



A lion couple, photographed in the wild in Kenya. (Kim Bartlett)

## South Africa regulates—but does not ban—killing captive lions

CAPE TOWN—“We are putting an end, once and for all, to the reprehensible practice of canned hunting,” insisted South African environment minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk at a February 20, 2007 press conference in Cape Town.

“South Africa has a long standing reputation as a global leader on conservation issues. We cannot allow our achievements to be undermined by rogue practices such as canned lion hunting,” van Schalkwyk continued.

Effective on June 1, 2007, van Schalkwyk said, the new regulations will prohibit “hunting large predators and rhinoceros who are ‘put and take’ animals—in other words, a captive-bred animal who is released on a property for the purpose of hunting within twenty-four months. Hunting should be about fair chase,” van Schalkwyk said. “Over the years that got eroded and now we are trying to re-establish that principal.”

Added van Schalkwyk, “Hunting thick-skinned animals and large predators with a bow and arrow will be prohibited, and hunting from vehicles will no longer be allowed.”

Said van Schalkwyk later, to Clare Nullis of Associated Press, “To see

people who are half drunk on the back of a truck hunting lions who are in fact tame animals is quite abhorrent.”

Summarized the South African Press Agency, “The new regulations also introduce a uniform national system for the registration of captive breeding operations, commercial exhibition facilities, game farms, nurseries, scientific institutions, sanctuaries, and rehabilitation facilities.

“It’s a step in the right direction,” ventured International Fund for Animal (continued on page 8)

## Getting the show off the road

Dancing bears, monkey acts, and big cats leaping through hoops of fire are almost history now in India, where such acts appear to have started in Vedic times, spreading throughout the world.

Some dancing bears, monkeys, and circus lions, tigers, and leopards are still on the back roads, or are stashed in sheds by exhibitors who imagine that the Wild Life Protection Act of 1972 might be repealed or amended, but for most the show is over.

The Supreme Court of India turned out the lights on May 1, 2001. Six years later, the significance of the Supreme Court ruling against traveling animal shows is just becoming evident, as the possible foundation of a paradigm shift in Indian and perhaps global attitudes toward keeping wildlife in captivity.

More than 280 lions, 40 tigers, and scores of aging ex-performing bears are living out their lives at Central Zoo Authority-accredited Animal Rescue Centres near Agra, Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Jaipur, Tirupati,



A rescued bear at the Wildlife SOS sanctuary near Agra. (Kim Bartlett)

and Visakhapatnam. Other are being built.

The lions, tigers, and bears at the rescue centers are the last captive generation of their kind. None have been legally bred in six years. Because no more big cats and bears are to be bred for show or sale, the pretense of captive breeding can no longer be used as legal cover for taking more from the wild.

Capturing bears, monkeys, lions, and tigers for exhibition was outlawed in India by the Wild Life Protection Act 1972. Before 2001, however, the law was often circumvented by poachers who killed mothers, stole

(continued on page 10)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

April 2007  
Volume XVII, #3

## Wolves, grizzlies lose protection—and Alaska resumes wolf bounty

WASHINGTON D.C.—Wolves and grizzly bears, the iconic predators of the North American frontier, lost their Endangered Species Act protection within the continental U.S. within days of each other in March 2007, opening the possibility that both may soon be legally hunted.

Demonstrating how wolves and grizzlies became endangered in the first place—and what has historically always happened when rural states are allowed jurisdiction over large predators—Alaska Governor Sarah Palin’s office on March 20 introduced a \$150 bounty on wolves. The bounty is open only to the 180 pilots and aerial gunners who are registered volunteer participants in the state’s predator control program.

Killing 607 wolves in the four preceding winters, the program had a 2007 target of 382 to 684 wolves. Only 98 had been killed with five weeks to go before the aerial shooting season was to end on April 30.

The predator control program was promoted by former Governor Frank Murkowski and his appointees to the Alaska Board of Game, to make more moose and caribou available to human hunters.

Alaska paid a bounty on wolves from gaining statehood in 1959 until 1972, then pursued a variety of other methods of promoting predator killing.

The Alaska Board of Game in March 2007 also opened a spring grizzly bear hunting season in Chugach State Park, at risk of orphaning cubs—and authorized trapping wolverines in Chugach.

Wolverines are among the rarest of

North American predators, even in Alaska.

“But a majority of board members agreed with member Bob Bell, who argued that wolverines are so secretive and scarce, it’s nearly impossible to spot one as part of a wildlife-viewing experience, whereas they do have value for trappers,” wrote George Bryson of the *Anchorage Daily News*.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on February 8, 2007 began the delisting process for wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains by opening a 60-day comment period on the formal delisting proposal, a month before delisting was completed for wolves in the upper Midwest.

On March 12, 2007, the Fish & Wildlife Service returned management authority over wolves in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to their state wildlife agencies.

The Midwest delisting also covers wolves in the Dakotas and Iowa, although none are known to be established in those states.

“Bear hunters who use dogs and some livestock farmers began an advertising campaign to convince Wisconsin officials to immediately cull wolf numbers in the state from 500 to 350, the quota listed in Wisconsin’s state wolf plan,” noted John Myers of the Duluth *News Tribune*. “Wisconsin officials say they have no plans to do so.”

Minnesota introduced a plan to pay trappers \$150 per wolf killed.

“Attitudes of the public have changed. But the attitudes of the state manage- (continued on page 7)



Bangalore children played with street puppies before two recent mauling deaths sparked the fiercest challenge yet to the 10-year-old Indian policy of favoring Animal Birth Control instead of killing to control street dogs. [Pages 3, 18.] (Saviitha Nagabhushan)

## New Mexico bans cockfighting

SANTA FE—New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson on March 12, 2007 signed into law a bill banning cockfighting, leaving Louisiana as the last U.S. state that allows it.

“Today, New Mexico joins 48 other states in affirming that deliberately killing animals for entertainment and profit is no longer acceptable,” said State Senator Mary Jane Garcia (D-Dona Ana), who pushed prohibiting cockfights for 18 years.

Thirteen New Mexico counties had already individually banned cockfighting.

Taking effect on June 15, “The bill makes participating in cockfights a petty misdemeanor on first offense, a misdemeanor on second offense, and a fourth-degree felony—punishable by up to 18 months in prison—for a third or subsequent offense. Spectators

could not be charged,” summarized Deborah Baker of Associated Press.

“The push for change was home-grown,” reported *Los Angeles Times* staff writer Nicholas Riccardi. “When Garcia took office in 1989, a male colleague suggested she try to ban cockfighting. Her bill was easily defeated” Riccardi recalled, “and Garcia soon learned that the ban suggestion was a sort of hazing to which veteran legislators subjected young female colleagues.”

Garcia did not appreciate that She objected as well to claims by cockfighters that cockfighting is part of New Mexico’s Latino heritage. “How dare they insult me this way, that it is my culture?” Garcia asked. “Never, never, never.”

Garcia repeatedly reintroduced her (continued on page 9))

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*"This was a wonderful introduction for me to Capitol Hill and the techniques to advance animal advocacy at a political level."*  
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Editorial

# Media relations & the Bangalore dog crisis

The Bangalore dog crisis, extensively covered in both this and the previous edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, has underlying meaning for almost every reader.

Heavily publicized dog attacks, in Bangalore and elsewhere, may cause India to rescind or weaken the decade-old policy mandating civic participation in the national Animal Birth Control program, and forbidding indiscriminate massacres of street dogs.

This would be a reversal of momentum toward achieving no-kill animal control of global influence—and would come even though ABC has cut the street dog population of India by as much as 75% in 10 years, according to the most recent World Health Organization estimate. Dog attacks are down proportionately, including in Bangalore, which has 74% fewer dog attacks per 1,000 citizens than the national average.

Yet because dog attacks are fewer, those that occur are getting more attention. Because the Bangalore and Indian national news media were inadequately informed about ABC successes, and were insufficiently enlisted in educating the public, much of India now wrongly believes that dog attacks are more frequent and more vicious than when ABC started.

Journalists have been easily manipulated by political opportunists who saw in two recent fatal dog attacks—one of them beyond the areas served by ABC—a chance to restore to the public payroll their *goonda* bagmen and enforcers. Traditionally such thugs were hired as dogcatchers, supplementing their salaries by selling dog meat, fur, and leather.

The most outspoken opponents of ABC, in Bangalore and throughout India, include politicians whose careers are founded on manipulating the votes of illiterates, and operators of unlicensed, uninspected, unsafe, unsanitary, and thoroughly inhumane shanty butcher shops, whose carelessly discarded offal attracts street dogs who form warring packs. Such packs were responsible for both recent fatalities.

Illiterates vote in India—but they do not buy newspapers. The illegal meat shops pay bribes to avoid law enforcement, but they do not buy mass media advertising. There was no inherent reason why ABC opponents gained the immediate amplification and leverage they did, except that supporters of ABC had insufficiently introduced themselves in newsrooms.

Ethnic and class issues were immediately exploited by the foes of ABC. Butchering, for example, is chiefly done by members of the Muslim minority, officially 12% of the Indian population. About two-thirds of Indians eat meat, including most of the poorest. ABC programs are by contrast mostly headed by educated and relatively affluent vegetarians, who tend to be acutely aware of their vulnerability to mob violence, as well as of the vulnerability of the dogs they try to help. Often ABC program heads and spokespersons are too discreet to point out to illiterates at volatile public meetings that many of their blustering leaders are the very people whose exploitive habits are most responsible for their misery.

For example, instead of funding the eradication of rabies through immunizing dogs, at a fraction of the cost of killing them, politicians relying on illiterate support make a show of “putting poor people ahead of dogs,” by funding only post-exposure vaccination for dog bite victims. This brings kickbacks from local vaccine makers and distributors, as has occasionally been exposed, and earns the gratitude of the victims and their families, but does nothing to make communities safer because it fails to attack rabies at the source. It does, however, perpetuate fear of rabies as a device that can be used to rally voters.

Anti-ABC politicians are pushing a policy which will inevitably result in poor children continuing to be exposed to maulings and rabies.

The reasons for this should have been firmly and forthrightly established in media awareness and public opinion *before* the recent fatal attacks ever occurred—and through broadcast as well as print media, to reach the illiterate poor.

Because these points were not adequately made, ABC opponents were taken seriously when they alleged that ABC is responsible for the very problems it is rapidly reducing.

## Do not wait for media to call

In sum, the Bangalore crisis is an ongoing illustration of the most important points made by the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** tip sheet *Media Relations for Animal Shelters*.

Thousands of copies have been distributed since 1993 as conference handouts, both on paper and in CD format. More have been downloaded from the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and Best Friends Animal Society web sites. People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi incorporated much of *Media Relations for Animal Shelters* into the PfA handbook on media relations, expressly for use in India. Key tips are closely paraphrased in the World Society for the Protection of Animals membership handbook. Media communications presenter Lynn D'Souza kept the Best Friends edition on an overhead projector screen throughout most of her talk at the January 2007 Asia for Animals conference in Chennai.

**SEARCHABLE ARCHIVES: [www.animalpeoplenews.org](http://www.animalpeoplenews.org)**  
**Key articles available en Español et en Français!**

## ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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The editors prefer to receive queries in advance of article submissions; unsolicited manuscripts will be considered for use, but will not be returned unless accompanied by



Yet in Bangalore the very first sentence was neglected, for whatever reason:

***Do not wait for the media to come to you. If you do, they usually will not come until someone has complained about a problem, which puts you on the defensive.***

The remedy, anywhere and everywhere, is to get to know your local media.

Find out who edits each of the newspapers and broadcast news programs serving your area. Find out who covers lifestyles, children's issues, municipal affairs, crime, and wildlife. Introduce yourself to all of these people.

Send personal letters of introduction, explaining what your organization does that involves each reporter's beat. Then call. Make yourself immediately and easily accessible as a reliable source of information and perspective, who can be reached on deadline, can be quoted on the record, and will not retreat from controversy.

Be aware that journalists often have short tenures. Read newspapers, and listen to the broadcast news. If someone new addresses a topic that might overlap animal work, make immediate contact. If reporters disappear, find out where they went and maintain acquaintance. Many will have moved up to editing, or to media reaching more people. Those who have changed cities might become valuable contacts on regional or national issues. Those who have retired might volunteer to help amplify your media outreach.

Always have background material ready to e-mail, fax, or deliver in person to anyone who needs it, and have the information posted at your web site.

Include, in this order:

- **Contact information—and don't forget to offer a number for 24-hour-a-day crisis response.** Being able to reach you in the morning doesn't help when the morning edition describing last night's incident goes to press at three a.m.

- **Vital statistics on your work, together with the national norms on important subjects.** For example, none of the Bangalore news media knew, until informed by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, that Bangalore has 75,000 fewer dog bites per year than could be expected, based on Indian norms, and no rabies within city limits in three years.

- **Succinct explanations of variance from the norms.** The Bangalore ABC programs are demonstrably preventing at least 75,000 dog bites and hundreds of human rabies cases each and every year.

- **Succinct statements of realistic short-term and long-term objectives.** The goal of ABC is often misrepresented by opponents as trying to perpetuate street dog populations. They get away with it because ABC proponents inadequately explain the ecological principles behind the ABC approach.

The longterm goal of ABC is to eliminate street dogs by preventing them from breeding up to the carrying capacity of the habitat. The short-term goals include reducing the carrying capacity of the habitat, by allowing dogs who cannot reproduce to continue to consume the food, which would otherwise encourage the fecundity and nursing success of breeding bitches. (An important unofficial goal of ABC, which also must be amplified, is encouraging communities to improve their sanitation, before each dog's place is taken by two monkeys, three cats, 100 rats, or a pig, all of whom will be much more problematic.)

- **Succinct statements of needs in order to achieve objectives.** As Animal Rights Fund volunteer Poornima Harish explained in the March 2007 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the hue-and-cry over the dog attacks gave the Bangalore ABC programs an excellent chance to seek further funding and community support. Unfortunately, much of the momentum of the moment was lost because the programs' unmet needs were not already prominently on the public agenda. If the ABC program leaders had been vociferously on record, demanding the wherewithal necessary to extend their efforts to the unincorporated area where the second fatality occurred, they could not have been accused of not “doing the needful.”

- **Your most recent financial summary, including any compensation paid to top personnel.** The Bangalore ABC programs were wrongly accused in print of self-aggrandizement. All of them are led entirely by volunteers, and **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has often cited one of them, Compassion Unlimited Plus Action, as a model of accountability. Had the financial facts already been shared with local news media, the people making the allegations—including some reporters and columnists—might have been asked by their editors to document their claims, instead of those claims going to press.

## Recovering from disaster

The Bangalore ABC programs were victimized by much sloppy and sensational reporting, mostly by people who were shielded by the common Indian practice of identifying newspaper article authors only as “Our Correspondent,” or “Our Staff Reporter.”

One article quoted a nameless veterinarian who asserted that no vet can do more than seven or eight sterilization surgeries per day, even if supported by veterinary technicians. Therefore the Bangalore ABC spokespersons were said to be lying when they claimed to sterilize 40 dogs per day. That the quoted vet was incompetent, by global surgical standards, might have been recognized before his remarks saw print, if the ABC programs had shown enough reporters and editors over the years the standards that their surgeons meet.

Media failures to verify purported statistics were ubiquitous. A “Staff Reporter” for *The Hindu* claimed that only 70,000 dog sterilizations were done in all of India last year, while Rahul Sehgal's Animal Help Foundation team did 45,000 in Ahmedabad alone.

Beneath the headline “Figures belie NGOs' ABC claims on dog,” Smitha Rao of *The Times of India* misrepresented vaccination and revaccination counts as unsubstantiated assertions about the numbers of dogs sterilized.

Much of the Bangalore coverage consisted of reporters merely repeating the rantings and ravings of local demagogues, without subjecting any of it to tests of veracity, fairness, or accuracy, and without presenting any opposing perspective.

Fortunately, apart from having failed to cultivate sufficient media contacts in advance, the Bangalore ABC spokespersons did not transgress the other basics for winning over media in difficult situations, of which the most important is *Never lie to a reporter. You will always get caught, and you will lose more credibility in five minutes than you have built up in five years when it happens.*

At this writing, while dog bites and even occasional serious attacks continue to occur in Bangalore, as in all cities, the ABC programs appear to have begun getting better press. Some of this may be ascribed to several severely libeled persons serving notice on the offending media that they may be sued.

The turnabout, however, had already begun before the legal notices were served. A key part of it was not ascribing to malice what could be ascribed to ignorance or miscommunication. In India as elsewhere, animal care and control tends to be a low priority topic, often handled by rookie reporters. Better informing them helped. So did making contact with more experienced reporters. *The Deccan Herald*, for instance, published some of the most incendiary criticism of the ABC programs, but did a striking turnabout when the situation was turned over to an editor who had previously visited some of the ABC program hospitals.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** helped to inform her understanding, and eventually helped many other Bangalore journalists. Which brings up the last of the *Media Relations for Animal Shelters* tips: if a reporter wants to verify your information, or needs broad perspective or historical background, we're here, we're news media too, and almost every day we help mass media colleagues to make heads or tails of complicated animal issues.

***(If you don't have Media Relations for Animal Shelters, send an e-mail to get the latest updated edition.)***

# The Plight of Pakistani Animals

by **Khalid Mahmood Qurashi**  
President, Animal Save Movement, Pakistan

In Pakistan even human beings are not accorded fundamental rights. But the condition of animals is worse and miserable.

Both birds and land animals are so frequently hunted as if they were an enemy army, including by some of the persons and organizations whose jobs are to protect animals. and their lives. Members of our wildlife and forestry departments often aid the hunters, and even participate in the killing.

Bankers, industrialists, and politicians invite their foreign business partners, including Arabian princes, to come hunt even our rarest species—and to capture our vanishing wild falcons, to turn them into hunting weapons. Local leaders and merchants show their influence by hosting cockfights, bear-baiting, and other kinds of animal fight.

The condition of water creatures is also not good. Fish, tortoises and other aquatic species are losing their lives and habitat not only to nets, but also to explosives detonated to kill them by shock.

Hunting and fishing seasons supposedly exist to protect animals at least during the seasons when they raise their young, but poachers, even if they are captured by chance, usually escape serious punishment by paying a bribe. Because there is no effective check on hunting and fishing, with either legal or illegal weapons, hunters and fishers kill animals by any means they wish, all year long.

Our few animal protection laws include the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1890, which provides minor penalties for various types of abuse and neglect; penal code section 377, providing up to two years in prison for having sexual intercourse with animals; and penal code section 429, which provides punishment for persons who kill, paralyze, or disable working animals and livestock. All of these laws are written primarily to protect people against losing the value of

the animals they keep. They do not protect animals for their own sake.

Neither are these laws enforced.

No one pays any attention to the ongoing loss of animal life in Pakistan. Many of our formerly indigenous species are now only seen in zoos, including elephants, lions, tigers, tree kangaroos, zebras, and wild pigs.

We are also losing such formerly common species as camels, buffalo, deer, wild cattle and goats, peacocks, pelicans, and even some of our once most abundant small birds and waterfowl.

Unrestrained hunting is the most visible cause of depleted animal life, but agricultural chemical spraying also takes an enormous toll on birds and other animals who ingest poisoned insects or plant material.

Logging is depleting forests, while tree replanting is not being done, despite public promises.

Our human population is increasing, as our animal population decreases. This is wrongly accepted as inevitable. The U.S., Britain, Japan, and parts of Europe also experienced explosive human population growth during the 20th century, but managed to greatly increase their wildlife populations by protecting endangered species and critical habitat, and restricting hunting to relatively short seasons, with strong wildlife law enforcement.

But the catastrophe to animals in Pakistan is not restricted only to wildlife. There are few veterinary clinics in Pakistan. Many lifesaving veterinary drugs are neither made here nor imported. Even people who want to take good care of their working animals and pets have great difficulty doing so.

Under such circumstances, introducing effective wildlife rescue and rehabilitation can scarcely be imagined.

Many organizations claim to be the torch bearers for human rights in Pakistan,

even as poorly as human rights are protected, but almost none champion animal rights. No organization claims to be the champion of animal rights. There is no prominent or official encouragement of mercy and sympathy toward animals. We see no advertisements for animal protection in our news media. There are no essay contests for school children about why animals should be kindly treated. There are no pro-animal conferences or seminars. But animals are slaughtered in public and eaten on some holidays as if their cries are unheard and they are as insentient as vegetables and fruits.

On March 23, 2007, we of the Animal Save Movement, Pakistan held a peaceful procession in Multan against the decision of the district government to close and demolish the only veterinary hospital in this city of more than four million people, in order to build a commercial plaza. The authorities were unmoved, and are meanwhile killing street dogs in both Multan and Rawalpindi.

Feeling as if our years of trying to build awareness have been of no use to the animals and those who care about them, we are considering trying to start a veterinary clinic.

