

WASHINGTON D.C., YELLOW-STONE—More than 1,400 bison were killed after wandering out of Yellowstone National Park into Montana in early 2008, the largest bison massacre since the 19th century heyday of William “Buffalo Bill” Cody.

Cody and other hunters hired to kill bison to feed railway builders shot North American bison to the verge of extinction.



Wolf. (Kim Bartlett)

Cody later helped lead the long effort to rebuild a few token herds. The recovery of bison became the inspiration and template for attempted restoration and recovery of hundreds of other species, worldwide.

The science of restoration ecology began with protecting the last handful of wild bison, found hiding deep within Yellowstone, the first U.S. National Park. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone in 1995 was touted as affirming the success of the bison recovery by bringing back the major wild bison predator, exterminated in the Yellowstone region about 60 years earlier.

Wolf population management in the Yellowstone region was returned to the state level on March 28, 2008.

“The good news for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains,” wrote Jesse Bonner of Associated Press, “is that they no longer need federal protection. The bad news is that plans are already in the works to hunt them. Hunts are already being scheduled by state wildlife agencies to reduce the wolf population to between 900 and 1,250.”

An estimated 1,500 wolves now roam Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

“Wolves will be fair game in most of Wyoming,” reported Associated Press writer Matt Joyce. “They will be a protected as a trophy species in the state’s northwestern corner, and classified as a predator species in the rest of the state. People will be able to kill wolves at

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ANAW veterinarian vaccinating a donkey at a displaced persons camp. (ANAW)

Effort to repair Kenyan animal services amid post-election strife hints at job ahead in Zimbabwe

NAIROBI, HARARE—The difficulty of restoring Kenyan animal services after just a few weeks of unrest following the disputed outcome of the December 27, 2007 national election hints

at the magnitude of the job ahead in Zimbabwe, where a similar post-election crisis appears to be capping nearly nine years of conditions almost as dysfunctional as the worst Kenya experienced.

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, rioting had just resumed in the Kibera slum district of Nairobi, near the headquarters of the Kenya Wildlife Service, after talks broke down that were intended to achieve a power-sharing arrangement satisfactory to supporters of both incumbent president Mwai Kibaki and challenger Raila Odinga. As earlier, all Kenyan animal advocates could do was hunker down, try to stay out of the line of fire, and help the animals they could with whatever they had, wherever they were caught when the trouble started.

The outcome of the March 29, 2008 Zimbabwean national election like

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ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care

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About Animals

Enviros expose lab monkey business

Probably no one has ever mistaken the National Geographic Society for an anti-vivisection society—but one winner of the 2008 National Geographic Photo Contest, “Caged monkeys await their fate at a medical laboratory in Hubei Province, China,” by Li Feng, was an image of a sort familiar to anti-vivisectionists. The photo depicted dozens of small macaques in shopping bag-like transportation cages seemingly fashioned from chicken wire.

“The judges liked that this image subverts the usual romanticized approach to wildlife photography and more accurately reflects the fate of many of the world’s animals,” reported *The National Geographic*. “The sneaker at the top provides scale and injects a human being into the scene; the anonymity of the wearer suggests concealment and complicity. The structure of the cages, the horror of the captivity, the crowded composition, and the claustrophobic tension all add up to a sad and compelling photo.”

The conservation mainstream was also recently awakened to the depletion of wild monkey populations in Southeast Asia to supply Chinese laboratories by the work of the Earth Journalism Network, a training project headed by Thai Society of Environmental Journalists founder James Fahn.

After nine years as a reporter and editor on environmental beats for the *Bangkok*

Nation, also reporting for *Newsweek* and *The Economist*, and a stint doing environmental program development for the Ford Foundation, Fahn, former CNN environmental reporter Gary Stricker, and Sierra Club president Larry Fahn—James Fahn’s cousin—formed EJV in 2006. Exposés of monkey trafficking in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia were among their first efforts. Five in-depth articles produced by Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian journalists with EJV support were distributed in 2007 and early 2008 by half a dozen Southeast Asian newspapers and more than two dozen news web sites.

The EJV investigation produced further hints that wild-caught monkeys are moving through China to the U.S., as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** indicated might be happening in a July/August 2007 cover feature, based on a statistical analysis of laboratory monkey sources and demand.

The EJV investigation started in May 2007, according to James Fahn, after “a group of journalists affiliated with the Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists approached EJV with a proposal to support their research into the alleged smuggling of long-tailed macaques between Cambodia and Vietnam, using what appeared to be false Laotian permits as cover.”

The EJV-supported findings first

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Beijing cats. (Kim Bartlett)

BEIJING—Four months before the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China has yet to introduce a long hoped for and officially hinted at national humane law—but a newly decreed ban on poultry slaughter in traditional live markets strikes at the economic viability of live markets themselves.

“Despite protests by poultry vendors who fear that the ban will affect their livelihood, the policy will go into effect on April 1, 2008 and all chicken, geese and ducks should then be slaughtered at licensed abattoirs,” warned Chinese National Science Council chair Chen Chien-jen.

Chen Chien-jen also heads the Chinese cabinet task force on prevention of the H5N1 avian flu, which has killed 19 of the 29 Chinese known to have become infected.

