelyhough
San Francisco, California



but the animal rights movement needs an inclusive awareness that the biggest problem facing animals (including us) is human overpopulation. This issue, if not addressed, will swallow up any gains we make in the areas of cruelty and veganism.

Even at environmental conferences, discussions of human overpopulation occur more in the corridors than in keynote addresses. Among politicians, this topic is anathema because it is a political loser. It is significant that the most prominent worldwide leaders discussing human overpopulation are Prince Charles and the Dalai Lama, both unelected figures.

Let's put these issues back on the agenda in our outreach and at our conferences.

—Larry Weiss
Denver, Colorado



Editor's note:

Surveys of animal rights advocates have repeatedly demonstrated that upward of 90% also define themselves as environmentalists, yet most acknowledge a wide gulf between animal rights perspectives and the prevailing views among mainstream environmentalists and environmental organizations, such that the opportunities for partnerships beneficial to animals remain limited.

There may be marginally more areas of agreement now than in 1970, when animal advocates including then-Humane Society of the U.S. president Mel Morse tried to put animal welfare on the agenda during the first Earth Day celebration. Indeed, the best-remembered Earth Day 1970 activity was probably Dolphin Project founder Ric O'Barry's attempted release of the dolphin Charlie Brown in Bimini.

But to be recalled as well is that while saving wild whales was among the causes that built the environmental movement, ending dolphin captivity has yet to receive much mainstream environmental support, while several of the biggest mainstream environmental organizations partner with dolphinariums to promote other issues, and not coincidentally, raise funds from the visitors.

The root problem may be that mainstream environmentalism grew out of habitat preservation causes, which in turn emerged from the medieval practice of gamekeeping. This consisted mostly of preventing anyone except the landowners—the feudal nobility—from exploiting wildlife and habitat. Mainstream environmentalism continues to accept the paradox of the “hunter/conservationist,” who kills wildlife in the name of protecting wildlife. Mainstream wildlife conservation is funded in part by the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses—and, in consequence, wildlife conservation policies and priorities are often warped to suit the interests of hunters, rather than the needs of wild animals.

Mainstream environmentalism also accepts—and promotes—ecological nativism, a pre-Darwinian theory of habitat which holds that only the species who evolved in a particular geological location actually belong there. Thus mainstream environmentalism encourages the massacre of “non-native” species, regardless of how well-suited to the habitat they may be, and how integral to the ecosystems which have evolved as result of habitat change.

Mainstream environmentalism exempts much anti-animal activity from the ecological precepts it selectively advances, and is especially self-contradictory in opposing pollution from factory farms without, for the most part, opposing the products of factory farms. While it is true that there are more vegan environmentalists now than in 1970, it is also true that to this day only two of the biggest seven environmental organizations have even tenuously advised their supporters to eat less meat, let alone urged veganism or vegetarianism as a lifestyle.

Finally, while ANIMAL PEOPLE board members Kim Bartlett and Patrice Greanville are on record in agreement that “the biggest problem facing animals (including us) is human overpopulation,” ANIMAL PEOPLE editor Merritt Clifton dissents, contending that the greater issue is not how many people live somewhere, at least up to present population densities, but rather how those people choose to live. Two points of note:

- Exchange of ideas occurs more easily among larger congregations of thinkers, and the greater the population density of a society, the more attention tends to be paid to reducing violence and consumption of limited resources. Thus, while more meat-eating people means more factory farming, if most people live as Americans and Europeans live, not eating meat emerged first as both a widely accepted ethical precept and a practicable option in India and ancient China, the most densely populated regions of their time. Philosophies advancing ethical treatment of animals have continued to emerge and gain support primarily from urban rather than agrarian societies.

- The most dramatic recoveries of wildlife and habitat of the past century have occurred in the Northeast and West Coast regions of the U.S., and in western Europe, which are also three of the regions of the world where human population growth has been most rapid.

This is not to argue that human population growth is “good,” or that family planning and birth control should not be encouraged. At the same time, human population growth has long been strictly managed in China. Per capita meat consumption in China, though rising, is still less than half of the U.S. and European norms. Nonetheless, animal suffering and exploitation in modern China has only just begun to be addressed by a rising animal advocacy movement—and that movement emerged first from several of the biggest cities in the world.

The usual suspects try again to reintroduce trophy hunting to Kenya

It is now official that cropping, defined as “harvesting of [wild] animals for a range of products,” including meat, horns, and hides, may be re-introduced to Kenya through the newly proposed Wildlife Conservation & Management Bill, 2013.

Permitting cropping, which was explicitly banned in November 2003, will undermine the sport-hunting ban in effect in Kenya since 1977. It will also in a big way demotivate nations that look toward Kenya as a conservation model, such as Botswana, which in November 2012 banned sport hunting, effective in September 2013.

Those who have exerted pressure to include cropping in the 2013 Wildlife Conservation & Management Bill are the same people who pushed a 2004 bill to repeal the ban on sport hunting, introduced by G.G. Kariuki, then a Member of Parliament for Laikipia West.

Pressure from large ranch-owners led to an experimental cropping in 1991, which was initially to run for five years, but was allowed to continue for 13 years. An evaluation done by Tasha Bioservices

Ltd. established that corruption, mismanagement, and abuse of the designated quotas were flagrant in the experiment. One finding was that cropping led to poaching for bush meat. This was because local people who lived with animals did not benefit from the wildlife like the ranchers who were licensed to crop. Ultimately, this report led to the suspension of the cropping experiment.

Ranchers clamoring for cropping must be reminded that much of the wildlife on their land migrates from national parks and reserves.

Data from the Department of Remote Sensing and Survey indicates that Kenya's wildlife population has declined by more than 58% in the last two decades. Do we imagine that the Kenya Wildlife Service will be able to regulate cropping, as an additional chore, when it has been unable to stop poaching of keystone species as elephants and rhinos?

A 2007 survey of local communities in 21 regions of Kenya found that 76% of them opposed sport-hunting, cropping, and culling of wildlife, for reasons ranging from adverse effects on tourism to the threat to national security which could result from proliferation of small firearms.

Kenya should also take heed of the experience of other nations that have practiced “consumptive utilization” of wildlife, also known as “sustainable use.”

For instance, the hunting-centered Community Area Management Programme for Indigenous Resources in Zimbabwe has failed to achieve its official objective of ensuring that rural communities benefit. Scholars from the University of Zimbabwe have found that local households receive as little as \$1.00 to \$3.00 per year in dividends from CAMPFIRE, while district councils retain 50% to 90% of the revenue.

In West African countries that al-

lowed consumptive utilization, including Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Liberia, there is hardly any wildlife left. In Tanzania, local communities have strongly decried hunting, particularly in Loliondo, where a Dubai-based company has been accused of organizing wanton wildlife massacres.

Cropping contradicts all of the wildlife conservation and tourism principles that Kenya has stood for over the years.

—Josaphat Ngonyo
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Royal Canin agrees to help Vier Pforten rescue bears used in baiting

VIENNA—The Austrian-based international animal welfare charity Vier Pforten (Four Paws in the U.S.) is expanding its constellation of bear sanctuaries to accommodate 15 to 20 bears who have been used in bear-baiting competitions in Ukraine.

Caught sponsoring the competitions, the French-headquartered dog food maker Royal Canin is expected to invest \$250,000 in the bear rescue project.

Vier Pforten in July 2013 released video showing packs of dogs being set repeatedly on a chained brown bear. Though injured, the bear survived. Vier Pforten pledged to find and rescue that bear and many others who have been similarly used.

Out-takes from the Vier Pforten video show the Royal Canin name on two trophies, one for contests between a bear and one dog, the other for a bear and multiple dogs.

Said Vier Pforten bear project leader Amir Khalil, "The branded trophies made clear reference to bear baiting, carrying the inscription 'second championship between hunting dogs for bears and wild boar.' During our research," Khalil added, "material was passed to us which proves that Royal Canin sponsored a similar contest in February 2012."

Wrote Royal Canin global corporate affairs director Herve Marc in a preliminary statement, "It appears that these photos were taken during a dog show in Dubovy Gay in

the Ukraine, on April 27-28, 2013. Our colleagues in the Ukraine confirmed that we sponsored brand placements with one banner, two trophies, and free product samples and nothing else. There was no mention of the demonstration using the bear." Nonetheless, said Marc, "As a result of our investigation, we have decided to immediately pull out of future sponsorship of this event and undertake some additional actions, such as reminding our sales and marketing teams around the globe of the relevant policies in place. For example," Marc said, "Our animal welfare Policy states that we do not undertake, support or sponsor research that harms animals."

Khalil was unimpressed. "Royal Canin will not utter a word on what should now be done for the ill-treated bears," he said on July 25, 2013. "They merely say that the Ukrainian office 'has taken measures to halt any type of sponsorship or events which run contrary to the animal welfare ethics of the company,' and that worldwide 'all Royal Canin offices have again been made aware.'" Royal Canin Switzerland told journalists this week that they knew nothing of events like this. In May 2013 we contacted all European offices of Royal Canin in countries where Vier Pforten has an office—which includes Switzerland—and also the headquarters in France. We confronted them with extracts of the visual material and requested a personal meeting. A personal meeting has been refused right up to today."

"Royal Canin unreservedly apologizes for sponsoring the event where the bear baiting took place," Marc responded. We again thank Vier Pforten International for bringing this practice to our attention and in doing so reminding us that diligence in ensuring our policy is followed is paramount. Specifically, Royal Canin will work to improve the welfare of the Ukrainian bears and dogs involved in bear-baiting. We intend to provide funding for this project," Marc pledged. "We will also take the lead in building an alliance to include additional volunteering parties to ensure the project is secured for the long term."

Said Khalil, "We welcome Royal Canin's willingness to take on responsibility. But of course words alone are not enough—we need to see action. It is already clear that we need the support of the Ukrainian authorities if we are to end the bears' suffering," Khalil added. "A project like this is very demanding logistically, financially and bureaucratically."

Vier Pforten already operates bear sanctuaries in Bulgaria, Germany, Austria, and Kosovo, as well as the Lionsrock sanctuary in South Africa for lions and other African wildlife. Partnering with Ukrainian media, Vier Pforten in August 2013 went on to expose illegal commerce in bear cubs.

Royal Canin is a subsidiary of the Mars pet product empire, which also makes Whiskas cat food and Pedigree dog food,

among several other name brands. Royal Canin co-sponsored the 2013 American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards program, has donated dog food to hundreds of shelters, and recently funded an agility course for dogs at the Abu Dhabi Animal Shelter in the United Arab Emirates.

Success in the campaign against bear-baiting came as a timely morale-booster for Khalil. In 2012 Khalil led a Vier Pforten team in sterilizing and vaccinating more than 4,000 street dogs in Kiev, Lviv, Donetsk, and Zaporozhye, Ukraine, to prevent massacres by local authorities ahead of the Euro 2012 football championships. But Vier Pforten withdrew from Kiev in mid-2013, Khalil told media, after authorities took no action in response to death threats which may have been sent either by hunters who shoot dogs for sport, who have emerged throughout the former Soviet Union, or by persons associated with the city animal control agency.

Vier Pforten had reason to take the threats seriously. Among much other violence against people who challenge the catch-and-kill Kiev animal control modus operandi, a veterinarian employed by the Kiev charity SOS Animals Ukraine suffered brain damage in 1999 and two companions were killed in a suspect car crash.

Fielding mobile dog and cat sterilization clinics in Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, and Croatia since the fall of Communism, Vier Pforten remains the largest nonprofit sterilization service provider in all four nations.

Cherokee elders move to close infamous reservation bear pits

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Eastern Band of Cherokee tribal elders Amy Walker and Peggy Hill on September 23, 2013 served notice of intent to sue the operators of the Cherokee Bear Park for violating the federal Endangered Species Act if the resident bears are not transferred to a suitable sanctuary within 60 days.

"The Cherokee Bear Zoo is an open concrete grave for these intelligent animals. They must be moved from this despicable facility to a place where they'll be cared for, not abused and neglected," Walker told Mitch Weiss of Associated Press.

Three roadside bear pits on the Cherokee Reservation—the Cherokee Bear Zoo, Chief Saunooke Bear Park, and Santa's Land—have drawn protest for decades, including billboards posted by PETA calling the facilities "prisons" and mentioning an incident in which a nine-year-old girl was bitten while feeding a bear cub.

Sylvester Crowe, 74, recalled that some Cherokees opposed the bear pits even when they first opened, circa 60 years ago. "Nobody listened to them and they gave up, and the younger generation came along and accepted it," Crowe told Weiss of AP.

But Hill, 72, said "Most Cherokee people had no idea what was taking place behind the bars of these roadside zoos."

A breakthrough came, Andrew Kasper of the Waynesville Smoky Mountain News reported, when the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service in early 2013 fined Chief

Saunooke Bear Park owner Kole Clapsaddle for repeated Animal Welfare Act violations and suspended his license to exhibit animals. Clapsaddle in July 2013 transferred his eight black bears and three grizzlies to the 50-acre International Exotic Feline Foundation sanctuary in Boyd, Texas.

"The eleven bears have settled happily into their new home," International Exotic Feline Foundation director Richard Gilbreath told ANIMAL PEOPLE. But Gilbreath was concerned about where the bears at the other two Cherokee Reservation facilities might go.

Scarce sanctuary space

"I believe the need to find sanctuary space for bears these days is as big a problem as the need to find places for tigers and other exotic cats was in the 1990s," Gilbreath said.

Agreed Bobbi Brink, founder of the Lions, Tigers, & Bears sanctuary in Alpine, California, "Richard is absolutely right. Bears are in desperate need. I have about 15 bears on my waiting list now that I am desperately trying to find a reputable home for. I am in the process of building a new six-acre bear habitat," Brink said, "but these things take time. Needs are for more public awareness, and for the public to know how to find the reputable and accredited sanctuaries, as some so-called sanctuaries are the root of the problem. Photo opportunities with cubs need to stop, and habitats to

help rehome some of these bears are needed."

"The problem with bears is not so much individual collectors, as it was with big cats," offered American Sanctuary Association executive director Vernon Weir. "It seems to me the problem is a lot of USDA-licensed facilities that shouldn't have bears in the first place. The USDA's hands are often tied because they don't want to be responsible for killing dozens of animals, but they know there is no place for the animals to go. The USDA needs to stop issuing licenses to these menageries. But the definition is tricky—how do you license a place wanting to be a legitimate sanctuary that allows the public to visit, even just members, while declining to license a private zoo? Wild animals belong in the wild," Weir added, "but I don't see any meaningful legislation passing that will stop licensing roadside zoos as long as the zoo community lobbies against it."

Commented Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries executive director Patty Finch, "I wouldn't dispute what Richard Gilbreath is saying, as he probably hears about the majority of bears, and I only hear about the ones [whose advocates] happen to find GFAS. The bears I've been involved with came from private owners or failed sanctuaries, and were often acquired because someone was threatening to use them for bear baiting. A private ownership ban is needed," Finch said, "but passing laws is one thing, and getting them enforced is another."

Lawsuits for failure to impound pit bulls

CHARLESTON, W.V.—The West Virginia Supreme Court on September 27, 2013 reinstated a lawsuit brought against Monroe County dog warden Patricia Green for failing to impound several pit bulls, allegedly the subjects of frequent complaints, who on November 27, 2009 mauled Lowell Bowden, 70, of Lindsdale.

"Maimed beyond recognition," according to the brief filed by Bowden's widow, Dreama Bowden, the victim died seven days later. The case also names Monroe County itself, the American Modern Home Insurance Company, and the four people whose pit bulls attacked Bowden.

The case was initially dismissed after Monroe County and Green claimed they were immune to lawsuit under the West Virginia Governmental Tort Claims and Insurance Reform Act and the Public Duty Doctrine.

The West Virginia Supreme Court rul-

ing came six weeks after the Washington State Court of Appeals upheld a Pierce County jury award of \$2.2 million in damages to pit bull terrier attack victim Sue Gorman, 65, of Gig Harbor. Gorman was mauled, her service dog injured, and a visiting Jack Russell terrier was killed by two pit bulls who burst into her home through an open sliding glass door late on August 21, 2007.

The jury directed Pierce County to pay \$924,000 to Gorman, 42% of the total award, for alleged negligence in responding to as many as 14 previous complaints about the pit bulls. Pit bull keepers Shellie Wilson and her son Zachary Martin were held to be 52% responsible for the attack, 5% of the blame was assigned to the legal owner of one pit bull, who had left the dog with Wilson and Martin, and Gorman was held to be 1% responsible for having left her sliding door open so that her dog and the Jack Russell terrier could let themselves in and out.

Wildlife Friends is cleared of all charges

BANGKOK—All charges pending against the Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand, founder Edwin Wiek, and his wife Jansaeng "Noi" Sangnanork were dropped on August 27, 2013.

Wildlife Friends was in February 2012 repeatedly raided, animals on the premises were seized, and Wiek and Sangnanork were jailed on charges of illegally possessing wildlife and illegally operating an animal hospital.

Wiek had for nearly 10 years repeatedly alleged that the administration of former Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife & Plant Conservation chief Damrong Phidet was ignoring illegal trafficking of elephants and orangutans for use in tourist attractions.

Phidet was in August 2012 called to face a Parliamentary Committee on Law & Human Rights hearing in Bangkok, "to answer to allegations and questions on abuse of power, se-

lective enforcement, slander and harassment," Wiek recounted. Phidet retired a month later.

Some of the charges were dropped in October 2012, but on June 27, 2012 a provincial court found Wildlife Friends, Wiek, and Sangnanork guilty with a verdict stating, according to an unofficial transcript, that "This court has taken the statements of two government officials and believes these statements must be correct. The court did not check on paper and other evidence of the defendant, as it believes that Thai government officials always work straightforward, with full integrity. The court rules it has not considered any evidence that was handed over after the 13th of February 2012, no paperwork, video evidence or any form of other argument."

Wiek's legal counsel was unable to obtain an official written copy of the verdict, which was dismissed on appeal.

Vietnam agrees to five-year suspension of dog imports to control rabies

HANOI—"After two days of sometimes difficult negotiation and discussion, representatives from the governments of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, have agreed to a five-point program, to end the dog meat trade and eliminate rabies, including a five-year ban on the import of dogs from other countries into Vietnam," Soi Dog Foundation president John Dalley announced on August 29, 2013.

The agreement was brokered by the Asia Canine Protection Alliance, including Soi Dog, the Animals Asia Foundation, Change For Animals, and Humane Society International.

"The government of Thailand sent representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Department of Livestock Development," Dalley said, "and made clear that Thailand is strongly against the trade and doing all it can to eliminate it."

Said Pornpitak Panlar, chief of the Department of Disease Control within the Thai Ministry of Public Health, "We cannot change culture or habit, but we should stop the smuggling of dogs. This meeting was important to urge government agencies to see the problems caused by the dog meat trade and discuss a platform to stop the spread of rabies."