[Contact Animal Save Movement Pakistan c/o #1094/2 Hussain Agahi, Multan 60000, Pakistan; 92-3007-368557; <theten-sion@hotmail.com>.]

## Editor's note:

The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** circulation files indicate that there appears to be only one active animal protection institution per 7.5 million Pakistanis. This is among the most lopsidedly negative ratios in the world.

The eight field clinics and 23 mobile clinics operated by the British-based Brooke Fund for Animals constitute more than half of all institutional humane activity in Pakistan.

Egypt, where the Brooke operates seven field clinics and 16 mobile clinics, has

one pro-animal institution per five million people. Most are larger than their Pakistani counterparts, and many Egyptian projects besides the Brooke affiliates receive at least some help from abroad.

Among nations of 100 million or more people, only Nigeria appears to rate behind Pakistan, with one pro-animal institution per 18 million humans. African leaders include South Africa, with one pro-animal institution per 170,000 humans, and Kenya, with one per 760,000 humans.

At the most active end of the spectrum, the U.S. has one pro-animal institution per 44,000 humans. World Animal Net data indicates that the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, and The Netherlands each have about one per 100,000 humans. Greece, considered underserved, has one pro-animal institution per 136,000 people—but most are small. Romania, one of the most underserved nations by European standards, has one pro-animal institution per 345,000 humans.

India, according to the Animal Welfare Board of India membership roster, has one pro-animal institution per 440,000 humans. This appears to be by far the most of any major nation in Asia. Thailand has one pro-animal institution per 1.27 million people, and Japan has one per 1.6 million.

China has only one **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reader per 211 million humans, but Chinese news media often mention organizations for which we lack contact details. Thus the actual number of Chinese pro-animal institutions is probably much larger than our Chinese mailing list.

Ratios of pro-animal institutions to humans in Latin America include one per 143,650 in Chile, one per 316,430 in Costa Rica, one per 900,000 humans in both Argentina and Mexico, and one per 1.6 million in Brazil.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Feral cat crisis on U.S. Navy base

I have been rescuing and feeding animals here in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, since Hurricane Katrina. With the help of Alley Cat Allies, I formed a volunteer group called PCAT. We educate residents and caretakers about neuter/return, and try to resolve complaints about feral cats.

The Belle Chasse Naval Air Station is practically in my back yard. I have lived here for five years, and have always heard there are many feral and stray cats there—dogs too. I was recently contacted by someone on the base who believes they are about to call animal control in to start trapping and removing the cats, who would probably all be killed. I also found out recently that base residents face eviction if they feed feral cats.

I have no idea how many cats are on the base and relocation is not an option, as there is nowhere to relocate them.



#### Editor's note:

The Belle Chasse feral cat extermination is in accord with a "Policy Letter Preventing Feral Cat and Dog Populations on Navy Property," issued on January 10, 2002 by Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations. This letter ordered "humane capture and removal of all free roaming cats and dogs" by January 1, 2003. It could be amended or rescinded only by the Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President, or an act of Congress.

The National Key Deer Refuge feral cat extermination is in accord with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service policies followed for more than 50

I need help figuring out who to go to about this. I have no idea of the hierarchy of the military, or who to start with, or how to do this. I appreciate any guidance or help you can give me.

—Ramona Billot  
Plaquemines Cat Action Team  
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana  
<plaqueminescat@yahoo.com>

### and on deer refuge

Please help us stop the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from killing feral cats and kittens at the National Key Deer Refuge at Big Pine, Florida. We have asked the Fish & Wildlife Service to delay the trapping until we can find a place to take these cats and kittens, but they are being inflexible and plan to start trapping soon.

—Valerie Eikenberg  
Forgotten Felines  
Phone: 305-745-7457  
<golf12@earthlink.net>

years, more recently adopted by the U.S. Postal Service, all branches of the military, and many other federal agencies.

Many local facility managers prefer to look the other way and allow rescuers time to remove cats, but the local managers have little or no leeway if they are directed from above to get rid of the cats, which tends to happen whenever someone who is offended by the cats' presence complains.

Until and unless the federal agency policies are amended, which can only be done at the top administrative levels or by Congress, they make federal property a highly unstable place to try to do neuter/return.

## "Dr. Bean" of Mdzananda clinic in South Africa

When Thobane Dolophini was ten years old, he investigated the comings and goings of cats and dogs at Mdzananda Animal Clinic. At the time, neither he or friends and family were aware that he possessed an innate affinity and ability to care for sick and injured animals.

Vet Mario van Rensburg nicknamed Thobane "Dr. Bean," and the name has stuck.

Recalls Mdzananda director Jane Levinson, "In 2003, when we did a spayathon, a very badly burnt puppy needed constant care and nursing. Dr. Bean helped put this puppy on a drip. He nursed the puppy, dressed the puppy's wounds, and fed the puppy. Dr. Bean saw the staff members involved in the spayathon and on his own initiative, he cleaned the cages and gave the dogs in hospital clean water and food. He also washed the floors of the clinic."

Over the years Dr. Bean has quietly watched vets and vet assistants clean, stitch, dress wounds, administer medication and patiently explain proper animal care procedures to pet keepers. Even though Thobane has a quiet and reserved manner, he has never needed an invitation to do the same. His continued interest and hands on approach to animal care has earned him the attention of the vets at Mdzananda, who have become determined to further his education and teach him clinical skills whenever they can.

Now 15 and aspiring to become a veterinarian, Dr. Bean is today described as extremely competent in many veterinary nurse appli-

cations, and it is not unusual to find him being addressed as "Dr. Bean" by visitors many years his senior, while he is administering to their sick or injured pet, or explaining a sterilization procedure.

Dr. Bean lives and goes to school in Khayelitsha. His father is unemployed. His mother is a domestic worker. While his family have made every effort to further his education, and provide him with at least the basics, there are shortfalls and definitely no extras. Dr. Bean now earns "pocket money" at Mdzananda, which he typically spends on food for his family.

Considering his character, determination and talents, we believe it would be more than worthwhile to invest in his future and the future of his community.

Of course we also encourage contributions to the animal care facilities and sterilization services at Mdzananda, where much of Dr. Bean's time is spent, and where his ultimate passions and perhaps his future lie.

The Mdzananda sterilization program is funded by the South African Mass Animal Sterilisation Trust (SAMAST). Mdzananda is the only permanent animal welfare clinic in an area of about 1.6 million human residents and it is estimated that for every sixth person there is a cat or dog. Currently SAMAST is funding 65 sterilizations per month at just under \$20 U.S. each, and hope to raise this figure by 50-100 each and every month during 2007.

Staff travel from street to street, house to house, shack to shack, collecting animals specifical-



Thobane Dolophini: "Dr. Bean"

ly to sterilize. A hired traveling sterilization team is contracted to perform the procedures, vaccinate for rabies, and administer treatments and drugs as necessary.

—Tamsin Nel  
Founder & fundraiser  
SAMAST  
52-B Mount Rhodes Drive  
Hout Bay, Cape Town  
South Africa 7806  
Phone: 0112721-790-8337  
<SAMAST@webafrica.org.za>  
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### Resident Intern for Wildlife Rehabilitation Program Wildlife in Crisis (WIC) is seeking a Resident Intern.

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## Diet & global warming

I felt a sense of almost hopelessness on reading your excellent March 2007 editorial feature "Indian diets & the future of animal welfare." In addition to its major negative effect on animal welfare, the rapid increase in meat consumption in India (and other countries like China and Japan) will also have a great impact on global climate change, which will affect all animals, including human beings, very severely.

I believe that the vegetarian and animal rights organizations should initiate a

### Dick Gregory, veggie

Social justice leader Dick Gregory is probably the most influential animal rights advocate and vegetarian in the African-American community. Gregory, a devout vegetarian for over 40 years, has consistently denounced slaughterhouses, hunting, trapping, vivisection, rodeos, circuses, and all other forms of animal abuse.

Dick Gregory at the same time has remained a civil rights activist, empowering and enlightening the African-American community. He is a pacifist who adeptly inspired the late Coretta Scott King to become a vegetarian. Dick Gregory has rightfully asserted that vegetarianism is compatible with the Judeo-Christian ideal (Genesis 1:29, Isaiah Chapters 11 and 65).

—Brien Comerford  
Glenview, Illinois



major campaign based on the following three important recent events:

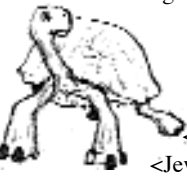
1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including hundreds of the world's leading climate scientists, reported in February 2007 that there will be large temperature increases with catastrophic effects if present trends continue.

2. Some leading climate scientists are warning that global warming may spiral out of control within a decade if major changes are not soon made.

3. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in a November 2006 report indicated that animal-based agriculture causes more greenhouse emissions (in CO2 equivalences) than all forms of transportation.

It is clear that the world is rapidly heading toward disaster and the many wake up calls that we are receiving almost daily about record temperatures, droughts, rapid species extinction, floods due to rising waters, spreading diseases, melting glaciers and polar ice caps and much more are not being sufficiently heeded. Hence, we should start a campaign to urge a shift toward plant-based diets, to help move our imperiled planet to a sustainable path.

—Richard H. Schwartz, President,  
Jewish Vegetarians of North America  
& Society of Ethical and Religious Vegetarians  
Phone: 718-761-5876  
Fax: 718-982-3631  
<rschw12345@aol.com>  
<JewishVeg.com/Schwartz>



### No-kills in N.C.

We have a no-kill shelter in North Carolina, and are in constant battle with the state Department of Agriculture over licensure. Many local shelters are pressured to take animal control contracts to finance buildings that have to pass inspection standards stricter than are required by the state veterinary board for a licensed vet hospital. In my area alone, shelters under pressure include the Moore County Humane, which gave up an animal control contract about 2 years ago, the Hoke Raeford Humane Society, the Scotland County Humane Society, and the Richmond County Humane Society.

Private groups in our area usually can't raise the money to build shelters that meet the specs, and if they do, they are forced by the building cost per square inch to reduce the living areas for the animals, which is a quality of life issue, and to concentrate animal populations, which is a disease control issue. The organizations trade blood money for a building, and their animals pay.

—Linden Spear  
Friends for Life at The Haven  
400 Fulford-McMillian Rd  
Raeford, NC 28376  
910 875 6768  
<TheHavenNC@aol.com>



### Editor's note:

There is some logic to requiring animal shelters to meet stricter standards than vet hospitals, because shelter animals are usually of unknown history, and may be returned into the community more-or-less at random, taking with them whatever problems they harbor. In addition, shelters typically house far more animals at a time than vet clinics; vet clinics usually have a vet handy, whereas shelters often have only veterinary visits; and a badly managed vet clinic usually soon puts itself out of business, whereas badly run shelters often struggle on for years.

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

## Quick help from www.QuickSpay.com

We have launched <www.QuickSpay.com> to discuss and demonstrate sterilization technique for dogs, cats and bunnies of all ages, using the QuickSpay method developed by Marvin Mackie, DVM, of Animal Birth Control Clinics, Inc. in Southern California.

A goal of <www.quickspay.com> is to highlight and link to animal birth control projects all over the world, and provide educational material on this subject in as many languages as possible. We encourage visitors to write us about their efforts and send links to articles, statistics or events regarding pet overpopulation and sterilization programs everywhere.

The website also offers Dr. Mackie's videos in DVD format on sterilization techniques and related subjects free of charge—just send a suitable self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage for return mailing.

We link to <www.AnimalPeopleNews.org> to download the video *QuickSpay* either in English, or in Spanish translation, *Castracion Rapida*. More than 5,000 copies of these videos have been distributed worldwide, through the efforts of Animal Issues Movement, **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and Esther Mechler of SpayUSA.



—Phyllis M. Daugherty, director  
Animal Issues Movement  
420 N. Bonnie Brae St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
Phone: 213-413-SPAY  
<ANIMALISSU@aol.com>

## Recommends film "Amazing Grace"

I recently saw the independently produced British film *Amazing Grace*, now in limited U.S. release. If you can't see it now, please try to see it when the DVD is released. It is one of the best movies I have seen in a long time—and as a lifelong film buff, I see almost everything.

*Amazing Grace* is a biography of William Wilburforce, a longtime member of the British House of Commons, who helped to found the Royal SPCA, and who brought an end to the slave trade in the British Empire in 1807. Wilburforce was an absolutely incredible human being: intelligent, compassionate, dedicated to a difficult cause, who jeopardized his career and his

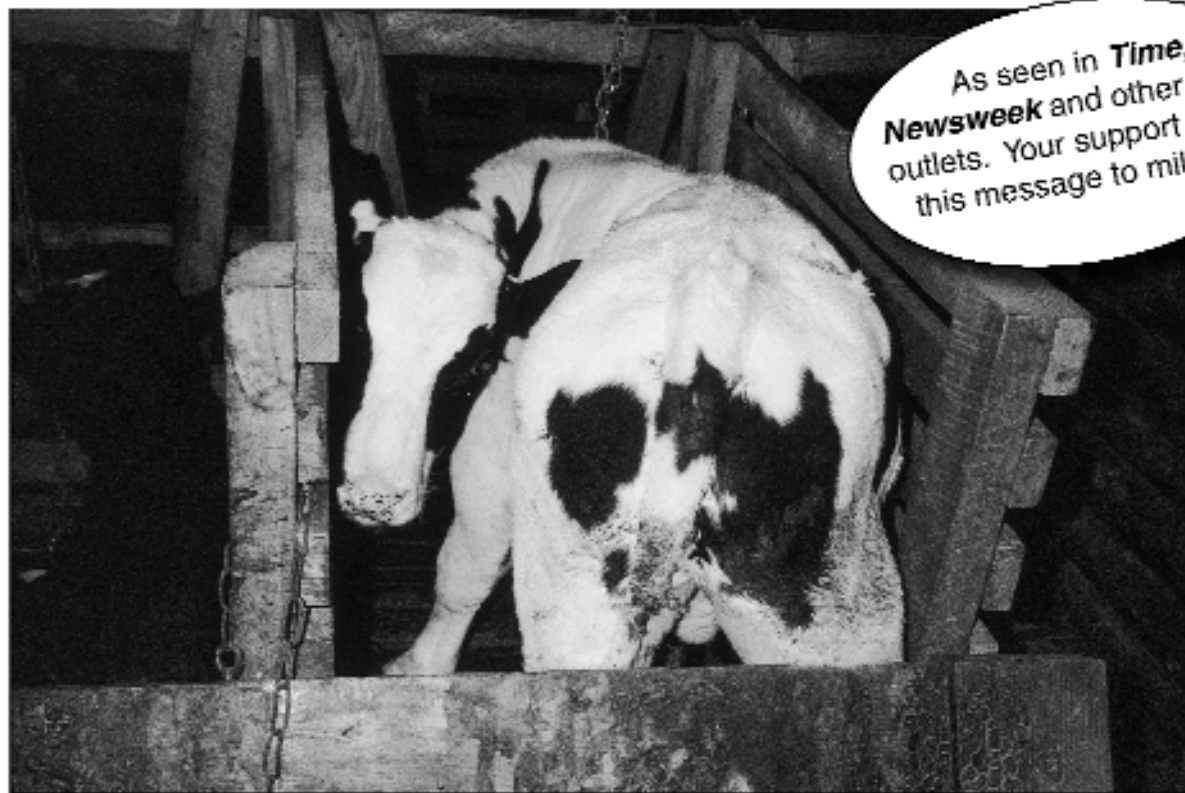
health to attain his goal.

Wilburforce was influenced as he was growing up by a minister who spent most of his adult life as a captain of slave-trading ships. In a moment of spiritual realization, he left that trade, became a clergyman, and wrote the beautiful hymn "Amazing Grace."



—Eileen Liska  
Holly, Michigan

## Q: Why can't this veal calf walk?



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## A: He has only two feet.

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

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

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

### Tainted Veal

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

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

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

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

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

**YES!** I support HFA's National Veal Boycott.  
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# South Africa, Zimbabwe claim need to cull elephants

**ADDO NATIONAL PARK**—South African environmental affairs and tourism minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk on February 28, 2007 announced that culling elephants may resume soon after a 12-year suspension, under a draft policy open for public comment until May 4.

"If culling is allowed after the process of public comment, and if it is included in the final draft," van Schalkwyk said, speaking cautiously to media at Addo National Park on the Eastern Cape, "it would really depend on the management plans and management objectives of each of the parks" where elephants might be killed.

Addo and Kruger National Park, South Africa's oldest and largest, are most often mentioned as sites of alleged elephant overpopulation.

"We have about 20,000 elephants in South Africa," van Schalkwyk said, of whom "more or less 14,000 are in Kruger National Park. In 1995, when we stopped culling we had around 8,000 elephants. The population growth of elephants is six to seven percent [per year]. This is the hard reality," Van Schalkwyk explained.

"Culling or contraception, I would personally have preferred not to consider," van Schalkwyk added. "Culling may be used to reduce the size of an elephant population subject to due consideration of all other population management options.

"Contraception appears to be a promising measure to control the rate of reproduction of elephants in certain limited circumstances," van Schalkwyk allowed, but asserted that "the long-term social, physiological and emotional impacts on elephants are not yet fully understood. Current contraception methods are highly invasive," van Schalkwyk said, "and should therefore be used with caution."

Summarized Lavinia Mahlangu of *BuaNews* in Tshwane, "In addition to culling and contraception, the draft provides for elephant population control using water supply management, enclosure or exclusion, creating movement corridors between different areas, and expanding elephant range by acquiring additional land."

Concluded van Schalkwyk, "I want to emphasise that the draft norms and standards merely represent a new chapter in the ongoing debate about elephant management. Our department does not pretend that this will be the final word. Their adoption will not be a 'victory' for any given position, nor will it immediately lead to the wholesale slaughter of elephants anywhere."

The final word, unlikely to be acknowledged as such, may be the verdict on elephant trophy and ivory trade proposals before the 14th triennial meeting of nations which have endorsed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The meeting will be held June 3-5, 2007, in The Netherlands.

The South African draft policy announced by van Schalkwyk closely followed recommendations outlined by World Wildlife Fund/South Africa acting chief executive Rob Little to Stella Mapenzauswa of Reuters on February 23, 2007.

"Friends of Animals has long argued that South Africa is motivated to kill elephants to stockpile ivory, which South Africa claims needs to be sold to benefit conservation," responded Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral. FoA has been actively involved in African elephant conservation for more than 20 years.

"Kruger National Park is secured with electrified fencing so that elephants can't escape to migrate to other neighboring states,"

Feral continued. "If South African officials wanted to relieve the pressure of an increasing number of elephants, an area of fencing could be taken down, but they refused to consider that option because the struggle is over ivory, not elephants."

Feral called on wildlife organizations to "withhold significant grants to South Africa, and decline tourism, as long as their policies threaten elephants and imprison them inside parks for the purpose of shooting them. South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Botswana routinely support initiatives to commercialize and exploit wildlife," Feral charged. "They treat their elephants like hostages: 'Give us money or we'll have to shoot elephants inside Kruger National Park.'"

## Ivory politics

Affirmed International Union for the Conservation of Nature elephant specialist Julian Blanc, to the Lesotho-based Afrol News service, "Southern African countries have been doing heavy lobbying for re-legalization of the ivory trade. Other African regions still have not achieved sustainable elephant herds," Blanc added, "and fear that legalization of the ivory trade may cause increased illegal hunting."

In a recurring pattern preceding CITES triennial meetings at which easing the 1989 international ivory trade ban is anticipated, elephant poaching has escalated.

Nearly 23 tons of poached ivory were seized by various law enforcement agencies in August 2006 alone, Samuel Wasser of the Washington University Center for Conservation Biology told Afrol News.

"Customs agents typically detect only about 10% of contraband," Wasser said. "That means more than 23,000 elephants, or about 5% of Africa's total population, likely were killed for that amount of ivory."

Namibian minister of environment and tourism conservation scientist Louisa Mupetami recently told Absalom Shigwedha of the Windhoek *Namibian* that her agency is not yet ready to take a public position on the proposals that will be before CITES in 2007. But "Namibia and Botswana have jointly submitted a proposal to maintain restricted ivory sales while easing conditions for future sales," Shigwedha wrote.

"Botswana is also independently seeking authorization" to sell 40 metric tons of stockpiled ivory, Shigwedha added.

CITES Scientific Support Unit spokesperson David Morgan told Associated Press in Geneva, Switzerland, that Kenya and Mali have proposed that all trade in ivory tusks or finished products be banned for 20 years.

Tanzania has requested that its elephants be downlisted from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II, which would be a first step toward allowing resumed elephant hunting. As Kenya has a long undefended border with Tanzania, the downlisting could expand the opportunities for transborder poachers to market elephant ivory, which now moves mainly through Somalia.

Zambia and Zimbabwe are actively lobbying to expand elephant trophy exports.