Five H5N1 outbreaks hit poultry in China during the first quarter of 2008. The most recent Chinese human fatality was a 44-year-old woman from Haifeng County in Guangdong who died on February 28.

The Chinese live market poultry slaughter ban applies to more than 90% of the animals sold at traditional live markets, and appears to be stronger than the legislation governing live markets in most U.S. states—indeed, in most of the world.

Sellers at U.S. traditional live markets from New York City to San Francisco continue to sell and slaughter poultry and other animals with little if any inspection or regulation—a concern of public health officials, as well as of animal advocates, but efforts to introduce regulation to U.S. live markets have proved politically perilous.

Regarded decades ago as artifacts of the past that would soon fade out, U.S. traditional live markets were exempted from most of the rules that apply to commercial slaughterhouses, in deference to the traditions of a variety of ethnic communities.

In recent years, responding to increased consumer demand for non-factory farmed meat, as well as immigration from parts of the world where live markets are common, the older live markets of many U.S. cities have expanded, and countless new live markets have opened.

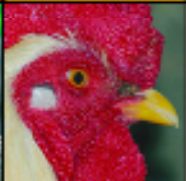
The new Chinese law incorporates a lengthy adjustment period, Chen Chien-jen said. This could become a loophole for non-enforcement, or may simply be a safeguard, as Chen Chien-jen declared it is, to ensure that all poultry sellers have access to slaughterhouses meeting the new standards, and

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Editorial feature

National image & the quality of compassion

Having never won a fight in his life, despite picking many in his youth, the long-time **ANIMAL PEOPLE** office cat Alfred the Great died in 2006 after convincing generations of younger cats that his scars from many early thrashings were evidence that he was not a cat to trifle with. Alfred occupied a royal pillow for years after learning a lesson about image and character from an old female cat named Gidget, nicknamed “Devil of the Boss Cats.”

A rather small tabby, Gidget one evening turned on a coyote believed to have eaten nine other cats, and sent the coyote racing up a mountainside for dear life with her practiced shrieks and Aikido rolls. The coyote never came back.

Alfred followed Gidget, practicing her growl and swagger. But Alfred also studied the social nuances exhibited by the Buddha-like Voltaire, his predecessor as as the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** top cat, who tended to let younger tomcats beat each other up without involving himself in pointless confrontation. Cultivating political wisdom, Alfred reigned into frail old age, then peacefully abdicated when he knew he could no longer present a convincing bluff.

Image and character, as almost every animal instinctively knows, are often not the same thing—but image reflects character often enough that rivals and predators tend to avoid risking mistakes. The essence of successful display, whether to attract a mate or to repel a threat, is convincing others that the brightness of feathers, size of mane, length of horns, or jauntiness of a strut is authentically indicative of whatever is underneath.

Image tends to be created by the combination of whatever is deliberately offered to view with what cannot be hidden. Thus much of image is a matter of presenting a potential defect or vulnerability as an attribute and asset. Alfred could not hide his scars, but he could tell hugely exaggerated war stories about them with his cocky demeanor. Gidget could not hide being small, but her growl hinted at the ferocity of a puma. Voltaire moved in a regal manner ensuring that he was seen as the king of cats, not just a fat cat.

Displays of national image and character, though the products of cumulative human behavior, differ little in essence from the individual displays of cats.

National character might be described as the sum of attitudes underlying the prevailing beliefs and practices within a nation. National image tends to be created by the choices of national leadership about what they think the nation should put on official display.

Sometimes national character and national image are strikingly at odds. Spanish citizens, for example, have turned away from bullfighting in such numbers that bullfights are no longer held in some major cities and are no longer prominently televised. Yet a bullfight was the first event shown on Spanish national television, 60 years ago, and Spain has for so long promoted and subsidized bullfighting as the national sport that advertisements for tourism to Spain and products of Spanish origin still often depict bulls and toreadors. As bullfighting wanes, the time may come when Spaniards actively resist equations of Spain with bullfighting as a form of ethnic stereotyping and a slur—as Spanish animal advocates already do.

Foxhunting, now banned in Britain, may likewise fade and be rejected as a symbol of Britain, despite a resurgence of participation in superficially sanitized fox hunts since the ban took effect in 2005.

The French, though still world leaders in eating frogs’ legs, have long objected to being called “frogs.” In fairness, protest against frog-eating and associated cruelties also originated in France, encouraged by the 19th century socialist revolutionary Louise Michel.

Native Americans of several tribes in the northern Rocky Mountains once ate dogs, but in contemporary reservation culture the term “dog-eater” is perhaps the worst of insults.

In truth, most people in most societies overwhelmingly reject cruelty to animals when asked for their opinions, and when they recognize cruel behavior for what it is.

Of particular note are MORI polls commissioned by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Royal SPCA of Great Britain, Compassion In World Farming, and One Voice, of France, which in 2004-2005 discovered that 92% of Vietnamese citizens, 92% of South Korean citizens, 91% of British citizens, and 90% of Chinese citizens accept a human moral duty to minimize animal suffering.