"While the dog meat trade is not illegal in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, the international trade in dogs is illegal if health and vaccination documents cannot be provided for each dog," said Animals Asia Foundation Vietnam director Tuan Bendixsen. "As the trade involves hundreds of dogs in each transport, it is impossible to have proper documents for all of the dogs, or properly check each dog as needed before crossing over the border."

This reality gave the Asia Canine Protection Alliance a basis for negotiation, pursuing a strategy recommended in June 2011 by Beijing attorneys Lu Xun, An Xiang, and Cai Chunhang, and China Veterinary Association Pet Clinic Branch vice president Liu Lang.

Xun, Xiang, Chunhan, and Lang argued that the dog meat trade in China is illegal under existing rabies control laws, and could be stopped immediately by stringent enforcement. This argument has become the legal foundation for frequent activist

interceptions and rescues of truckloads of dogs and cats en route from thieves and private animal control contractors in other parts of China to live markets mostly in the Guangdong area.

Rabies control laws similar to those governing interprovincial animal trade in China also govern international animal trade in Southeast Asia, but—as in China—have rarely been invoked.

Trumping "culture"

"We focused on the illegality of the trade and the threat it poses to rabies elimination in the region," Dalley said. "Why the focus on rabies? The Vietnamese representatives in particular are extremely defensive regarding dog meat being part of their culture. In reality this is not the case," Dalley noted, "as it was introduced during the Vietnam War by military personnel trained in China. But to attack the cruelty involved in the trade simply does not work, and could lead to them saying they will regulate the industry, which would be a disaster."

"However, Vietnam has committed to eliminate rabies in the country by 2020," Dalley continued, "and currently the incidence of the disease is on the rise. Rabies does not respect culture. While they allow the import of dogs, none of them with official documentation, rabies will never be eliminated."

Agreed Vietnamese deputy director of animal health Nguyen Thu Thuy, "The [rabies] situation has become more severe, especially this year. One of the main reasons is the illegal cross-border trade of dogs."

A direct relationship between the dog meat traffic and the spread of rabies in Vietnam was documented in 2009 by Herman Wertheim, M.D., and colleagues from two Vietnamese

medical research agencies, the National Institute of Infectious & Tropical Diseases and the National Institute of Hygiene & Epidemiology. Their findings, reported in the March 18, 2009 edition of the peer-reviewed online journal *PLoS Medicine*, are believed to have influenced a March 2009 Vietnamese government decision to stop work on a draft set of standards for dog slaughter and meat preparation, and to reiterate a lightly enforced 1999 edict against eating cats.

That history notwithstanding, Dalley said, "Lola Webber of Change for Animals Foundation and I are currently drafting a risk assessment requested by the Vietnamese government to provide clear evidence of the link between the dog meat trade and rabies."

The suspension of dog imports into Vietnam "does not mean that the trade will end, nor be immediately affected," Dalley noted. "Through our undercover investigators we know the smugglers are already looking at alternative measures including slaughtering dogs in Thailand and shipping carcasses, as opposed to live animals."

Population control

Meanwhile, Dalley explained, "The agreement requires each government to enforce the ban, and for the Asia Canine Protection Alliance to provide guidance and aid in the elimination of rabies, as well as dog population management planning in each of the countries."

Several days after the Hanoi agreement was reached, Dalley said, representatives from the Thai Department of Livestock visited the Soi Dog sterilization and vaccination clinic in Bangkok "with a view to implementing a nationwide sterilization and vaccination program. Nationwide sterilization will result in a reduced stray population and a dramatic reduction in the

suffering and persecution these animals endure," It is the overabundance of dogs in Thailand that has led to the dog meat trade and tolerance of it," Dalley believes.

Dogs are rarely eaten in most of Thailand, and dog-eating by Vietnamese refugees who were resettled in Thailand after the Vietnam War has at times become a flashpoint for ethnic violence. However, tens of thousands of dogs are illegally exported to be eaten in Vietnam and Laos, and possibly China, though most dogs eaten in China are believed to come from within China.

Soi Dog since July 2012 has fed and housed more than 4,000 dogs who have been seized from traffickers in a sustained governmental crackdown, after previous seizures ended in dogs either dying from lack of care or "escaping" to be recaptured by the traffickers. The effort costs Soi Dog \$46,000 per month.

"We are currently building 10 new shelters," Dalley said. "Each shelter costs around \$40,000 and will provide accommodation for up to 500 dogs."

Adding shelter space for cats may also be necessary. The existence of a formerly little known Thai export traffic in cats to be eaten came to light on July 11, 2013 in the Ban Phaeng district of Nakhon Phanom, when police arrested Sodsai Ampawa, 26, as he approached the Laotian border in a pickup truck carrying six plastic cages filled with 92 cats.

Sodsai reportedly confessed that he had been hired to take cats from Maha Sarakham province to Laos, for relay to Vietnamese restaurants. Sodai was charged with animal cruelty and illegal animal export.

The Nakhon Phanom Animal Quarantine Center already housed 1,432 dogs from recent seizures.

Ending animal acts boosts Nanjing Zoo paid attendance

NANJING, China—Ending trained animal acts in 2011 led to two consecutive years of record attendance at Nanjing Zoo, show attendance figures obtained by the Animals Asia Foundation. The Nanjing Zoo attracted 867,513 visitors in 2010, the last year that the zoo featured animal acts, but drew more than a million visitors each in 2011 and 2012.

"Too often zoos fail to realize that they are losing customers because appetites for animal performances and exploitation are diminishing fast," commented Animals Asia Foundation welfare director Dave Neale.

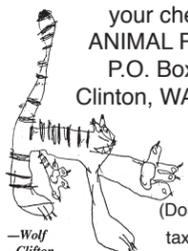
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—Brien Comerford

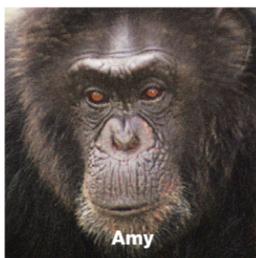
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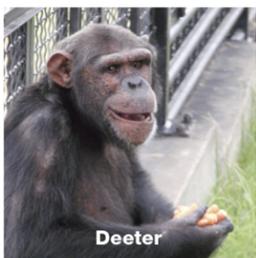
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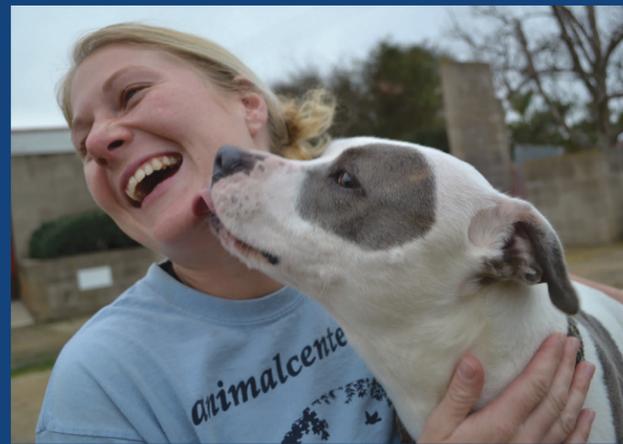
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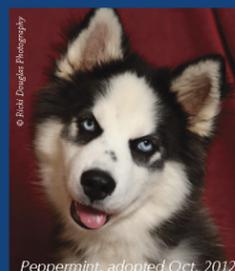
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Mission Rabies vaccinates 60,000 dogs in 10 Indian cities in 30 days

NILGIRIS, Tamil Nadu, India—Vaccinating 60,000 dogs in 30 days at 10 rabies hot spots around India, Mission Rabies exceeded its preliminary target by 10,000 and kept right on rolling.

Mission Rabies “will continue for three years, with a goal of vaccinating two million Indian dogs,” said Worldwide Veterinary Services founder Luke Gamble, who set for himself the goal of eradicating rabies in India while visiting Nilgiris as the star of a veterinary television show in 2009.

WVS is handling the Mission Rabies veterinary component, funded by Dogs Trust of the United Kingdom, with logistic support from the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations, the Animal Birth Control programs of the Animal Welfare Board of India, and Blue Cross of India.

Gamble credits longtime Blue Cross of India chief executive Chinnu Krishna with facilitating the alliances that enabled the successful Mission Rabies debut.

“Fifty thousand rabies vaccinations were donated by Merck, Sharp & Dohme to kick off the project,” acknowledged WVS in a project summary sent to media.

After exhausting the donated vaccine stock, Mission Rabies began purchasing the same single-year Merck vaccines through the India National Rabies Network, WVS said. WVS formed the India National Rabies Network in 2010, a year after partnering with the India Project for Animals & Nature in Nilgiris to found the WVS International Training Centre for veterinary surgeons.

To maintain the “cold chain” necessary to ensure that the vaccines are effective in the Indian tropical climate, Mission Rabies is working from a custom-built truck that WVS founder Luke Gamble calls the most advanced mobile surgical clinic ever built. The truck includes on-board generators and a variety of computer equipment used to track the locations where dogs are netted, vaccinated, and released or returned to their caretakers.

Revaccination will be done by “a mass vaccination campaign every September hereafter, to coincide with World Rabies Day,” Gamble pledged.

“India remains the world’s hotspot for the disease with over a third of all deaths reported to occur here. Mission Rabies is going to change that,” Gamble asserted. “The truck continues to travel around India, running surgical training courses and teaching vets the skills required to run neutering and vaccine campaigns,” building on the work already done. As the project develops, it will include more training of Indian vets in spay/neuter, and increasingly will involve sterilization, as well as vaccination. Part of the focus of the initial vaccinating program is to establish the trust of people who understandably are concerned when their dogs are picked up by strange-looking fellows in orange shirts. People’s trust that the dogs will not be hurt and will be returned promptly to the same spot is essential for Animal Birth Control programs to work effectively, with public cooperation. So the vaccination program will pave the way for an ABC component to follow.

“I hope this project will pave the way for an initiative we can roll out globally,” Gamble told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “It has been an epic to get to this point,” Gamble said, “but the hope is we will show we mean business, and that we really do have a workable and achievable solution to wiping out rabies—without wiping out dogs!”

Summarized a WVS media release, “The launch phase of Mission Rabies involved nearly 500 volunteers from 43 organizations and 14 nations.”

Local animal charities and veterinarians “conducted focused community street dog vaccination campaigns,” with vaccination targets “determined to ensure a 70% coverage in each ward they covered.”

Mission Rabies worked in Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Chennai, Nagpur, Trivandrum, Goa, Tirupati, Bhubaneswar, Bikaner, Calcutta, Ranchi, and Guwahati—the major cities in almost every part of India. Gamble and Worldwide Veterinary Service India director Ilona Otter, DVM collected data from **ANIMAL PEOPLE** early in planning Mission Rabies planning phase. The Mission Rabies approach follows the prescription offered in the September 2007 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial “How to eradicate canine

rabies in 10 years or less,” which spotlighted the success of Argentinian medical doctor Oscar Larghi in eradicating canine rabies in several of the biggest cities in South America through inexpensive three-month dog vaccination drives.

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.

ANIMAL PEOPLE reinforced the 2007 conclusion that targeted vaccination could relatively quickly eradicate canine rabies from India with a series of 2012 articles demonstrating that the commonly made claim that India has 20,000 human rabies deaths per year is inflated a hundredfold, and can be traced back to preliminary studies done by William F. Harvey in 1911, when post-exposure rabies vaccination was first being introduced to India. Data collected by M.K. Sudarshan for the World Health Organization in 2003, and annually since then by the Indian Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, indicates that India actually has an average of about 235 human rabies deaths per year.

“Once the exaggerated numbers are thrown out,” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** recommended to the Alliance for Rabies Control, “and the associated notion that rabies is endemic at all times and in all places throughout India, then targeted vaccination of street dogs should be able to eradicate rabies as effectively there as has already been accomplished here in the U.S.,” where canine rabies last occurred—other than in animals brought from abroad—more than 15 years ago.

—Merritt Clifton



“Celebrating success.” (Worldwide Veterinary Fund photo)

Legislation advances to protect Spanish bullfighting as cultural heritage

MADRID—Legislation to protect bullfighting as part of the cultural identity of Spain, pushed by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of the center-right Popular Party, moved closer to passage on October 2, 2013 when endorsed by the parliamentary culture committee by a vote of 24-6, with 14 abstentions.

The bill is to be put to a vote in the Spanish Senate later in October. It is expected to pass, since the Popular Party currently is the Parliamentary majority, and in February 2013 passed a preliminary resolution to protect bullfighting as a cultural heritage by a vote of 180-40, with 107 abstentions.

The current bill, implementing the February 2013 resolution, will “allow public funds to be used to promote and protect bullfighting and related activities such as runnings of the bulls,” reported *Daily Telegraph* Madrid correspondent Fiona Govan. But the bill is not expected to overturn bans on bullfighting introduced by the regional governments of the Canary Islands in 1991, Catalan in 2010, and the largely Basque city of San Sebastian in March 2013. And recent polls show more than 75% of Spanish voters op-

pose public subsidies for bullfighting, potentially a problem for the Popular Party in a nation with 25% unemployment, economically crippled by financial austerity measures.

The Popular Party pushed the pro-bullfighting legislation ahead less than three weeks after the opposition Animalista Party Against Animal Abuse (PACMA) on September 14, 2013 packed Madrid streets from the Plaza de Colón to the Plaza de España with thousands of anti-bullfighting protesters.

The demonstration grew out of annual protests held for nine years in the town of Tordesillas against a public bullfighting event called the Toro de la Vega, reputedly held annually since 1453. Five hundred demonstrators broke symbolic bullfighting lances to initiate the march. Others set up 150 cardboard cutouts of protesters in Tordesillas to remind the Toro de la Vega participants that even though the demonstration was in Madrid this year, the Toro de la Vega was not forgotten.

The most conservative of the major Spanish political parties, the Popular Party was founded in 1976 by former supporters of dicta-

tor Francisco Franco, a bullfighting enthusiast who ruled Spain from 1939 until his death in 1975. Elected in November 2011, the Popular Party returned bullfighting to prime time broadcasts by the Spanish state television network RTVE in September 2012. RTVE had not broadcast bullfights in prime time since Toro de la Vega participants in September 2007 assaulted a female RTVE reporter during a live broadcast. A male videographer documented the attack until the mob destroyed his camera.

Arena bullfighting may no longer be economically viable in most of Spain without subsidies, suggested the *Washington Post* in July 2013. “Amid plummeting demand, more bull breeders are dispatching their stocks to the butcher rather than the ring,” the *Post* assessed. “Bullfight organizers are engaged in highly public disputes with matadors and creditors over wages and overdue payments.”

Bullfight ticket prices soared—and attendance fell 40% from 2007 to 2012—after the national sales tax on cultural events was jacked up to try to raise more revenue from foreign tourists.

There were 1,014 arena bullfights held in Spain in 2012, down from more than 2,000 held in 2007.

Spanish bullfighting already benefits from \$177 million per year in European Union subsidies issued under the Common Agricultural Policy, an EU internal report estimated earlier in 2013. The subsidies supposedly promote cattle breeding, but bulls produced with the help of the subsidies often go into bullfighting rather than into breeding cattle for meat and dairy production.

The Dutch Parliament on July 7, 2013 unanimously adopted a resolution asking that the subsidies be cancelled, but a cancellation amendment introduced by European Parliament Agriculture Committee member Alyn Smith, of Scotland, failed on September 2, 2013.

“Today’s vote is disappointing, but I’ll confess it is no surprise,” Smith said. “We sought to achieve a policy outcome via the budgetary process, so while it was worth a shot, it was always going to be a big ask. But that doesn’t make it wrong. It is for me unconscionable that EU money is going, however indirectly, to subsidize bullfights.”

Friends of Animals sues to stop plan to kill barred owls instead of protecting spotted owl habitat

SACRAMENTO—A U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service plan to kill federal protected barred owls to benefit endangered northern spotted owls violates the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Friends of Animals alleged in an October 1, 2013 lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Sacramento, California.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, in effect since 1918, requires that killing birds for research must benefit the species that is killed, whereas in this case the experiment benefits a different species, FoA wildlife law director Michael Harris told media. The Fish & Wildlife Service “did not respond to a call for comment due to the government shutdown,” Associated Press said.

Elaborated FoA in a prepared statement, “The northern spotted owl,” added to the U.S. endangered species list in 1990, “has been in decline for more than 40 years, primarily due to logging of old growth forest in California, Oregon and Washington. In approving the barred owl removal plan, the Federal defendants identified a new threat to the northern spotted owl: the barred owl. The barred owl removal plan does nothing to protect northern spotted owls,” FoA charged, “but instead attempts to divert the focus from protection of northern spotted owl habitat by scapegoating barred owls.”

FoA called the barred owl removal plan “immoral, unethical and cruel,” and said that it amounts to a plan “to allow indiscriminate killing” of barred owls.

The Fish & Wildlife Service has tested public response with occasional mentions of killing barred owls to help spotted owls since 2005. A USFWS environmental impact statement published in July 2013 identified killing 3,603 barred owls over four years in four study areas in Oregon, Washington and Northern California, at cost of \$3 million, as the “preferred course of action” to ensure spotted owl survival.

“To move forward with killing barred owls without addressing the fundamental cause of spotted owl declines, from our perspective, is not acceptable,” Portland Audubon Society conservation director Bob Sallinger told Jeff Barnard of Associated Press.

“Shooting barred owls in a few isolated areas is not going to help us as forest managers, nor is it going to help protect the forest from wildfires, and catastrophic wildfire is one of the big impediments to spotted owl recovery,” agreed American Forest Resource Council president Tom Partin.

But American Bird Conservancy senior policy advisor Steve Holmer endorsed the scheme. “The Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing a very carefully thought-out experiment to see whether removing hundreds of barred owls will benefit spotted owls,” Holmer said in February 2012.

NBC News staff writer M. Alex Johnson noted that the Fish & Wildlife Service seemed to be trying to conceal what it planned to do. “The closest [the USFWS media release] comes to saying it plans to kill the birds is an oblique reference to ‘lethal and non-lethal methods of barred owl re-

moval,” Johnson wrote. “You have to read the 505-page environmental impact statement to learn that ‘the general approach involves attracting territorial barred owls with recorded calls and shooting birds who respond.’”

The British Columbia Forests & Lands Ministry from 2007 through 2012 had relocated 73 barred owls and authorized killing 39 to prevent them from competing for habitat with the 10 northern spotted owls left in southwestern B.C. province, Dene Moore of Canadian Press reported in January 2013.