Zambian tourism and environment minister Kabinga Pande in January 2007 led an official delegation to the Safari Club International convention in Reno, Nevada, where they asked U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service assistant director for international affairs Ken Stansell to increase the number of permits granted to U.S. hunters to import elephant trophies. The U.S. annually issues 20 permits for elephant trophies from Zambia, but 500 for elephant trophies from Zimbabwe.

Between 2001 and 2005, Pande claimed, Zambia lost \$1.1 million because it was not able to sell permits to U.S. hunters to kill 115 elephants who were shot for various management reasons.

Zimbabwe is meanwhile arguing that it should be allowed to export more elephant trophies, and ivory too.

"We have a hunting quota of 500 every hunting season, but this is not meaningfully reducing the population," Zimbabwean environment minister Francis Nhema told the government-controlled *Harare Herald*.

"Over 110,000 elephants now inhabit Zimbabwe, and the number is growing at 5% annually, although there is space and food for only 47,000," the *Harare Herald* asserted. The *Harare Herald* did not explain how so many elephants could survive and reproduce if they had already exceeded the carrying capacity of the habitat by more than 100%. However, van Schalkwyk of South

Africa mentioned in passing, while introducing the draft South African elephant culling policy, that "We don't work with the outdated concept of carrying capacity any longer."

What might make the concept of carrying capacity "outdated," van Schalkwyk did not explain, but the concept may be inconvenient for nations and organizations seeking to expand "sustainable use" of wildlife products.

As regards elephants, this means trophy hunting and selling ivory.

The Zimbabwean elephant population data, the *Harare Herald* said, was from a survey financed by the World Wildlife Fund, founded by trophy hunters in 1961 to promote "sustainable use" and oppose hunting bans.

"Elephant and lion trophies were the most expensive," at a mid-March 2007 auction of hunting permits, the *Herald* noted. The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority "raised close to \$1 million U.S. and over \$1.5 billion [in Zimbabwe dollars] in the Zambezi Valley hunts auction held in the capital last week," the *Herald* trumpeted. "This was a significant increase from last year's auction, which raised only \$150 million," the *Herald* said—but with runaway inflation taken into account, the returns appeared to be about the same as in 2006.

Despite the purported value of elephant trophies, however, Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues alleged to Eleanor Momberg of the *Cape Times* that some alleged "guardians of Zimbabwe's national parks have entered the lucrative crocodile breeding business, and have allocated 50 to 100 elephants a year to feed the crocodiles.

"They have shot three already," Rodrigues told Momberg. "We are looking into allegations that other crocodile farms in the country are being supplied with elephant meat from culls in conservation areas."

Rodrigues' case was supported by an e-mail from Kariba resident Geoff Blyth, who asserted that the elephants of the Lake Kariba region were jeopardized by the construction of a crocodile farm in the Kaburi wilderness area, "on the shore opposite two popular tourist

attractions," Momberg noted.

"Blyth said an elephant caught in a snare had recently been shot so that officials could determine how many elephants a year would be required to keep their crocodiles fed," Momberg recounted.

Said Blyth, "They are destroying everything. We believe there is a silent cull going on. More and more tourists are complaining they are not seeing any game."

Working in partnership with the Friends of Hwange Conservation Society of Britain and the SAVE Conservancy of Australia and South Africa, the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force has raised more than \$1 million to help maintain 5,400-square-mile Hwange National Park.

At the same time, as London *Sunday Telegraph* correspondent Peta Thorneycroft summarized from Harare, Rodrigues "has accused hunters, mainly from South Africa and the U.S., of drastically reducing the lion population in southern Zimbabwe where they are in theory a protected species. He has also regularly criticized both the government and some private sector safari operators for wayward conservation practices.

"When Hwange National Park was critically short of funds, Rodrigues exposed the authority's purchase of a fleet of top-of-the-range 4x4s for use by officials in Harare. His last alert reported that Zimbabwe's largest safari company, Shearwater Adventures, which operates out of the Victoria Falls World Heritage site, had taken 10 young elephants from their mothers in the Hwange National Park. It is believed that the young elephants could be trained to provide rides for tourists," Thorneycroft recounted.

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority director general Morris Mtsambiwa responded by writing to Rodrigues in January 2007 that, "Due to continuous negative and false reports emanating from your organisation about conservation in Zimbabwe, the authority can no longer afford to associate with you. With immediate effect, the authority will no longer accept any donations that will come through your organization."



African elephant. (Ellisa Free)



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## Wolves, grizzlies lose federal protection— and Alaska resumes wolf bounty (from page 1)

ment agencies haven't," Humane Society of the U.S. predator specialist Karlyn Atkinson Berg told Myers. "They are pretty much the same. The states have arbitrary quotas on how many wolves we can have and where they should be allowed. They aren't based on any scientific, biological, or even social carrying capacity—just on keeping wolves as few as possible," without allowing them to again become federally protected.

The northern Rockies wolf delisting proposal covers Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, and Utah. Wolves would continue to be fully protected within Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

"In Montana and Idaho, management would be passed to state agencies. Each is already talking about setting up hunts," reported Mike Stark of the *Billings Gazette*.

Wyoming has not yet produced a wolf management plan that meets U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service approval.

"If Wyoming and the Fish & Wildlife Service come to an agreement," wrote Stark, "wolves in the entire state would be delisted. Those in the northwest corner could be classified as trophy game and possibly hunted. Any wolves found in the rest of the state would be considered predators and could be killed without regulation.

"If Wyoming and FWS can't come to an agreement," Stark said, "wolves would be delisted in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming with the notable exception of the northwest corner, where they would remain under federal protection. Wolves in the rest of Wyoming would then come under state law classifying them as predators."

Extirpated from the continental U.S. by predator control killing, absent from the Yellowstone National Park region for 70 years, wolves were reintroduced in 1995.

Twelve years later, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wolf recovery coordinator Ed Bangs believes there are 673 wolves in Idaho, 316 in Montana, and 311 in Wyoming.

Wyoming since 2004 has had a 31%

wolf increase, and in 2006 had a record 123 cattle killed by wolves, resulting in 44 wolves being shot.

As the habitat fills, wolves are increasingly often killing each other. "Wolves killing other wolves accounted for 44% of adult mortality for radio-collared animals in Yellowstone last year," reported Cory Hatch of the *Jackson News & Guide*.

### Grizzly fate

Deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett on March 22, 2007 announced that grizzly bears would lose Endangered Species Act protection in the continental U.S., as there are now more than 500 grizzlies in Yellowstone National Park and adjacent states.

"Stripping the bears of protection could eventually clear the way for hunting. A measure that would allow hunting grizzlies has passed the Montana Senate," noted Alan Suderman of Associated Press. "Opponents of the delisting, including more than 250 scientists and researchers who sent the government a letter of protest, question whether the bear population is large enough to be genetically diverse and withstand outside pressures such as global warming and food scarcity."

Delisting grizzlies "will put the last remnants of wild places grizzlies need to fully recover and raise their young at risk from irresponsible oil drilling, unsustainable logging, and sprawling development—all of which helped drive the grizzly to the brink of extinction in the first place," said Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope.

Natural Resources Defense Council bear program director Louisa Willcox indicated that the NRDC would fight the delisting either through litigation or seeking Congressional intervention.

While wolves and grizzly bears outside of Yellowstone National Park are now at greater risk of being killed, House Natural Resources Committee chair Nick Rahall on March 20 warned Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat, and Montana

## Horse slaughterhouse closes after verdict

DALLAS—Horse slaughter in the U.S. for human consumption appeared to be closer to an end on March 23, 2007, when the Dallas Crown slaughterhouse in Kaufman, Texas, temporarily laid off staff.

"We have decided temporarily not to process, because we have some changes to make here," Dallas Crown spokesperson Chris Soenen told Michael Gresham of the *Kaufman Herald*. Soenen said that "just about everyone other than administration" had been sent home, but said this did not mean Dallas Crown would be going out of business. "This is just temporary as we restructure," Soenen said.

The entire U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on March 6, 2007 affirmed a January 20, 2007 appellate panel ruling that Dallas Crown and Beltex Corporation, of Fort Worth, have killed horses for human consumption in violation of a 1949 state law.

Dallas Crown has also operated since March 2006 in defiance of an order to close from the Kaufman Board of Adjustments, which according to Gresham, "determined Dallas Crown to be a public nuisance as well as a health and safety hazard."

Dallas Crown, Beltex, and Cavel International of DeKalb, Illinois, were the only horse slaughterhouses left in the U.S., killing 108,000 horses in 2006. About 30,400 horses were sent to Canada, Mexico, and Japan for slaughter.

A slaughterhouse in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, reportedly kills as many as 15,000 horses per year, 80% of them from the U.S.

The Humane Society of the U.S. on March 20, 2007 served notice of intent to sue Cavel International for alleged violations of the federal Clean Water Act. "The violations include the documented release of excessive 'animal residue' into the local sewer system," said HSUS spokesperson Leslie Porter. "The plant slaughters more than 500 horses a week and discharges approximately 13,000 gallons of wastewater per day during operations."

Legislation pending in Congress and before the Illinois legislature seeks to ban killing horses for human consumption. A bill to repeal the 1949 Texas law has been introduced into the Texas legislature by state representative Sid Miller (R-Stephenville.)

The legislation does not prohibit killing horses as animal feed, a less lucrative branch of the business.



North American timber wolf. (Kim Bartlett)

More than 1,000 bison who wandered out of Yellowstone National Park were killed during the winter of 2005-2006. Only two were killed in 2006-2007, however, partly because a milder winter encouraged bison to stay inside the park, and perhaps partly also because public outrage over the 2005-2006 killing had political influence.

# SHELTER RESOURCES

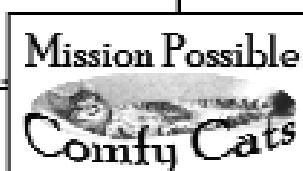
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**South Africa regulates killing captive lions** (from page 1)

Welfare regional director Jason Bell-Leask, to Agence France-Presse. Other animal advocates were less convinced.

“Despite what the South African government claims, the new regulations by no means outlaw this egregious practice. They simply redefine what is meant by ‘canned hunting,’” said Humane Society International wildlife trade program director Teresa Telecky. Telecky noted that U.S. hunters are the most numerous patrons of South African canned hunts. “Most of the nearly 1,200 lion trophies exported from South Africa from 1994 to 2005 went to the U.S.,” Telecky said. “In 2005, 206 of the 322 lion trophies exported were captive-bred. One hundred twenty of those went to the U.S.”

Overall, South Africa attracts as many as 7,000 visiting trophy hunters per year, who spend an average of \$18,000 apiece to kill animals, according to the Professional Hunters’ Association of South Africa. About 55% of the hunters come from the U.S. and Canada, with most of the rest coming from Europe. Altogether, 480 lions were killed in South Africa in 2006, 444 of them bred in captivity.

Prices ranged between \$6,000 and \$8,000 to shoot a female, and \$20,000 and \$30,000 to shoot a maned male.

“The big thing for South Africa would be to stand up and say ‘This industry is immoral and unethical and we are not going to allow it,’” declared Louise Joubert of the SanWild Wildlife Trust.

**Animal Planet pulls White Lions video**

The December 2006 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** mentioned that the Animal Planet cable television channel had come under criticism from canned hunt opponents for airing a documentary called *White Lions: King of Kings*.

The documentary, said **ANIMAL PEOPLE** book reviewer and Cannedlion.com founder Chris Mercer, “presented Marius Prinsloo, a notorious canned lion breeder in South Africa, as a paragon of conservation working to preserve the white lion gene.”

Announced Global White Lion Trust chief executive Linda Tucker, on March 12, 2007, “The misinformed White Lions documentary has been withdrawn from the international circuit.”

Tucker thanked Mercer, CARE sanctuary founder Rita Miljo, Paul Hart of the Drakenstein Lion Park, and Marianne Birrell of My First Safari for their help in bringing the matter to the attention of Animal Planet.

Animal Planet appears to have made no public statement about withdrawing *White Lions: King of Kings*, but all mention of it appears to have vanished from the Animal Planet web site.

Joubert “said it made little difference whether a lion was freed for six months or two years before being hunted,” wrote Nullis of Associated Press, “because once it is used to being reared and fed by people, it is hard to break that trust. Joubert said there should be an outright ban on intensive breeding projects, which often remove cubs from the mother at birth, so the lioness mates more quickly, and often destroy female cubs, as male lions fetch a higher trophy price.”

“The legislation makes absolutely no provision for the protection of white lions, who are more at risk than ever,” objected Global White Lion Trust chief executive Linda Tucker. “This critically endangered animal,” not internationally recognized as even a subspecies, “is not listed on the Schedule of Threatened and Protected Animals of National Importance. In the proposed clampdown on the canned hunting industry,” Tucker predicted, “a frenzy of hunting is sure to take place, with captive white lions as primary targets.

“Of even graver concern,” Tucker said, “is that no prohibition has been placed on lion hunting reserves such as Timbavati, where the last surviving gene pool of this critically endangered animal is being wiped out.”

**Leghold traps**

A more detailed critique of van Schalkwyk’s regulations came from retired attorney Chris Mercer, founder of Cannedlion.com, and a frequent book reviewer for **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “After June 1, 2007,” wrote Mercer, “you will no longer be permitted to restrain a rhino or large predator by means of a leghold trap. You may continue to use a leghold trap on all other species, such as elephant, buffalo, and hippo, as well as exotic species such as tigers.

“But who could conceivably want to use a leghold trap on a lion or rhino, you may ask? How else can you hold the animal in one place so that the bow hunters and their video photographers can get close enough? Use a pack of dogs? Yes, but this is now also ‘regulated.’ It is perfectly legal under the new regulations to set a pack of dogs on any helpless animal, from an elephant down, only now the animal must first be wounded, however slightly.

“You may no longer, after June 1, shoot lions in their cages, or rhinos in their boma. If you cannot live without killing lions and rhinos, you can turn them out into a fenced camp which has a few springbok grazing in it, let them grow out into huntable size for two years, and then kill them.

“The fenced camp must fall within the definition of ‘extensive wildlife system.’ Here it is: ‘*extensive wildlife system*’ means a system that is large enough, and suitable for the management of self-sustaining wildlife populations in a natural environment which requires minimal human intervention...”

“As you see, there is no minimum size for the hunting camp,” Mercer pointed out. “And you can supplement the feeding of the captive-but-free-roaming animals, but only mini-



mally, whatever that means. The new regulations allow you to drag a carcass around the hunting camp, and then hide and wait at the carcass for lions, leopards and hyena to show up,” Mercer continued. “And you can still kill leopards and hyena for fun by first blinding them with a dazzling light.

“What is missing here?” Mercer finished. “Well, just about every other living creature, starting with buffalo, who will continue to be used for target practice. Buffalo, hippopotamus, eland, kudu, wildebeest, gemsbok—all kept in fenced camps, awaiting execution.”

“Other questions remain subject to debate,” noted Agence France-Presse, “such as what will become of the thousands of lions who have been raised in captivity and will not be worth rearing for the breeders after June 1.”

“The text does not say anything about the welfare of those animals,” observed Animal Rights Africa spokesperson Michele Pickover. “There is a need for a real financial commitment,” Pickover said, “to truly create a life for these lions post-promulgation.”

Wrote Nullis, “The South African Predator Breeders’ Association, set up to lobby against the regulations, has warned that breeders may be forced to kill the estimated 3,000 to 5,000 lions they have reared, if they are unable to offer them to foreign hunters and can no longer afford to feed them.”

That, said Joubert. “would be a tragic day, but if it is the only way for this country to get a grip, so be it.”

The South African Predator Breeders’ Association threatened to litigate against the new regulations—but the regulations were endorsed by the Professional Hunters’ Association of South Africa, whose president, Stewart Dorrington, told Nullis that the breeders’ association represents only about 3% of the South African hunting industry.



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The narrative is written by Chris Mercer, founder and director of Campaign against Canned Hunting, a South African nonprofit organization. Chris is co-author, with his partner Beverley, of the books *For the Love of Wildlife* and *Canned Lion Hunting—A National Disgrace*. He received the Marchig Trust Animal Welfare Award for 2006 in recognition of his work.

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## New Mexico bans cockfighting; Louisiana last holdout; stronger laws are next goal

bill, eventually winning the endorsements of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops—and Governor Bill Richardson.

Richardson as recently as January 2006 became a target of SHARK video truck protests and an e-mail campaign for offering incentives worth \$750,000 to try to lure the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association headquarters from Colorado to New Mexico; pledging \$12 million in state funding for a top-level rodeo arena; and pledging an additional \$3 million in renovation funding for local rodeo arenas.

Cockfighters, claiming to contribute \$70 million per year to the New Mexico economy, asserted that “Richardson vowed not to outlaw cockfighting when he ran for governor in 2002, and was shifting because he didn’t want to take flak for it in the Democratic presidential race,” recounted Riccardi.

“Garcia received death threats and got police protection,” Riccardi continued. “A lobbyist for the bishops called authorities after people drove SUVs by the house of his mother and sisters late one night, honking and flashing their headlights.”

Actress Ali MacGraw, a New Mexico resident, rallied celebrity opposition to cockfighting to help the bill move, and “was beside Richardson as he signed the bill,” Riccardi said.

A Louisiana ban on cockfighting is believed to be imminent.

### Louisiana progress

“I support banning cockfighting,” Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco told Doug Simpson of Associated Press in a March 12, 2007 single-sentence e-mail.

Louisiana defenders of cockfighting appear to have shifted from trying to prevent the passage of any ban to stalling for time.

“Probably the days are numbered for cockfighting in our state,” Louisiana House of Delegates speaker Joe Salter (D-Florien) acknowledged in a March 19 address to the Press Club of Baton Rouge.

Reported Simpson, “Salter said he would back a bill that would impose a six-month jail term, \$1,000 fines, or both on people found guilty of organizing or taking part in cockfights. It would take effect in 2010.

“In previous years,” noted Simpson, “cockfighting bans have been killed in the House Agriculture Committee. Cockfighting opponents have asked that such bills go instead to the Judiciary Committee, which normally handles matters of crime and punishment.”

Salter said that the bill he favors would go to the agriculture committee, but added “I’m going to do what I can to make sure that it comes out of committee,” and goes to the full House for a vote.

A competing bill drafted but not yet introduced by Louisiana state senator Art Lentini would provide the same penalties for cockfighting, but would take effect immediately. Lentini “filed a similar bill last year,” wrote Simpson, “It passed the Senate, but stalled in the House agriculture committee.”

Commented Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle, “Forty-nine states have banned cockfighting, and not one of them included a phase-out period. Cockfighting should be put to death quickly, not sustained with a slow bleed.”

Agreed Louisiana SPCA executive director Laura Maloney, “Lawmakers should not prolong the inevitable.”

“A 2004 poll commissioned by



Gamecock. (Carroll Cox)

HSUS revealed that 82% of Louisianans want cockfighting banned,” wrote HSUS publicist Martin Montorfano.

### Further goals

After banning cockfighting in Louisiana, increasing the penalties in states with weak bans will be among the HSUS legislative goals.

Thirty-three states offer felony penalties for cockfighting, but Ohio, for example, has no minimum fine for cockfighting, and sets a 90-day maximum jail term.

“Virginia’s lax punishment for cockfighting makes it a magnet for cockfighters from nearby states that punish it more severely,” Associated Press political writer Bob Lewis summarized on January 29, 2007 after a legislative hearing on a bill to strengthen the Virginia ban.

“Cockfighting in Virginia is illegal now only if admission is charged to watch the fights, or if prizes are awarded for the animals who survive,” Lewis continued. “A January 21 raid in Mecklenburg County, on the North Carolina border, resulted in the arrests of 122 people, about 75% of them from other states, mostly North Carolina,” according to testimony from Mecklenburg County deputy sheriff Danny Fox. “Twenty-two of those arrested were illegal aliens whom the Department of Homeland Security is deporting, and many of them were members of alien gangs such as the Mexican Mafia and MS-13,” Fox said,” according to Lewis.

Ten children and crack cocaine were found at the cockfight, wrote Christina Nuckols of the *Virginian-Pilot*, but the present maximum penalty for cockfighting in Virginia is only a fine of \$500.

HSUS deputy manager of animal fighting issues John Goodwin testified that 20,000 to 30,000 Americans participate in cockfighting, compared with about 40,000 involved in dogfighting.

Passage of the New Mexico cockfighting ban and the likelihood that cockfighting will be restricted in Louisiana improved the chances of federal legislation being passed to introduce a felony penalty for transporting animals interstate or internationally to participate in animal fighting, and for engaging in interstate or international commerce in cockfighting spurs, knives, and gaffs.

The pending federal bills are H.R. 137, which cleared the U.S. House of Representatives on March 27, 2007, and S.B. 261 in the U.S. Senate.

“An ongoing HSUS investigation has assembled convincing evidence of a massive trade in fighting cocks between the United States and the Philippines,” HSUS publicist Karen L. Allanach said on March 19, 2007. “HSUS has requested that Philippine Airlines and Korean Air Lines immediately halt any shipment of fighting birds, as required by federal law,” which at present provides only misdemeanor penalties for violation.”