Britain has enforced humane laws for nearly 200 years, but South Korea has only a weak and recent tradition of humane law enforcement. China and Vietnam have none.

The April 2005 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial feature, “National character & the quality of compassion,” extensively explored why cruelty to animals—and humans—tends to be much more visible in some nations than others, even when the citizens of each nation express almost equally strong distaste for cruel behavior.

The defining differences, in terms of legislation, tend to reflect political freedom. Participatory democracies tend to have relatively strong humane laws. Totalitarian states tend to treat animals much as they do their citizens.

But laws are scarcely the whole issue. The humane laws of western democracies still benefit relatively few of the billions of animals who suffer and die each year at human hands—and would benefit relatively few, even if the laws now on the books were much more strenuously enforced than they ever have been.

The U.S. Animal Welfare Act, for example, exempts rats, mice, and birds used in laboratories, thereby exempting about 95% of all laboratory animals from any protection. The U.S. Humane Slaughter Act exempts poultry—about 95% of all the animals who go to slaughter. More than 30 states explicitly exempt cruelty from prosecution if cruelty is part of a standard practice in agriculture, and every state exempts cruelties commonly involved in hunting, trapping, and fishing.

Nearly every cruelty commonly observed and cited by some animal advocates in appeals for a boycott of the forthcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing has a parallel in the U.S., albeit taking a superficially different form. Even when U.S. laws nominally prohibit the cruelty, enforcement is often so sporadic that the laws serve more to shield animal use industries from criticism than to bring offenders to justice.

Compare the live skinning of dogs by some Chinese fur sellers, exposed in 2005 by the state-run *Beijing News*, to the live skinning of cattle at the Iowa Beef Packers slaughterhouse in Wallula, Washington, exposed in 2000 by the Humane Farming Association.

While the Chinese live skinning was deliberate, the Wallula incidents were accidental consequences of slaughter lines running too fast to enable workers to re-stun cattle who were improperly stunned with the first shot of a captive bolt gun. Yet the numbers of animals involved may have been comparable. HFA obtained affidavits from 17 Wallula slaughterhouse workers who testified that up to 30% of the cattle they killed were inadequately stunned. No one was successfully prosecuted at Wallula, despite years of HFA efforts to bring a case.

Lack of effective enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act was most recently illustrated by the abuse of downed cattle in October 2007 at the now closed Westland/Hallmark slaughterhouse in Chino, California. The abuse videotaped by an undercover inspector for the Humane Society of the U.S. strikingly resembled practices videotaped in the notorious live markets of Guangdong by the Animals Asia Foundation. The victims in Chino were cattle, while the victims in Guangdong included dogs, cats, civets, and pangolins, among other animals, but suffering is not limited by species.

Matters of degree

In truth, what humane laws are now mostly about—in the U.S., Europe, India, and wherever else they exist—is establishing recognition of kindness toward animals as a culturally appreciated value. This may be mostly clearly illustrated by comparing and contrasting public entertainments involving animals in the U.S. and China.

The American Zoo Association and predecessor societies have discouraged feeding live animals to captive carnivores since 1898, but live feeding was still practiced by at least one non-AZA U.S. zoo as recently as 1996, when it was closed for repeatedly flunking Animal Welfare Act safety inspections.

This was the same year that live feeding at Chinese zoos first came to international humane attention, coinciding with an explosion of zoo development in China, which still has fewer zoos serving 1.3 billion residents than the state of California has to serve about 35 million. Live feeding was banned by most Chinese zoos, by collective agreement, in March 2005, but continues at several which disingenuously pretend to be preparing tigers for potential return to the wild.

However, European-style bullfighting has never caught on in China, despite several well-funded attempts to introduce it. An attempt to introduce U.S.-style rodeo to Beijing in 2004 was an abysmal flop. Cockfighting is discouraged. U.S.-style dogfighting was illegally introduced to Guangdong in the late 1990s, but remains a clandestine pursuit, if still done.

On the whole, despite the persistence of live feeding at the renegade zoos, the Chinese people could scarcely be accused of broadly enjoying or accepting violent abuse of animals as entertainment, even to the degree that Americans do, all the while pretending that rodeo bucking events are not typically stimulated by “bucking straps” and electroshock, and that the cattle and horses who crash to the ground in roping events are rarely seriously injured.

Probably the least flattering comparison of U.S. and Chinese attitudes toward animals involves consumption of wildlife. Wildlife consumption, especially in the southern part of China, is justly notorious, not only for the cruelty associated with the animal traffic, but also as a major contributor to the loss of wildlife throughout Southeast Asia. Turtle populations are depleted as far away as South Carolina because of Chinese demand.

But IFAW public opinion research done in 1998 and surveys of Chinese university students done by Peter Li, Zu Shuxian, and Su Pei-feng in 2002-2003, with support from the World Society for the Protection of Animals, put the matter into a different perspective. The 1998 survey found that 38% of Chinese adults had eaten wildlife; 24% of the students had.

The implied lower rate of wildlife consumption among educated young people parallels U.S. studies—and the rates found by both studies closely compare to U.S. research showing that three to four times as many people eat animals shot by hunters as the 10% who actually hunted a generation ago, the 6% who hunted circa 2000, and the 4% who hunt as of the most recent U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service survey.