“Relocation or elimination of barred owls is limited to a five-kilometer radius around

areas where spotted owls have recently been confirmed, or areas being considered for reintroduction from a captive breeding program,” wrote Moore. Northern spotted owls “were listed endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in 1986 and red-listed in B.C. in 1989,” Moore recalled. “A provincial management plan was adopted in 1997. The province designated special management areas under a 2006 management plan,” beginning captive breeding after that.

The major claimed precedent for killing barred owls to benefit northern spotted owls is a project in northern California managed by wild-

life biologist Lowell Diller for the Green Diamond Resource Company. Diller since 2010 “has killed 48 barred owls on timberland owned by his employer,” according to Matthew Daly and Jeff Barnard of Associated Press. “In every instance when barred owls were removed from historic spotted owl territory, spotted owls returned.”

But California Academy of Sciences curator Jack Dumbacher, who initially worked with Diller, questioned the wisdom of the killing.

“If the barred owls made it out here fair and square,” Dumbacher told Daly and Barnard, “then maybe it’s a natural event we should watch unfold.”



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Badger cull is called “costly distraction from true solutions” to bovine TB

LONDON—Four weeks into a six-week government cull of up to 5,000 badgers in Gloucestershire and Somerset counties, *Guardian* environment correspondent Damian Carrington on October 1, 2013 recommended that the apparent fiasco should be stopped.

The cull was billed by British environment secretary Owen Paterson as a pilot study of the efficacy of culling badgers to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis. But, though popular among farmers, the notion that culling could be effective has been rejected by almost every scientist who has studied the alleged role of badgers as a reservoir for bovine TB, including Lord John Krebs, the biologist who led nine years of experimental culling, 1997-2006.

Delayed for a year by lawsuits and an October 2012 non-binding House of Commons vote of opposition that passed 147-28, the cull is supported chiefly by the National Farmers Union, which is politically aligned with the governing Conservative Party.

Wrote Carrington, “Most scientific experts in this area say the cull is a costly distraction from the true solutions of vaccination and tighter control of cattle movements and farm biosecurity. High policing costs already mean that the cull is more expensive than a badger vaccination program, according to one expert analysis. Finally, the pilot culls are failing even on their own terms, as far too few badgers are being shot,” to achieve the 70% reduction in the badger population deemed necessary to eliminate badgers from a role in bovine TB transmission.

Carrington also noted threats to civ-

il liberties associated with police intelligence operations meant to keep hunt saboteurs from disrupting the culling.

“The culls have sparked the biggest animal rights protests since fox hunting with dogs was outlawed, with more than 300,000 people signing a government e-petition against the cull,” Carrington noted earlier. “But ministers have insisted the cull is a necessary part of bovine TB control measures which cost taxpayers £100 million a year for TB testing and farmer compensation.”

About 37,000 British cattle per year are culled due to bovine TB outbreaks, or die due to the effects of the disease itself.

“Ministers have insisted that trapping and inoculating badgers is too expensive to pursue,” Carrington noted.

But “Vaccination does not prompt protest, so it is cheaper to implement than culling,” said London Zoo scientist Rosie Woodroffe, a member of Lord Krebs’ team. “There is good reason to expect badger vaccination to reduce transmission to cattle,” Woodroffe added.

Carrington reported that the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs was “on the verge of being forced to take over the controversial badger culls from farmers because the low number of animals shot so far risks the policy seriously failing.” As of September 13, 2013, Carrington said, the cull had reached 100 badgers killed, but to reach the six-week cull target, farmers would have to shoot 120 badgers each night.

Reminded Carrington, “The Guard-

ian previously revealed that, according to experts, the population estimates for badgers in the cull zones are so uncertain that every badger in the area could be killed and the minimum quota would not be met.”

Protest

Said the Royal SPCA, “We are very much calling for greater transparency from DEFRA, especially in terms of culling methods and the accurate assessment of humaneness. We are also concerned that plans to extend the scope and scale of the cull appear to have been made without proper political scrutiny.”

The British Charity Commission on August 30, 2013 rejected a complaint brought by the National Farmers Union against RSPCA opposition to the cull and to live exports of animals for slaughter.

Reported the Charity Commission, “We are satisfied that it is reasonable for the RSPCA to decide that campaigning against the badger cull and live animal exports is justified in furtherance of their objects. We have emphasized the importance of continued scrutiny by the trustees, because the RSPCA undertakes campaigns in controversial areas and needs to consider the consequences and reputational risks that may arise from this.”

National Farmers Union president Peter Kendall appeared to consider the complaint successful because, he said, “The RSPCA has now clarified its position on the naming of farmers involved with the badger cull and that it condemns personal intimidation. The RSPCA

has also now confirmed that it will not call for a boycott of milk.”

The World Society for the Protection of Animals remained silent about the badger cull, as it has since 2010, when director general Mike Baker aligned WSPA with traditional British dairy farmers, “to keep our dairy cows in fields, not in factories,” as WSPA appeals have put it.

Despite intensive security precautions, hunt saboteurs disrupted the night culling on several occasions at multiple test sites. The first protester to be arrested was Rebecca Reid, 52, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

“For months Reid had been closely following plans for the government-sanctioned shootings,” wrote Timothy McNulty of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. “The longtime animal-rights advocate, who moved to Pittsburgh from Liverpool 15 years ago, was moved by stories of people walking public footpaths through the countryside at all hours of the night disrupting the culls, and protecting badger dens from privately employed hunters. Prodded by her children, she joined the efforts in Gloucestershire. Local police arrested Reid and two others and charged them with aggravated trespassing. Detectives from the country’s Criminal Investigation Department later bumped the charges up to conspiracy to attempt aggravated trespass.”

“Reid said police treated her kindly during her first-ever night in jail,” McNulty continued, “even going out to buy vegan food for her and the other suspects. When police discovered they did not plan their confrontation with the hunters, the charges were dropped.”

Alligators, pigs, pythons & the reptilian ploy to revive sport hunting (from page 1)

Encouraging proliferation

The normal range of wild North American alligators already extends farther north than at any time since the beginning of European settlement. As global warming continues, it is possible that alligators could even re-colonize Chesapeake Bay, which last was alligator habitat when dinosaurs lounged around Washington D.C.

But hunting alligators, as in hunting any species, is unlikely to have any longterm net effect on population range, density, or distribution. If a habitat supports one alligator, it will support another when the first alligator is killed, and if the alligator who is killed happens to be among the oldest and largest residents of the habitat, that alligator will soon be replaced with the equivalent biomass in young alligators. They will compete for the habitat for a while. Then some will disperse to find new habitat, perhaps becoming problematic in an entirely new location.

If this sounds like what happened earlier as heavily hunted species including deer, coyotes, nonmigratory Canada geese, and feral pigs came to occupy most of the U.S. at unprecedented density, it should: it is almost exactly the same process.

It is opposite to what happened earlier with beavers in the 17th into the 19th centuries, North American bison in the 19th century, and alligators in the 19th and early 20th centuries, because the destruction of beavers, bison, and alligators in earlier times coincided with wholesale destruction of their habitat.

Even when beavers, bison, and alligators bred rapidly back up to the carrying capacity of their remaining habitat, their habitat was reduced year after year by agricultural development. Said to have been hunted out, beavers were more precisely drained and dammed out; bison were plowed and fenced out; alligators were also drained out.

Before trapping and hunting brought beaver, bison, and alligators close to extinction each had already been squeezed into half or less of the range it had occupied just a century earlier.

What this means is that there really is no public safety or conservation rationale for recreationally hunting alligators. If we truly want to reduce or restrict their numbers, we know very well how to do it, by altering habitat to create barriers to habitat expansion. But if the object is to sell hunting licenses, wildlife agencies also know very well how to make “nuisance” animals proliferate to the point that the public accepts sport hunting.

Feral pigs

Meanwhile, also of note is that alligators are able to proliferate and expand their range in part because of the increasing abundance of swamp-dwelling feral pigs. Contrary to mythology that these pigs are distant direct descendants of those brought to Florida by Hernando de Soto nearly 500 years ago, and/or have been translocated by hunters, who have been caught translocating some, most are just the descendants of pigs lost in trucking accidents, between factory farms and slaughter—as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** detailed in our January/February 2007 edition.

Trace the spread of feral pigs on a map and the spread of alligators follows it wherever the habitat allows alligators to swim in warm water.

Of course state wildlife agencies are now also encouraging pig hunting—in the name of extirpating an “invasive” threat. But no one has ever succeeded in extirpating feral pigs from mainland habitat. Killing big boars, who are cannibalistic and major predators of piglets, just accelerates feral pig proliferation.

We also have the technology to stop feral pig proliferation. The use of porcine zona pellucida in animal birth control formulations has been known for more than a decade. USDA Wildlife Services is actually manufacturing drugs based on porcine zona pellucida for birth control use in other species. But we are not seeing serious efforts made to chemically control feral pig populations because pigs, like alligators, offer hope to wildlife agencies funded by hunting license fees that sport hunting can be revived, despite a 30-year decline in participation, and can again fund those agencies’ existence.

Feral pythons

Come we now to feral pythons, ostensibly the greatest threat to Floridians’ health and well-being since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

In all the 35 years I have logged animal attacks, never have I encountered a case of a wild python killing or injuring anyone—but starving escaped captive pythons occasionally kill children. An escaped pet African rock python killed brothers Noah and Connor Barthe ages four and six, on the night of August 5, 2013 in Cambelltown, New Brunswick, Canada. An escaped pet albino Burmese python killed 2-year-old Shaiunna Rose Hare in her crib on July 1, 2009 in Sumter County, Florida.

Such examples make a strong case for reinforcing legislation to prohibit commerce in exotic pets. But the relationship between the abnormal conditions of captivity and risk to humans is important to understand: attacks such as those that killed the Barthe brothers and Hare occur because the pythons are in situations where they simply do not belong. Pythons in captivity are often very dangerous; pythons in the wild rarely take any interest in humans.

Of note, I had already recorded several fatal attacks by escaped captive pythons when in 1997 I first saw washerwomen in India set up under a tree with a big python in it, with their children playing

nearby. Thinking I was about to see a catastrophe, I shouted a warning. They thought I was crazy. They knew all about the python, I learned—that’s why they chose that tree. The python had lived there for years. Because the python was there, the washerwomen knew that they and their children would be safe from leopards, who would not be in the same tree as a python, and from crocodiles.

Pythons evolved, long before mammals existed, as predators of crocodylians, the order including American alligators. The constricting method of killing used by pythons and anacondas takes advantage of the “death roll” used by crocodylians to drown prey and fend off attackers. Mammals and birds are secondary prey for pythons, who may grab whatever is easily accessible, but mostly do not bother with warm-blooded species, especially if those species are large or quick. Some deer and pigs are eaten by the several thousand feral pythons in Florida, but the 1.3 million to 1.8 million alligators in the Florida swamps are their primary prey. The proper habitat for a python is habitat that supports their prey.

Fear of predators

The expansion of alligator range, and their increasing numbers, ensures that pythons can extend their range too, and can become yet another “big game” species used by wildlife agencies to encourage hunting. As with alligators, human fear of an animal perceived to be among our predators is likely to hush most opposition to python hunting.

Human terror of snakes, especially large snakes, can be traced back far beyond Eve’s alleged misadventure in the Garden of Eden to the instinctive response of practically any primate to anything that even looks like a snake. The entire baboon population of the Emmen Zoo in the Netherlands, for instance, spent days in terror in 1994, 1997, 2007, and in early August 2013 after apparently seeing a snake that the keepers never actually found.

Primates evolved as prey species, so have an intense instinctive fear of predators, relative to the risks from disease and accidents, which are proportionately millions of times greater now that we have made our world mostly free of predators of humans, other than human criminals.

Two very good books have explored this in recent years. *Monster of God*, by David Quammen (2003) explores the influence of the human evolutionary role as prey upon concepts of religion, and of the more recent human ascendance as a top predator on our ideas about conservation. Quammen presents a strong circumstantial case that the protohuman concept of God evolved in response to swift and seemingly random predator strikes. Sacrifice, Quammen suggests, began as appeasement of predators. Quammen points out that civilization emerged coincidental with the rise of humans as quasi-apex predators, able at last to do with weapons what natural predators do with tooth and claw. Quammen also devotes a chapter to human fear of crocodylians.

Man The Hunted, by Donna Hart & Robert W. Sussman (2005), demonstrates how the sustained challenge of being a prey species has driven the evolution of human thought. The experience of predation, Hart & Sussman argue, actually shaped human culture. Among the enduring consequences are societal attitudes toward meat, hunting, choices of mates and leaders, choices of pets, which animals become the icons of athletic teams, which attract donor support as subjects of appeal mailings, and even what humans most often choose to watch on television and read about on the web.

Though we flatter ourselves that we have evolved far beyond our most distant origins, human news and entertainment consumption habits can be traced back at least to the social behavior of the bats and lemurs who were ancestral to monkeys and humans, and probably much father than that.

Thus formed the intellectual framework that continues to govern politics, including the politics of wildlife agencies and the psychology of defending and promoting hunting.



American alligator. (Dana Forbes)



(Kim Bartlett)

Nairobi terrorist strike alerts the world to new threat to elephants *(from page 1)*

ya Wildlife Service rangers since December 2011, including two on July 18, 2013 in separate firefights against suspected elephant poachers in the Kipini Conservancy. In early August 2013 someone even poached a pregnant white rhino in Nairobi National Park, almost within sight of the Kenyan national capital.

New tactics

The current situation is more complicated than past history with other Somalian poaching militias, explained Maisha Consulting founder Nir Kalron and Elephant Action League cofounder Andrea Crosta, both of South Africa.

“Kenya is no stranger to the threat posed by Somalia to its herds of elephants and rhinos, whose numbers are still recovering from the poaching onslaught suffered in the 1970s and 1980s,” Kalron and Crosta said. “The Kenya Wildlife Service is constantly on the alert for incursions of Somali gangs.

“Surrounded by porous borders, Kenya has long been a transit point for illegal ivory. In an attempt to crack down on this trade, the Kenya Wildlife Service recently stepped up pressure at the country’s ports and airports where ivory is smuggled out. As a result, dealers looking for fast money and an easier market have turned to a new player in the game—Al Shabaab,” Kalron and Crosta continued. “Over the last 18 months we’ve been investigating the involvement of Al Shabaab in trafficking ivory through Kenya, a trade that could be supplying up to 40% of the funds needed to keep them in business.”

The Al Shabaab approach to ivory trafficking differs from that of predecessors, including the Lord’s Resistance Army, believed to have killed more than 11,000 elephants in Gabon between 2004 and 2013, more than 300 elephants in Cameroon during the last two months of 2012, and 86 elephants in Chad in March 2013.

“Other militias involved in poaching, like the Lord’s Resistance Army or the Sudanese Janjaweed, usually kill elephants themselves, sometimes very far from home,” Crosta explained to the *Nairobi Standard*. “Al Shabaab does not kill elephants. They leave the dirty job to locals and buy the ivory from known traffickers. For them ivory is just a business.”

Warning of both a conservation disaster and an Islamist global threat to human rights if Al Shabaab is not stopped, the Elephant Action League pleaded for “more intelligence gathering on the ground in preparation for a frontal assault on Al Shabaab by a joint African Union force.”

Meanwhile, announced the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, which operates an elephant and rhino orphanage at Nairobi National Park, “Due to the recent events which took place in Nairobi, we have decided to cancel the International March for Elephants in Nairobi,” which had been scheduled for October 4, 2013. Instead, the Sheldrick Trust said, “We will hold a vigil for those who so tragically lost their lives in the attacks and also for the elephants who continue to fall victim to the ivory trade.”

The International March for Elephants was to be held in 14 other cities, including Arusha, Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Edinburgh, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Munich, New York City, Rome, Toronto, Washington D.C., and Wellington.

U.S. to destroy ivory

On October 8, 2013, four days after the marches, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was to pulverize six tons of illegally trafficked elephant ivory, confiscated in various law enforcement actions since the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species embargo on ivory trade took effect in 1989. The ivory has been kept at National Wildlife Property Re-

pository near Denver.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced on September 9, 2013 that the ivory would be destroyed as part of a package of elephant protection measures also including the allocation of \$8.6 million by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for 171 projects meant to benefit elephants, rhinos, tigers, and great apes.

“This funding will be matched by \$14.3 million from foreign governments and nongovernmental organizations,” said Jewell.

The Jewell announcements followed U.S. President Barack Obama’s July 1, 2013 pledge during a visit to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, to commit \$10 million to fight trafficking in elephant ivory, rhino horn, and other wildlife parts.

“Al Shabaab’s recent merger with Al Qaeda makes the link between wildlife poaching and extremist ideology and terrorism more clear,” deputy U.S. Interior Secretary David Hayes told Reuters environment correspondent Deborah Zabarenko. “The fact that both those groups have clearly been implicated in illegal poaching make it difficult to say this isn’t a meaningful national security issue.”

Wrote Zabarenko, “The Obama plan comes after more than a year of international efforts to bring this issue forward, including a call for action by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. There have also been initiatives by the United Nations, CITES, the British royal family and the Group of Eight industrialized nations.”

Corruption

Despite all that, Al Shabaab was seldom mentioned amid a flurry of ivory seizures that mostly raised the older spectre of corruption, including the October 1, 2013 arrest of a Kenyan army officer caught with three pieces of ivory.

Nearly four tons of ivory were seized in Mombasa, Kenya, in January 2013, alleged-

ly in transit from Tanzania to Indonesia. In July 2012, also in Mombasa, two seizures netted eight tons of ivory that had been hidden in cargos of dried fish. The Kenya Wildlife Service determined that the July shipments probably originated in the Democratic Republic of Congo, reached Mombasa via Uganda, and were apparently repackaged in Kenya for relay to Malaysia.

Only three days later a trader named Selemani Isanzu Chasema was charged in Arusha, Tanzania, with smuggling 781 elephant tusks from Malawi in May 2013.

Emile N’bouke, 58, a trafficker believed to have been involved in the killing of more than 10,000 elephants since 1976, was on August 7, 2013 arrested in alleged possession of 700 kilograms of ivory in Lome, Togo. N’bouke claimed to have a government permit to possess the ivory. His arrest came nine months after 24 tons of ivory sent from Togo were intercepted in Malaysia.

The same day, Hong Kong customs officials acting on a tip received from police in mainland China seized 1,120 ivory tusks, 13 rhino horns, and five leopard skins from a shipment originating in Nigeria.

Ongoing Chinese involvement in elephant poaching was spotlighted on September 27, 2013 in Gabon, after wildlife rangers alerted by a security guard arrested 14 Chinese sawmill workers in the act of eating an elephant’s trunk for breakfast. Also found at the scene were elephant hides, ivory, and pangolin scales.