Allanach wrote only three days after a federal court jury awarded \$97,150 to Arkansas gamecock breeders John and Anna Slavin, for the loss of 63 adult birds and about 1,000 eggs allegedly caused by contaminated feed. “The Slavins operate a 320-acre farm near Hon in Scott County, where they typically raise between 500 to 800 gamecocks,” reported the Fort Smith *Times Record*. “The Slavins sell their gamecocks mostly to customers from Mexico and the Philippines,” according to their attorney, Bill Walters of Greenwood, Arkansas.

The birds were poisoned after medicated feed, meant for cattle, was mistakenly bagged with a batch of Land O’Lakes Purina chicken feed.

However, the HSUS information appeared to come from a different direction.

“Early in 2005,” Allanach recounted, “HSUS received information from a confidential informant that Continental Airlines was the only airline that would transport adult roosters to Guam, and that the airline was used by cockfighters to send fighting birds there. In July 2005, HSUS received records from Guam documenting which U.S. breeders

were exporting adult roosters to Guam and the numbers shipped. HSUS recognized almost all of the exporters as cockfighters.”

HSUS in December 2005 documented to Continental that it had “unknowingly shipped more than 3,000 fighting birds to Guam for the purpose of cockfighting,” Allanach wrote. “In October 2006, Continental decided to stop shipping adult roosters to Guam.”

In November 2006, HSUS presented similar findings to Philippine Airlines. “More than 4,000 birds are shipped to the Philippines every year,” said Allanach.

In February 2007, HSUS documented to Korean Airlines that it too “is responsible for shipping thousands of fighting cocks to the Philippines,” Allanach finished.

### H5N1 adds urgency

Efforts to ban cockfighting both in the U.S. and worldwide gained momentum after 2003. Early in the year, outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease spread from gamecocks to factory farmed laying hens in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. That fall, cockfighting also proved instrumental in spreading the H5N1 avian influenza throughout Southeast Asia.

Agribusiness previously tended to oppose cockfighting bans, mostly to avoid creating legislative precedents for extending humane laws to cover poultry.

After 2003, recognition spread that cockfighting is a bigger short-term economic threat to the commercial poultry business than animal advocacy ever has been. H5N1 in particular has caused the deaths of several hundred million commercially raised birds, some from the disease itself, and even more from containment efforts.

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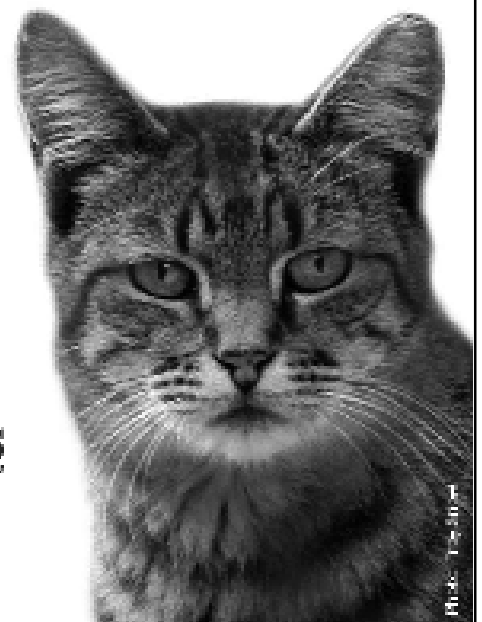
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## Getting the show off the road (from page 1)

babies, and sold the babies to exhibitors as captive-born.

There is still a small market for captured baby bears and big cats to be smuggled abroad, or to be kept as illegal pets, and there is biomedical research demand for rhesus macaques, but exhibiting animals for entertainment requires visibility. Some exhibitors still take the chance of acquiring and exhibiting a bear illegally taken from the wild, but in much of India, to visibly possess bears, big cats, or monkeys is now to court arrest and confiscation—unless one happens to be a biomedical researcher.

Someone in every crowd has a cell telephone camera. Every Internet café offers the opportunity to electronically transmit evidence to law enforcement agencies—and to People for Animals, the largest Indian animal rights group, or to PETA-India, the largest PETA overseas subsidiary, or to local animal advocacy groups.

Helping to encourage intervention on behalf of captive wildlife are hundreds of school animal rights clubs, encouraged by local chapters of PFA. Several thousand school children in each major city have been taught to be vigilant against animal abuse, including traveling animal acts, for whom children are the primary audience.

With the cities becoming dangerous venues for illegal exhibitors, only those who

work the most remote rural areas have much chance to stay in business, moving from village to village, hoping to bluff down anyone who asks questions with the pretense of having government permits that do not exist.

The Kalandar circus clan, whose seasonal wanderings with bears and other animals named the wall calendar, are beginning to taking up other employment, after centuries on the road.

For the Central Zoo Authority, keeping ex-performing animals at accredited Animal Rescue Centres is—depending on which members speak—either the beginning of a transition of mission, or a distraction from promoting species conservation, in the global mode of the past several decades.

The contradiction between operating mostly off-exhibit hospices for ex-performing animals and promoting captive breeding to attract paying audiences is causing Indian zoo management to reconsider and debate what their roles should be in the 21st century.

While American and European zoos have mostly rejected animal advocates' hope that they should evolve into sanctuaries, the Animal Rescue Centres are sanctuaries. Though mostly not open to the public, they are among the best-known and most praised zoo projects in India.

Ahead is the question of what the Animal Rescue Centres should evolve into,



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after facilities built to serve for decades outlive their first animal inhabitants.

Should they become off-exhibit conservation breeding facilities? Adjuncts to the existing zoos? Or should they continue in an expanded sanctuary role?

The rising discussion in India challenges an appearance of consensus reached among the international zoo community after the United Nations-brokered Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species in 1973 officially ended worldwide the so-called "Bring 'em back alive!" era of wildlife capture for exhibition.

More than half of all the animals who were captured to be brought back alive did not survive capture and transport, putting the survival of many rare species in jeopardy.

To counter growing public recognition that capture for exhibition was a major cause of species endangerment, and to avoid

the risk of U.S. zoos running out of crowd-pleasing species, the American Zoo Association advanced the notion of zoos becoming conservation breeding repositories.

As this idea gained popularity, international zoo associations jumped on the bandwagon, even though conservation breeding in zoos was then mostly just a hope. Only one species, the North American bison, had ever been restored to the wild from zoo stock.

The AZA created Species Survival Plans for many of the rarest animals in captivity, consisting of stud books and breeding exchange agreements. Zoo publicists encouraged the idea that some descendants of animals in the Species Survival Plans might eventually be re-introduced to the wild, to replenish extirpated populations.

Some species have been reintroduced using zoo specimens, notably the black-

(continued on page 11)



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**April 21-22: Critter Care Conf.,** Farm Sanctuary, Orlands, Calif. Info: 607-583-2225, x221.

**April 29: Farm Animal Forum, Philadelphia.** Info: 607-583-2225, x221.

**April 29-May 1: Caring During Crisis: Animal Welfare During Pandemics & Natural Disasters,** Guelph, Ontario. Info: 519-824-4120, x 53677; <ovc.uoguelph.ca>.

**May 5: Petfest,** Whites-town, Indiana. Info: <petfest@hoosierpets.org>; <www.hoosierpets.org>.

**May 5: Pet Adoptathon 2007.** Info: 1-877-4-SAVE-PET; or <www.animal-league.org/petadop-tathon2007>.

**May 6-12: 93rd annual Be Kind To Animals Week.** Info: <www.americanhu-mane.org>.

**May 7: Sarasota In Defense of Animals open house & picnic,** Sarasota, Fla. Info: 941-924-2505; <smatthes@aol.com>.

**May 9-12: Humane Society of the U.S. Expo 2007,** Dallas. Info: <expo@hsus.org>; <www.animalshelter-ing.org/expo/>.

**May 12: Farm Sanctu-ary Country Hoe-Down,** Orland, Calif. Info: 607-583-2225, x221.

**May 18: Friends of Animals' 50th anniver-sary gala.** Info: 203-656-1522; <www.friendsofani-mals.org>.

**May 19: Humane Soc. of Missouri "Bark in the**

If you know someone else who might like to read **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, please ask us to send a free sample.

Getting the show off the road is a new role for Indian zoos (from page 10)

footed ferret, Mexican grey wolf, red wolf, California condor, and golden lion tamarin. (The North American grey wolf, taken off the federal endangered species list in March 2007, was reintroduced using wild-trapped animals.)

Mostly, though, the Species Survival Plans have been means of perpetuating captive populations of animals who cannot be replaced from the wild—except under hard-to-get conservation research permits. These have been most prominently used to import panda bears from China through breeding loans that have paid China up to a million dollars a year per bear couple, while producing very few offspring born outside of China.

Captive breeding as a conservation strategy is still a shaky concept. Both Asian and African elephants, for example, are in steep decline in captivity because zoos have not managed to curb infant mortality. Captive-reared animals of many species turn out to lack parenting skills and any semblance of ability to fend for themselves in the wild.

Conservation breeding still resonates as a *raison d'être* with the public, but while touting the few successes, U.S. and European zoos have gradually shifted the emphasis of their conservation programs—beyond public education—to field work.

The prevailing current concept among zoological conservationists is that zoo animals are ambassadors for their wild kin, helping to raise funds to study wild popula-

tions and preserve wild habitat.

But the amount of money actually raised for field work is small compared to the cost of operating a zoo.

The Wildlife Conservation Society, by far the largest zoological contributor to overseas programs, in 2005 spent about \$95 million to run the four New York City zoos and the New York Aquarium, allocating \$48.5 million to field work: 34%. Conservation International, funding similar work, raised and spent nearly twice as much without running a zoo.

Spot-checking major zoos' IRS Form 990 filings, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found no others spending even half as large a percentage of budget on external projects as the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Hybrids

Indian zoos rhetorically embraced the species survival breeding concept without quite understanding it. Unable to induce many genuinely endangered indigenous species to breed in dreary steel-and-cement cages that often date back to British rule, and typically working independently of international Species Survival Plan protocols, some Indian zoos prolifically produced hybrid animals whose births brought headlines, yet no authentic conservation value.

The Chhatbir Zoo in Chandigar, for example, bred more than 80 African/Asian

lion hybrids. After the offspring of the original pairings mostly failed to thrive, and more than 30 died in 1999 and 2000, the program ended with the sterilization of all the males. As of September 2006 there were 21 survivors still at the zoo.

The Delhi Zoo specialized in producing albinos of a wide range of species, much to the frustration of People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi.

But at least one bizarre breeding experiment was stopped early by the Central Zoo Authority. Circa 1989 the Byculia Zoo in Mumbai acquired a "hobra," a male hybrid of a horse and a zebra bred by a circus. After the CZA ordered that hybrid animals could no longer be exhibited, the hobra lived for 16 years in a 30-foot-long enclosure at the zoo hospital. He died at age 24 in August 2005, thwarting a two-year PETA campaign to have him sent to a sanctuary.

Indian zoos still have a minimal role in authentic Species Survival Plans. Most still fall well short of international standards—but the Central Zoo Authority has tried to encourage improvement. The CZA hoped that closing the notoriously deficient Pratep Sinhav Udyan Zoo in Sangli in 2005 would send a message to other bad zoos to shape up.

But the Central Zoo Authority has limited ability to close zoos, no matter how bad they are. The fundamental problem is that closing a zoo requires having somewhere else

to send the animals.

Better zoos usually lack the space to take in more animals, especially those of large and abundant species. The American Zoo Association and European Zoo Association model for zoo self-improvement begins with reducing collections, so as to provide better conditions for the remaining animals. But contrary to American and European advice, acceding to public expectations, Indian zoos do often try to accept all animals in need.

At the Delhi Zoo, for instance, Bindu Shajan Perappadan of *The Hindu* reported in May 2006, 30 of the 134 resident species were represented by more than 150 rescue cases, including six sloth bears, two leopards, and three elephants.

"The Delhi Zoo has been taking in rescued animals, including monkeys, donkeys, elephants, reptiles, and birds, all year round," director D.N. Singh said. "These animals cannot be kept with the other inhabitants due to the fear of them transmitting infections or causing fights, though some rescued animals have been exhibited after a quarantine."

Singh complained to *The Hindu*, he said, after being "burdened with responsibility for an elephant," rescued by People for Animals, who "was being regularly beaten by the mahout with an iron spike. The elephant was found in a malnourished state, dehydrated," with foot injuries and osteoporosis,

(continued on page 12)

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Events (continued)

Park," St. Louis. Info: [www.hsno.org/bark](http://www.hsno.org/bark).

**May 23: World Turtle Day.** Info: [info@tortoise.com](mailto:info@tortoise.com); [www.tortoise.com](http://www.tortoise.com).

**May 31-June 2: Natl. Animal Control Assn. Training Conf.,** Cincinnati. Info: 913-768-1319; [naca@interserve.com](mailto:naca@interserve.com); [www.nacanet.org](http://www.nacanet.org).

(continued on page 11)

**June 11-12: Searching for the Animal of Animal Ethics** conf, Sandham, Sweden. Info: 46-18-611-2296; [bioethics@bioethics.uu.se](mailto:bioethics@bioethics.uu.se).

**July 19-23: AR 2007 conf.,** Los Angeles. Info: 1-800-632-8688.

**July 28-30: Taking Action for Animals** conference, Washington DC. Info c/o Humane Society of U.S., 301-548-7708; [tafa@hsus.org](mailto:tafa@hsus.org).

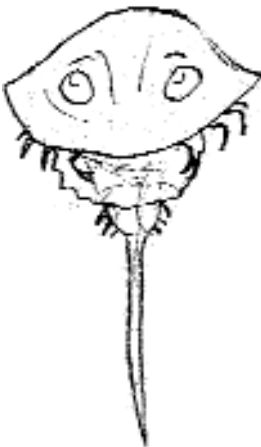
**August 25: Animal Acres Gala,** Acton, Calif. Info: 661-269-5404, x302; [outreach@animalacres.org](mailto:outreach@animalacres.org).

**Aug. 31-Sept. 2: Animal Law In Australasia** workshop. Info: 64-9-3737599, x88802; [p.sankoff@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:p.sankoff@auckland.ac.nz); [www.law-staff.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.law-staff.auckland.ac.nz).

**Sept. 13-16: Southern**

TRIBUTES

In honor of the Prophet Isaiah, St. Martin De Porres and John Wesley.  
—Brien Comerford



## Getting the show off the road *(from page 11)*

"which makes her unsuitable for display. We are not a rescue center," Singh emphasized.

Responded Central Zoo Authority member secretary B.R. Sharma, "While evaluating the Delhi Zoo, it was observed that it was being used as a rescue centre despite not having adequate space. We have written to all the states," Sharma said, "informing them that in case they are short of funds for setting up [an official Animal Rescue Centre], CZA would support them with 100% funding, so that there is no pressure on the zoos to keep rescued animals."

The availability of funding for Animal Rescue Centres of course gives zoos a strong incentive to become more seriously and deliberately involved—like the Birsa Munda Zoological Park near Ranchi in Jharkhand.

The Birsa Munda Zoo was already considering adding an Animal Rescue Centre, reported the Indo-Asian News Service, but "The project picked up momentum [in August 2006] after six big cats were shifted to Visakhapatnam," by order of the Central Zoo Authority, "following the death of six others due to disease."

The disease was babesiosis, a tick-borne infection similar to Lyme disease, borealosis, ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. These diseases notoriously produce symptoms that masquerade as more familiar conditions.

"All of our animals are healthy,"

insisted Birsa Munda Zoo veterinary director Dinesh Kumar, to *Telegraph of India* writer Arti Sahuliyar. "It is only the rescued animals brought from outside who carry diseases," said Kumar.

Allowed Sahuliyar, "The officials here really have no reason to rejoice when rescued animals are brought. With no adequate facilities available for their treatment, the zoo is more like a dumping space than the protective shelter it should be. Home already to about 500 mammals and 300 birds, the zoo is hardly in a position to look after them. The animal hospital has doctors and caretakers, but no permanent compound, lab technicians, pathologists, equipment, or X-ray facilities."

Birsa Munda Zoo director Deepak Singh told Sahuliyar that the zoo was short 41 staff positions. "We are trying to make a quarantine ward so that rescued animals, brought from outside, can be kept there and not be mixed with the herd here," Singh said.

### Future roles

The need for Animal Rescue Centres is big enough that expanding the rescue network could become the focal job of the Central Zoo Authority, and the star role of the leading members, as it already is for some, including the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam, one of the few Indian zoos which can claim global stature.

The possibility that zoos might refo-



*Habituated to circus wagons, many of the Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Centre lions stay behind bars even when they can go outside. (Kim Bartlett)*

cus on rescue inspires animal advocates but dismays zoo directors, many of whom have hoped to emulate western zoo management.

As the former circus animals now populating Animal Rescue Centres die, more animals from substandard zoos might take their places. This too is a controversial idea, as many zoo directors would prefer to avoid inheriting other zoos' problems, and have misgivings about seemingly participating in cannibalizing colleagues.

Underlying the management level

anxiety is that for more than 30 years, professional stature in the zoo community has centered on managing successful breeding programs. The rarer the species whom a zoo induces to breed, the higher the prestige of the zoo. First-tier zoos produce Species Survival Plan offspring; others exhibit their genetically redundant surplus.

To focus on housing older animals from closed circuses and bad zoos would be to gain the opportunity to lead the zoological

*(continued on page 13)*

### Events (continued)

**Regional Spay/Neuter Leadership Conference,** Memphis. Info:

<[www.spay-usa.org](http://www.spay-usa.org)>.

**Sept. 13-16: Midwest Birding Symposium,** Moline, Ill. Info: 800-747-7800; <[amusal@visitquadrantcities.com](mailto:amusal@visitquadrantcities.com)>.

**Sept. 18: Intl. Conf. on the Relationship between Animal Abuse and Human Violence,** Oxford, U.K. Info: <[director@oxfordanimalethics.com](mailto:director@oxfordanimalethics.com)>; [www.oxfordanimalethics.com](http://www.oxfordanimalethics.com)>.

**Sept. 29-30: World Vegetarian Weekend Celebration,** San Francisco. Info: 415-273-5481; <[www.sfv.org](http://www.sfv.org)>.

*(continued on page 12)*

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

**October 4: Intl. Animal Rights Protection Film Festival,** Kiev, Ukraine.



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Getting the show off the road creates a new role for Indian zoos *(from page 12)*

world in developing knowledge about geriatric wildlife care, but elder care—though increasingly recognized as necessary in western zoos—does not attract media attention to nearly the extent as does holding cute babies.

Even after there are neither former circus animals nor former zoo animals left to house, the Animal Rescue Centres may still have a role, taking in big cats and other wild animals who come into conflict with humans and livestock—as many Indian zoos already do, if the animals are captured alive.

Recently the public and political demand for facilities to house problem wildlife has expanded to include street-dwelling rhesus macaques, who resist relocation to rural areas by returning to cities, and rogue elephants, amid exposés of cruelty at the “elephant camps” run by state forestry departments.

Originally built to house working logging elephants, the elephant camps now hold several hundred permanently out-of-work elephants. Many were addicted to alcohol by their former mahouts, as a reward to keep them working. Some were at least once returned to the wild, but failed to re-adapt, after long captivity.

Most of the present Animal Rescue Centres were built to house predators. If monkeys and elephants are added, new facilities will have to be constructed.

Relocating rogue wildlife to the Animal Rescue Centres appears to be political-

ly popular, since it would take the onus off of public officials for killing rare animals.

In theory, zoos managing Animal Rescue Centres could combine the new job of housing dangerous wildlife with their declared mission of captive breeding, hoping to eventually replenish wild populations in protected habitat. Tigers, for example, could be reintroduced to the renowned Sariska tiger reserve, from which they were poached out in 2003, if Sariska can be restored to a viable size, prey base, and level of security.

Yet there is so little chance of reintroducing any species now kept at Animal Rescue Centres, against against strong local political opposition to reintroduction of predators, that the centers would probably remain care-for-life sanctuaries, whether or not they fully accept the role.

Further, some conservationists worry that if politicians get the idea that all dangerous wildlife can go to Animal Rescue Centres, encroachment into protected habitat will accelerate, until the centers become as overcrowded as the zoos whose capacity they are augmenting, and all reserves go the way of Sariska.

But some animals are being released from Animal Rescue Centres, including nearly 100 sambar and spotted deer, 800 star tortoises, and numerous birds who have been rehabilitated by the Animal Rescue Centre at Kodanad, in Kerala state. This rescue center, however, is operated by a state forestry department mini-zoo, not a full-scale zoo—and the deer were born on the premises,

*(continued on page 14)*

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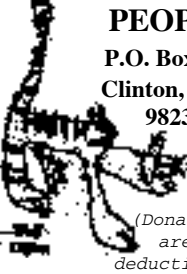
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## Placing predators in land of 1.1 billion people

Indian tigers, lions, and leopards who menace humans or livestock are killed, as predators are in other nations—but Indian animal advocates have long sought alternatives.