The major differences in Chinese and U.S. wildlife consumption are that Chinese wildlife consumption more often involves reptiles than mammals, U.S. consumption seldom involves declining species, and Chinese wildlife consumption is mostly a minor branch of the upper-priced portion of the restaurant trade, while U.S. wildlife consumption is the end product of a major recreational industry.

Both hunting in the U.S. and Chinese wildlife consumption are declining, but most U.S. states and the federal government are actively trying to rekindle public interest in hunting, while the Chinese government has discouraged wildlife consumption since the Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak of 2003-2004. Edicts introduced to keep wild mammals out of live markets have recently been extended to reptiles and birds. Beijing has also acted to ensure that wildlife commerce does not merely move from live markets to the Internet.

The U.S. has no form of wildlife commerce directly comparable to bear bile farming, practiced in China, both North and South Korea, and Vietnam, but the confinement of the bears closely resembles the confinement of sows in gestation stalls.

IFAW found in 1998 that only 30% of Beijing and Shanghai residents had ever heard of bear bile farming—much as most Americans at that time had never heard of gestation stalls. Of those who did know about bear bile farming, 87% considered it unacceptably cruel.

Peter Li, Zu Shuxian, and Su Pei-feng discovered five years later that 40% of Chinese university students were aware of bear bile farming, largely through the work of the Animals Asia Foundation’s China Bear Rescue Project. Ninety percent considered it unacceptably cruel.

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National image & the quality of compassion

(continued from page 3)

U.S. voters recently banned gestation stalls in Florida and Arizona, and will get a chance to do so this fall in California. Chinese voters may never get a chance to ban bear bile farming, but the polls suggest they would if they could.

Most of the meat consumed in China, as in the U.S., comes from vast factory farms. Despite the recent rapid rise of Chinese meat consumption, Americans still eat about twice as much meat per capita.

Chinese meat consumption includes about 10 million dogs and one million cats per year. About 80% of the dogs and virtually all of the cats are eaten in the southern half of China. Many are hauled like factory-farmed poultry, and are killed by means which approximate what happens to the millions of pigs per year who are inadequately stunned in U.S. slaughterhouses. The cats are often boiled alive; however, improperly stunned pigs may go alive into a scalding tank that facilitates removing their hair from their hides.

There is no defending such cruelty. Neither is there any defense for the periodic dog purges that many Chinese cities still use in response to rabies outbreaks, instead of forming animal control agencies with properly trained staff, promoting low-cost vaccination and sterilization, and operating animal shelters that emphasize good care and rehoming.

Yet fairness requires noting that as recently as 1985 the U.S. killed more dogs and cats in shelters than the sum killed in China for meat plus those killed in purges. Only in 1985 did the last U.S. cities to kill dogs and cats by decompression switch to using less painful methods.

In gist, the U.S. is far ahead of China in paying legal lip service to eradicating cruelty, especially to dogs and cats,

but the gap in animal advocates' perceptions of the U.S. and China is unfortunately more a matter of image than of reality.

In preparation for the 2008 Olympics, Beijing has emphasized an improved image as regards animal welfare. Like past hosts of the Olympics and similar international events, Beijing is striving to rid the streets of stray dogs and cats, but has made efforts to avoid obvious cruelty, and has introduced the beginnings of an animal sheltering system. Chinese animal advocates, encouraged by hints from state media, remain hopeful that a long anticipated national anti-cruelty law will be introduced before the Olympics.

International attention to animal welfare in China has been overshadowed by the Chinese response to demonstrations and sporadic anti-Chinese violence by Tibetans seeking political independence. Of note is that in this situation too, Beijing has made efforts—including allegedly sending out disguised soldiers to pose as rioting Buddhist monks—to avoid an appearance of responding with inappropriate force.

Historically, Beijing has answered any hint of insurrection anywhere claimed as Chinese territory with what U.S. military spokespersons in Iraq and Afghanistan call a "rapid escalation of force"—and has put the force on display as a warning to other potential rebels. The present Tibet response may be as forceful as any other, and western media and other potential witnesses have been kept away, but Chinese use of force has been downplayed by state media.

The image Beijing appears to want to offer to the world in 2008 includes disassociation from cruelty, whether to animals or humans.

On March 8, meanwhile, U.S. President George W.

Bush dismayed much of the world by vetoing a bill passed by the U.S. Congress which would have prohibited the Central Intelligence Agency from practicing overt tortures including a technique called "waterboarding." *New York Times* columnist William Safire, a former speechwriter for U.S. President Richard Nixon, traced the origin of "waterboarding" back to ancient China. Safire noted that then-U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902 explicitly ordered U.S. troops to stop using "waterboarding" against Philippine insurgents, after it was exposed by Mark Twain and a Congressional hearing.

"Torture is not a thing that we can tolerate," Roosevelt wrote.

Though Roosevelt was a hunter, who avidly shot birds and learned taxidermy in his teens, he refused to kill and dissect animals needlessly as a Harvard undergraduate.