On August 7, 2013 a Mozambiquan court awarded \$3.5 million in damages to the container freight company Miti. Miti had sued the Chinese company Mozambique Tienhe Trading Development Ltd. for defamation, after the Chinese firm used containers rented from Miti to smuggle ivory. Miti argued that the misuse of the containers harmed its corporate reputation.

Zimbabwean courts hand long sentences to poachers, but condemn a ranger to hang

HARARE—Sentencing three convicted elephant poachers to long prison terms and a game ranger to hang for shooting an alleged poacher, Zimbabwe courts appeared to send mixed messages about protecting elephants in late September 2013—but the facts leading to the death sentence may have been more nuanced than headlines that touched off a flurry of online petitions and activist alerts on behalf of ranger Maxwell Bowa, 53.

First, on September 25, 2013 a provincial magistrate sentenced Diyane Tshuma, 25, to 16 years in prison for poisoning 91 elephants with cyanide in Hwange National Park, according to Spot FM radio. Alleged accomplices Robert Maphosa, 42, and Thabani Zondo, 24, each drew 15-year sentences.

“Tshuma was ordered to pay \$600,000 to the Zimbabwe Wildlife & Parks Authority for killing the animals, while Zondo

must pay \$200,000 by the end of the year,” said Agence France-Presse. “The three were among nine people arrested on suspicion of poisoning watering holes in the game park.”

The poisonings the men were convicted of committing were discovered in early September 2013. The suspects were reportedly caught in possession of 17 elephant tusks. But similar poisoning incidents began at Hwange National Park in 2011, when nine elephants, five lions and two buffalo were killed with cyanide.

Game ranger Bowa was convicted of murdering Lennon Nkosana, 29, on June 12, 2012, in an incident unrelated to the cyanide poisonings. According to the *Harare Herald*, which is closely aligned with the Zanu-PF political party of Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe, Bowa was among a 10-member ranger team who were seeking alleged ivory poacher Tanaka Nyoni in the Simchembo region of

Gokwe in Midlands Province.

“When the rangers and police failed to locate Nyoni, the court heard, they went to the Nkosana homestead where they allegedly tried to extract information on poachers by assaulting all those present, some hit with the butt of their guns,” the *Harare Herald* said. Lennon Nkosana, 29, who was not believed to be a poacher or involved in ivory trafficking, fled from the hut. Bowa allegedly shot Nkosana 10 times—or, some have suggested, took the rap after the whole team shot him.

The Game Rangers Association of Africa “does not believe it has access to sufficient evidence to make judgement on this matter,” the organization said in a prepared statement. “The GRAA have made contact with our network in Zimbabwe and await further information.”

The GRAA urged the public to “respect the facts around cases such as this and

to operate with caution before jumping to emotional conclusions,” the statement added. “The GRAA recognises the difficult, stressful and dangerous conditions that Africa’s rangers are faced with on a daily basis in the war against poaching. The GRAA remains supportive of the strictest enforcement actions possible against poachers, but acknowledges that rangers need to act within the ambit of the law whilst carrying out their duties.”

Formed in 1970, the GRAA is headquartered at Greenside, South Africa.

Zimbabwe has not executed anyone since two convicted robbers and murders were hanged in 2005.

Mugabe declared a shoot-to-kill policy against elephant poachers in 1984, four years after coming to power. At least 160 alleged poachers were killed in Zimbabwe during the dozen years that the policy remained in effect.

Ivory speculation makes captive elephants in Thailand & India worth more dead than alive

BANGKOK, Thailand; THIRUVANATHAPURAM, India—Unscrupulous owners of working elephants are increasingly often deciding that the rising cost of elephant care and soaring prices paid by speculators for ivory mean their elephants are worth more dead than alive—and are resisting legislation to protect the elephants, who have often been illegally captured from the wild.

“Officials and non-government groups say wildlife traffickers have for years used fake identity papers to claim that elephants caught in the wild are domesticated so they can be used in tourist shows and their tusks can be legally sold to make ivory products,” reported Janjira Pongrai and Prasit Tangprasert of the

Bangkok *Nation* on September 24, 2013, after Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife, & Plant Conservation deputy chief Theerapat Prayurasiddhi presided over a hearing on a proposed amendment that would bring domesticated elephants within the jurisdiction of the Thai Wildlife Preservation & Protection Act. Currently domesticated elephants in Thailand are regulated as working livestock.

“Dozens of elephant owners showed up to express strong opposition to the proposed amendment. Many left angry, vowing to fight the changes,” Pongrai and Tangprasert wrote.

The proposed amendment was introduced after Natural Resources & Environmental Crime Suppression Division officers in August

2013 impounded 16 elephants from tourist camps in Ko Chang, Phuket, Krabi, and Phang Nga.

“Camps and zoos featuring elephants tightrope-walking, playing football, or performing in painting contests employ almost 4,000 domesticated elephants,” said Agence France-Presse. “But the capture of wild elephants for entertainment use is banned. Last year Thai authorities conducted several raids on elephant camps and seized some 25 animals. TRAFFIC,” a World Wildlife Fund subsidiary, “said the recent raids were conducted after police found dozens of suspect elephant identification certificates. Just 2,000 of the animals remain in the wild.”

Earlier in August 2013, B. Viju of the Times News Network reported that “As many

as 224 temple elephants have gone ‘missing’ in Kerala state in the past two years. The forest department has stumbled upon this shocking bit of statistics while compiling a data book of captive elephants in the state.

“We found this shortfall from data on 705 elephants compiled in 2010 while embedding microchips in them,” Kerala additional principal conservator of forests O.P. Kaler said.

“Forest officials are not ruling out the possibility of massive under-reporting by elephant owners and illegal transfer of ownership,” Viju wrote. “They said even if the death of 60-odd elephants in the past two years is taken into account, there are over 150 elephants untraceable and it is a matter of great concern.”

Virginia humane society fined for recording released feral cats as “adopted”

PORTSMOUTH—The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services has fined the Portsmouth Humane Society \$1,250 for releasing sterilized feral cats, who were recorded in the PHS shelter tracking records as having been adopted by executive director Jenn Austin and four other staff members.

“I felt that these cats were not legitimately adopted and remained in the custody of the facility,” VDACS veterinarian Dan Kovich told Tim Eberly of the *Virginian-Pilot*.

“State investigators, tipped off by a former employee, issued three violations last month to the Portsmouth shelter, which has the contract to serve as the city’s animal pound,” Eberly wrote. “Austin acknowledged that she and her staff have been personally adopting feral cats and releasing them for about a year and a half.”

How many cats were released is “not clear,” Eberly said. “State investigators put the number as high as 91, but noted they only reviewed adoption records for five shelter employees. The total, an official said, could be much higher.”

The Portsmouth Humane Society holds the Portsmouth animal control housing contract. The PHS web site says it is “an open admission humane society, meaning we

will never turn away an animal that comes to our doors,” which imposes “no time limits for any of the animals in our care. They may stay at PHS as long as it takes for them to find a permanent, forever home...We do not euthanize any adoptable or treatable animal.”

The no-kill policy became controversial in August 2013 after two pit bulls mauled a staff member and were later euthanized.

Said Austin, “Our whole mission is to save lives. If we have to be creative about how we save animals’ lives, we’re going to do it.” Of the feral cats, Austin told Eberly, “We’re talking about wild animals. Animals who have lived outside their whole lives. We’d be punishing them by killing them.”

PETA opposition

Other Virginia humane organizations have conducted neuter/return programs for feral cats for more than 20 years, often clashing with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, whose head office is in Norfolk, Virginia. PETA opposes neuter/return as “abandonment.”

Norfolk-area cat rescuer John Newton alleged in a March 1998 letter to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk had personally trapped cats from neuter/return colo-

nies supervised by the Meower Power Feral Cat Coalition, taking many to their deaths at animal control shelters. PETA in September 2003 tried to block a neuter/return program proposed to the city of Newport News by Meower Power, Cat Rescue Inc., and the Animal Resource Foundation.

Legal perspective

The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services became involved after Virginia attorney general Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II on July 12, 2013 wrote to Town of Front Royal attorney Douglas W. Napier, in response to Napier’s request for an opinion on the legality of neuter/return, “It is my opinion that a locality may operate a capture and sterilization program for the purpose of controlling a population of feral cats. The feral cats may be captured in a humane fashion, and such captured cats may be sterilized by a licensed veterinarian. The feral cats, however, may not be released by the locality back to the location whence they came or some other location in the wild.”

But Cuccinelli added that in his view, “Persons who capture feral cats while acting as agents of or in conjunction with a locality as part of its trap and sterilize program are companion animal finders, and do not become the

de facto or *de jure* owners of such cats.”

Elaborated Cuccinelli, “Virginia law provides ‘No person shall abandon or dump any animal.’ [The word] ‘Abandon is defined as ‘desert, forsake, or absolutely give up an animal without having secured another owner or custodian for the animal or by failing to provide the elements of basic care.’ Virginia law defines ‘dump’ similarly, but specifies that the term covers ‘any dog, cat, or other companion animal.’” left “in any public place including the right-of-way of any public highway, road, or street, or on the property of another.”

“Thus,” wrote Cuccinelli, “given the current statutory requirements for the disposition of companion animals, including feral cats, and the statutory prohibition upon abandoning or dumping companion animals, it is my opinion that feral cats may not be released programmatically back to the location where they were captured or other location ‘in the wild.’”

Noted Cuccinelli, “I express no opinion regarding the policy implications this conclusion may elicit. Localities will have to weigh for themselves whether maintaining a TNR program furthers their interests and what such a program’s potential effect on population numbers and adoption rates will be.”

ASPCA cedes lead in New York City humane law enforcement to police (from page 1)

in anti-dogfighting law enforcement nationwide, growing since 2007, when the ASPCA participated in sending football player Michael Vick to prison for dogfighting.

Arresting dogfighters was a priority for Henry Bergh during his 22 years as ASPCA president, who personally participated in the November 21, 1870 arrest of Kit Burns, the most notorious dogfighter of his time. Some accounts misattribute to Bergh a daring descent through a skylight into the middle of the fighting pit. But Bergh, who had 18 anti-cruelty law enforcement officers at the time, also ceded the lead role to the NYPD on that occasion. The descent into the fighting pit was accomplished by one Police Captain Aliaire. Bergh was, however, among the platoon of police who surrounded the building.

On August 26, 2013—just five days after announcing the transition of New York City humane law enforcement to the NYPD—the ASPCA and the Humane Society of the U.S. helped the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to impound 367 pit bulls in a coordinated series of raids on alleged dogfighters in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia, billed as the second-largest dog fighting raid in U.S. history. Thirteen people were arrested. Two more suspects were arrested a month later. Another 16 pit bulls were confiscated then.

“The multi-state dog fighting raid is not something we had the capacity for even two years ago,” recently retired former ASPCA president Ed Sayres told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “While HSUS has been a good partner in this latest effort, we had the lead role in the FBI relationship, the forensic evidence collection, providing the expert witnesses, and housing two-thirds of the dogs.”

“Not getting to cases”

The ASPCA during Sayres’ decade-long tenure also became increasingly involved in disaster relief and response to animal hoarding cases. But while finally becoming the “American” SPCA in the sense of serving the whole nation, not just New York City, the ASPCA was struggling to keep up with the NYC cruelty caseload. “We were not getting to cases for days or weeks,” Bershadker acknowledged to James Barron of *The New York Times*. “The NYPD’s policy, their practice, is to clear all complaints within eight hours.”

Massachusetts SPCA is also transferring law enforcement duties to local police

BOSTON—The Massachusetts SPCA, founded by humane education pioneer George Angell in 1868, is believed to have been the second SPCA in the U.S. to do humane law enforcement on a constabulary basis.

Like the ASPCA, which was empowered by the New York state legislature to act anywhere in New York, the MSPCA was authorized to act anywhere within Massachusetts. Also like the ASPCA, the MSPCA refocused after the founder’s death. But while the ASPCA retreated from doing law enforcement outside of New York City, the MSPCA expanded statewide law enforcement and incurred an enormous deficit to build the Angell Memorial veterinary hospital—at cost of all but killing the national humane education and outreach programs that Angell considered the most valuable part of his work.

MSPCA officers were stationed at nine or more posts around Massachusetts for most of the 20th century. Over the past decade, however, the MSPCA has been stretched thin by investment losses, a simultaneous drop of \$7 million in program service revenue and donations, and old state legislation that kept it from using endowment funds to offset the losses.

Downsizing for the second time in five years, the MSPCA in 2009 sold its Springfield shelter to the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society for \$1.2 million, leased its Martha’s Vineyard shelter to a new charity called Animal Shelter of Martha’s Vineyard, and leased the former Metro South adoption center to the Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts.

After-hours and weekend calls to the ASPCA often did not get prompt response, Bershadker explained to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, because the ASPCA had only half the response capability after assigning two officers to respond to each call in 2002. Sending two officers per call—as the NYPD had already done for decades—became necessary because of the need to have multiple witnesses in court cases, and the need to have backup help at hand.

A less frequent category of calls that did not get immediate response, Bershadker said, involved situations where the first two ASPCA officers would decide they needed more backup than was immediately available from the police, who gave responding to backup requests from fellow police and firefighters a higher priority. Then the ASPCA officers would go on to handle whatever they could handle, until more backup was available.

Before giving up the New York City animal control contract in 1994, the ASPCA had a much larger law enforcement staff than in recent years, but many of the personnel did not have the authority to make arrests. Their work focused on issuing citations for infractions such as dog-at-large and excessive barking, and doing impoundments in routine bite cases.

Giving up the animal control enabled the ASPCA to shed most of what had become a very difficult relationship with the two unions that represented the staff hired to work under the city contract. The ASPCA law enforcement officers remaining after the ASPCA surrendered the animal control contract were among the few unionized personnel left at the ASPCA afterward.

National model

As the first nonprofit agency formed to do humane law enforcement, the ASPCA established a model prevailing nationwide. Realizing that cities, counties, and towns mostly lacked the funding and political will to take on humane law enforcement, Henry Bergh persuaded the New York state legislature to grant the ASPCA a charter recognizing it as an entity with the same authority to appoint constables as cities, counties, and towns. Just as constables are empowered to enforce laws only within the city, county, or town that appoints them, ASPCA officers were granted law enforcement powers only within their jurisdiction—but their jurisdiction was limited to animals, not to

city, county, or town boundaries.

This made the ASPCA the “animal police force” for all of New York state. Bergh led law enforcement operations as far away as Buffalo, at the extreme opposite end of the state from New York City. Lack of funding to maintain a statewide presence, however, caused the ASPCA to retreat from law enforcement outside of New York City after Bergh’s death, leaving a void that was gradually—but never completely—filled by other SPCA organizations.

Statutes passed in many other states in emulation of the New York legislation established a distinction prevailing until the mid-20th century between SPCAs, which had constabulary law enforcement authority, and other humane societies, which did not. Though now considered archaic, since almost all law enforcement agencies now enforce humane laws, the distinction between an SPCA and other humane laws remains on the books in some states.

Constabulary humane law enforcement meanwhile became the model for delegating many other forms of guarding public safety to nonprofit organizations, including volunteer fire departments and game wardens appointed by hunting and fishing clubs.

The concern **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has most often heard voiced about the ASPCA leaving constabulary humane law enforcement concerns the precedent that it might set outside of big cities. SPCAs serving rural areas have often done humane law humane enforcement with limited cooperation from elected county judges and sheriffs, under the critical scrutiny of locally influential farmers, hunters, and dog breeders. Will the ASPCA abandonment of doing on-call law enforcement further undercut those rural SPCAs’ efforts, and perhaps cause them to lose their law enforcement authority entirely?

“In rural environments,” assessed Sayres, “this may cause backward steps, but I think that in the long view, having private nonprofits with law enforcement powers is not a model that will be allowed to stand in the future. I am amazed that someone hasn’t challenged it more seriously. The idea that a tax-exempt group can advocate for laws and then have a role in enforcing those laws was feasible in the 19th century, but I don’t think it is a model that will be followed in the 21st century.”

—Merritt Clifton

The MSPCA still has shelters in Boston, Centerville, Methuen and Nantucket, with hospitals in Boston and Nantucket, and still does statewide humane law enforcement. Like the ASPCA, however, the MSPCA is rethinking its traditional law enforcement role.

Cost vs. credibility

“In many ways [SPCA cruelty law enforcement] is similar to animal organizations doing animal control. Enforcing public policy is clearly a government function,” MSPCA president Carter Luke told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“When that type of practice began, it was clearly done for humane reasons, and as time went on, there were financial reasons as well,” Luke acknowledged. “Having an animal control or boarding contract of some type provided some charitable animal organizations with a steady stream of income and enabled survival.”

“Turning animal care and control back to government became feasible from a humane point of view,” Luke said, “when government was better prepared to be accountable to citizens and animal organizations for their performance, and put more resources into performing the animal control function.”

“The location of humane law enforcement responsibility with SPCAs has some similarities, but also stark differences. There is no significant financial support for a nonprofit to do law enforcement. MSPCA officers are commissioned by the Colonel of the State Police in Massachusetts as special state police, but

we receive zero compensation for our investigations, costs related to animal seizures, prosecutions, hiring witnesses, etc. We have been doing this work for free for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a long time. The public clearly has expectations that we will. And so does government. That is a problem. By performing these duties, we excuse government from safeguarding animal welfare.

“However,” Luke added, “performing these duties has helped on occasion in getting animal protection legislation passed, as there were no costs to taxpayers associated with creating a new law that required inspections of research labs, for example.”

Offsetting that advantage, Luke continued, “The criminal justice system has become increasingly difficult, time-consuming, and expensive to navigate. And defendants are more and more litigious. That costs us a lot of money in legal fees. We avoid seizing animals now and try to solve problems without warrants. Why? Because we could end up holding a herd of horses for two or three years and get sued over it.”

“It is also very expensive to run a professional humane law enforcement department,” Luke said. The MSPCA now has seven officers, down from 18 several years ago, but “Direct officer costs for us are \$900,000 per year plus animal care.”

Transitioning

Like the ASPCA, the MSPCA, has “decided to push more and more cases back to

local law enforcement and support them with training and assistance,” Luke told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “We have 351 cities and towns in our state, and their police are all on duty around the clock. Many officers are more interested in handling these kinds of cases if we guide them through the process.

“Ultimately, it would be best,” Luke opined, “if every city and town handled their own cruelty cases with the same degree of concern, urgency and professionalism as our officers. We are training more and more police at different levels. We anticipate always needing to provide some support, but we are working toward the day where most cruelty cases are originally investigated by local police. We began that process five years ago. We knew it would be a slow process, because local police were not ready for it, and we were not going to risk animals lives meanwhile.