The tiger conservationist Jim Corbett, born in India of British parents, first won fame by shooting the tigers he memorialized in his 1946 memoir *The Man-Eaters of Kumaon*. Yet far from boasting of his kills, Corbett pleaded for tiger habitat to be set aside, within which tigers could be tigers, safe from the threat of human encroachment.

Though tiger reserves were eventually created, as Corbett recommended, and one of the largest was named in his honor, poaching and encroachment have diminished most of them. The Sariska tiger reserve, formerly among the most accessible to tourists, was apparently poached completely out of tigers in 2003, as was officially confirmed in November 2004. Poachers admitted killing 10 of the 20-odd tigers who were believed to have inhabited Sariska. The rest appeared to have existed only on paper as result of counts inflated to keep tourists coming.

Tiger attacks have declined with the tiger population, from about two dozen a year when India was believed to have several thousand wild tigers, to fewer than half a dozen per year recently. Current data indicates that India may now have less than 1,500 wild tigers. The most recent official tiger counts,

putting the numbers over 2,000, have been widely discredited. A new official count is due to be completed later in 2007.

Asiatic lion attacks have long been rare partly because of the extreme rarity of Asiatic lions. But this may be changing.

The last remaining Asiatic lion habitat, the Gir Forest in Gujarat state, was protected in 1907 by order of the Nawab of Junagadh. The Gir Forest lion population soared from just 13 when the Nawab acted, to 219 in 1950 to 285 by 1963, fell to 177 by 1968, and climbed back to 359 in 2005.

During the past 50 years, however, human encroachment shrank the protected area from more than 4,000 square kilometers to barely 1,400. As many as 90 lions now live outside the protected area, leading to incidents like the reported invasion of Virpur village by a pride of seven lions on January 5, 2005.

"The lions killed 35 goats, four wild pigs, and an ox," Virpur resident Kanubhai Kothiya told the *Times of India*. "One or two lions stray into the village every week, but this was an army."

Even within the protected zone, encroachment is an increasing threat. Gujarat SPCA representative Snehal Bhatt recently detailed to fellow members of the Asian Animal Protection Network. Hugely outnumbered, and often related to the offenders, the local forest guards and other authorities mostly



Clouded leopard. (Kim Bartlett)

look away. Bhatt charged.

Boasts by Gir officials that poaching has been suppressed have been followed at least twice in two years by discoveries of poached carcasses, stripped of marketable body parts. Most recently, two lionesses and a cub were poached circa March 1, 2007.

Thirty-seven recent instances are known of Asiatic lions falling into deep open-pit wells, of whom only 18 were pulled out alive. Gujarat forest minister Mangubhai Patel told news media on March 6. Suspicion that many of these incidents are caused by people seeking to kill lions rose after tire tracks showed that someone apparently chased two cubs into a well, where they were found dead on February 24.

"There have been calls for some lions to be moved to a second reserve, to give them more space," *Independent* Delhi correspondent Justin Haggler reported on March 9. "A site has been found, at the Kuno wildlife sanctuary in the neighbouring state of Madhya Pradesh. The idea is backed by the central government in Delhi, and by the Wildlife Institute of India. But the Gujarat state government has opposed the move, saying the lions are a symbol of pride for Gujarat."

"Leading opposition to the relocation is Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi, who cannot travel to Britain," Haggler noted, "because of calls for him to be prosecuted under international law for the Gujarat massacres [of Muslims, by Hindu nationalists who accused Muslims of starting a deadly train fire] in 2002."

Leopards have no protected habitat designated especially for them. Officially, about 14,000 leopards survive in India, some in forest reserves, many in farming areas where they are blamed for killing cattle, sheep, goats, and at least 33 humans during

the past three years.

The human victims are typically women and children who are pounced while collecting windfallen wood or fruits under trees where leopards lurk in ambush for deer, their primary prey.

Leopards found close to human habitation are often live-trapped to be relocated, but lack of places to put them leads to headlines like, "Leopard saved, now what?", in the February 12, 2007 edition of the *Telegraph of India*.

"A few days ago," explained *Telegraph* reporter Roopak Goswami, "when a leopard who strayed into a busy area of Bhaskarnagar was tranquilized and captured, many felt it was a job well done. But for the Forest Department, it was an addition to a problem—the lack of a proper place to rehabilitate big cats who wander out of their habitat."

A leopard, for example, can only be released into an area "within range of the spot it is rescued from, with an adequate prey base, sufficient water, and most importantly, away from human settlements," Assam State Zoo divisional forest officer Narayan Mahanta told Goswami.

Wrote Goswami, "Most often, these big cats are rescued from hillock areas of the city," where isolated islands of habitat are surrounded by dense suburbs.

"It is very difficult to release them in these places, as the residents will protest," Mahanta said.

The Assam State Zoo added the leopard to a caged leopard collection already numbering a dozen.

Housing more than 700 animals of 45 species, in just 47 enclosures on a 430-acre site, the Assam State Zoo recently announced a 20-year improvement plan focused on conservation breeding and research.

## Getting the show off the road (from page 13)

from a handful of ancestors who were fenced in to attract visitors more than 20 years ago.

The Supreme Court of India ruling of May 1, 2001 only freed tigers, lions, leopards, monkeys and bears from performing and traveling with Indian circuses.

Effecting a paradigm shift in the roles of zoos and perhaps in Indian wildlife conservation policy was scarcely envisioned in reportage at the time—except by People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi. Then Indian federal minister for animal welfare, Mrs. Gandhi has long recommended that zoos should exist only as sanctuaries and educational institutions.

As a newspaper columnist before entering politics, more than 20 years ago, observing zoos rushing to embrace conservation breeding as their purported central purpose, Mrs. Gandhi predicted that captive breeding would probably only perpetuate the practice of producing cute babies for exhibit, doing nothing to rejuvenate wild populations.

Within India, she was right. Not one Indian species has been reintroduced from zoo stock.

Ruling in Mrs. Gandhi's favor, the Supreme Court dismissed a decade of litigation by the Indian Circus Federation, and upheld a 1991 order that the tigers, lions, leopards, monkeys, and bears in their possession must be retired, issued by Mrs. Gandhi when she was minister of forests.

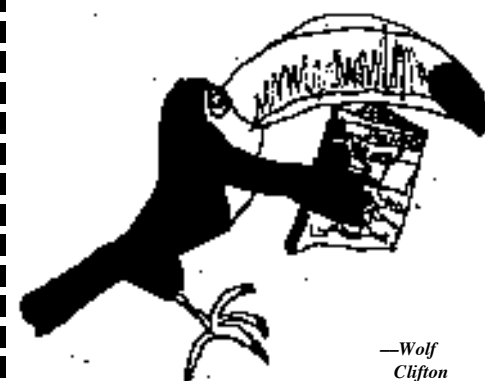
Mrs. Gandhi suggested that taking in the former circus animals would be part of reforming the mission and operation of zoos, in part by increasing the obligation of the national government to assist the work she saw as zoos' legitimate role.

Mrs. Gandhi personally directed only the first part of the federal response to the Supreme Court ruling, while being rapidly transferred—with the animal welfare ministry—through several different cabinet posts. A bizarre coalition of science and superstition, representing both biomedical researchers and practitioners of animal sacrifice, ousted her from the cabinet and stripped her of the animal welfare ministry in mid-2003.

But by then the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling had gained independent momentum.

—Merritt Clifton

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## Wildlife SOS “franchises” dancing bear sanctuaries

**AGRA**—Wildlife SOS, operating three sanctuaries for dancing bears, has made a speciality of helping Kalandar dancing bear exhibitors into other occupations, in exchange for their bears and a pledge to stay out of promoting animal acts.

Frequently the price of a dancing bear is the training and start-up capital to enable a Kalandar family to start a small business, a sharp break from a tradition so ancient that many of the oldest circus families worldwide—such as the Chipperfields, performing in Britain since 1683—appear to have Kalandar origins.

“We have seen a change in attitude amongst the Kalandar people themselves,” says Wildlife SOS cofounder Kartick Satyanarayan. “Bear poachers in Uttar Pradesh state recently tried to sell a young cub to a Kalandar community, but the villagers refused to buy the cub because they knew this would be against the law. I truly feel there is an end in sight,” Satyanarayan emphasizes, “and one day the streets of India will be free of captive bears being tortured for entertainment.”

Wildlife SOS began as a wildlife rescue auxiliary to the Friendicoes Society for the Eradication of Cruelty to Animals in New Delhi. In 1996 Wildlife SOS began building a dancing bear sanctuary on 20 acres within the Sur Sarovar wildlife refuge, 17 kilometres from the Taj Mahal in nearby Agra. Initiated as part of a multinational string of dancing bear sanctuaries funded by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the first Wildlife SOS sanctuary was completed six years later as the first Animal Rescue Center accredited by the Central Zoo Authority of India, after a split with WSPA.

It opened on Christmas Day 2002, sponsored by International Animal Rescue, Save the Bears, and One Voice.

Observed **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim



Three bears await their porridge and fruit at the Wildlife SOS sanctuary near Agra. (Kim Bartlett)

Bartlett on a recent visit, “The area designated for Wildlife SOS was cleared land, but they planted trees that have grown so fast that it seems to be a natural jungle. The feel of it is exactly the same as at Keoladeo Ghana National Park,” the renowned bird sanctuary near Bharatpur, before recent years of drought drained most of the habitat.

“Wild animals are moving in from elsewhere,” said Bartlett, who photographed a 20-foot python nearby, “and they are all safe there. Wildlife SOS takes other species of rescued animals into the facility,” as necessary. Civets and nilgai were on the premises when Bartlett visited.

“These bears are not dangerous to the handlers, who

can come and go in their enclosures with no fear,” Bartlett saw. “The bears sleep in their inner dens, or outside, as they wish. It is all very natural.

“The land for the bears goes down to the river that circles around the back of the Taj Mahal,” Bartlett added. “They are trying to secure a parcel of land on the other side of the river, so as to expand the bear facilities, as they are expecting to receive more bears.”

Meanwhile, Wildlife SOS has opened two additional Animal Rescue Centres for rescued bears—within Bannerghatta National Park, near Bangalore, in Karnataka state, and at Van Vihar, near Bhopal, in Madya Pradesh state.

## Indian humane societies clash with PETA & government over wildlife rescue role

by Merritt Clifton

**BANGALORE**—PETA/India, the Karnataka state forestry agency, and the Central Zoo Authority of India are aligned against all five of the local humane societies in a turf war over who has the right to house and treat wildlife.

Summarized *The Hindu* on February 27, 2007, “In a petition before the Supreme Court, PETA seeks the closure of all unrecognised zoos and unauthorized rescue and rehabilitation centers,” allegedly because “poor infrastructure has led to unnecessary pain and suffering of animals housed in them.”

The CZA recognizes 15 zoos and wildlife parks in Karnataka state, but does not recognize six privately operated zoos, and “has withheld the applications filed by People for Animals, the Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre in Bannerghatta run by Compassion Unlimited Plus Action, the

Karuna animal shelter, and the Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Trust,” *The Hindu* reported.

The only approved non-governmental wildlife rescue facility in the Bangalore area appears to be the bear rehabilitation center operated by Wildlife SOS on land within Bannerghatta National Park. Access is closely restricted by the park administration.

Visiting the CUPA Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre in January 2007, soon after visiting the River Trail Nature Center and The Grove nature center in the Chicago area, and the renowned Wisconsin Humane Society wildlife rehabilitation wing in Milwaukee, I found that the quality of animal care was about the same.

The CUPA facilities hold far fewer animals, with only one full-time staff member, and operate under limitations

including lack of a working well on the premises, but CUPA has much more space to expand into, as funding permits.

CUPA returns to the wild any animals who can be released safely. Some birds who were released successfully some time ago still fly back for daily visits.

Meanwhile, official governmental wildlife care centers around India often have their own problems—and have also come into conflict with the Central Zoo Authority.

“At the Forest Department’s Deer Research and Animal Rescue Centre in Bidhannagar,” reported Rakeeb Hossain of the *Hindustan Times* on January 2, 2007, “rescued animals are crammed into small transport cages with hardly any space to move. They have no proper housing, round-the-clock medical facility, full-time veterinarian, or veterinary unit.

(continued on page 16)



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# The Watchdog

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

## Animal Rescue League of Boston closes five-year-old Pembroke shelter

**BOSTON**—The Animal Rescue League of Boston announced on February 28, 2007 that it will close the Pembroke Animal Care & Adoption Center, only five years after completing it, at cost of \$7 million.

Animal Rescue League president Jay Bowen, heading the league since 40-year president Arthur Slade retired in December 2005, told news media that the Pembroke shelter has lost more than \$1 million a year.

“The league has more than \$100 million in assets and an endowment of more than \$80 million,” despite investment losses of more than \$20 million since 2002, “but Bowen said the Pembroke shelter has lost money every year,” wrote Syndey Schwartz of the South-of-Boston *Patriot Ledger*.

“The organization plans to sell or rent the Pembroke building, but will keep its adjacent 60-acre nature sanctuary and dog walk,” Schwartz said.

Animals at the Pembroke shelter

who are not adopted will be transferred to the Animal Rescue League shelters in Boston, Dedham, and Brewster, Bowen said.

Building the Pembroke shelter was funded by a 1986 bequest of \$2.3 million from the estate of a man named Fred Potter.

The Animal Rescue League spent \$687,000 to buy the property in 1994, including a house used for several years by then-league operations director Edward Powers. The Animal Rescue League called the site a “wildlife sanctuary.”

In 1997 the Town of Pembroke revoked the league’s tax exemption on the property. In 1999 the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board board ordered the league to pay back taxes of \$10,545.

The Animal Rescue League in August 2006 announced that it was looking for “developers willing to combine residential units with new veterinary facilities on the prime real estate the organization owns at

Tremont and Chandler streets,” in Boston, reported Thomas C. Palmer Jr. of the *Boston Globe* in August 2006.

“The league and creatures in its custody inhabit a crowded and outdated facility, built in the 1950s,” Palmer explained. “The organization hopes to capitalize on residential real estate market, and let a developer and some new condo owners help finance a modern facility that it would own, below the private residences.”

So far, no deal has been disclosed.

While the Animal Rescue League prepared to close the Pembroke shelter, after closing a shelter in Salem in 2003, and cancelling plans to build a shelter in Ipswich, the Humane Society of the U.S. on March 17, 2007 broke ground for a new 4.3-acre Cape Wildlife Center in Cummaquid, Massachusetts. The much smaller original site in West Barnstable, opened in 1995, now handles more than 1,600 wild animals per year.

## ANTI-GASSING VERDICT

**ATLANTA**—Fulton County Superior Court Judge Cynthia D. Wright on March 23, 2007 ordered the Georgia Department of Agriculture to enforce the 1990 state Humane Euthanasia Act, which requires that animal shelters must use sodium pentobarbital to kill dogs and cats, and prohibits leaving dying animals unattended. The law allowed county animal control agencies that used carbon monoxide gas chambers in 1990 to continue using them, but did not allow new gas chambers to be installed. It exempted counties of under 25,000 residents.

The case was filed by former state representative Chesley Morton, author of the Humane Euthanasia Act, and veterinary technician Jennifer Robinson, whose dog Pacino was gassed by Clayton County Animal Control after being hit by two cars.

## Euro Commission sues Greece

**BRUSSELS**—The European Commission on March 21, 2007 announced that it “has decided to refer Greece to the European Court of Justice for failure to properly implement and enforce European Union legislation on animal welfare in transport and at slaughter. The Commission first initiated an infringement procedure against Greece in 1998,” the announcement explained, “but terminated it following commitments from Greek authorities to improve matters. Food & Veterinary Office visits carried out between 2003 and 2006 revealed no substantial improvement.”

**Jeffrey S. Klausner**, dean of the **University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine** since 1998, and a faculty member since 1977, is to be named chief executive of the **Animal Medical Center** on April 23, 2007, the center announced. The Animal Medical Center was founded in 1910 to help pets of the poor, but has long emphasized advanced treatments and research instead. With income of nearly \$40 million, Animal Medical Center spent \$285,780 to help the pets of indigent people in 2005, and spent \$431,793 to provide care to guide dogs.

**Lois Snider**, 74, a cofounder of the **Brown County Humane Society** in Georgetown, Ohio, retired on February 20, 2007, after 32 years of service to the organization in six different leadership roles.

**Eileen Liska**, legislative liaison for the **Michigan Humane Society** since 1985, has announced her retirement, but said she would remain involved on behalf of Michigan Humane as a paid consultant.

## RSPCA of Australia offers beer for cane toads

**SYDNEY**—“Hops for hoppers plan likely to croak,” the *Sydney Morning Herald* headlined on February 27, 2007.

A year after the Royal SPCA of Australia began offering cane toad hunters a free beer for every toad delivered to RSPCA shelters alive, the offer has reportedly had few takers—while hunters continue to club cane toads, shoot them, spear them, and sometimes lick them, to get a potentially lethal high from a poison they secrete that has reputed psychedelic effects.

Native to the Amazon rain forest, 101 cane toads were released in Queensland in 1935 to combat cane beetles, native to Australia, who were attacking sugar cane crops. Ignoring the cane beetles, cane toads instead became the most successful predators of mosquito larvae Down Under.

Grown to full size, however, cane toads also consume native amphibians, lizards, ground-nesting birds, small marsupial mammals, and fellow non-native species including mice, rats, and young rabbits.

Despite decades of aggressive persecution, there are now an estimated 100 million cane toads in Australia, who have established a presence as far as 2,000 road miles from their release point.

Seeking to discourage cruelty to cane toads, Lindsay Wilkinson, interim executive director of the Darwin branch of Royal SPCA of Australia, in January 2006 told Australian Broadcasting Corporation talk

show hosts Anne Barker and Mark Colvin that the proper way to kill toads is to treat them first with anesthetic hemorrhoid cream.

“Just run a 25 millimetre strip down the back of the cane toad,” Wilkinson said. “The cane toad will quickly go into a deep sleep. You pick the toad up, and place it into a plastic bag, and you put it in the freezer.”

Wilkinson warned that children exposed to the usual methods of killing cane toads might progress to using similar methods to kill feral cats, also widely demonized in Australia, and eventually develop “psychopathic tendencies” toward fellow humans.

Two months later, when use of hemorrhoid cream to kill toads did not catch on, Wilkinson partnered with Cooper’s Brewery and the Cavenagh Hotel in Darwin to offer a glass of Cooper’s at the hotel in exchange for each toad.

“No coupons for squashed toads,” Wilkinson warned.

Wilkinson said that the RSPCA would kill the toads with sodium pentobarbital, applied to the toads’ skin, rather than by injection as for mammals.

Two beers were claimed the first day. Then the offer seemed to be forgotten—until the RSPCA shelter in Cairns in early 2007 announced a similar deal, partnering with the Red Beret Hotel in Redlynch. The Cairns deal, however, offered two beers for a bag of 20 cane toads, and received no takers at all.

## People & positions

**The Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society**, serving Albany, New York, since 1887, on March 19, 2007 introduced new executive director **Brad Shear**. Shear was previously shelter manager and animal care and control director for the **Humane Society of Boulder Valley** in Colorado, managed the Brooklyn shelter for the **New York City Center for Animal Care & Control**, and was director of operations for the **Atlanta Humane Society**. Shear succeeds interim director **Warren Cox**, who has headed 24 humane societies and animal control agencies in 55 years. His seventh post was as founding director of the **Animal Rescue League** in Marshalltown, Iowa, whose director since 1976, **Wendy Fields**, in March 2007 announced her retirement. Fields began working at the Animal Rescue League at age 16 to pay off her dog’s impoundment fees. She succeeded then-director **Bob Brandau**, recalled **Greg Pierquet** of the *Marshalltown Times-Republican*, after showing her dedication by bottle-feeding two orphaned skunk babies. The skunks remained her pets for eight years.

**Former Clark County assistant manager Christine Robinson** debuts on April 10 as executive director of the **Animal Foundation**. The Animal Foundation operates the **Lied Animal Shelter** in Las Vegas, where approximately 1,000 animals were killed in February 2007 to contain outbreaks of parvovirus, distemper, and panleukopenia.

## Indian humane societies clash with PETA (from page 15)

There are hardly any employees trained to handle the animals.

“Though it was set up a decade ago as a rescue centre,” Hossain explained, “the department also tried to use the facility as a deer research park, without necessary permission or facilities. After the Forest Department applied to the CZA for recognition of the center, CZA scientific officer Bipul Chakraborty in June 2006 visited the Bidhannagar centre. He found 188 animals of 14 species, cramped in a space ‘only two hectare in area and surrounded by the Krishnapur water channel, the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, and the residential area of Salt Lake.’”