Roosevelt helped to introduce the system of funding wildlife conservation through the sale of hunting licenses, in effect turning over control of wildlife management to hunters. Yet he also helped to award the New York City animal control contract to the American SPCA, taking it away from private contractors who formerly drowned impounded dogs in crowded cages that were dunked into the Hudson River.

Most famously, "Teddy bears" were named in Roosevelt's honor after he refused to shoot a tethered bear cub at a "hunt" arranged for his amusement.

Books have been written about Roosevelt's shortcomings, some of which Roosevelt himself acknowledged, but he appears to have understood at all times the value of maintaining an image of kindness, especially toward animals, and even while waging war.

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.

Training Saddam's royal guard

Thank you so much for sending **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to me here in Australia. I encourage everyone to subscribe. Many people I know who love animals and belong to animal welfare groups tell me they have never read anything quite like **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, that covers so many global issues in depth.

Your reports from war zones pull the heartstrings of soldiers I know who have made note of their own experiences with animal suffering and blatant cruelty during war or training.

My former husband served in Iraq as one of Saddam Hussein's royal guard. He told me they were trained by being given a goat, then a pig, then a donkey, whom they had to run down and wrestle to death with their bare hands. He felt bad about killing these animals. He described them as "My friends when I was a child, and not my enemies. Never my enemies."

—Rebekah Blackwolf Mitchell

Victoria, Australia



Islam & dogs

The commentary "What did the Prophet Mohammed really say about dogs?" by Merritt Clifton in the January/February 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is entirely correct in its factual data and its interpretation.

Another anecdote about a dog is quite telling. Caliph Umar ibn Al-Khattab was a close friend, follower, and father-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed. During his 10-year caliphate, which started about a year and a half after the passing away of the Prophet, Islam spread rapidly across the whole Middle East, Iran, Egypt, and the rest of North Africa. Near the end of his life, Umar ibn Al-Khattab was asked why he still looked worried even though the Islamic world was at its zenith and he was regarded as the great leader of Islam. He

The future of Islamic animal sacrifice

I was happy to read the detailed and well-researched editorial feature on the future of Islamic animal sacrifice in the January/February 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. This editorial feature cleared up several questions about Quranic injunctions on sacrificing animals. It should come as an eye-opener to a lot of practicing Muslims that as in every other aspect of life, the key to human progress lies in moving with changing times. Modern times strictly uphold animal rights, and

sacrificing animals to feed a ritual that had sanctity centuries ago is not relevant now. As the feature rightly points out, it is time to appease Allah by donating to animal charity, rather than by committing sacrifice.

—Brinda Upadhyaya, President
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replied: "If on the day of Judgment, God says to me that there was a dog dying of thirst somewhere in the Islamic world, and if He asks me what I did to save the dog, I must have a good answer!"

The problem is that a miniscule number of Muslims know

and understand what Clifton reported. Sadly, there continues to be widespread bias and ignorance, which I am afraid is not likely to go away anytime soon.

—Kamran R. Siddiqi
Dubai, UAE



The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA, & what happened in Europe during the Middle Ages

I very much appreciate **ANIMAL PEOPLE**'s review of my book *The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA*. When my friend of long standing Merritt Clifton said that it will be the standard against which future histories of animal advocacy are judged, that was both gracious on his part and gratifying to me as the author.

As to the "glaring omissions" that Merritt found, I can only quote from the introduction: "... of necessity, there have been omissions, and I regret every one... If an advocate, group, or campaign is missing that you believe should be included... I am sure you are right. But had I given every leader, group, and campaign the space they deserve, 'the longest struggle'

would be the reader's effort to make it to the end of the book."

As to "errors," there is one that I truly regret. That is my misstatement regarding Michael Mountain's age and background. I have apologized to him privately, and I would like to take this opportunity to apologize publicly. As readers of the book know, I am a big fan of Michael Mountain and Best Friends.

The other "errors" mentioned are actually disagreements. To cite just one example: The claim that the Cathars were immigrants from India and that Catharism taught animal protection is supported by no credible evidence of which I am aware. The Cathars were ethnic Europeans and spiritual descendents of the Manichaeans and other Gnostic groups. They were vegetarian, for arcane theological reasons, but they were not animal advocates. There was no significant animal advocacy in Europe during the Middle Ages.

—Norm Phelps
Funkstown, Maryland
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Clifton responds:

Stating "There was no significant animal advocacy in Europe during the Middle Ages" requires

defining "animal advocacy" to exclude anything benefiting animals that was (or is) promoted to benefit the human soul.

Most prominent among the exclusions would be the influence of Islam, which discourages cruel spectacles involving animals. Most of Spain was under Islamic rule from 711 to 1492. Portugal was under Islamic rule for much of that time. Bullfighting is forbidden in Islam, as then-Egyptian head mufti Sheikh Nasr Farid Wassel reaffirmed in a November 1997 fatwa, and only emerged as a regionally characteristic pastime in the post-Islamic era, coincidental with the rise of the Spanish Inquisition.