“Even in the best of circumstances,” Luke acknowledged, “animal cruelty will always be fighting priority battles” with other police duties. We don’t anticipate eliminating our officers or this function from the MSPCA,” Luke finished. “We want police to play a much more significant role, but there will always be a need for training, for collaborative efforts in complex cases, for assistance with animal handling, etc., and we want to be sure animals have a safety net. Cruelty investigation is an important part of who we are—part of our organizational being and our heritage, helping to provide a credible platform for lots of animal related progress.”

—Merritt Clifton



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.

NBC Sports cancels NRA hunting show

NEW YORK CITY—The NBC Sports Network on October 30, 2013 cancelled *Under Wild Skies*, a hunting show sponsored by the National Rifle Association, hosted by longtime NRA lobbyist Tony Makris.

A week earlier the show featured Makris shooting an elephant in Botswana twice in the face, then killing the elephant with a third shot after a brief pursuit. The show aired two weeks after Botswana made recreational hunting illegal.

"Petitions calling for the network to cancel the show reached tens of thousands of signatures, with one at Causes.com approaching 100,000," wrote Nick Wing for *The*

Huffington Post.

Defending shooting the elephant on the NRA News show *Cam & Company*, Makris accused people who oppose elephant hunting but accept hunting other species of practicing "animal racism." Added Makris of people who say elephants should not be hunted because of their size, scarcity, or intelligence, "Hitler would have said the same thing."

"*Under Wild Skies* will no longer air on the NBC Sports Sports Network due to the program's close association with its host, whose recent comments comparing his critics to Hitler are outrageous and unacceptable," NBC said in a prepared statement.

Sea turtle egg poachers charged with killing Costa Rican conservationist

LIMON, Costa Rica—Nine alleged sea turtle egg poachers and drug smugglers are facing charges in connection with the killing of marine biologist Jairo Sandoval Mora, 26, and the sexual assault of at least two of the four women who accompanied him on a patrol of Moin Beach near Limon on the night of May 31, 2013.

"In the early morning hours of July 31, 2013—exactly two months after Mora's body was discovered—Judicial Investigation Office agents conducted six simultaneous raids that led to the arrest of six murder suspects and two women in possession of sto-

len items. A ninth suspect fled and was arrested 10 days later," reported Lindsay Fendt in the September 3, 2013 edition of *The Tico Times*.

Fendt's in-depth account detailed the deterioration and eventual disintegration of a 2009 deal brokered by Limon butterfly farmer Vanessa Lizano between the poachers and the conservation group Widecast, Mora's employer. Ten poachers were hired to relocate leatherback nests to give hatchling sea turtles a better chance to reach the ocean. The agreement failed when other poaching gangs became active on Moin Beach.

60-count indictment in alleged no-kill fraud

CLAYTON, Georgia—A Rabun County grand jury on September 6, 2013 returned a 60-count felony indictment against Lowanda "Peanut" Kilby, former director of the Boggs Mountain Humane Shelter.

Kilby was charged with "theft, deception and violating Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act for allegedly mishandling donations," reported NBC News staff writer M. Alex Johnson.

Kilby allegedly killed more than two dozen animals, Johnson

wrote, "after having charged their owners \$100 or more with the promise to provide all shots and medical care and place their animals with adoptive families."

The Boggs Mountain Humane Shelter, which had claimed to be no-kill, was a finalist in the Rachael Ray \$100K Challenge, a competition meant to encourage adoptions. It closed in October 2012, three months after WAGA-TV of Atlanta aired a series of exposes of the alleged deceptive practices.

Political foes close Bali Animal Welfare Association

UBUD, Bali, Indonesia—Closed by police on September 30, 2013 for allegedly operating without permits, the Bali Animal Welfare Association clinic had not reopened when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press on October 6, 2013.

"Our ambulance and spay neuter team are not allowed to work until we get the clinic permit, which will take a few months," founder Janice Girardi said.

"Even then," Girardi added, "we will have to change the 2009 rabies control law that says we can't transport dogs over regional borders. It passed when rabies was only in two areas. Now that all of Bali has had cases, the law should be changed," so that dogs can be taken to veterinary clinics as necessary.

"BAWA continues to run educational and community programs," Girardi said. "We still have our 24-7 hot line, liaising with local vets, doing street feeding and treatments. Our vets can work within their own regions, under their regional and Bali vet permits, so we are still assisting them, but not out of the BAWA ambulance. BAWA was invited to visit the island of Sumbawa in September," Girardi mentioned, "to vaccinate and provide medical attention on the southwest coast. The BAWA team spent a week in Sumbawa and were able to spay/neuter and provide skin and anti-parasitic treatments to 103 dogs."

BAWA was cited for purported pollution violations, lacking building permits, and failing to produce an environmental impact study, after local political transitions increased the influence of office

holders who favored killing street dogs to combat rabies, an approach that failed utterly from mid-2008 until 2010, when BAWA introduced a successful mass vaccination program. BAWA has also clashed with well-connected dogfighters and the operators of dog meat restaurants—technically illegal, but ignored and even patronized by Bali officials.

Said the *Bali Advertiser*, "The real story behind the precipitate action by Bali's authorities to close down BAWA will probably never be known. The only people who get pinged over license issues here are those who have trodden on some bigwig's ego, often with good reason. BAWA does sterling work with Bali's street dogs, many of whom live appalling lives that should shame anyone with a conscience. BAWA founder and chief organizer Janice Girardi personally funded Bali's first-ever rabies campaign in late 2009 as proof for international funders that it is possible to catch and vaccinate dogs who have never before been handled by humans. BAWA vaccinated 210,000 dogs in six months during that pilot program. BAWA had a stellar reputation with the provincial local government until this year when many positions in animal husbandry were switched. Girardi was away from Bali when the authorities chose to swoop. That they did so then instead of waiting for her to get home is itself a disgrace that prompts questions."

Added *Bali Discovery*, published by Bali Discovery Tours, "Many have claimed that the very strict enforcement steps taken by the Gianyar administration against BAWA were selective and discriminatory, tak-

en in perceived retaliation for BAWA's spirited and outspoken promotion of rabies prevention and animal rights. As the deadline for closure loomed, rescue programs were forced to halt. BAWA workers scrambled to find homes for the nearly 100 animals still under their care."

Bali Discovery Tours owner Jack Daniels personally appealed to Bali governor I Made Mangku Pastika on behalf of BAWA.

"The sad saga of BAWA and the dogs is made all the worse," observed **ANIMAL PEOPLE** president Kim Bartlett, who visited BAWA in 2008, "because the Balinese people were very tolerant of the dogs, unlike many places where neuter/return is performed. Because of episodes such as this, I'm not as optimistic as I once was about neuter/return programs for dogs, because it seems there is always someone or some group who doesn't want the dogs there, even for the few years it takes to reduce the population and eventually to eliminate feral or homeless dogs altogether."

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Abolishing wildlife captivity gains momentum in Latin America

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica—An appeal to an administrative law court filed by the zoo management foundation Fundazoo is the last hope the 97-year-old Simón Bolívar Zoo in San José and the Santa Ana conservation center have to remain open past 2014.

A year after banning sport hunting, Costa Rica is poised to becoming the first nation in the western hemisphere to abolish zoos. But while the sport hunting ban was the first Costa Rican legislation passed by voter initiative, the end of zookeeping will result from the decision of environment minister René Castro to simply not renew the Fundazoo operating permits.

“With this move,” Castro said, “we are sending a message that the state wishes to show biodiversity in its natural state, under a modern and holistic integration of space, society and natural resources.”

Castro told the newspaper *La Nación* that his perspective on zoos was influenced by the escape of his grandmother’s pet parrot. “That made a big impression on me because I thought we had taken good care of her. We fed her with food and affection – all the things that we as humans thought she liked,” Castro remembered. “Yet when she had the chance, she left.”

“The animal residents of the zoos—300 individuals from 60 species in the case of the Simón Bolívar zoo—will be released into the wild or found new homes in private shelters. The land will be used for botanical gardens,” reported Jonathan Watts of *The Guardian*.

“The Simón Bolívar Zoo attracts more than 130,000 visitors a year, runs educational programs, and has its own policy of releasing animals back into the wild whenever possible,” Watts wrote. The zoo employs about 35 people to look after a collection including mostly native species: parrots, crocodiles, ocelots, snakes, and spider monkeys. The zoo also has an African lion imported from Cuba.

“We are more a rescue centre than a zoo. We have never bought or collected animals,” spokesperson Eduardo Bolanos told Watts.

“The state of Costa Rica’s public zoos has been a point of contention among environmental groups for years,” recalled *International Business Times* correspondent Mark Johanson. “The Association for the Preservation of Wild Flora and Fauna filed a lawsuit against the zoos in 2006 for poor conditions and questionable sanitation, leading the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court to order immediate improvements. The Environment Ministry has tried unsuccessfully since 2003 to terminate its contract with Fundazoo. Fundazoo, however, argues that its contract to run the zoos has already been renewed through 2024.”

Movement away from keeping wildlife in captivity also gained momentum in Uruguay, with the August 2013 decision of the Montevideo municipal zoo to send two tigers to a sanctuary in the United States. The zoo could not afford to upgrade the tigers’ housing to comply with recommendations

issued in 1993 by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, reported Stephen Messenger for *Treehugger.com*.

Messenger indicated that zoo director Eduardo Tabares was influenced by the outcome of a raid by a group calling itself “Direct Action” on a zoo at the seaside resort city of Atlántida. Opening 16 cages, the raiders declared on Facebook that “we will not stop until all the cages are empty.”

“Within hours,” wrote Messenger, “a capybara, a llama, a black-headed parrot, a red parrot, a rabbit, three guinea pigs and a Patagonian hare were dead. Some apparently were struck by cars; others drowned in ponds or died of stress. Ten others disappeared, said Juan Carbajal, who oversees the two zoos.

The legislature of El Salvador on August 9, 2013 voted 54-30 to ban the use of wildlife in circuses. The national wildlife conservation law now “prohibits the entry, use or abuse of wildlife in all kinds of shows,” and states that “It will only be permitted to display wildlife in zoos or animal shelters that provide the specific care that these species need for survival.”

Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Paraguay have also banned wildlife use in circuses since 2007, at urging of the British-based organization Animal Defenders International. Similar bans were adopted in Greece in 2012 and Cyprus in June 2013. British agriculture minister David Heath in April 2013 introduced a draft bill which would require circuses to end wild animal acts by the beginning of December 2015, but it has not advanced.

Newly found ferret badger rabies strain raises concern about dogs (from page 1)

and 42 bats have been tested,” the Central Epidemic Command Center told the *Taipei Times*.

The first human victim, a male adult, was bitten on his right index finger and right ankle by a ferret badger on September 15, 2013. He received post-exposure rabies vaccination and human rabies immune globulin two days later, Taiwan Center for Disease Control deputy director general Chuang Jen-hsiang said. The man was expected to avoid rabies infection.

Taiwan had been officially free of all forms of rabies since 1961. But a retrospective examination of 13 ferret badger carcasses preserved since July 2010 found that five were rabid, the Council of Agriculture and Central Epidemic Command Center disclosed on September 6, 2013.

Commented Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases moderator Craig Pringle, “Although rabies virus infection of domesticated animals has not been detected for at least 52 years, it cannot now be concluded that rabies was ever eradicated from the island. It is still a possibility that the virus was reintroduced into wild animals more recently,” Pringle conceded. Conversely, “The shy and retiring habit of ferret-badgers and their lack of contact with both wild and domesticated animals and humans may have allowed rabies virus infection to have persisted in Taiwan for a long period,” Pringle said.

Outbreaks in China

Three research papers published by mainland Chinese scientists between 2009 and 2013 warned that ferret badgers may be a vector species for rabies, as are dogs, foxes, raccoons, skunks, and bats. Wrote S. Zhang, Q. Tang, and Wu X in a 2009 edition of the journal *Emerging Infectious Disease*, “Rabies in ferret badgers occurred during two alleged epizootics (1994-1995 and 2002-2004) in southeastern China. Our preliminary data suggests another probable epizootic of rabies in ferret badgers during 2007-2008. Rabies in ferret badgers is becoming a greater public health threat to humans in eastern Anhui, middle to western Zhejiang, and northern Jiangxi provinces in China.

“Because no practical rabies vaccine has been developed for wildlife in China,” Zhang et al warned, “a rabies epidemic in ferret badgers is almost inevitable without intervention, and the threat to public health is immediate. Lack of communication and cooperation

among the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Ministry of Agriculture, and wildlife services from the Bureau of Forestry makes the situation more complicated than canine rabies control. Whether rabies in ferret badgers is a spillover event from rabid dogs, or whether ferret badgers serve as a natural reservoir remains to be addressed.”

Genetic sequencing done by the Taiwan Council of Agriculture indicated that the similarities between the rabies virus found in Taiwanese ferret badgers and the strain found in China appeared to be less than 90%, meaning that they would be classed as different strains, albeit closely related.

“Dumb” rabies

Any mammal may become infected with rabies, and may transmit rabies during the “furious” phase of infection that immediately precedes terminal muscle contractions, paralysis, and death. Only the “vector,” “host,” or “reservoir” species, however, have evolved enough resistance to rabies to carry and transmit it before displaying active symptoms. As actively rabid animals are suffering from a high fever and gradually losing mobility, they tend to be recognized and avoided. Animals carrying “dumb” rabies, however, behave almost normally for weeks or months before symptoms become evident, and may infect many others. As rabies is usually transmitted in warm saliva, social grooming behavior that involves licking fur is perhaps a more common mode of transmission than bites.

The most perplexing aspect of the appearance of rabies among Chinese and Taiwanese ferret badgers is that few mammals are believed to be less potentially susceptible to infection. Ferret badgers are nocturnal solitary dwellers, who normally have little contact with either others of their own species or other mammal species.

Since ferret badgers are not known to have much if any opportunity to infect each other, except at birth and mating, they would appear likely to be able to carry rabies in the “dumb” stage for much longer than any of the other known hosts other than bats, in whom the ancestors of all rabies strains are believed to have evolved.

The slow emergence of rabies among ferret badgers in a recognizable form may reflect maternal transmission of an exceptionally slow-developing rabies strain, which may have been spreading for many generations before enough ferret badgers were infected and behaving abnormally to attract notice.

Usually born in May and June, in litters of two or three, young ferret badgers disperse a month to two months later, coinciding with when the first rabid ferret badgers of 2013 were found.

Of greatest concern from a public health and zoonotic disease control perspective is that an exceptionally slowly emerging rabies strain which behaves the same way in dogs might markedly extend the length of time when dogs might infect other animals—and humans. The quarantine period necessary to establish whether a dog who is infected with the ferret badger rabies strain is rabid might be years,

rather than the conventional two weeks if the dog has been vaccinated or two months if not. Meanwhile, the dog might be able to infect other victims for considerably longer before being recognized as ill. Humans and other non-host species with low resistance to rabies would be at greater risk of dying from unidentified cases—and at greater risk of infecting others, brief though the terminal phase in most victims is.

Unknown form

As of early October 2013, examining brain tissue slides under a microscope—negri-body fluoroscopy—has identified the disease in ferret badgers as an apparent rabies strain, but has not definitively identified the specific strain. The paucity of cases found in other species may indicate either low transmissibility or just that ferret badgers tend to avoid other animals.

There is no information as yet about how the ferret badger rabies strain might behave in mature animals of other species. The one infected puppy was bitten by a ferret badger on August 14, 2013; fell ill on September 6; and was euthanized on September 8. The progression of that case appeared to be typical of other rabies strains, but a puppy still weeks too young to have been vaccinated successfully does not necessarily model accurately what would happen in adult dogs.

Beagle test

The conventional way to find out how the ferret badger rabies strain behaves in dogs would be to inject the virus into dogs, observe the dogs’ behavior until they fall terminally ill, kill them, decapitate them, and examine their brain tissue under a fluoroscope, looking for the bullet-shaped tiny black “cinders” called negri-bodies that are indicative of rabies infection.

Taiwan Bureau of Animal & Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine director Chang Su-san in mid-August 2013 announced that researchers would inject the ferret badger rabies virus into 14 beagles. A Facebook protest page posted by Animal Rescue Team Taiwan reportedly generated more than 3,000 endorsements within just a few hours.

Taiwan Animal Health Research Institute director-general Tsai Hsiang-jung defended the proposed study in media statements, but Bureau of Animal & Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine official Liao Mei-hui on August 19, 2013 told *Taipei Times* staff reporter Alison Hsiao that the experiment had been indefinitely postponed, pending discussion with a visiting team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A month later the beagle experiment was again imminent, despite attempted intervention by both Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine founder Neal Barnard and Humane Society International president Andrew Rowan.

“Experimentation on animals still has to be conducted, because the virus strain found in the ferret-badger is idiosyncratic,” Bureau of Animal & Plant Health Inspection & Quarantine director Chang Su-san told the *Taipei Times* on September 20, 2013.

Countered Rowan, “As far as we have learned, the U.S. CDC experts made no recommendations for experimentation on dogs. It was the impression of the American experts that Taiwan was not in a position to even consider tests on live animals because there does not exist a competent laboratory capacity to work with a live culture of the virus,” a surprising claim in view that Taiwan has a \$4.4 billion pharmaceuti-

cal industry competing in the international marketplace, and attracted 90,000 “medical tourists” in 2012, many of whom visited to undergo more advanced treatments than they could obtain or afford in their home nations.

Continued Rowan, focusing on the transmissibility of the ferret badger rabies strain rather than the unique behavior of it, “The experts also pointed out to us that while some animals are the reservoir animal for a particular variant, all variants can be transmitted to other mammals. Live experimentation is therefore unnecessary. We agree that determining if current rabies vaccines protect against the strain recently found in ferret badgers is important,” Rowan added. “This determination can be achieved through the use of virus neutralization assays with serum from previously vaccinated dogs.”

But that would not tell how long the ferret badger rabies strain might persist in the “dumb” phase in unvaccinated dogs.

“Mass vaccination of dogs and ferret badgers is the most advisable approach to go,” Rowan concluded.

Barnard three days later asked PCRM supporters to contact Taiwanese embassies with essentially the same talking points.

As yet lacking either a vaccine specific to ferret badgers, a means of distributing it, or even reliable information about how many ferret badgers might inhabit Taiwan, the Taiwan Center for Disease Control has since July 2013 focused on encouraging vaccination of dogs and cats in the areas where suspected rabid ferret badgers have been found.

Lookalike disease?

Former Taiwan Animal Health Research director Liou Pei-pai in an August 14, 2013 guest column for the *Taipei Times* argued meanwhile that the ferret badger disease might be a lookalike disease, not actually rabies.

Tunghai University life science professor Lin Liang-kong contended ferret badgers might be not hosts but victims of either rabies or another rabies-like disease spread by bats.