Among the animals were 15 spotted deer, 15 rhesus macaques, seven langurs, five bonnet macaques, a jackal, a palm civet, 33 soft-shelled turtles, 63 star tortoises, 15 parakeets, and 25 munias, Hossain said.

Even if all of the Animal Rescue Centres now accredited by the CZA expand to their maximum projected capacity, they will be far from enough to accommodate all the former captive wildlife and rescued wild animals in India who need safe housing.

Major Indian humane societies such as CUPA, Compassionate Crusaders of Calcutta, the Bombay SPCA, the Animal Help Foundation of Ahmedabad, Help In Suffering, and the Visakha SPCA of Visakhapatnam have always integrated wildlife care into their missions, building facilities to house wild species in small numbers.

Recently, however, many have been asked to handle more than just the occasional wild animal. Crackdowns on wildlife trafficking have produced a surfeit of confiscated animals such as star tortoises, common in captivity but rare in the wild. Usually these animals cannot be returned to the wild because of the risk that they may have been exposed to diseases

while held in filthy, crowded conditions by traffickers, and might take the diseases back into the wild population.

Star tortoises, for example, seldom seen in shelters as recently as five years ago, are now relatively ubiquitous. Because they are endangered, they cannot be adopted out. Because they have street value, they require special security precautions to keep safely.

But star tortoises are the least of the longterm wildlife care problems now confronting Indian humane organizations, who find themselves expected to house animals that government agencies, zoos, and the Animal Rescue Centres either cannot or will not accommodate—and also find themselves subject to regulations written for exhibition facilities, that they have difficulty meeting.

Monkeys are the biggest problem.

As Animal Birth Control programs reduce the populations of street dogs, rhesus macaques and Hanuman langurs are increasingly becoming an urban nuisance, much more likely to bite and do property damage than the dogs whose places they take around trash heaps.

The conventional municipal response is so far mostly just to round monkeys up and dump them in the countryside, but urbanized monkeys typically find their way back into town, much as dogs did when the same method was tried with them.

Most Indian humane societies have so far avoided taking in street monkeys, other than occasional special cases who have been injured in accidents.

The Chennai-based Blue Cross of India, however, has gained experience at housing whole troupes by taking in an entire laboratory colony several years ago. The survivors now occupy two large cages at one of the Blue Cross Animal Birth Control clinics on the Chennai outskirts.



CUPA wildlife rehabilitator Saleem Hameed with baby civets. (Eileen Weintraub)

Blue Cross chief executive Chinny Krishna doubts that large numbers of monkeys really can be given good lives, within the limitations of funding and space that humane societies deal with. He has also argued for decades that doing Animal Birth Control, rather than sheltering large numbers of dogs, cats, or cattle, should be the focal role of Indian humane organizations.

Yet the Blue Cross does shelter hundreds of dogs, cats, and cattle, because the public and donors expect it, and because Chinny Krishna himself admits that he cannot refuse shelter to an animal in urgent need.

## Kenya wildlife policy committee pushes “cropping,” not “hunting”

**NAIROBI**—“The National Steering Committee,” drafting revisions to Kenyan wildlife policy, “has dropped recommendations for killing animals for fun,” revealed *The Nation* environment correspondent John Mbaria on March 16, 2007. Instead, Mbaria wrote, “it has adopted cropping wildlife.” Mbaria explained that the draft policy “defines cropping as ‘harvesting free-ranging animals for a range of products, including meat and wildlife trophies.’”

“In Kenya,” Mbaria continued, “most animals are free-ranging. Apart from Saiwa Swamp in Western Kenya, and Aberdares and Lake Nakuru national parks, which have electric fences, the rest of the parks and reserves are open.”

The new draft policy position “is just a matter of semantics. Cropping is hunting by another name,” International Fund for Animal Welfare regional communications officer Elizabeth Wamba told Mbaria.

“Kenya will now not have trophy hunting,” affirmed African Network for Animal Welfare founder Josphat Ngonyo. “However, it will have cropping. This has been abused before,” Ngonyo warned. “Besides, wildlife numbers have declined, and we do not know the correct population position yet. We are therefore campaigning that this be put at bay.”

“Fear that cropping might further diminish wildlife in Kenya is underscored by past practice,” Mbaria wrote, “especially by big-time game ranchers who were given a go-ahead to engage in cropping on an experimental basis by the Kenya Wildlife Service between 1991 and 2003.”

The experiment ended after a company called Tasha Bioservices Ltd., headed by Moi University lecturer Jim Kairu, spent 2001 gathering data. Tasha Bioservices found that “Some croppers are known to abuse their licences by injuring both target and non-target animals, shooting animals indiscriminately, shooting species not included in the allocated quotas, and killing animals beyond the scheduled boundaries.”

The Kenya Wildlife Service had incorrectly believed, based on reports and complaints from private landowners, that “many non-protected wildlife areas were teeming with excess wildlife,” Mbaria summarize. This proved to be false.

“Cropping does not benefit the local communities,” Ngonyo said, “and will jeopardize the strategies proposed to curb the bush meat problem and compensation through human-wildlife conflict.”

Ngonyo was a close observer of the previous failure of cropping. As an employee of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust elephant and rhinoceros orphanage, Ngonyo helped to raise animals orphaned by poachers who used cropping as a cover. Ngonyo later founded Youth for Conservation to attack the bush meat trade, which also used cropping as a cover. Since 1998 Youth for Conservation has organized volunteers to remove poachers’ snares from the Kenyan national parks.

States the March 5, 2007 edition of the draft wildlife policy, “Cropping will be allowed, subject to verified scientific information and clear framework for benefit sharing.”

The draft policy “encourages and promotes as appropriate” manufacturing and exporting products made from wildlife. “For the time being,” the draft policy says, “sport hunting is excluded from wildlife user rights until such time

(as) there is developed effective mechanisms for ensuring that there are direct benefits to local communities.”

This leaves the door open to allowing sport hunting at a future date.

Mbaria had on February 24, 2007 extensively exposed efforts by the U.S. Agency for International Development and Safari Club International to undermine the Kenyan hunting ban.

“Cropping has now replaced sport hunting,” Mbaria observed. “But many Kenyans living with wildlife are still opposed to it. Representatives of communities from different regions organized a demonstration [during the second week of March, 2007], at which they hoped to present their grievances to tourism and wildlife minister Morris Dzoro. But the demonstration was scuttled by the police, who said the group of about 200 representatives had not notified them properly.”

“Just as in the current process of making the country’s wildlife policy, the earlier cropping experiment was introduced at the behest of powerful international forces,” Mbaria wrote. “Seemingly, the country’s wildlife resource has been targeted by such elitist hunting groups as Safari Club International,” which was also behind the passage of a stealth bill to repeal the hunting ban in December 2004.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki vetoed the repeal after Youth for Conservation mobilized nationwide opposition.

Cropping previously “had very little benefit to local communities,” Mbaria noted, “as it was meant for large-scale landholders hosting wild animals on their properties.”

“Many people who took part in a nationwide views-gathering exercise were opposed to the introduction of cropping in the draft policy,” Mbaria added. “Communities in 18 of the 21 wildlife regions in Kenya ruled out hunting, cropping, culling, or any other consumptive use of wild animals.”



Giraffes in Kenya. (Elissa Free)

## Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Center helped to save a troubled zoo

**VISAKHAPATNAM**—Built to a then-state-of-the-art plan in 1972, the 625-acre Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam is among the world’s most spacious zoos, and is among the few in India with authentic conservation breeding credentials.

“Captive breeding for species survival” is the mission touted on page one of the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park brochures. Captive breeding successes include the December 2007 births of eight dholes, Asian cousins of the better known African wild dog.

Yet while captive breeding may have enhanced the prestige of the Indira Gandhi Zoo among fellow zoo professionals, the mission that really saved the zoo appears to have been opening one of the first CZA-accredited Animal Rescue Centres for ex-circus animals, in February 2001.

Current Indira Gandhi Zoo director B. Vijay Kumar added the Animal Rescue Centre as part of a master plan to rehabilitate

the zoo image, after much of the collection was poached or stolen under his predecessors during the 1990s.

Replacing the missing animals and restoring the grounds, Vijay Kumar more than tripled zoo attendance, revenues, and the operating budget.

More than a quarter of the budget goes into maintaining the Animal Rescue Centre. Not open to the public, the Animal Rescue Centre has nonetheless become a source of community pride, attracting at least as much news coverage as the zoo itself.

Built to hold 30 lions and 30 tigers, the Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Centre actually houses 48 lions and 13 tigers at present, as—to the surprise of the Central Zoo Authority—African lions turned out to be far more common in Indian circuses than either tigers or native Asiatic lions.

The paucity of Asiatic lions in circuses who might be suitable for inclusion in

captive breeding protocols has disappointed zoos nationwide, who had hoped for an influx of new genes from circus animal collections.

Keeping lions and tigers healthy and happy in a confined environment is a considerable challenge, even at the best of zoos. Physically and psychologically rehabilitating ex-performing cats is more challenging still.

Most of those in Visakhapatnam arrived with chronic physical problems, as result of poor diets, parasites, lack of adequate exercise while spending years in small cages, and untreated old injuries.

Scars on most of the big cats’ foreheads are a visible consequence of repeated electroshocking. Degenerative hip ailments are a legacy of riding many thousands of miles over bumpy roads in wagons without good springs—or any springs at all. Some of the cats are blind.

As much physical care as the big cats typically require, however, their psychological abnormalities are harder to treat.

The tigers, in general, adapt more rapidly to relative freedom within spacious enclosures. Many of the lions, even after years at the Animal Rescue Centre, are still afraid to go outside. Once coaxed or coerced to go outdoors, they wait fearfully beside the door until allowed back in.

Inside, some pace within the exact bounds of the circus wagons they occupied years ago, imagining barriers where none exist. Several try to hide from humans.

Eight lions and tigers died from various unforeseen complications during the first 21 months that the Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Centre operated, Ramesh Susarla of *The Hindu* reported in June 2003. Among them, four tigers were killed by other tigers after finding various ways to breach cage barriers, despite repeated barrier modifications and reinforcement. The original design apparently worked well with ordinary zoo tigers in France, but the ex-circus tigers proved to be more inventive and aggressive.

With most of the Indian traveling shows now out of business, Vijay Kumar and staff do not anticipate an ongoing large influx of more ex-circus animals.

The Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Centre has, however, received animals from at least two other zoos that had serious problems. Most recently, in August 2006, the center took in six big cats from the Birs Munda Zoological Park in Ranchi, Jharkand, after six others died within a month’s time from the tick-borne disease babesiosis. Ironically, the Birs Munda Zoo was itself planning to build an Animal Rescue Centre.

Two years earlier, in August 2004, the Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Centre took in seven tigers from the former Pratap Sinhav Udyan Zoo in Sangli, Maharashtra, derecognized by the Central Zoo Authority due to bad conditions and poor animal care.

Despite the derecognition, and despite protests led by PETA/India, the Pratap Sinhav Udyan Zoo continued operating for another year, still with five lions, until flooded by the August 2005 monsoons.

Wildlife SOS then evacuated the last five Sangli lions to the Animal Rescue Centre run by the Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park in Tirupati. [Two photos of the evacuation appeared on page 12 of the September 2005 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.]

The Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park built the Tirupati Animal Rescue Centre to more-or-less the same specifications as the Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Centre, to accommodate 60 big cats.

After receiving the last of the Pratap Sinhav Udyan Zoo lions, it was almost full, but nonetheless accepted another 16 lionesses, three lions, and a tiger just two weeks later. Kerala Forest Department senior veterinary E.K. Easwaran told news media that the Jumbo Circus of Wayanad, Kerala, had apparently kept the animals for seven years in a garden on a coffee plantation, hoping to find a way to again exhibit them.

—Merritt Clifton



Former circus tiger at the Visakhapatnam Animal Rescue Center. (Kim Bartlett)

## Anti-ABC backlash after fatal dog attacks is burning out in Bangalore

**BANGALORE**—Blue Cross of India chief executive Chinny Krishna, architect of the Indian national Animal Birth Control policy, had for 10 years predicted a violent backlash. Dog-haters, Krishna warned, would ally with opportunistic politicians seeking a “wedge” issue to attack pro-ABC governments.

ABC had to succeed so completely in preventing rabies and dog attacks as to avoid giving anti-dog factions any opportunity to gain momentum—“Because once the cities start killing dogs again,” Krishna predicted over and over, “they will not stop.”

Once dog-killers are back on the public payroll, Krishna explained time and again, they would again become part of India’s sprawling bureaucracy, with reinforced political backing.

If the history of ABC ever enters textbooks, the first months of 2007 may be remembered for the Battle of Bangalore, beginning with a January 5 fatal pack attack on a nine-year-old girl named Sridevi, near a lot used for dumping meat wastes in a shantytown suburb beyond reach of local ABC programs.

A prompt response by the ABC program chiefs quelled the initial backlash, as detailed by Animal Rights Fund volunteer Poonima Harish in the March 2007 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. ARF had warned in 2002 that illegal meat shops were encouraging dog packs to form in that very area.

But much of Bangalore exploded against dogs when a second fatal attack occurred on March 1, also near a site where meat wastes were dumped, also beyond the limits of the ABC programs as defined by their municipal contracts.

“Four-and-half-year-old Manjunath was playing with his friends,” the *Times of India* reported, “when the dogs caught him in their jaws and dragged him across the open ground. Within seconds, the murderous pack had almost severed his neck. The last words of this little boy were ‘neeru, neeru,’ meaning ‘water, water.’”

Surgeons tried for nine hours to save Manjunath, to no avail.

“An agitated crowd of 400” rallied after Manunath’s funeral, asking the authorities to “eradicate street dogs,” said *The Hindu*.

“Vociferous demands for resignation of Health Minister R. Ashok and Bangalore commissioner K. Jairaj disrupted traffic for over half an hour,” added the *Deccan Herald*.

“Indiscriminate killing of dogs has never been the solution for dog control management,” World Health Organization zoonotic disease chief F.X. Meslin told a March 3 press conference in Bangalore, explaining that the Animal Birth Control approach “is the best way to stabilize dog numbers.”

“While public outcry is understandable, it is imperative to be rational,” Animal Welfare Board of India chair R.M. Kharb added, emphasizing that “ABC needs to be extended on a much larger scale, executed by a highly motivated and professional team.”

But even as they spoke, *The Hindu* recounted, a dog bit a 10-year-old girl. A mob killed the dog.

Mayhem spread to the Sunnadakeri

district of Mysore a day later, *The Hindu* reported, where a mob bludgeoned a dog who was believed to have bitten four children.

“Sunnadakeri resident Jogi Manju said there were six meat stalls in the locality and all of them dumped wastes on which dogs fed,” *The Hindu* noted. “Manju said children played on the same road and the dogs tended to fear that their food would be snatched.”

The Mysore government by mid-night “launched an operation to catch and cull dogs,” *The Hindu* added. “Officials claimed that only 47 dogs were given lethal injections, but according to eyewitnesses the number was higher. Officials claimed that only ferocious dogs and those displaying signs of rabies were culled, but it was obvious that even timid and friendly dogs were not spared.

“Seven meat stalls were closed down at Sunnadakeri and eight in other parts of the city,” *The Hindu* continued.

Back in Bangalore, “The fight spilled into a very hot political arena,” Harish told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “with government taking it as an issue, the Bangalore commissioner under terrible attack, the media unrelentingly dishing up sensational and terribly damaging statements. All of the animal welfare organizations have been accused of embezzling, by both Kannada and English press, without a shred of evidence.

“Were it not at the cost of so many innocent lives, the political drama would have provided comic relief,” Harish said. “Till now I have not understood who was using this issue. Knives were drawn for dogs and for animal welfare organizations, in that order.” Harish explained, naming at least three political factions who tried to exploit the crisis.

“Chastised by public uproar against the stray dog menace,” trumpeted the *Times of India*, “health minister R. Ashok declared on Friday that all stray dogs would be euthanised within a month.

“We’ll intensify the culling and killing without mercy. As health minister, I’m not happy with the animal welfare organizations’ work,” Ashok fulminated.

### Dog heroes

Observed M. Radhika of *Tehelka: The People’s Paper*, “The city’s media is siding with those who want stray dogs killed, so much so that mere bites are now being reported as crime stories. Lost in frenzy is the story of how dogs helped save a newborn’s life in the forests of Devarayanadurga in Tumkur on March 9. An unwed mother abandoned her child in the forest, but a pack of dogs, who had followed her, stood guard over the infant all night to prevent any attack by other animals. The next morning, a passerby found the child and, as it chanced, took the baby to the same woman, who wept with joy, having spent the night in guilt.”

The Devarayanadurga incident was verified by other media.

Commissioner Jairaj “has requested us to be with him and not alienate ourselves,” said Harish. “We have had years of relations with the city government, and they, I feel, value the association. We have been told, almost ordered, to be sensitive to public senti-



*Savitha Nagabhushan’s videotape of a dog massacre helped to turn public opinion. (CUPA)*

ments, which are fragile and can explode; to refrain from answering provocative questions from the media; to be part of the drive to round up feral dogs, those who run in packs, and those who bring complaints; and to shelter and evaluate the dogs who are brought in.”

Jairaj by March 5 had reassigned 30 municipal trucks to dogcatching, each staffed with three garbage handlers to do the captures, a policeman to guard them, and a health officer. As the garbage handlers proved unable to clear the streets of dogs, Jairaj two days later hired “12 professionals from the Malabar region of Kerala,” *The Hindu* reported, who snared 491 dogs on their first day of work.

The “12 professionals” are believed to have been a team from Trivandrum who were trained by Animal Rescue Kerala to assist an ABC program. Instead, ARK founder Avis Lyons told the Asian Animal Protection Network, they used their training “to kill most of the street dog population in Trivandrum.”

Since then, they have worked in other cities as a mercenary hit squad, killing as many as 1,000 dogs in November 2006 at Conoor and Kotagiri, after a dog injured a child, according to Fay Vohra of the India Project for Animals & Nature.

The first dogs caught in Bangalore were taken to the local ABC headquarters.

“There are dogs in the van parked outside. There is no space to keep them inside,” said Harish.

“We had to turn away one van because we did not have space to keep the dogs,” said a Karuna ABC staffer named Dharneesh.

The Compassion Unlimited Plus Action hospital and shelter, across a side street from Karuna on the Hebbal Veterinary College Campus, took in 200 dogs, in addition to those already there.

“We don’t know where they originated—the vans just brought them, and we housed them till we could not manage any more,” director Suparna Ganguly e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “They just started picking up all sterilized dogs on the road.”

“The commissioner ordered that only sick, ferocious and dangerous dogs should be taken, but innocent dogs were picked up,” agreed CUPA treasurer Sanobar Bharucha.

The extra work obliged the ABC programs to suspend doing surgeries—for which they had not been paid by the city in six months. The suspension was also a warning to public officials that the ABC directors felt they had been unfairly blamed long enough, and hoped to see some signs of support.

When after six days there was nowhere left to put dogs, the captures appeared to stop. Dogs already in custody remained in trucks outside the ARF, Karuna, and CUPA facilities for days, receiving volunteer care and feeding, while the city built three new holding areas for dogs at outlying sites.

By March 9, Jairaj told *The Hindu*, 1,297 dogs had been captured. “Of these 221 were culled,” he said. Later the same day, Jairaj told Habib Beary of BBC News that more than 2,000 dogs were caught.

### Secret killing

“Unable to accommodate hundreds of dogs, Bangalore officials are exterminating the dogs and dumping their carcasses,” Afshan Yasmeen of *The Hindu* revealed. “According to sources at the dog pounds, the canines are either electrocuted or injected with poison. The method of disposal is posing a health hazard to villages near the dumping yards. The villagers, who have always complained about the unbearable stench of the garbage dumped there, are now protesting.”

Residents of three villages stopped four truckloads of dead dogs, Yasmeen said.

“With private contractors refusing to transport the carcasses, the civic body is using its own garbage lorries,” Yasmeen continued.

Barred from the Bangalore pound at Koramangala, Yasmeen and a photographer, “noticing that dogs were being taken to the city’s dysfunctional asphalt plant across the road, sneaked into the premises and found heaps of dog carcasses,” Yasmeen added.

The *Times of India* in particular continued to inflame public fury against dogs, the city government, and ABC. “But the tide has turned,” CUPA veterinarian Shiela Rao told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“A very active group of young supporters has been busy. One lot stormed into the *Times*’ office, demanded to see the editor and threatened to burn his paper on the streets if he

(continued on page 19)



## Beirut animal rescuers are back online

“Just now, after seven months, were we able to establish a new e-mailing system,” Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wrote on March 27, 2007, after last e-mailing directly to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on October 3, 2006, eight days after evacuating 300 animals to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

BETA had rescued 237 dogs and 2005 cats during two months of fighting in southern Lebanon between Israeli troops and the Hezbollah militia.