Explains bullfighting historian Mario Carrin, "The first historic bullfight, corrida, took place in Vera, Logroo, in 1133, in honor of the coronation of king Alfonso VIII," a Christian who drove the Muslims from that region. "From that point on," Carrin continues, "kings organized corridas ... After the Spanish War of the Reconquest, the celebration of corridas expanded throughout Spain."

Much of the other cruelty to animals notoriously practiced as part of Spanish and Portuguese village festivals originated as persecutions of alleged heretics, especially Muslims and Jews. Animals were substituted when alleged heretics became scarce.

Islamic influence on the treatment of animals elsewhere in Europe is less well documented, but by 1396 Islamic rule extended from Albania and the Danube River east, and after the capture of Constantinople in 1453, Islam was regionally dominant for more than 400 years.

There was extensive legal advocacy for animals, which is "advocacy" in the strictest sense of the term, in Christian medieval Europe. This was documented by E.P. Evans in *The Criminal Prosecution & Capital Punishment of Animals* (1906), reprinted in 1986 by Faber & Faber with a foreword by Nicholas Humphrey. Humphrey saw in the mostly quite serious trials of animals, some of whom were acquitted, an ongoing effort to define the bounds of the animal/human relationship. Reviewers for animal advocacy media recognized in the arguments some ideas which resurfaced in animal rights and animal welfare legal theory. (Those reviews drew my notice to the book.)

The history of the Cathari divides into two portions. From 1143, when the Cathari first challenged Catholic dominion in Europe, until they were exterminated by the Albigensian Crusade in 1329, they were chiefly ethnic Europeans. But their origins are less clear. Mainstream sources such as <www.cathar.info/1204_origins.htm> acknowledge that their teachings "probably spread from the eastern part of the Byzantine Empire," which then extended from Bulgaria to Persia,

and that Catharism "may have originated in a form of Manichean belief, itself a melange of Persian Zoroastrianism and early Christian Gnostic dualism."

Most theological discussion of the Cathari accepts the view that they practiced a heretical variant of Christianity, but I am hardly the first to notice that the Cathari "preached a Jain-like creed of non-violence," as historian Frank Lynn wrote in *The New Statesman* of December 18, 2000, reviewing *The Yellow Cross: the story of the last Cathars 1290-1329*, by Rene Weis. Weis apparently observed this too.

As far back as 1932, when scholarly study of the influence of eastern religions on Christianity was relatively new, Maurice Magre in *Magicians, Seers, and Mystics* described the Cathari as "western Buddhists, who introduced a blend of Gnostic Christianity into the Oriental doctrine."

The distance from Persia to the last Cathari villages in France is about the same, by the same trade routes, as from Persia to India, through the Thari and Rajasthan deserts, where the Bishnoi of Rajasthan still practice a vegetarian religion similar to Jainism.

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Perry Fina

This is to thank everyone at **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for the lovely things you said about my husband, Perry Fina, in your January/February 2008 obituary.

Perry went with Merritt Clifton to Puerto Rico in 1998 to look at how the animals in the shelters there were treated and how they were just abandoned and left to die in the streets. The conditions in the shelters and streets were deplorable. In the May 1998 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Clifton mentioned Perry and Michael Arms, a former employee of the North Shore Animal League. Perry had just started an outreach program at the League, called the Pet Savers Foundation. When he returned from that trip, he was even more determined and devoted to saving animals all over the world. He made many friends and was touched by all of them.

Perry loved his work at North Shore and loved all the people there and those he came to know all over the U.S. and the world. Many people have written to me about him and how much he will be missed.

Even while he battled cancer for two years, Perry continued to work hard, and was even more committed to saving the lives of animals. He lived for this, and I think it was keeping him alive. Perry has given his children and me a beautiful legacy, to somehow and in some way continue his work of saving animals, and in our small way we will do that. I am enclosing a small donation to help support the wonderful work of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Once again I would like to offer you all my deepest and most heartfelt thanks.

—Linda Fina
New Milford, Connecticut

Cruelty to sea turtles

Please speak up against cruelty to marine turtles.

An investigation by animal welfare volunteers at the Vizhinjam fishing harbour in Trivandrum, Kerala, recently found that the local fishers are still selling marine turtles, and that there had been more than 100 catches in the past few weeks or months. We could spot more than 150 shells and carcasses of turtles. Two were exhibited to be sold at a local market shed just behind a police outpost.

Our findings are shown in videos posted at YouTube and in photographs posted at <www.saveturtleskerala.blogspot.com>.

—R.Abhed Kiran
The Bhima Club
Trivandrum, Kerala, India
<thebhimaclub@aol.in>
<www.freewebs.com/thebhimaclub>

Chinchilla Chat Line

As always I do so enjoy receiving your fabulous newspaper and read it with glee before passing it on to all and sundry!

I am delighted to announce the 10th anniversary of Chinchilla Chat Line.

—Liz Arnold-Smith
Administrator
Chinchilla Chat Line
Chelston, Portsmouth Road
Esher, Surrey KT10 9AW
Phone: 0208 3987397
<Lizarnoldsmith@aol.com>
<www.chinchat.net>

Zoo director in jail

Thank you for your great March 2008 article "Could the Giza Zoo become a rescue center?" Former zoo director Moustafa Awad, whom you mentioned, is now in jail. He allegedly stole King Farouk's furniture and antiques, and sold them. There were rumors also about wild animal smuggling.