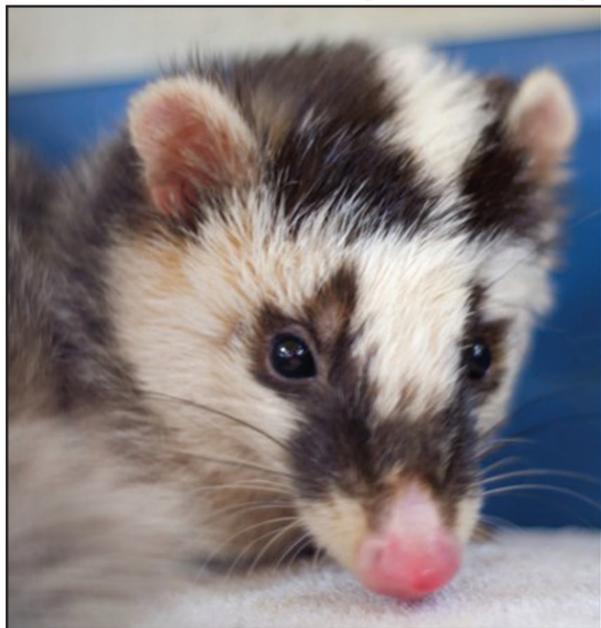
Though the disease afflicting ferret badgers appears to be rabies, there is a chance that it might be a similar but as yet unknown virus in the lyssavirus family. Lyssaviruses include both rabies and the also deadly hendra-virus, discovered in Australia in 1994 when it killed a man named Vic Rail and 14 of his horses.

Four of the 14 known human hendra-virus victims have died.

Hendravirus is carried by flying foxes, a type of fruit bat, whereas rabies is carried primarily by insectivorous bats. Thirteen fruit bat species inhabit China; several are also found in Taiwan, along with one species not found anywhere else. But insectivorous bats, usually smaller and much more numerous, are believed to be almost routinely blown back and forth by the prevailing winds between Taiwan and mainland China. Either fruit bats or insectivorous bats might have evolved a mutated lyssavirus strain that could have been separately passed to ferret badgers on either side of the straits that divide Taiwan from the mainland.

There is a precedent for the theory that the ferret badger disease spread from bats. Ferret badgers are mustelids, more closely related to skunks than to other rabies host species. Skunks, also nocturnal insectivores, are believed to host a rabies strain that came directly from bats, whereas, the fox, dog, and raccoon rabies strains are more closely related to each other than to bat and skunk rabies.

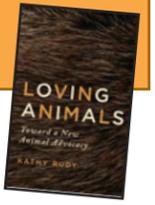
—Merritt Clifton



Rescued from a leghold trap, this ferret badger became a pet. (Sean MacCormack)

Loving Animals: *Toward a New Animal Advocacy* by Kathy Rudy

University of Minnesota Press (111 Third Avenue South, Suite 290, Minneapolis, MN 55401), 2011. 260 pages hardcover, \$16.98.



Trained in theological ethics and women's studies, Kathy Rudy describes herself as neither an ethologist nor an animal behaviorist, but writes "It would not be an overstatement to say that most of the important and successful relationships I've had in my life have been with nonhuman animals."

Rudy posits that "you never really love [animals] in general. You always love the particular." This directly contradicts the outlook of most of the "people who care about animals" who read **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, many of whom helped to build the animal rights movement of the past several decades.

Rudy argues that animal rights advocacy should be realigned, based on "the revolutionary power of love," as she defines it, interpreted through the prism of her feelings toward her dogs, all but one of them pit bulls or pit bull mixes.

Rudy frames the meaning of animals' existence according to how their presence helps us construct our own identities and imagine ourselves. This self-centered view, opposite to the perspective of every ethicist and philosopher who appreciates that animals have their own interests, leads into anecdotes about the meaning Rudy gives to 'loving animals.'

Rudy begins by describing her year as a vegan, alleging "There's a reason why the vast majority of vegans are twenty-somethings or younger. A steady diet of mostly corn and soy mixed with a lot of sugar ravages most middle-aged bodies. I gained thirty pounds that year, developed insulin-dependent diabetes and chronic headaches." Of course "a steady diet of mostly corn and soy mixed with a lot of sugar" is much closer to the diet of factory-farmed pigs than to that of most vegans, whose dietary staples include fruits, vegetables, legumes, and grains.

Rudy acknowledges that others might do better at being vegan, but she still think veganism would be bad for the world because it would mean farmers no longer keep animals.

"The world would be a much sadder place without farm animals," Rudy contends, adding that "Veganism lets people off the hook for all the other ways we oppress animals... The vast majority of the literature coming out of organizations like PETA and Vegan Outreach claims that all you need to do is stop consuming animal products and everything will be fine."

Though Rudy admits that a plant-based lifestyle would prevent much animal suffering, it would (according to her) "also prevent enormous amounts of animal—and human—

joy." After all, "farm animals pay their dues in life with their products and flesh, but they would rather have lived and loved and played in the sun and the dirt and the rain, than not be born at all."

Having constructed her rationalization for eating meat, burlesqued at length by vegan author Erik Marcus on his web page "Kathy Rudy in Translation," Rudy moves on to consideration of "loving" wild animals.

Rudy begins by questioning whether wild animals exist, never mind evolution and genetics: "What happens if we question the perceived reality that domesticated animals differ in kind from wild ones? If language shapes and constructs reality, then perhaps it is not the genes or ontology of animals themselves that makes them 'wild,' but the way human language organizes the world for them. We have erected these categories of 'wild' and 'domestic' to better manage our world, but perhaps they do not point to hard-wired reality."

Visiting zoos and sanctuaries, Rudy observes that the adult lions in a five acre zoo exhibit mostly laze around, while the very young lions in a small cage at a sanctuary enthusiastically play with toys brought by humans. Demonstrating no understanding of the behavioral differences between adult and adolescent animals, Rudy decides that small places in private sanctuaries must make lions happier, because they get the gift of human love.

Rudy asserts that without sanctuaries and zoos, wild animals might soon cease to exist at all, since humans are taking over the Earth. Rudy has apparently not noticed that much wildlife is today more abundant in North America than it was circa 1900, when the human population was a third of the present size—from small species such as squirrels up to huge species with large habitat needs, such as elk and bison, and even dangerous predators, including pumas and grizzly bears.

Rudy feels we need to preserve 'charismatic' wild animals in captivity, certain that the gift of our love will make such species want to be tamed and sacrifice their freedom. She shares her dream of one day walking a big cat on a leash.

Similar themes are repeated in Rudy's chapter on vivisection and laboratory animals. Rudy repeats ethologist Marc Bekoff's theory that if scientists are obliged to keep the animals they use as pets in their homes first, scientists will make more humane decisions about what they do to those animals later. This disregards the history of early vivisectioners having often

used their own household pets in experiments.

Rudy then argues that once animals have received our personal love, many would heroically volunteer of their own free will to be confined, invaded, and even cut apart and killed in the lab. She is convinced one of her pit bulls and one of her pit mixes would.

Of them, Rudy writes, "If I thought I could cure cancer by experimenting on one of them, I know in my heart that they would want me to...knowing them the way I do, I believe they would want to be heroes."

As for animals who might resist, Rudy writes, "If they couldn't help us transform our feelings towards them, then maybe they would be better off being sacrificed."

Rudy's goal is to reach a point where we can trust scientists to say that "the (very) few animals they sacrificed were the kinds of creatures who wanted their lives to have that kind of meaning," distinct from serving human interests.

Having seen videos of animals including Washoe the chimpanzee, who learned American Sign Language, and the parrot Alex, who learned to speak fluent and often complex English, Rudy feels inspired by "the possibility that some day we may actually be able to simply ask animals whether they would like to offer themselves as research subjects; we possibly could obtain from them the same kind of informed consent we require for human subjects."

As her last illustration of what Rudy believes loving animals is all about, Rudy describes

how one of her pit bulls and a pit/hound mix belonging to a neighbor suddenly tried to kill an elderly beagle they had lived with for years. After aptly and accurately describing what her beloved pit bull breed is hard-wired to do, and a type of fight that normal dogs rarely engage in, Rudy reconstructs the story to allege that the 'pack' had decided it was time to remove an old, useless matriarch. Rudy fantasizes incorrectly that this is what wolves and wild dogs do, too. (There has been only one parenticide, for example, among all of the wolves radio-collared since the 1995 reintroduction of wolves to the northern Rocky Mountains.)

The beagle survived the attack due to human intervention. Rudy decided not to euthanize or re-home her pit bull, who had inflicted the most horrendous wounds, but rather to re-home the beagle, because the pit bull was "in love with me, but Daisy was in love with life."

By the end of this narcissistic tome, Rudy has invented animals who want to be eaten, want to be tamed, want to be dissected, and an aged beagle who deserved to be mauled. Most disturbing is Rudy's thesis that if only you feel "love" towards an animal, anything you do to the animal is okay—while those who don't love us enough back deserve to die.

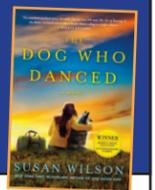
A better title for *Loving Animals* would have been *How to Be Pathologically Self-Indulgent, Yet Pretend to Be Ethical*.

—Alexandra Semyonova

The Dog Who Danced by Susan Wilson

St. Martin's Griffin (175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2013.

328 pages, paperback. \$14.99.



The Dog Who Danced is not just a novel about a dog, though it centers on a lovable Sheltie named Mack. It's a drama about a woman's desperation to find her lost dog, with twists and turns that include family turmoil, the sting of failed relationships, a teen's inability to cope with his mother's unsettled lifestyle, and a couple's tragic loss of their only child.

Along the way, though *The Dog Who Danced* is not about humane work, it raises many of the ethical and practical issues that adoption counselors encounter when dogs are offered ideal adoptive homes but are claimed by people whose lives and circumstances are unstable.

Mack is the sole source of comfort for Justine Meade, who is divorced, and bounces from job to job, city to city. Her son has gone to live with his father. Hoping to vis-

it her own gravely ill father, Justine pays a trucker \$300 for a ride with Mack to the east coast. The trucker strands Justine in Ohio, abandoning Mack later.

Almost broke, Justine hitchhikes, borrows money, and does everything possible to find Mack, helped by other truckers.

But Mack has been found by an older couple, wandering at the cemetery where their daughter Stacy is buried. Mack has no identification. They decide to keep him. They shower him with affection, food, and toys, and hope to train him for therapy work.

Eventually Justine discovers where Mack is. And there lies the crux of the plot, and—though there are no adoption counselors in *The Dog Who Danced*—the frequent dilemma for adoption counselors.

—Debra J. White

But when Rottweilers bite (like pit bulls, to whom they are close kin), the bite is often of the grip-and-rend type that frequently causes nerve damage, and much, much worse.

Only Greg, Mom's lawyer brother, contrasts the unfairness of stereotyping people with the *absolute* fairness—indeed the *obligation* in the case of family pets—of stereotyping dogs, since stereotypes are what line breeding exists to produce.

But Greg has no moral credibility in JD's eyes. Indeed there are no sympathetic male adults in *Rotten*. JD has no father. From an easily-missed allusion, it is apparent that he never had one, and that his mother was single by choice.

The puzzlingly demonized Greg shows concern for his sister and nephew, works for JD *pro bono* on two occasions, and doesn't skimp on the effort he gives both cases. He should be a good male role model for JD, who clearly needs one. No obvious reason exists for JD's vehement scorn for him. Except—and this is the only explanation I can see—Greg is a lawyer, and thinks like one, privileging facts over feelings.

Whatever bad legal news Greg brings JD and Mom is responded to with emotion rather than reason. This is understandable in a teenager who fears the loss of a dog he considers a victim. But Mom, who should be cajoling JD into facing reality, remains passive or supportive of JD's anger.

One incident in *Rotten* might be meaningless to anyone who has not engaged with pit bull activism at its most insidious, but stood out as a red flag to me. It happens after JR has bitten Mars, but still very early in the dog's acculturation to his new home, when everything is still new to him and well before he has bonded with JD.

Returning home from a walk, JD stumbles, and falls to his knees, startling the dog. JD's face is mere inches from the dog's massive jaws. Heart in mouth, JD narrates: "There's nothing I can do. His mouth snaps open and... *he licks me.*"

Rotten by Michael Northrop

Scholastic Books (store.scholastic.com), 2013.

256 pages, hardcover. \$17.99.



As a child I was enthralled by dog stories, including Eric Knight's *Lassie, Come Home*, Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, and the entire Albert Payson Terhune series of books about collies. My favorite dog stories were set in different places, but had in common dog protagonists whose comfortable bourgeois lives were disrupted, pitching them, alone, into a cruel outer world. On the surface, the stories were mainly about dogs, but the larger message concerned the positive personal attributes that dogs can demonstrate to people.

Decades later, I was attracted to *Rotten*, a book targeting adolescent readers aged 13-17, by the arresting cover—a frontal image of a Rottweiler.

Rotten is narrated from the point of view of the teen protagonist "Jimmer," also known as JD. The narrative opens with his mom meeting JD at a bus station, after he has spent the summer in "juvie" for having stolen a bottle of expensive perfume as an intended gift for her.

Mom hopes JD will be pleased with the surprise awaiting him at home—a rescue dog, the first dog they have had. Explains Mom, "I thought that he'd be good for you, and maybe you'd be good for him, and you could both get new starts."

Johnny Rotten the Rottweiler presents himself as polite and timid, but becomes agitated in the presence of strange males. This is explained as understandable because he has in the past been abused. Soon JR bites the hand of JD's teenaged peer Mars. Established as a shifty scofflaw with an uncertain future, Mars climbed the fence to reach JR, and approached him incautiously with hand outstretched. JR's quick grab-and-release bite draws some blood, but requires only minimal first aid.

But Mars' parents exploit the situation. Suddenly Mars is wearing a sling to school and complaining of tingling in his fingers. A lawsuit looms, which will not only bankrupt JD's financially struggling mom, but—because JR is a member of a "bully breed"—

will likely mean that JR will be killed.

All of this is dispassionately explained to JD and his mom by Greg, Mom's lawyer brother, who acts on their behalf, as he has already done for JD for his theft.

"We could lose the house over this," JD realizes.

Mars's allegations are revealed as false through the cleverness of JD's more respectable pals, and JR's life is spared. Boy and dog are bonded. JD is restored to favor in decent society, represented by Janie, the love interest, who serves as the novel's moral center. Mom's instinct to rescue a dog that would "rescue" her boy is validated.

But as a critical journalist and mother, I am struck first by Mom's fecklessness.

Mom chose JR because he "was so sweet looking," but this was *after* she was informed by the shelter that he had been designated "potentially dangerous." This damning fact only comes out late in the book, and only because Greg dutifully checked the shelter records; Mom had not planned to reveal that she was warned of the risk the dog presented.

Mom's failure to inquire about breed characteristics, and then her insouciance in setting off to work, leaving a new dog with a history of abuse alone with a boy who has no previous experience with dogs, is stunningly irresponsible.

Both Mom and JD derive their knowledge about dogs from TV training guru Cesar Millan and from rescue web sites that place the blame for bad dog behavior squarely on bad owners, never on breed genetics.

Says JD, "Yeah, dogs sometimes bite people, but most of the violence has been dog-on-dog." This is true, but only half the story. A disproportionate share of that violence, JD fails to mention because he doesn't know it, is *fighting breed* dog-on-dog.

The entire plot of *Rotten* hinges on establishing that JR's bite did no real damage.

Among the most common tropes of fighting dog advocates, one I have received countless times in e-mails after writing about pit bull mayhem, is "My pit bull won't bite you—but he may lick you to death."

The implicit message is that Rottweilers, and by implication other dangerous breeds, will handily distinguish, even under stress, a righteous motivation from an inappropriate motivation for aggression. This is belied by the rapidly mounting body count of humans and animals who have been dismembered by such dogs having "accidents."

Rotten concludes with JD buying a new collar for JR, "made of black leather and ringed with dull metal spikes."

The dog literature I grew up with encouraged young readers to emulate the noble qualities dogs displayed in rising above their status as victims. In those stories a formerly untested dog met life's challenges with honor. The dogs were actors in shaping their own destiny. Their triumph over adversity helped in turn to shape their readers' moral aspirations.

What I see here is displacement of adolescent grievance onto a dog who has already been saved from victimhood when we meet him. His re-victimhood springs not from an action so much as a reflex (and a lucky one at that). JR is not saved through JD's courage, but through the techno-cleverness of a friend. If there is a moral lesson here, it has escaped me.

Worse, *Rotten* may encourage families with no specialized knowledge about dogs to choose a breed unsuitable for any but experienced dog handlers.

Rotten is entertaining fiction. But unlike the fiction of Knight, London, and Terhune, which framed greater truths to the benefit of both young adults and dogs, *Rotten* frames only potentially dangerous untruths.

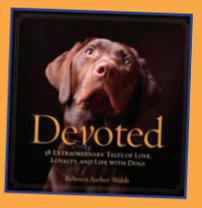
—Barbara Kay

[Barbara Kay, of Montreal, is a columnist for *The National Post*, flagship newspaper of the Postmedia Network.]

Devoted:**38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty and Life with Dog**

by Rebecca Ascher-Walsh

National Geographic Society (1145 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036), 2013. 160 pages, hardcover. \$19.95.



Devoted: 38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty and Life with Dog is as sweet and compelling as any book I have ever reviewed for **ANIMAL PEOPLE** about our unique relationship with dogs. Author Rebecca Ascher-Walsh invites us into the lives of 38 outstanding dogs and their people, and describes what makes them special. The stories of Effie and Cheyenne are two examples.

Abandoned at a Michigan shelter, full of parasites, cowering around men and growling at children, Effie's chances of adoption were slim—but Lisa Hulber fell in love with the big brown dog and adopted her anyway. Four months later, Hulber's routine mammogram produced negative results, but Effie had a differing perspective. Digging her nose into Hulber's breast, she refused to stop. Concerned, Hulber had a second mammogram, with the same negative results. But Effie persisted, so Hulber went for an ultrasound. The ultrasound revealed an aggressive carcinoma not normally detected by mammograms.

After surgery a month later, Effie fixated on Hulber's underarm. "Of the 27 lymph nodes, that was the only node it had spread to," Hulber recounts, crying from joy because Effie the once unwanted and unloved dog saved her life.

David Sharpe returned from overseas military service in 2002 with emotional trauma. He drank and picked fights. A friend suggested that adopting a dog

might help Sharpe regain mental stability, so he brought home Cheyenne, a pit bull puppy who already had injuries from fighting with her litter mates. But Sharpe continued to struggle. Two military friends committed suicide. "I couldn't deal with what was in my head," Sharpe told Ascher-Walsh. Eventually he put a gun into his mouth. Cheyenne, then about six months old, licked his ear, distracting him. Sharpe put the gun down as Cheyenne rested her head on his thigh.

"It was an ultimatum," he says, "to take my life back."