**LEFT: U.S. Army captain Gwynne Kinley, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa veterinarian and mission commander, in March 2007 directed a three-day seminar on animal health care for 30 women from the villages of Qalanisah and Hadibo on Socotra, a Yemeni island off Somalia in the Indian Ocean. Women are the main caretakers for the estimated 150,000 goats and sheep on Socotra.**

**“It was important to have an all-female team,” U.S. Army staff sergeant and civil affairs specialist Jennifer A. Brooks explained to technical sergeant Carrie Bernard, specialist. “The women in Yemen are usually completely covered, except for their eyes, and do not socialize with men who are not family members.”**

**A local male veterinarian served as interpreter. Bernard relayed the particulars and photo to ANIMAL PEOPLE via Air Force News Agency Public Relations representative Gerry Proctor, of San Antonio, Texas.**

“Even though the war is over, the political situation is still unstable,” BETA said. “Everybody is concerned with personal survival, scared of what will happen the next day, and defending animals seems insignificant to most people. Rescues never stopped. We now have 200 dogs and 130 cats in our care,” with an “urgent need for evacuation of our dog shelter. Our neighbors are not very fond of dogs and have issued us a month’s notice,” BETA explained. “Thankfully, we were able to locate a piece of land and are now in the process of building a shelter according to European and American standards.”

BETA fundraising has for ten months relied mostly on response to the BETA web site, <<http://beta.beirut.com>>. “Due to the critical political situation, we are unable to raise funds on the ground,” BETA explained.

### Jordan clinic opens

Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan on March 19, 2007 opened the Garden Sanctuary for Animal Welfare Center in Amman, to provide free veterinary care to the animals of farmers and villagers. Directed by Margaret Ledger, cofounder of the Humane Center for Animal Welfare, the center will be funded for two years by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, which has been active in Jordan since 2004. The Brooke Hospital for Animals has operated an equine clinic and a mobile unit in Jordan since 1988, and the Society for Protecting Animals Abroad, involved in Jordan since 1991, now operates two clinics and four mobile units in Jordan.

## Anti-ABC backlash after dog attacks burns out in Bangalore *(from page 18)*

continued this biased reporting,” Rao said. “Another called the Bombay head office, got to speak with someone from the management, and filed a complaint against the local editor. She also alerted a news channel to the whereabouts of one of the dogcatching vans, who followed it and gave a moving account of the dogcatching drive. A senior editor of the *Hindustan Times*, now retired, has worked overtime from Kolkata,” diagonally across India, “to stop biased and libelous reporting.”

People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi “has been right there too,” Rao added, “working with political leaders, since her party is a coalition partner of the Bangalore government.”

### Governor objects

“Condemning the move to indiscriminately cull street dogs in Bangalore and Mysore, Governor T.N. Chaturvedi on Tuesday sent a strongly worded letter to Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, asking for a scientific approach to deal with street dogs,” reported Swathi Shivanand of *The Hindu*.

“The real issue,” Chaturvedi wrote, “is that for the last two or three decades, the municipal authorities and government departments concerned have failed in their responsibilities. This is the cumulative result.”

About 500 people on March 12 rallied in Bangalore against indiscriminate dog captures. Protester Jeremy D’Souza told BBC News that most of the dogs caught in his neighborhood had notched ears, indicating that they had been sterilized and vaccinated.

“Pictures taken by D’Souza showed one dog being hauled into a cage on a truck upside-down by a wire cord around his hind legs,” reported Beary.

Bangalore animal advocate and photographer Savitha Nagabhushan gathered further shocking evidence that morning in Mandya, 120 kilometres to the south. Responding to a tip, “leaving Bangalore at dawn, Nagabhushan and two friends searched Mandya until they discovered a city truck full of dead dogs,” recounted Varuna Verma of the *Daily Telegraph*. “Posing as a dog-hater, Nagabhushan asked the workers if she could see how the dogs were caught and killed.

“The dogs were caught with a wire. Cyanide was injected into their stomachs or hearts, depending on how much they resisted,” Nagabhushan told Verma. “The dog-catcher said he was paid per dog corpse.”

“The killing was not only horrifying and cruel but also against the law,” reported Maya Sharma of NDTV. “There are rules that absolutely forbid killing healthy street dogs. They are instead meant to be sterilised, vaccinated and released where they have been caught, under the ABC rules.

Mandya district commission M.A.M. Ramaswamy confirmed to Sharma, she continued, “that dogs in his city had been killed by two so-called experts from Kerala who had been called in by the state government to reduce the dog population in Bangalore. He said he did not know how many dogs had been killed, and that the killing had totally stopped after a call from Maneka Gandhi.”

Recounted Verma, “Back in Bangalore, the video created an uproar. Governor Chaturvedi demanded an explanation. Bangalore’s massive month-long dog hunt was called off indefinitely.”

### Trouble spreads

“The killing in Bangalore stopped, but it did not stop in the suburbs and other towns in Karnataka,” Suparna Ganguly said.

Even in Chennai, far from Karnataka, home of the Blue Cross of India, Animal Welfare Board of India, and the oldest ABC program in the world, “Residents of the southern suburbs are clamouring for an immediate solution to the problem of stray dogs, after a 4-year-old child was chased and bitten by a pack in Guduvanchery,” reported K. Manikandan of *The Hindu*, adding 10 days later, “Residents are impatient. There is a perception that ABC will not yield immediate results. A dearth of anti-rabies post-exposure vaccine is compounding the anger.”

In Chitradurga, *The Hindu* reported on March 11, “Following the directions of the district administration, civic authorities started culling stray dogs. Nearly 200 dogs have been killed. The operation is being carried out in areas where there are a large number of mutton and chicken shops. According to a rough estimate, the city has over 2,000 stray dogs and the administration has decided to cull at least 1,000. Last year over 600 dogs were killed.”

In Bidar, *The Hindu* added, “The Bidar city council was silent even after nearly 1,000 dog bites were reported in the last two months. However, apparently influenced by anti-dog operations in Bangalore and Mysore, city personnel have killed about 40 dogs in the last three days.”

Rumors originating in Europe that Delhi would massacre dogs in anticipation of the 2010 Commonwealth Games raced around the Internet, but were refuted by People for Animals Haryana chair Naresh Kadyan and Commonwealth Games chief executive Michael Hooper.

### ABC restarted

“The Bangalore dogs are traumatised, dislocated and very stressed,” lamented Suparna Ganguly. “The government has done incalculable harm to years of hard work. There are about 800 animals in the city shelters, captured and dumped. Almost 95% were sterilized. I don’t know how Bangalore plans to resume the ABC program.”

Karnataka Chief Secretary P.B. Mahishi on March 13 directed Bangalore commissioner Jairaj to hire Animal Help Ahmedabad founder Rahul Sehgal to introduce the high-volume ABC techniques that enabled Animal Help to sterilize 45,000 dogs in Ahmedabad in 2006.

Sehgal calls the Animal Help method CNVR, short for “Capture, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return.”

“I am sending one of our CNVR teams on April 1 to carry out CNVR on 5,000 dogs within five months in five newly annexed wards of Bangalore,” Sehgal told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “These areas are untouched by ABC, and are assigned on a pilot basis. My idea is to implement probably the world’s largest-ever awareness and education program, with CNVR in the background.”

Sehgal anticipated that his team would share their techniques with the local ABC programs.

“The best news,” Sehgal said, “is that my entire project is fully funded by the municipality.” Having shown the ability to do CNVR more efficiently than anyone else in India, and more of it than any other organization in the world, Animal Help now demands full municipal funding with a start-up advance wherever they go—and gets it.

While continuing work in Ahmedabad at a rapid pace, Sehgal told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “we are starting CNVR in Gurgaon for 25,000 dogs in 2007, and another 25,000 dogs in 2008. We are also undertaking an oral rabies vaccine project, to distribute 25,000 doses over the next five years [to dogs not reached by CNVR] according to the World Health Organization guidelines.”

Anti-dog tension might have reignited on March 13, “when four dogs attacked a seven-year-old near his school in Ulsoor,” *The Hindu* reported. “Yashwanth M.,” who was hospitalized, “was injured in the head, legs, and back.” Two friends, Bhaskar and Sujith, “threw stones at the dogs and beat them with a stick to chase them away,” *The Hindu* said.

Yet dog purges were no longer so easily incited. Mangalore, for example, was “all set to cull dogs in the city, following the footsteps of Bangalore,” the *Deccan Herald* reported on March 16, until the Animal Care Trust mobilized opposition.

Explained Animal Care Trust treasurer Suma Ramesh at a public meeting, “The dog menace is not an isolated issue as such, but goes hand in hand with the issue of solid waste management.”

Added the *Deccan Herald*, “Various citizens who have lost their dogs in the anti-dog drive spoke on the occasion.”

“Erode Municipality officials say that starting March 14, they have begun an ABC program, in which they plan to sterilise 30 dogs a week,” reported Karthik Madhavan of *The Hindu*. Also, “At almost all the garbage collection points,” an Erode official told Madhavan, “bins have been placed. Hotels and roadside eateries have been asked to dump garbage only in bins.”

In nearby Veerappan Chatram, Madhavan added, where “the garbage mounds almost equal the dog population,” officials said that “They intend to start the paperwork for an ABC program after April 1. They attribute the delay to lacking a health inspector. That the city has no infrastructure to carry out an ABC program is another story,” but of note was that claiming to prefer ABC over killing dogs was apparently back in favor.

But not everywhere. *The Hindu* disclosed on March 27 that Savitha Nagabhushan and a Bangalore friend, L. Srinivasan, “have recorded footage of street dogs being rounded up in Anekal, killed allegedly with cyanide, and dumped along with garbage.” Anekal residents said the killing began on March 23. Nagabhushan and Srinivasan were told that the dogcatchers were the “experts from Kerala.”

The Bangalore crisis “has been a terrifying example of how ill-informed media and corrupt and inept public officials can come together to start a slaughter of the innocents,” summarized Chinny Krishna. “Let us hope this never happens again.” —Merritt Clifton

## Lancaster captive turkey shooters convicted—a first in Pennsylvania

**LANCASTER, Pa.**—The Elstonville Sportsmen’s Association on March 9, 2007 pleaded “no contest” to eight cruelty counts brought against the club for hosting a live turkey shoot in Rapho Township on September 9, 2006.

The “no contest” plea acknowledged the facts of the case, including an agreement to pay all fines, without admitting guilt.

Elstonville Sportsmen’s Association attorney Michael Winters told Ad Crable of the *Lancaster New Era* that in response to the charges the club had elected new leadership, and had adopted a new rule that forbids “the use of any living entity for the sole purpose of being a target,” even if the use is allowed by law.

Farm Sanctuary of Pennsylvania humane officer Keith Mohler “spent about four months investigating the event,” recounted Brett Lovelace of the *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*. “Mohler attended the turkey shoot after a female club member complained to him. The woman escorted Mohler to the club grounds, where contestants, including children, paid \$12 for three attempts to hit a turkey with an

arrow. The archers fired at turkeys mounted on hay bales. Children were allowed to shoot from less than 50 feet, Mohler said.”

“The turkeys were hit with body shots,” Mohler recounted. “They squawked and cried out. They were not killed instantly. If you drew blood, you won the turkey. Then the turkey’s head was cut off, and someone processed the turkey on site.”

Wrote Lovelace, “Alcohol was served at the contest, which began about 7:30 a.m. Mohler arrived around 2 p.m., and saw three turkeys killed. Mohler called state police, and troopers shut down the event,” apparently the first live bird shoot in Pennsylvania stopped by law enforcement.

An annual live pigeon shoot held at Hegins, Pennsylvania, was cancelled after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in July 1999 that pigeon shoot promoters and participants could be charged with cruelty. The organizers did not attempt to challenge the law. The Hegins pigeon shoot had been held on Labor Day every year from 1935 through 1998, and had attracted annual protests for at least 12 years.

However, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in January 2004 upheld the refusal of the Superior Court of Berks County to issue an injunction against pigeon shoots held by the Pike Township Sportsmen’s Association. The Berks County court held that pigeon shoots do not violate Pennsylvania anti-cruelty law if “reasonable efforts” are made to prevent and minimize the resultant animal suffering.

Following the Lancaster County verdict, the Humane League of Lancaster, Humane Society of Berks County, Bucks County SPCA, Chester County SPCA, Humane League of Lebanon County, and the Humane Society of

Harrisburg Area united in support of state bill 73, to prohibit either holding or attending live bird shoots.

“I’m a hunter,” said state representative Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster), who co-sponsored SB-73, “but this is cruelty, plain and simple.”

The bill was referred to the Pennsylvania house judiciary committee. There it met opposition from Tom Creighton (R-Rapho Township), who objected to the proposed punishment of a year in jail and loss of the right to own a firearm.

“It’s a local issue. The state should stay out of it,” added fellow judiciary committee member Katie True (R-East Hempfield

Township).

The Elstonville Sportsmen’s Association was fined for hosting the live turkey shoot just over a year after United Bowhunters of New Jersey on February 18, 2006 hosted a live pheasant shoot in Sussex County that was investigated by the New Jersey SPCA, after video of the event was posted to a web site. “It appears they were using the birds for target practice, which is illegal,” New Jersey SPCA spokesman Matt Stanton told Tom Baldwin of the *Asbury Park Press*.

“I didn’t see anything illegal in the video,” responded New Jersey Bureau of Wildlife Management chief Larry Herrigty.

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# MAKING TRACKS: THE MARIN HUMANE SOCIETY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

*Edited by Elaine Sichel & Pam Williams. Photos & photo editing by Sumner W. Fowler*

Marine Humane Society (171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd., Novato, CA 94949), 2007. 96 pages, hardcover. \$24.95.



The most remarkable aspect of the Marin Humane Society turning 100, as it will on December 14, 2007, is not that it has endured as long as it has, but rather that it has endured so long with only three generations of longterm leadership, through repeated redefinitions of role, in a community changing almost beyond recognition.

*Making Tracks: The Marin Humane Society Celebrates 100 Years* is a souvenir album, including only transient discussion of most of the controversies that Marin Humane has addressed or been part of—but a three-page timeline gives hints.

Founder Ethel H. Tompkins lived almost her entire life in the San Anselmo home where she was born in 1876 and died in 1969. She briefly attended a New York City boarding school, but was expelled in 1894 for leaving class to ride a policeman's horse. She had obtained the policeman's permission.

Tompkins opened the first Marin Humane Society shelter in a San Rafael stable in 1912, and started a classroom humane education program in 1913, becoming a charter participant in the annual American Humane Association "Be Kind to Animals Week" two years later.

Farming, fishing, and operating San Quentin Prison, founded in 1853, were then the Marin County economic mainstays. Ferry boats connected the county with San Francisco to the south and Richmond to the east, but frequent interruptions of service due to inclement weather and adverse tides inhibited the growth of the region into a bedroom suburb of San

Francisco until after the Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937.

Anticipating the eventual transition of the community, Tompkins opened a dog-and-cat shelter in 1929, and added full-time humane officer Scott Tilden to the staff in 1935. With auxiliaries already active in the four largest Marin County towns, the humane society took over the county pound in 1949.

Tompkins retired in 1957, at age 88, but remained involved in the organization until her death, shortly after the 1968 opening of the oldest portion of the present Marin County Humane Society complex.

Tompkins' successor, Mel Morse, a World War II military dog trainer, had helped American Humane Association president Richard C. Craven to establish humane supervision of the Hollywood screen industry in the 1940s. Later, as director of the Rocky Mountains office of American Humane, Morse helped American Humane to relocate to Denver, after 80 years in Albany, New York.

*Making Tracks* erroneously credits Morse with hiring the "nation's first full-time humane educator, Madelon Tormanen" in 1969. As some humane societies had employed full-time humane educators for nearly 90 years, and Morse knew it, something appears to have been garbled in repetition.

But Morse did introduce the use of a computer to track Marin County dog licensing in 1958. This appears to have been the first use of a computer in humane work, a distant yet direct ancestor of the web-assisted rehoming networks now active worldwide.

*Making Tracks* notes that under Morse, Marin Humane in 1962 opposed wearing furs and the use of leghold traps. Morse and Marin Humane thereby affirmed policies that had been unequivocal positions of American Humane for decades, but from which American Humane had retreated.

Morse in 1964 won passage of the first California county bylaw prohibiting the sale of pound animals for laboratory use. Morse also led Marin Humane in actively opposing seal-clubbing and bullfighting, and in encouraging appreciation of wild pumas and coyotes, who were actively persecuted by local sheep ranchers.

These too reflected campaigns aggressively waged by American Humane as far back as the mid-1930s, but dropped in the 1950s and 1960s, while the Humane Society of the U.S. took them up.

Founded in 1954 by former American Humane staff member Fred Myers, in rebellion against the loss of moral leadership that the compromises represented, HSUS hired Morse away as Myers' successor in 1972—one year before Marin Humane realized Morse's ambition of opening one of the first low-cost sterilization clinics in California.

Morse served only briefly at HSUS before giving way to the 30-year regime of former ministers John Hoyt and Paul Irwin, who were succeeded in 2004 by current HSUS president Wayne Paccelle.

Marin Humane meanwhile ran through four executive directors in eight years before bringing aboard attorney Diane Allevato in 1980, who has announced her retirement effective in July 2007.

*Making Tracks* makes no mention of the long rivalry between Allevato and fellow attorney Richard Avanzino, who headed the San Francisco SPCA from 1976 through 1998, but a book could be written comparing and contrasting their styles and tactics—which have had similar results.

Both Avanzino and Allevato achieved plummeting shelter killing tolls and soaring donations, while attracting some of the largest volunteer corps in the humane field. (Marin Humane now has more than

750 volunteers.) Their innovations were mostly similar. How they implemented change was often markedly different.

Avanzino, a philosophical libertarian and former Republican mayor of Atascadero, was noted while in San Francisco for issuing high-profile frontal challenges to the status quo. Avanzino abolished use of the decompression chamber to kill animals on his first day as SF/SPCA president, introduced a five-year phase-out of animal control work in 1984, made the SF/SPCA a no-kill shelter in 1989, and introduced the Adoption Pact in 1994. This made San Francisco in effect the first U.S. no-kill city—although city animal control director Carl Friedman dislikes the term because his agency still kills sick, injured, and dangerous animals.

Since becoming executive director of Maddie's Fund, Avanzino has emphasized consensus-building and moved away from confrontation, but he still prefers incentive-based approaches to getting animals sterilized and otherwise encouraging better animal care.

What Avanzino sells, Allevato both sells and seeks to mandate. The Marin Humane Society, for example, still does animal control, and Allevato believes this is an essential part of promoting animal welfare.

Allevato is described as exemplifying a caring, nurturing, teamwork-based leadership style. Throughout her career, she has been most often mentioned as a member of group projects, including many HSUS shelter evaluation teams, and has tended to avoid conflict with most people, Avanzino excepted.

Possibly not coincidentally, Marin County during Allevato's tenure at Marin Humane has attracted a constellation of national animal advocacy organizations, each founded elsewhere but finding Marin congenial to further growth. Among them are the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Humane Farming Association, and In Defense of Animals.

While Tompkins and Morse initiated the Marin Humane tradition of working closely with national groups, Allevato has expanded it to include active national outreach in shelter improvement, humane education, and disaster relief.

Who will head Marin Humane post-Allevato is as yet an open question. Her successor will inherit one of the strongest regional humane societies in the world, with a \$5.6 million annual budget and \$9 million in assets, and will arrive only months after the hiring of new SF/SPCA president Jan McHugh-Smith.

—Merritt Clifton

## Succeeding in Galapagos, Animal Balance takes s/n to the Dominican

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Moving to the Dominican Republic with her personal pets in February 2007, planning to start surgeries in March, Animal Balance founder Emma Clifford hopes that lessons learned in introducing dog and cat sterilization to the Galapagos Islands off Ecuador, human population 30,000, can be applied in a Caribbean island nation of more than nine million.

"I think we'll be the first to do a focused spay/neuter campaign in the Dominican," Clifford told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "We are targeting villages across the northern coast, starting in Cabrera. We will work with the local vets and the national veterinary school. As the Dominican Republic is *the* place for baseball," where more people of all ages play than anywhere else in the world, "we have been collecting used baseball gloves, and will be giving them out as incentives for people to get their animals sterilized, along with the collars and leashes. St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa has joined us and lent his name to the project to help gain interest," with credibility on animal issues earned as cofounder with his wife Elaine of Tony La Russa's Animal Foundation.

"We are also thinking of holding dog training classes at the local baseball stadium," Clifford said, a tactic remembered from her years at the San Francisco SPCA.

"I am going to coordinate Animal Balance from the Dominican," Clifford said, "and Alice Ng will handle the U.S. office from San Francisco. We will keep working in the Galapagos," Clifford affirmed. "We are four years into the work in the Galapagos now. We are confident that we have exceeded 70% of

the dog and cat population sterilized on San Cristobal and Isabela islands, and are very close to reaching it on Santa Cruz.