Awad massacred the zoo. I can say he deserves being in prison.

—Amina Abaza
Society for the Protection
of Animal Rights in Egypt
16 Taha Hussein, Zamalek
Cairo, Egypt;
Phone: 20-12-381-3855
<spare@sparelife.org>
<www.sparelife.org>

Editor's note:

Awad directed the Giza Zoo from 1995 to 2003. A translation from the December 17, 2007 of <www.alwatan-voice.com/arabic/news> by Animal Welfare Awareness Research Group of Egypt coordinator Dina Zulficar affirms that "Awad was arrested on a variety of charges, including the possession of valuable contents from the royal rest house, and various properties of the zoo."

Empathy for all species needed

Animal rights organizations publicize abuses to animals raised for food or hunted for sport through undercover investigations, videos, court cases, legislation, political outreach, etc. However, one category of groups involved with animals remains largely untouched by these efforts.

Most animal shelters, sanctuaries, and rescue groups show little to no interest in species other than those for whom they directly care. Their fund-raising events serve chopped-up, sliced, and diced animal parts for dinner, their publications encourage adoptions of dogs who can accompany people on hunting and fishing trips, and their pre-Thanksgiving adoption promotions declare that it would be wonderful to have a new pet while the family is feasting on Thanksgiving turkey.

Organizations providing direct care to dogs, cats, horses, birds, and other species express empathy for these animals, but for many it is a limited empathy, protecting and advocating for a few specific kinds of animals while not considering the needs and rights of others.

Trying to avoid offending potential donors, such organizations also tend to avoid the idea that all animals should be treated with compassion—overlooking, for example, that a potential

major donor hunts.

Some groups point to the stress of their work as a rationalization for avoiding wider expression of humane values. Others appear to have such a strong emotional identification with just one kind of animal that they act as if the possibility of expanding their empathy to other living beings has never occurred to them.

Typically in an attempt to avoid taking a firm stand on humane values for all animals—but not wanting to appear indifferent to those values, which is a juggling act in itself—these groups will serve both meat and a vegetarian dish at their functions.

This does not promote kindness. Rather it puts their food on the same level as that served in the local diner. Nearly all restaurants, including steak houses, have non-meat options. The meat-eaters eat meat and the vegetarians choose vegetarian.

When an animal organization serves both meat and vegetarian food, it communicates to its donors that any food choice—no matter the animal suffering involved—is acceptable. Further, it is also telling its donors that only the animals cared for at its shelter or sanctuary should be cherished, and other animals can be trashed.

Katrina memorial ceremony

If you or an organization you are affiliated with helped during the 2005 storm season, we thank you. Tens of thousands of people came to our aid when the levees failed and most of New Orleans flooded, stranding thousands of residents, leaving more than 50,000 companion animals homeless, and killing countless others.

I hope you will accept my personal invitation to return to New Orleans and help us commemorate the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

We have commis-

sioned artist Richard Chashoudian to sculpt a memorial statue to honor the animals lost during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The statue will be unveiled on August 29 in the chambers of the New Orleans City Council.

Further details about the events planned for the day are at our web site.

—Jeff Dorson, founder

Humane Society of Louisiana
P.O. Box 740321
New Orleans, LA 70174
Phone: 901-268-4432
<info@humanela.org>
<www.Humanela.org>

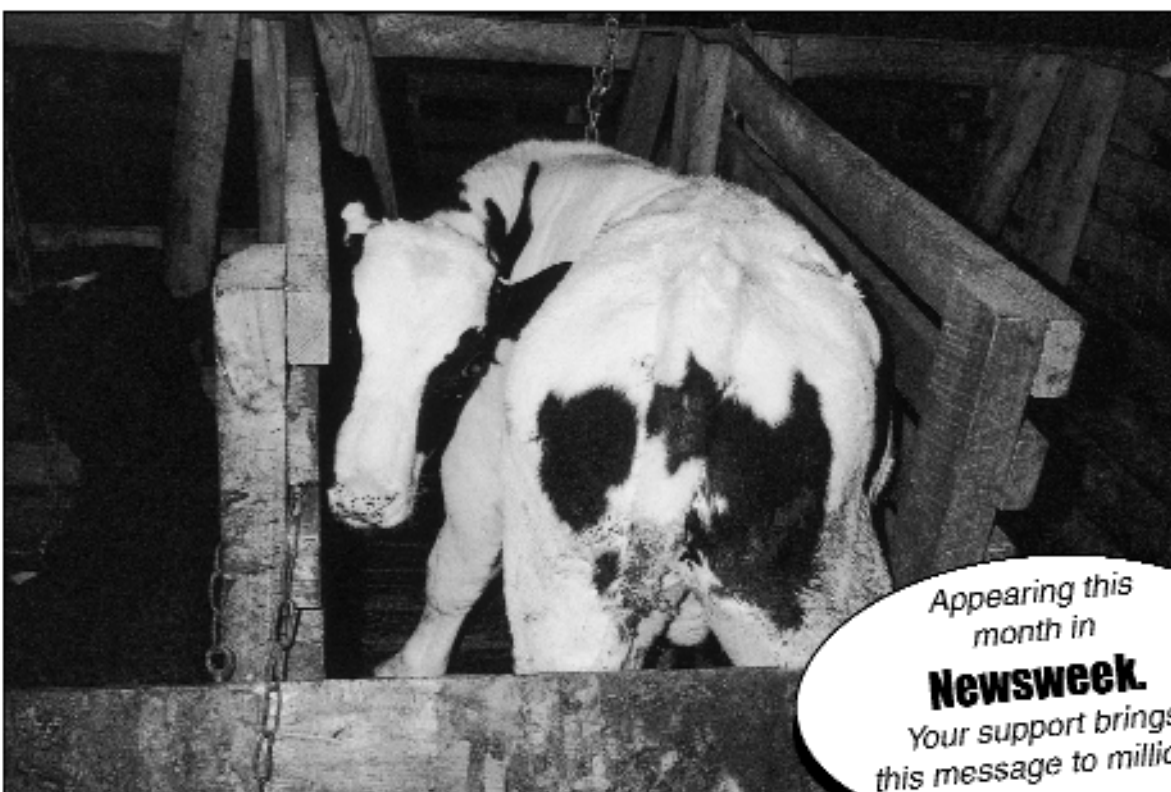
be limited.