Sharpe went on to found Pets for Vets, later renamed Companions for Heroes, an organization that pairs veterans, emergency first responders, and their families with rescue dogs—primarily pit bulls, hinting in a 2011 interview that he believes recognizing and restraining the dangerously reactive tendencies of pit bulls may help people who are coping with post-traumatic stress to avoid temperamental explosions. The opposite side of this coin may be that the combination of a post-traumatic stress case with a pit bull, like the combination of a post-traumatic stress case with a gun, may amplify the consequences if an explosion occurs.

Devoted: 38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty and Life with Dog contains 36 more stories that entertain, delight, motivate and sometimes bring tears.

—Debra J. White

One Big Happy Family:**Heartwarming Tales of Animals****Caring for One Another**

by Lisa Rogak

St. Martin's Press (c/o MacMillan, 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2013. 145 pages, paperback. \$14.99.



Lisa Rogak in *One Big Happy Family* treats us to short but sweet stories of animals caring for animals of other species. Among the most unusual cases is that of Hiroko, a cat kept by Japanese farmers Norio and Yoshiko Endo. Hiroko had three kittens in 2007, but all of them died. Soon afterward Hiroko was accidentally left in a room with a pair of duck eggs. She apparently hatched the eggs and was found—and photographed—keeping the ducklings warm.

At Secret World Wildlife Rescue, an animal sanctuary in England, founder Pauline Kinder raised a fawn whose best friend became Kinder's son's Great Dane.

Among the best-known examples of cross-species friendship is that of Mzee, a 130-year-old Aldabran tortoise long kept at the Haller Park sanctuary in Mombasa, Kenya. Mzee in 2005 became surrogate parent to Owen, a two-year-old hippopotamus who was brought to Haller Park after he was orphaned by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Why Owen bonded with Mzee was discovered years later when elementary school students in West Vancouver, British Columbia, noticed that markings on the rear of Mzee's shell resemble a hippo face. Both Mzee and Owen still live at Haller Park, but Owen now lives with a female hippo named Clara.

Rogak, however, narrates a less famous story from the Kenya Wildlife Service Animal Orphanage in Nairobi. There, a seven-month-old baboon named Gakii adopted a three-month-old galago, or "bush baby."

Color photographs compliment these and many other amazing stories such as the Peacock and her Gosling, the German Shepherd and her Bengal Tiger Cubs, and the Chihuahua and his Baby Marmoset. —Debra J. White

Human Origins: Are we hybrids? by Eugene McCarthyFree download from: <http://www.macroevolution.net/human-origins.html#.Ud5d8GSgn6k>

Recalling my April 2012 review of evolutionary geneticist Eugene McCarthy's provocative opus *On the Origins of New Forms of Life: A New Theory*, British **ANIMAL PEOPLE** online reader Mervyn Sanders wrote recently to mention that "Dr. McCarthy is now claiming that humans are a hybrid of chimp and wait for it, pig. Yet he appears to be able to back his claims up with well researched evidence."

As with *On the Origins of New Forms of Life*, there are many ways to read McCarthy: as earnest crackpot, as subtle scientific satirist, as author of mind-experiments that many find disturbing on multiple levels, as an imaginative re-assembler of data that he believes has been misconfigured by conventional wisdom, and—as I see him—as a theorist who may be ahead of his time, but is rarely taken seriously because he insists on literal interpretations of insights that may be closer to metaphors.

McCarthy, a former faculty member at the University of Georgia in Athens, established his expertise about hybridization as author of the *Oxford University Press Handbook of Avian Hybrids of the World*, published in 2006.

Central to both *On the Origins of New Forms of Life* and McCarthy's new near-book-length essay *Human Origins: Are we hybrids?* is McCarthy's contention that hybridization is not nearly as rare as is conventionally believed, and though seldom recognized, is the major engine of species evolution. Gradual adaptation leading to natural selection for useful traits, as postulated by Charles Darwin, may also have a role. But since it is hard to see how evolution might have favored long sequences of initially not very useful small changes in body structure, McCarthy believes hybridization provides a better explanation of how mutations emerge and convey a survival advantage to the species who have them.

McCarthy in *On the Origins of New Forms of Life* built on the "punctuated equilibrium" theory presented by Niles Eldridge and the late Stephen Jay Gould in 1972. The gist of "punctuated equilibrium" is recognizing that while evolution usually proceeds at a glacial pace, it may accelerate abruptly in response to catastrophic events such as a comet hitting the Earth. McCarthy adds to the "punctuated equilibrium" hypothesis the idea that catastrophes may at once stimulate cross-species mating, from loss of access to more suitable mates, and increase the likelihood that cross-species liaisons might produce viable offspring, better suited to the changed conditions than their parents.

Among the mechanisms which might enhance the success of hybridization during a "punctuated evolution" episode are increased exposure to radiation; abrupt changes in diet, with effects on the immune systems of species; and the effects of disease.

I pointed out in reviewing *On the Origins of New Forms of Life* that McCarthy dismisses most of the possibilities of genetic mixing through the actions of pathogens. This is also a weakness in *Human Origins*. There are in fact retroviruses, capable of infecting both pigs and people, which through repeated exposure might accomplish the effects of hybridization without need for any contact closer than a sneeze.

A peer's review

Fellow geneticists who take McCarthy seriously, outrageous as some of his suggestions seem to be, include John Hewitt, who directs the Institute for Behavioral Genetics at the University of Colorado and is executive editor of the journal *Behavior Genetics*.

Assessed Hewitt in a recent essay for the online science journal *Phys.Org*, McCarthy "has amassed an impressive body of evidence suggesting that human origins can be best explained by hybridization between pigs and chimpanzees. Extraordinary theories require extraordinary evidence and McCarthy does not disappoint. Rather than relying on genetic sequence comparisons, he instead offers extensive anatomical comparisons, each of which may be individually assailable, but are startling when taken together."

McCarthy "argues that humans are probably the result of multiple generations of backcrossing to chimpanzees," Hewitt continues, "which in nucleotide sequence data comparisons would effectively mask any contribution from pig."

"It is not yet clear if or when genetic data might support, or refute, our hybrid origins," Hewitt added. "The list of anatomical specializations we may have gained from porcine philandering is too long to detail here. Suffice it to say, similarities in the face, skin, and organ microstructure alone are hard to explain away. A short list of differential features, for example, would include multipyramidal kidney structure, presence of dermal melanocytes, melanoma, absence of a primate baculum (penis bone), surface lipid and carbohydrate composition of cell membranes, vocal cord structure, laryngeal sacs, diverticuli of the fetal stomach, intestinal 'valves of Kerkring,' heart chamber symmetry, skin and cranial vasculature and method of cooling, and tooth structure."

McCarthy's own words

Writes McCarthy, "The chimpanzee is plausible in the role of one of parents that crossed to produce the human race because they are generally recognized as being closest to humans in terms of their genetics (I use the term 'chimpanzee' loosely to refer to either the common chimpanzee or to the bonobo.) But then the question arises: If an ancient cross between the chimpanzee and some parental form 'X' produced the first humans, then what was that parent? Does it still exist? What was it like?"

"Many characteristics that clearly distinguish humans from chimps have been noted by various authorities over the years. The task of preliminarily identifying a likely pair of parents, then, is straightforward: make a list of all such characteristics and then see if it describes a particular animal. One fact, however, suggests the need for an open mind: as it turns out, many features that distinguish humans from chimpanzees also distinguish them from all other primates. Features found in human beings, but not in other primates, cannot be accounted for by hybridization of a primate with some other primate. If hybridization is to explain such fea-

tures, the cross will have to be between a chimpanzee and a nonprimate—an unusual, distant cross to create an unusual creature.

"The other parent in this hypothetical cross that produced the first human would be an intelligent animal with a protrusive, cartilaginous nose, a thick layer of subcutaneous fat, short digits, and a naked skin. It would be terrestrial, not arboreal, and adaptable to a wide range of foods and environments. These traits may bring a particular creature to mind. In fact, a particular nonprimate does have, not only each of the few traits just mentioned, but all of the simple, non-synergistic traits distinguishing humans from their primate kin.

"Any attempt to account for these details in terms of natural selection seems inadequate," McCarthy says. "It is difficult to see what selective pressures could have caused human beings and pigs to converge in so many different respects. Perhaps it is all just a coincidence, but after a certain point coincidence begins to assume the color of relationship.

"No claim whatever is made that it is actually a fact that humans somehow arose through hybridization of pigs with chimpanzees," McCarthy cautions. "I merely propose an evaluation of two distinct hypotheses by the usual scientific criterion: the hypothesis less consistent with available data should be rejected."

McCarthy notes "the frequent use of pigs in the surgical treatment of human beings. Pig heart valves are used to replace those of human coronary patients. Pig skin is used in the treatment of human burn victims. Serious efforts are now underway to transplant kidneys and other organs from pigs into human beings. Why are pigs suited for such purposes? Why not goats, dogs, or bears—animals who in terms of taxonomic classification are no more distantly related to human beings than pigs?"

PERVS

Relevant to McCarthy's Human Origins hypothesis is that in August 2000 the Roslin Institute of Scotland and Geron Bio-Med of California, two long-time leaders in genetic research, suspended efforts to produce transplantable organs in pigs to prevent the risk of accidentally transmitting pig endogenous retroviruses into humans. Called PERVs for short, pig endogenous retroviruses do not harm pigs, and may not harm people, but British virologist Robin A. Weiss demonstrated in 1997 that cross-species infection can occur.

Because PERV invades cells much as does HIV, integrating itself into the genetic program of the host, the Roslin Institute and Geron Bio-Med sought to avoid the potential liability if a PERV strain ever attacks humans.

PERV is no longer seen as quite the threat to human health that it appeared to be then, but the discovery of PERV hinted that there may exist a diverse array of retroviruses capable of mixing and mingling genetic material among species, with unpredictable consequences. Like ordinary swine flu, such retroviruses might lie seemingly dormant for decades, centuries, even millennia, before unique combinations of circumstance permit them to emerge and

begin shuffling their host species' DNA.

Should genetic research clearly establish that pigs made a substantial contribution to the specific traits that make us human, whether through direct hybridization among far distant ancestors or with disease as intermediary, the implications of the relationship will be immense.

Even without the ideas McCarthy outlines in *Human Origins*, pigs—and many bird species, including chickens—would appear to have the intelligence to be accorded whatever enhanced appreciation humans extend to nonhuman primates, dogs, whales, dolphins, etc. Among those people who argue for ethical consideration of other species based on perceived likeness to humans, discovering a direct kinship to pigs might either push pork permanently off the menu, or resurrect rationales for cannibalism.

Aquatic apes

Meanwhile there is the question of how seriously to take McCarthy, whose ideas about human evolution have already been disparagingly compared by some reviewers to the "aquatic ape" hypothesis advanced by marine biologist Alistair Hardy (1896-1985) and by science writer Elaine Morgan (1920-2013). This is probably the best known previous theory that suggests the major anatomic features McCarthy notes evolved together for a common purpose.

Hardy formulated his "aquatic ape" ideas in 1930, but did not publish them until 1960 in anticipation of the attacks that followed. Morgan published her version of the "aquatic ape" hypothesis in 1972, then turned to literary writing while enduring decades of ridicule. But it is to be appreciated that Hardy presented his ideas, near the end of his professional career, almost 10 years before the discovery of *Lucy (Australopithecus)*. Morgan wrote *The Aquatic Ape* only two years afterward. Neither Hardy nor Morgan had access until much later in life to a fraction of the fossil evidence we now have about human evolution.

It is now widely believed that some early humans, including *Australopithecus*, lived mainly along shorelines and fed heavily on shellfish. Hardy and Morgan appear to have been right about that, and perhaps about some relevant adaptations, such as bipedal stance. Many of the adaptations that McCarthy believes came from pigs, such as the subcutaneous fat layer and sparse body hair, might have been helpful to creatures who spent their lives foraging along seashores. Whether these traits were acquired by literal hybridization or via retroviruses or by some other means, they could have conveyed an immediate survival advantage.

Like Hardy and Morgan, McCarthy may be far off in some of what he says, but to dwell excessively on the possibly erroneous details is to miss the greater point. Consider Albrecht Durer's armor-clad rhinoceros, drawn from second-hand descriptions in 1515. Every detail is wrong; but if all you knew about a rhino was that drawing, and you met one, you would nonetheless know immediately what you had encountered, because the overview—the general features and proportional anatomy—were generally correct. —Merritt Clifton

The State of Canada's Birds 2012

by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI-Canada), under the leadership of Environment Canada, Bird Studies Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada

Free download: www.stateofcanadasbirds.org

and **Avian Conservation & Ecology 8(2)**. Free download: www.ace-eco.org/vol8/iss2/art1



Alleged an October 1, 2013 media release from the American Bird Conservancy, "A new study from the government of Canada that looked at more than 25 human-caused sources of bird mortality has found that domestic cats, both feral and owned, are the leading lethal threat to birds in the country."

The ABC media release referenced *The State of Canada's Birds 2012*, published in July 2012, and the supporting studies of bird mortality published in the October 2013 edition of the journal *Avian Conservation and Ecology*—and those studies, read as a whole, say no such thing.

The focal finding of *The State of Canada's Birds 2012* is that "On average, Canadian breeding bird populations have decreased 12% since 1970, when effective monitoring began for most species. For species with sufficient data to monitor their status, 44% have decreased, 33% have increased, and 23% have shown little overall change. Some groups, such as grassland birds, aerial insectivores, and shorebirds, are showing major declines. Other groups such as waterfowl, raptors, and colonial seabirds are increasing, due to careful management, changes in habitat, and reductions of environmental contaminants."

Of the bird groups in decline, grassland birds usually dwell in rural areas far from most cars; aerial insectivores tend to come within range of cat predation only when ill or injured; and much Canadian shorebird habitat is on rocky islands, in swampy estuaries, and/or in the Far North, not easily accessible to cats.

Summarizing research into the major causes of Canadian bird declines in just 36 pages, *The State of Canada's Birds 2012* devotes more than 28 pages to habitat issues, mentions cats in just three sentences on page 29, stating the "Outdoor cats kill more than 100 million birds every year in Canada," and concludes with discussion of research methods and acknowledgements.

One hundred million birds per year is a toll close to the 125 million birds per year that U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service researcher Albert Manville attributed to cats in the U.S. in 2003, when the U.S. cat population was near the all-time peak of about 100 million total cats, 18% more than today, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association *U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook*, 2012 edition.

And there are only about 8.5 million pet cats in Canada, plus 1.2 to 4.2 million feral cats, according to the input data assembled by Peter Blancher of Environment Canada. Much of the input data is projected from studies done in the U.S., and in some instances, done on other continents.

Admits Blancher in his first paragraph, "Reliability of

the total kill estimate would be improved most by better knowledge of feral cat numbers and diet in Canada, though any data on birds killed by cats in Canada would be helpful."

Time and again Blancher acknowledges the shortcomings of his inputs—e.g., "The majority of studies relied on for predation rate of feral cats are over 50 years old and so may not represent the types of landscapes in which feral cats are most found today, in Canada or elsewhere," he writes.

But Blancher makes a credible effort to adjust the information from other times and places to accurately represent what might happen when findings from elsewhere are projected into the Canadian climate and habitats. The weaknesses in Blancher's work are primarily the weaknesses of the studies done by others, some of them known for considerable exaggeration and anti-cat bias. Blancher might, for example, have included a disclaimer in using research by former Smithsonian Institution ornithologist Nico Dauphine—the very first source he cites—to acknowledge that Dauphine was convicted in 2011 of trying to poison cats; the conviction was upheld in August 2013 by the Washington D.C. Court of Appeals.

Blancher concludes that "Despite a dearth of Canadian data on predation by cats, it is clear from the numbers of house cats in Canada and predation rates elsewhere that the number of birds killed by cats each year is very large, probably the largest human-related source of bird mortality in Canada." But even 100 million birds per year killed by cats would be minor losses compared to Blancher's 2002 finding that five billion birds from over 400 species breed each year in Canada, and his conclusion as to the significance of cat predation is not well supported by the other papers presented in *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 8.2.

Guest editors Travis Longcore and Paul A. Smith in their introduction, "On Avian Mortality Associated with Human Activities," mention cats only once, in passing, while cautioning that "the effects of a single stressor are almost impossible to parse unless the focus population is spatially restricted or extraordinarily well monitored," and that "The effects of human-related mortality on bird populations will differ depending on whether mortality is additive to natural mortality or compensatory," meaning that one cause of death displaces another.

Most predation, including by cats, is compensatory: predators typically hunt the sick, the injured, the old, and the least viable young of their prey species.

Independent researcher Sébastien Rioux and Jean-Pierre Savard and Alyssa Gerick of Environment Canada offer

that collisions with electrical transmission lines may kill anywhere from 2.5 million to 25 million Canadian birds per year. Christine A. Bishop of Environment Canada and Jason M. Brogan of Simon Fraser University project that vehicular collisions kill about 13.8 million birds per year in Canada. A trio of researchers sets the probable Canadian toll from bird collisions with windows at only 100,000 per year.

"In total," seven co-authors conclude in the last paper of the collection, *A Synthesis of Human-related Avian Mortality in Canada*, "we estimate that approximately 269 million birds and two million nests are destroyed annually in Canada, the equivalent of over 186 million breeding individuals. Combined, cat predation and collisions with windows, vehicles, and transmission lines cause more than 95% of all mortality." But no data is included about the probable effects of pesticides on bird mortality, in part because pesticide intoxication often does not kill birds outright, and is therefore among the most difficult sources of mortality to quantify. Instead, intoxication—like disease—tends to make birds more vulnerable to collisions, predation, and landing in inappropriate places.

"Recent evidence indicates potentially important population-level effects of rodenticides on birds of prey, but this source of mortality was not considered here," the co-authors acknowledge.

In addition, they write, "We were unable to include several additional sources of human-related mortality that may be important to Canadian bird populations." Among these are livestock impacts "such as vegetation management and negative effects of trampling on bird nests," "mortality and nest destruction from forest harvesting on private lands," aircraft strikes, birds landing in lethal tailings ponds, and aquaculture.

The co-authors believe "The number of birds killed annually by these sources is expected to be small."

What is large, though, is that "avian mortality represents only a portion of the overall impact to avifauna" as result of human activity."

The Synthesis of Human-related Avian Mortality in Canada co-authors tip-toe carefully around human-influenced climate change, the existence of which is denied by Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper and his minions. But they recommend that "indirect effects such as habitat fragmentation and alteration, site avoidance, disturbance, and related issues must also be carefully considered," if bird populations are to be effectively conserved.

Merely blaming cats, cars, power lines, or any other obvious source of dead birds does not explain the population losses of the past 40-odd years.