"Santa Cruz has the largest population of people, cats, and dogs," Clifford said, "plus we see a more transient human population and more cruel treatment of animals there. However, we are persevering, and expect to hit 70% there this year. I'd say we are at around 68% by now. We are in the tricky phase of handing over the project to the municipality," Clifford added. "Santa Cruz is a tricky place to work, but we are keeping under the political wire, and the mayor supports us."

Turning sterilization programs over to host communities, after teaching how to run them, is central to the Animal Balance philosophy. "We didn't even take a U.S. vet on our most recent Galapagos visit," Clifford said. "We used four Ecuadorian vets, and our Animal Balance folks helped. It was great to see the Ecuadorian vets take the lead and organize everything. They know that they need to reach 70%," to stabilize the dog and cat populations, "and then we'll help with top-up campaigns [to maintain 70%] in the future."

"At this point," Clifford said, "if we don't visit each island on our campaigns, the island we don't go to is offended, so now each time we do tri-island campaigns, hard core spay/neuter on Santa Cruz and top-ups and cheer-leading on the other two."

"The big issue is the smuggled purebreds now," Clifford noted. "On the one hand, people are taking great care of their pets but on the other, they are making money from selling puppies.



"As there has been no funding from leading animal rights groups for a sustained anti-fur campaign in the affluent neighborhoods of New York City, I decided to put up an anti-fur mural," wrote New York City resident Irene Muschel. The mural went up in March 2007, "recognizing," Muschel said, "that the best time for anti-fur murals is when the weather is warmer, so people can learn before they buy fur."

## Ex-orang trainer Berosini loses again

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on February 6, 2007 upheld a lower court order that former Las Vegas orangutan trainer Bobby Berosini owed \$340,230 in legal fees and interest to law firms representing former PETA executive director Jeanne Roush.

The money was paid in May 2000, but Berosini appealed. The appellate verdict appeared to end 17 years of litigation originating in 1988, when PETA distributed a video clandestinely made by one of Berosini's employees, which showed Berosini striking an orangutan backstage. Berosini won a \$3.1 million defamation verdict against PETA in 1990, but lost on appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court.

## Surprising NAIA conference speakers

**PORTLAND, Oregon**—Known in recent years for opposition to international animal adoption programs, the National Animal Interest Alliance has announced a 2007 conference speakers roster that may be most notable for including speakers usually heard at mainstream humane conferences.

Founded in 1993 by Portland dog breeder Patti Strand, author of a 1992 book called *The Hijacking of the Humane Movement*, the National Animal Interest Alliance has in the past featured such speakers as tuna fishing and fur trade representative Teresa Platt; Joan Berosini, wife of former Las Vegas orangutan trainer Bobby Berosini; Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council attorney Marshall Meyer; and biomedical researcher Adrian Morrison. Each has been a longtime board member.

The 2007 roster includes Alliance for Contraception of Dogs & Cats president Joyce Briggs; University of California at Davis pro-

fessor of veterinary law Jerrold Tannenbaum; former American Veterinary Medical Association president Bonnie Beaver; and Gary Patronek, who headed the Tufts University Center for Animals & Public Policy, 1997-2003. Patronek in January 2007 became director of animal welfare and protection for the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

"I remember reading *The Hijacking of the Humane Movement* years ago with amazement and distress," Briggs told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "It seemed to misrepresent most things I believed to be just and true. And I have followed their campaign against dog transport programs. I decided to accept the invitation to speak because I seldom get invitations to speak about animal welfare issues and approaches outside the 'choir.' Hopefully there is an opportunity to be a change agent."

The conference is to be held April 20-22, in Vancouver, Washington.

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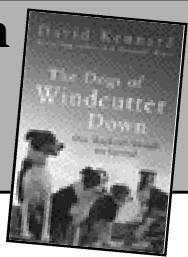
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## The Dogs of Windcutter Down

by David Kennard

St. Martin's Press (175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2006. 277 pages, paperback. \$24.95.



*The Dogs of Windcutter Down* is British sheep farmer David Kennard's sequel to his first book, *A Shepherd's Watch*, which we reviewed in the June 2006 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE.

It is a nostalgic look at the vanishing traditional farming lifestyle. Dog lovers will enjoy Kennard's descriptions of sheep dog trials, but the hardships of sheep farming may surprise many readers. Besides long, arduous hours of working with sheep through often miserable weather, Kennard laments the declining market value of sheep, the intrusion of European Union bureaucracy at every level, and the slaughter of millions of sheep and cattle in 2004 in a failed government effort to halt the spread of hoof-and-mouth disease without resorting to vaccination.

More than 60% of British farms

have had to diversify to survive, mostly into offering bed and breakfast service to urban visitors. Kennard supplements his farming income by shearing sheep on other farms, and by breeding and training sheep dogs.

One day someone suggested that he should open some of his fields at Windcutter Down to visitors, and put his sheepdogs through their paces for the pleasure of paying spectators. At first sceptical, Kennard and his wife Debbie decided that they had nothing to lose. The first few shows were not lucrative, but persistence paid off. Eventually the performances attracted as many as 200 paid visitors. Like their human companions, the Kennards' working dogs became entertainers.

—Chris Mercer & Bev Pervan.

<www.cannedlion.co.za>

## What Every Pet Owner Should Know

by Karen Halligan, DVM

Harper Collins Publishers Inc. (10 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022), 2007. 312 pages, hardcover. \$24.85.

Karen Halligan, director of veterinary services for SPCA/LA, is well-known to television viewers through her frequent appearances on animal-related programs.

*What Every Pet Owner Should Know* comprehensively addresses the whole range of potential problems faced by pet owners, including how to reduce veterinary bills by taking preventative measures such as cleaning a pet's teeth; what pet to choose for one's particular needs and circumstances; the ins and outs of pet insurance; and especially, how to recognise illness and address it.

Halligan de-mystifies animal diseases, explaining how they are caused and

how to combat them. There is much common sense and personal experience in her pages—but we are not persuaded that dry kibble is a complete and adequate canine menu. We have found that hip displasia, for example, appears to be diet-related, based on our experience with a Rottweiler who had such severe hip displasia that we considered putting her down at age three. Then she began eating the eggs that our chickens were laying around the house. Her skeletal development completed itself, and the hip defect disappeared. She lived to a ripe old age. Since then we have always supplemented our dogs' diets with raw eggs and marrowbones.

—Chris Mercer

## Kathryn & the Runaway Zoo by William B. Catton

Vantage Press Inc. (419 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016), 2007. 140 pages, paperback. \$11.95.

Kathryn, a 13-year-old passionate animal lover, is a frequent visitor to the local zoo, which houses the largest collection of animals in America, and is owned by one Mortimer Farrington, known to all as an "ill-tempered and arrogant skinflint."

Because of her way with animals she is offered a part time job after school and weekends. She is, however, horrified at the outdated, cramped conditions of the zoo, and seeks improvement by writing to Farrington, asking him to consider refurbishing the zoo in

order to give the animals more space. He refuses, so she writes to the newspapers, which infuriates him.

Undaunted, she hatches a plan to relocate some of the animals. She has read about a wealthy English woman, the Countess of Scarborough, who is turning her Yorkshire estate into a wildlife refuge. She writes to the Countess, offering to sell her a list of animals, who she knows are unhappy in their small cages. She hopes that the prospect of obtaining big money in exchange for his animals will

encourage old Farrington to let the animals go to England and to a better life.

This is a novel for the young reader.

—Beverley Pervan

<www.cannedlion.co.za>

**Editor's note:** *Few major U.S. zoos are privately owned—but most British zoos are. Those familiar with the career and character of the late British zoo entrepreneur John Aspinall may wonder if this book is in part a spoof of his escapades, as was reputedly the 1998 John Cleese film Fierce Creatures.*

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—Wolf Clifton

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## Silent Victims:

*Recognizing and Stopping Abuse of the Family Pet*  
by Pamela Carlisle-Frank & Tom Flanagan

University Press of America (4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 220, Lanham, MD 20766), 2006. 296 pages, paperback. \$39.95.



Social scientist Pamela Carlisle-Frank and Tom Flanagan, a Boston police officer turned humane officer, in *Silent Victims* pull together information from a broad range of sources, seasoned by practical experience, which might usefully be on the required reading list for anyone aspiring to a career in social work or law enforcement—but for what specific class?

Few universities teach humane law enforcement, or the sociology of animal rescue. Newly hired humane officers these days often have some formal law enforcement training, and many of the best humane society crisis counselors have background in social work. Yet humane work is usually not recommended as a career to which trained graduates of university police or social work programs should aspire, in part because humane work usually pays less.

Conversely, veteran police and social workers may better recognize their need for knowledge about animal-related cruelty and neglect than most of the people who teach new recruits. This may change as society attaches increasing importance to apprehending and successfully prosecuting perpetrators of crimes against animals, and preventing crimes against animals.

Of note are markedly increased news coverage of cruelty and neglect cases in recent years, and the popularity of the television series *Animal Precinct*.

Meanwhile, *Silent Victims'* first chapter, "Why we all need to get involved in stopping animal abuse," probably will not be needed by anyone who shells out the cover price voluntarily. More useful will be "What we know about animal abuse in the violent home," "When the perpetrator is a batterer," and "When the perpetrator is a child or adolescent." The most valuable chapters of all are "The neglected animal," "When it stops being love and starts being hoarding," "Solutions to stopping animal hoarding in your neighborhood," and "Recognizing red flags and finding those who need help"—not least because hoarding is by far the most common form of animal abuse, yet may be the least understood by the public, mass media, and the judiciary.

The final chapters are "Partnering and seeking solutions for abused animals," and "Getting started: resources for speaking out and helping silent victims."

Here Carlisle-Frank and Flanagan in essence argue for a return to the 19th century approach of recognizing cruelty and neglect as continuums, with both human and animal victims, requiring a coordinated approach to handle effectively.

There was no philosophical concept behind the mid-20th century trend toward separating humane services for humans from those helping animals. The impetus was mostly just economic necessity. Taxpayers could be persuaded to fund human services, but funding for most animal help could only be raised through donations.

In hindsight, both humans and animals suffered from the division. Intervention on behalf of battered women and abused children has become markedly more frequent and more successful as result of the American Humane "Link" and Humane Society of the U.S. "First Strike" programs, which promote awareness of animal abuse and neglect as precursors or indicators of parallel crimes against humans. Police have discovered that crimes against animals provide vital clues to solving crimes against humans, while the passage of felony cruelty laws in all but a handful of states have provided prosecutors with an effective means of locking up dangerous perpetrators before they commit homicide.

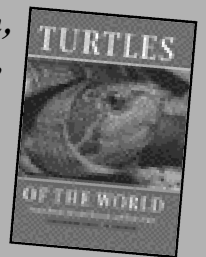
Carlisle-Frank and Flanagan have effectively translated this experience into training for the next generation of law enforcement and social work professionals. Ahead is the problem of putting it into academic curriculums.

—Merritt Clifton

## Turtles of the World

by Franck Bonin, Bernard Devaux, & Alain Dupré  
Translated by Peter C. H. Pritchard  
Johns Hopkins

University Press (2715 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218), 2006. 416 pages, with 300 color photos & 320 color maps. \$50.00.



"For many years Franck Bonin, Bernard Devaux, and Alain Dupré have traveled the world together to study turtles in their natural habitats," says the Johns Hopkins University Press flak sheet of the authors of *Turtles of the World*, an encyclopedic inventory of nearly 300 turtle species which was by reputation the most comprehensive ever produced even before Peter C. H. Pritchard translated the French text into English, to reach a broader audience.

Likely to be read mostly in small portions, as a library reference, *Turtles of the World* makes arguments for kind treatment of turtles, as well as for species conservation. Few orders of animal have been more badly treated by humans than turtles, though few are more benign toward human interests.

—Merritt Clifton

## OBITUARIES

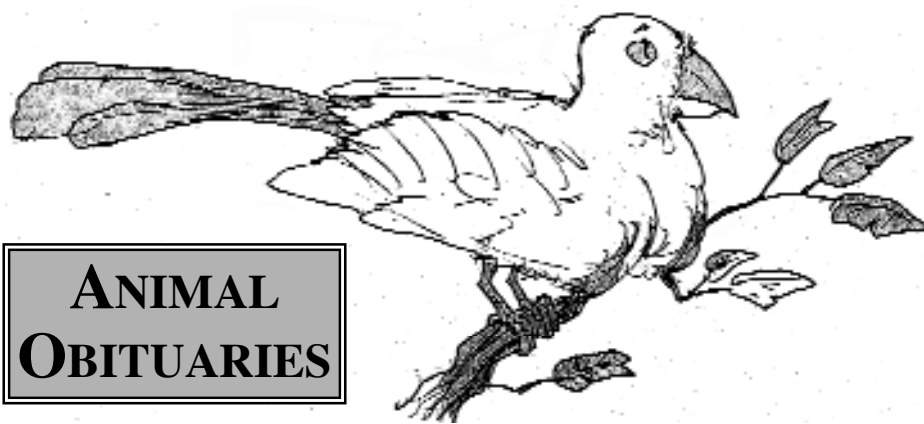
**Sara Whalen**, 64, died of cancer on March 19, 2007 in Horton, New York. "The Pets Alive founder broke her back trying to move a pony she had rescued and brought to her Walkkill sanctuary," wrote Kristina Wells of the *Middletown Times Herald-Record*. "Doctors using a rod to stabilize her back discovered a tumor had started in her lungs and spread." Recalled Debra West in a 1995 *New York Times* feature, "Whalen's mission to rescue stray animals began in 1972, when she inherited a golden retriever from a dying neighbor. She credited the dog with saving her son Adam as a toddler, when he strayed into the woods near her home." Remembered Wells, "Whalen took in the throwaways—ill, injured, neglected and abused cats, dogs, horses, even potbellied pigs," and she took in homeless people at times, too, including Maggie Cogan, featured in an award-winning documentary about her life in New York City's Central Park with a collection of dogs. Cogan returned to Central Park five weeks later. "Whalen's love for animals began in her youth, growing up in Binghamton," recounted Wells. "Her brother Bill Seiden recalled that as a teenager she tackled a state trooper who shot a black Labrador who had been hit by a car." Whalen's ex-husband, insurance executive Leo Whalen, bought the former Ravenwood Kennels for her, their two sons, and 47 dogs as part of a 1986 divorce settlement. Often financially struggling, and nearly foreclosed in both 1989 and 1995, Whalen operated Pets Alive as a no-kill shelter before the idea was popular. In recent years she often counseled and encouraged others, worldwide, who were starting no-kill organizations. "At Pets Alive, she found homes for some, but not all," Wells wrote. "The unwanted, unadoptable always lived out their days in peace, with her. Bill Seiden spoke about his sister's work with the kind of admiration that led him to establish an animal rescue of his own in Avon, Connecticut." Often providing news tips to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, assisting with several investigations, Whalen in April 2001 called to confirm that for half a day she had walked around an employee who

died on the job, while doing his work as well as her own. Why? Because, Whalen admitted, even though he appeared to be napping on paid time, she did not want to wake him.

**Pat Merritt**, 74, died on February 24, 2007 in Mira Loma, California. "A New York City native, Merritt came to the Jurupa area in 1968 and made citizen's arrests for animal cruelty on three occasions," recalled John Asbury of the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*. "She worked as a paralegal and began volunteer work with Riverside Animal Services in the 1970s." A friend, Mary Burns, told Asbury that Merritt was instrumental in getting Riverside to stop killing animals by decompression. "Merritt also fought to establish a spay/neuter clinic in Riverside in 1976," Asbury added. "She served on multiple animal service committees, and won a court order against the county to keep spay/neuter clinics open, said Judge Robert J. Timlin, of Corona. The Rubidoux dog park was named for Merritt in 2002."

**Ashlee Germaine Pfaff**, 28, a Denver Zoo caretaker since 2005, was fatally mauled by a jaguar named Jorge. "A preliminary investigation showed that a door between Pfaff and Jorge's enclosure was open. Because Pfaff was alone at the time, authorities don't know why the door was open and not locked," reported *Denver Post* staff writer Felisa Cardona. A 2002 graduate of New Mexico State University, Pfaff previously worked with tigers, otters, and birds at Colorado's Ocean Journey, which closed in 2003. Pfaff was reportedly the first Denver Zoo employee to be seriously injured by an animal in more than 30 years, and the first to be killed in more than 80 years.

**Georgia Wiesendanger**, 92, who died in October 2006, founder of the Protectors of Animal Life Society in Winthrop, Maine, left an estate valued at approximately \$1 million to PALS and the Kennebec Valley Humane Society. "Wiesendanger took her Great Danes wherever she went, and previously donated land and money to animal shelters," recalled Associated Press.



**Duke**, reportedly 19, also called Jake, and called "Doogie" by Dogs Deserve Better founder Tammy Grimes, died on March 1, 2007 at the home of a foster caretaker. Grimes on September 11, 2006 took Duke, who was seriously debilitated according to veterinary reports, from the yard of Steve and Lori Arnold, of East Freedom, Pennsylvania, after the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society failed to return calls about his condition. Unknown to the callers, a humane officer had been assigned to investigate the case. Grimes, who is also a part-time assistant web site developer for **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, was charged with theft, receiving stolen property, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass. The case, which made national headlines, has yet to be tried. "Video of Doogie's condition at the time of his rescue has been viewed over 43,000 times on YouTube," Grimes said.



**Niko**, "a formerly penned dog fostered by Dogs Deserve Better representative Lynne Gillis, was poisoned" at Gillis' home in Calvert County, Maryland, on February 16, 2007, Dogs Deserve Better founder Tammy Grimes e-mailed. Gillis has helped to push a bill by Maryland state senator Norman Stone against overnight dog chaining. The bill on March 23, 2007 won preliminary state senate approval, after clearing the state senate in 2006 only to be blocked in the state house of representatives.

**Max**, a Labrador retriever who starred with four others at the Royal London Circus in Johor Baru, Malaysia, was found dead from a head injury on March 6, 2007, apparently inflicted by a hit-and-run driver. Circus staff had searched for him for 40 hours, and had enlisted extensive media help, after he bolted from the circus grounds during a 20-minute firework display held to celebrate the Chap Goh Meh holiday at nearby Danga Bay.

**Coach**, a wild turkey hen who took up residence at the Flint Bowmen Archery Club in Atlas Township, Michigan, and spent hours watching and "talking" to members as they practiced, was shot by a nuisance wildlife trapper on February 28, 2007. The trapper had been called by police to capture Coach, who was reportedly causing a traffic hazard, and had once tried to board a school bus. Archery Club member Andrew Spangler told Elizabeth Shaw of the *Flint Journal* that Coach on one occasion chased off a member who tried to enter a locked gate.

## Iditarod musher not charged for beating dogs

**ANCHORAGE**—Alaska State Troopers spokesperson Megan Peters on March 19, 2007 told news media that 2002 and 2003 Iditarod dog sled race runner-up and 1999 Yukon Quest winner Ramy Brooks, 38, of Healy, Alaska, would not be investigated or charged with cruelty for allegedly beating his team about 90 miles from the end of the 2007 Iditarod.

Twenty-two miles from the end, one of Brooks' dogs, named Kate, died. A necropsy on the three-year-old dog was inconclusive, race marshal Mark Nordman told Associated Press writer Mark Thiessen.

"Brooks admitted to spanking each of his 10 dogs with a trail marker after two refused to get up and continue running outside the checkpoint of Golovin on the Bering Sea coast," reported Associated Press writer Jeannette J. Lee.

But Golovin primary grades teacher Maude Paniptchuk, 28, told George Bryson of the *Anchorage Daily News* that Brooks "kicked the dogs and hit them with his fist and a ski pole." Two eight-year-olds and woodcutter David Amuktoolik Jr. were also witnesses, Paniptchuk said. Paniptchuk said the dogs, who had already run more than 1,000 miles, appeared to be exhausted.

Golovin resident Sherri Lewis reported the beating to Iditarod officials after her daughter told her about it.

Sponsored by Cellular One, Brooks was disqualified from entering the 2008 Iditarod.

Kate was the third dog to die in the 2007 Iditarod. Canadian musher Karen Ramstead dropped out of the race after her dog Snickers, six and a half, died on March 12 of an acute hemorrhage due to a gastric ulcer. Thong, 3, running for Matt Hayashida of Willow, Alaska, died from acute pneumonia.

More than 1,000 dogs participated, running for 82 teams.

Three dogs died in the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest, as well, which had not had a dog fatality since 2002. The Iditarod had four dog deaths as recently as 2005.

Lance Mackey, 36, a three-time Yukon Quest winner, this year became the first musher to win both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod in the same year.

## MEMORIALS



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—Hilde Wilson

In memory of Tango and Hunter.  
—Paul Kearney



In memory of Laxmi, the three-legged cow who was among the founding animals of the Visakha SPCA, in Visakhapatnam, India.

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

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