—Merritt Clifton

Obituaries

"I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones." —William Shakespeare

Anna Roberts, 86, who cofounded Compassion In World Farming with her husband Peter Roberts in 1967, died on August 9, 2013. Recalled CIWF president Philip Lymbery, "As dairy farmers in the 1950s, they came under increasing pressure to adopt the intensive farming model. Anna was the first to protest, highlighting the implications for the animals of the new cages and crates. They stopped farming, although they continued to home hens rescued from battery cage farms for several years. The couple also began to sell meat substitutes. When Peter failed to persuade any of the major animal welfare organizations to take up the issue of factory farming, they decided to set up their own group, which became the international organization that it is today."

Kasereka Kipako, 34, a ranger at Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2010, was on August 3, 2013 ambushed at his post by suspected members of the Mai-Mai militia. Kipako apparently fought off the attackers but suffered fatal wounds. The Thin Green Line Foundation and The Gorilla Organization pledged to help Kipako's pregnant wife and three children during the next several years.

Marshall Lee Harris, 55, a 19-year employee of Dallas Animal Services, known for his drawings of dogs and cats, died on July 16, 2013 at the Baylor Heart Hospital in Plano, Texas.

Cameron Rusby, 87, died on September 6, 2013. A British Royal Navy officer from 1945 to 1982, retiring as a vice admiral and with a knighthood, Rusby headed the Scottish SPCA from 1983 to 1991, was a member of the World Society for the Protection of Animals board of directors from 1986 to 1998, was a director of Freedom Food Ltd. from 1994 to 2000, and was also a past chair of the British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

There is no better way to remember animals or animal people than within ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial. Send donations (any amount), with address for acknowledgement, if desired, to P.O. Box 960, Clinton, WA 98236.

Don Elroy, 60, longtime director of the Tennessee Network for Animals, died on August 29, 2013 in Sevierville, Tennessee. Raised in Kankakee, Illinois, Elroy arrived in Tennessee early in a long career as singer, songwriter, musician, actor, and director, and remained there for most of the rest of his life. An energetic investigator of zoos, circuses, and exotic animal trafficking, Elroy frequently contributed news tips and sometimes letters to the editor to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Introduced by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to Linda Howard (1967-2006), who was conducting parallel investigations in San Antonio, Texas, Elroy and Howard often worked in electronic partnership until her death. Elroy later worked briefly for the Humane Society of the U.S. and Stop Animal Exploitation Now.

Rosemary Mirko, 55, who in 1997 founded the Town Cats shelter in Morgan Hill, California, died of cancer on July 7, 2013 in nearby Gilroy. Mirko was succeeded as Town Cats president by Patricia Abreu, a 10-year volunteer who previously served as a volunteer, board member, and eventually president at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley.

Robert Cyril Stebbens, 98, died on September 23, 2013. An Emeritus Professor of Zoology and Emeritus Curator in Herpetology at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, Stebbens was author and illustrator of eight herpetological field guides, including the *Peterson Field Guide to Western Reptiles & Amphibians*.

Linda Hochstetler, 65, a waitress for 40 years at local restaurants in Constantine, Indiana, known for animal rescue and advocacy, was killed by a car on August 3, 2013 in nearby Middlebury while trying to rescue an injured groundhog.

Xavier Shelby, 21, of North Hollywood, California, was killed by a bus on August 14, 2013 while trying to rescue his pit bull puppy from traffic. The puppy had run into the street while chasing a ball.

Lisa M. Myer, 55, an antique dealer prominent in dog rescue, on August 1, 2013 killed herself in Farmingdale, New Jersey.

Donald Low warned of antibiotic misuse by agribusiness

Donald Low, M.D., 68, died of a brain tumor on September 18, 2013 in Toronto. Co-author of nearly 400 peer-reviewed articles for scientific and medical journals, Low was best known for advising against panic responses to zoonotic disease outbreaks, including occasional appearances of raccoon rabies in Toronto, and SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), which hit 375 Torontonians in 2003, killing two and causing 27,000 people to be quarantined.

As a researcher, Low focused on flesh-eating diseases caused by antibiotic-resis-

tant forms of streptococcus bacteria. In 2000 Low was named to a 19-member Canadian government Advisory Committee on Animal Uses of Antimicrobials and Impact on Resistance and Human Health. In August 2002, with Low as spokesperson, the committee reported that routine use of antibiotics in animal agriculture was creating precisely the conditions that could be expected to incubate devastating antibiotic-resistant diseases. The findings and regulatory recommendations of the committee, however, have largely been ignored.

Sherri Holmes helped to introduce rear-facing horse trailers

Sherron "Sherri" Holmes, 66, died of cancer on July 31, 2013 at her home in New Zealand. Sherri Holmes and her sister Odessa followed their father David James Holmes into equestrian competition and, eventually, into re-thinking and re-engineering horse trailer design.

The sisters were in their teens when their father suffered an almost fatal crash while hauling a standardbred mare. Facing oncoming traffic in a conventional horse trailer, the horse tried to bolt, throwing the trailer off balance.

Recounted Odessa Holmes many years later, "The rig overturned as it approached a bridge, nearly plunging into a river." David Holmes, an automotive engineer, realized that

a rear-facing trailer would prevent this type of accident and many others, and could provide a more secure footing to the horses. Five years after David Holmes built his first rear-facing horse trailer, with the back door doubling as a platform that enabled horses to turn around and back in, the rear-facing Kiwi Safety Trailer debuted in 1967. Similar trailers are now sold by several different manufacturers around the world.

Following their father's design principles, Sherri and Odessa Holmes in recent years introduced an improved rear-facing trailer they call Equi Balance, which Odessa pledged would "challenge the global transport legislative environment."

Killing of cow protection activist ignites riots

Vikrant Singh Yadav, 25, a bank clerk in Khwaspur village, Haryana state, India, was killed on August 25, 2013 while chasing a truck believed to be driven by cattle rustlers who were taking cows to be illegally slaughtered.

Police and the local cow protection society Gae Bachao Samiti had reportedly been tipped that the rustlers were hauling cattle. Yadav trailed the alleged rustlers' truck on a motorcycle, with other Gae Bachao Samiti members following in a car. After police waved the truck through a checkpoint but briefly detained Yadev, he resumed the pursuit at high speed. He apparently caught the truck, but was then either run over or hacked to death with an unidentified weapon, according to conflicting accounts. The truck drivers escaped.

Irate villagers blocked the Delhi-Jaipur railway and the Gurgaon-Pataudi highway for seven hours. The blockade ended after six police officers were suspended for alleged der-

eliction of duty.

Word of Yadav's death reportedly helped to incite riots in at least three other Haryana communities. A mob reportedly stopped 15 truckloads of cattle near Pataudi, unloaded the animals, then burned the vehicles. Nine trucks were burned near Khandewla village and six near Jatoli, Haryana deputy police commissioner Rahul Sharma told media.

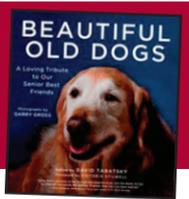
Twenty-five trucks hauling 200 stray cattle rounded up by city officials in Chandigarh were also stopped by mobs who believed the cows were going to slaughter. The cows were actually en route to the Shree Mataji Gushala in Uttar Pradesh, officials said—but some cows had died aboard the trucks. Violence was averted in that incident, but erupted again on August 30, 2013 at Dharuhera after an overturned truck reportedly spilled beef and cow hides. Rioters there torched the Dharuhera police post and 65 vehicles, including police vans and buses.

Beautiful Old Dogs

Edited by David Tabatsky, with photos by Garry Gross

St. Martin's Press (c/o MacMillan, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010), 2013.

144 pages, hardcover. \$17.99.



Beautiful Old Dogs features photos by fashion photographer turned dog photographer Garry Gross (1937-2010), matched with literary contributions by prominent dog-loving New Yorkers or former New Yorkers. Most are contemporary, including Anna Quindlen, Ally Sheedy, Doris Day, Dean Koontz, and Marlo Thomas, but the playwright Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) is also represented, celebrating the endearing qualities of aging pets.

"I found dogs at forty-six," recalls late night television comedienne Wendy Liebman. Having always before had cats, Liebman then found herself with two rescued dogs, Asti and Miko. "I can't imagine my life without Asti and Miki, even though I'm the one walking them," Liebman writes. "There is no love like loving your dog."

Carolyn Mason, a college professor, recalls how "When our last daughter left for col-

lege, Doug," the deaf and partially blind family dog, "waited every afternoon next to the front door for her to return. Nothing could dissuade him from his vigil."

Including a list of resources for rehoming older dogs, *Beautiful Old Dogs* emphasizes that senior dogs may be a little grumpy around the muzzle and lack perfect hearing, but though reputedly difficult for shelters to rehome, they have plenty of love and affection to offer. They are usually housetrained, and usually do not dig, chew, or yank on a leash. Like the seniors in *Beautiful Old Dogs*, most just want love, food, and a warm place to sleep.

—Debra J. White

Wild Planet:
Celebrating wildlife photographer of the year
Natural History Museum
(Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K.), 2013.
143 pages, paperback. \$23.95.



Anthologizing 80 winning entries from the Natural History Museum's "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" competition, *Wild Planet* is a celebration of wildlife indeed.

Each color photograph embraces a wild animal and reminds us why we love, protect and rescue them.

Striking examples include the cheetahs playing on page 42, in a stunning photo by Gerald Hinde, who followed the cubs and their mother in the Phinda Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Manoj Shah took a touching photo called "Orangutan and baby" at the Gunung Leuser National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia. The photo does not directly show habitat destruc-

tion due to logging to create palm oil plantations, road construction, and mining, but as the mother cuddles the baby and gazes into the distance, it is easy to imagine that she is wondering what sort of world her child will inherit.

Mervin D. Coleman's photo of a frost-covered North American bison on page 64, taken in the Lamar Valley at Yellowstone National Park, demonstrates how adaptable bison are to extremes in weather.

Wild Planet offers memorable introductions to crocodiles, wildebeests, frogs, penguins, meerkats, and many other species that most of us will never actually be close to.

—Debra J. White

Guy Bilyeu, dancer, activist, executive director

Guy Bilyeu, 54, died on September 14, 2013 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a week after suffering a heart attack while bicycling.

Born in Hopewell, Virginia, Bilyeu was for 22 years a professional dancer and singer, performing with his former wife and principal ballerina Eileen Price for companies including the Nevada Dance Theatre, Sacramento Ballet, and Colorado Ballet.

Active on behalf of animals during his dancing career, Bilyeu helped to end the sale of pound animals to laboratories in Sacramento, California, then in 1989 helped the Performing Animal Welfare Society to obtain undercover video of entertainer Bobby Berosini allegedly beating orangutans. Then-Circus Circus employee Linda Faso had tried to expose and stop Berosini as early as 1972, but without success until dancers led by Ottavio Gesmundo and including Bilyeu produced visual documentation of Faso's claims. Eighteen years of

ensuing litigation ended Berosini's U.S. career, though he is believed to have continued performing in Latin America.

After retiring from dancing, Bilyeu briefly headed the senior services agency Catalina Helping Hands in Tucson, Arizona, then served for three years as executive director of the Humane Society of Williamson County in Leander, Texas. There Bilyeu reportedly doubled grant receipts, nearly trebled special giving, and cut shelter killing by more than 80%.

Hired in mid-2003 to head the Humane Education Society in Chattanooga, Bilyeu attracted national attention in April 2006 when he paid \$16,000 for 60 dogs from the estate of a deceased Georgia breeder. Also in 2006 Bilyeu became a board member for Humane Strategies, which operates the Rescue Waggin' program funded by PetSmart Charities. Under Bilyeu the Humane Education Society achieved no-kill status in 2008.

Vet John Holt spoke against live exports

John Holt, 82, founder of the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association, founding editor of the *Australian Veterinary Practitioner* journal, and a past president of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, died on June 24, 2013 in Mount Wilson, Australia.

A competitive rifleman who represented Australia in the 1960 Olympics, Holt built six veterinary clinics in the Sydney area, then became increasingly involved in animal advocacy, including as veterinary advisor to Working for Animals, founded in 1982 by Christine Townend, who earlier cofounded Animal Liber-

ation Australia and later for 20 years headed the Indian animal charity Help In Suffering.

Holt was especially concerned about the Australian livestock export trade. "It is painfully obvious that the Meat and Livestock Authority and Livecorp have been completely derelict in their responsibilities to the animals involved," Holt wrote to *The Veterinarian* in 2011. "They have lied as to their supposed supervision and care to hundreds of thousands of animals. There is only one answer to this dreadful business and that is a complete ban on live export."

Bil-Jac founder & fur farmer William H. Kelly

William H. Kelly, 95, cofounder with his brother Jack of the Bil-Jac dog food company, died on September 27, 2013. Born in Perry, New York, Bill Kelly relocated with his family to Thompson, Ohio in 1922, where his father began raising foxes and mink. The family fur farm later moved to Medina, Ohio.

Bill Kelly recalled to Library of Congress American Folklife Center researcher Tom Swope in 2004 that he first made dog food during World War II military service with the U.S. Army Air Force, after visiting an Army kennel near the Kelly fur farm where about 40 dogs were suffering from diarrhea and roundworms. Obtain-

ing supplies and a recipe from his father, Kelly changed the dogs' diet and resolved the problem, he said, "in about five days."

Kelly's father closed the fur farm soon after the war due to failing health. Using the equipment formerly used to make mink food to make dog food, Bill and Jack Kelly started the Bil-Jac company in 1947—and as a sideline made food for mink farms, too, in Norway as well as the U.S. By 1980 the Kelly Mink Farm in Medina was back in pelt production, as a partnership among Bill Kelly and his sons Raymond, Bob, and Jim, who have continued in both the fur trade and the dog food business.

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—Pedro & Judy Hecht

In memory of my late brother Jeffrey W. Scott's dog Nicky.
—Laurie Goodman



In memory of Midnight, beloved dog of Debra J. White.

Bird & tiger conservationist Zafar Futehally, 93

Zafar Futehally, 93, died of a bronchial infection on August 11, 2013. Associated for 60 years with the Bombay Natural History Society, Futehally headed the society from 1959 until 1973.

Also in 1959 Futehally founded *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, a periodical influential in the growth of the Indian conservation movement. Futehally continued as editor until 2003. After *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* folded in 2004, Futehally served as emeritus editor of a successor periodical, *Indian Birds*, arguing to little avail that bird-feeding should be banned because it creates nuisance, breeds ill-will toward birds, and contributes to the spread of avian diseases.

Futehally also had leadership roles at various times within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the World Wildlife

Fund, Project Tiger, and the Bangalore Environment Trust.

Futehally in the early 1970s endorsed a proposal by Dillon Ripley of the Smithsonian Institution to radio collar tigers for study, in opposition to the IUCN and WWF. Futehally and Ripley believed this would demonstrate that tigers had become endangered. WWF-USA was at the time headed by C.R. "Pink" Gutermuth, who opposed efforts within India to ban tiger hunting and within the U.S. to ban imports of tiger pelts.

After Gutermuth was in 1973 elected president of the National Rifle Association, Ripley arranged his ouster from WWF.

The Indian ban on tiger hunting and the U.S. listing of tigers as an endangered species soon followed, but the radio collaring project eventually went ahead only in Nepal.

Kenya SPCA inspector Juanita Carberry, 88

Juanita Carberry, 88, died in London on July 27, 2013. Born in Nyeri, Kenya, Carberry was ostensibly the daughter of 10th Lord Carberry of Castle Freke, an Irish expatriate known for violent and sadistic behavior, and later for pro-Nazi leanings. Her mother, a flyer, fatally crashed when Carberry was three. Later in life Carberry came to believe that her actual father was Jamaican-born coffee planter Maxwell Trench, a belief shared by his son, Dan Trench.

Carberry in 1971 revealed to British journalist Cyril Connolly that in 1941, when she was 15, Sir Jock Delves Broughton took her to visit his stables in Karen, Kenya, and during the visit told her that he had shot the 22nd Earl of Erroll, who had been having an affair with Broughton's wife. A tape recording made by Dan Trench in 1987, released in 2007, af-

firmed Carberry's story. Broughton was tried for the murder, was acquitted, and soon afterward committed suicide. Carberry had been questioned about the case, but did not testify.

Enlisting in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in 1943, Carberry served as a dispatch rider, joined the Merchant Navy in 1946, and upon retiring in 1963, set up a photo safari business in Mombasa, taking clients to Uganda, Tanzania, the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, and doubled as a livestock inspector for the Kenya SPCA. Her work for the KSPCA continued into the tenure of present KSPCA director Jean Gilchrist, who arrived in 1988, though Carberry "had basically retired from active service," Gilchrist told ANIMAL PEOPLE.

Moving to London, Carberry authored a memoir, *Child of Happy Valley* (1999).

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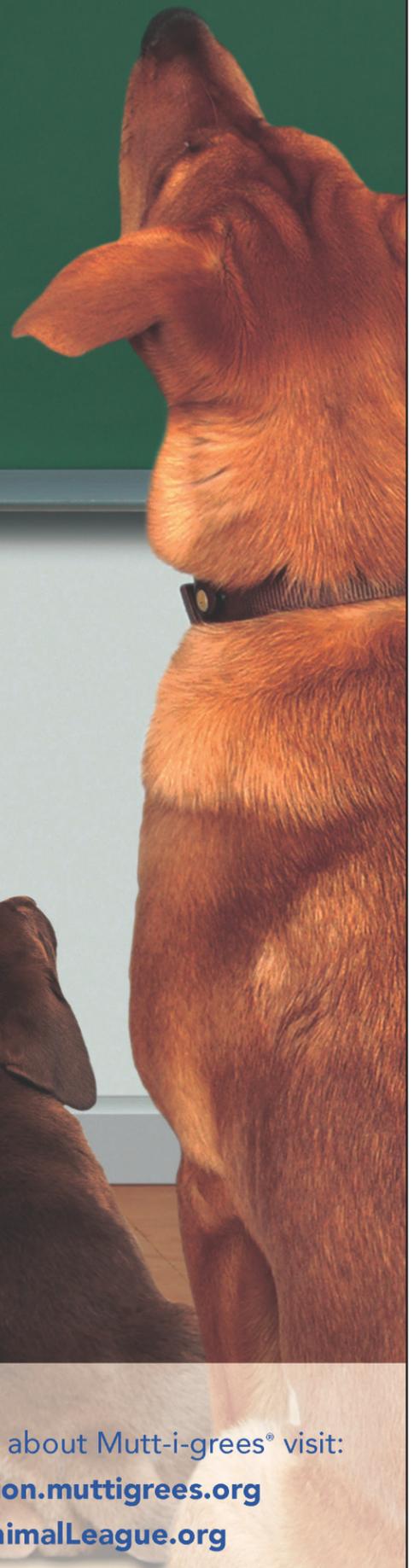
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