It would be wonderful if a system could be created for disseminating information from animal rights groups to direct care groups in a way that actively involves the latter in specific issues and long-term campaigns.

There would need to be some give-and-take as to whether a local group is willing to promote a larger humane goal, how its efforts would be supported, and how disagreements could be managed without losing momentum. Regular meetings to discuss creative ideas for advancing the goal, as well as to review progress, would promote effectiveness.

—Irene Muschel
New York, N.Y.
benirv@hotmail.com>

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 such as *clenbuterol* 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 IIFA's National Veal Boycott. Factory farms must be stopped from abusing animals, misusing drugs, and destroying the environment. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

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How tethering limits affect the numbers of loose dogs, dog bites.

Ashland, Oregon mayor John Morrison told me several months ago that one reason he couldn't vote to limit how long dogs may be tethered was that he was concerned that more dogs might run loose.

This is a legitimate worry. An estimated 26,000 U.S. motor vehicle occupants per year receive hospital treatment and about 200 people die as a result of traffic accidents caused by animals.

Deer account for most of these accidents, but dogs are responsible for some. For example, in October 2007 two big dogs darted in front of a car driven by a 36-year-old man in Hemet, California. The car hit them, rolled over, and landed on the driver's side. The man died at the scene about 30 minutes later.

Dogs running into airport runways are also of concern. The risk was illustrated on March 27, 2008 in Bangalore, India, when a Kingfisher Airlines night flight to Hyderabad with 25 passengers and four crew aboard broke a nose wheel, skidded, and aborted takeoff after hitting a black dog. The pilot did not see the dog on the dimly lit runway, he told reporters, until too late to take evasive action. Four passengers were injured, the disabled aircraft had to be towed off the runway, and the airport was closed for three hours.

Few dogs run free in the U.S., compared to India, where most dogs run free, most of the time. Yet such accidents can occur here, too. One came in 2005, at the Aero Acres Airport, near Oregon City. The pilot of a single-engine Beech H-35 had just touched down on the runway when he saw the dog. He pulled up and powered up momentarily to keep from stalling. But he did not have the momentum needed to abort the landing, and after he landed again, he did not have enough room to stop on the remaining runway. As there was nowhere to turn, he hit a ditch, badly damaging the plane.

Ashland airport management told me that wild animals such as deer and coyotes are more often a problem than dogs, but loose dogs also sometimes must be removed.

The Indiana Department of Transportation, the Aviation Association of Indiana, and ten Indiana airports are so concerned about the hazards of loose animals in airports that they are paying \$96,286 to study preventative measures.

Favoring restrictions on tethering, but wanting to respond to concerns about public safety, in fall 2007 I called communities around the U.S. that have tethering restrictions and asked their animal control agencies if they have received more reports about dogs running loose since their tethering limits passed, and what their other experience with tethering limits has been.

In **Carthage, Missouri**, population 13,343, I interviewed animal control officer David Butler and police officer Christine Vandegevel, who was an animal control officer when the tethering limit was adopted in 1993. The Carthage ordinance requires that if a dog is tied, a person must hold the tether.

Vandegevel recalled that the ordinance did not change the numbers of running-at-large complaints. Neither did she receive a flurry of tethering complaints.

Dog bite reports fell 25%, Vandegevel estimated. She said she believes that this is because dogs who are tied are often neglected and become more aggressive, and because after the ban passed, children were less often bitten when they approached tied dogs.

Vandegevel guessed that 25 or 30 dogs were relinquished because of the anti-tethering ordinance, all within the first six months after the law passed.

Butler said that for six to nine weeks after the ordinance passed, dog relinquishments and impounds—for all reasons combined, not just tethering—surged by as much as 20%. Shelter killing temporarily increased, he said, but by not more than 10%.

"A few people were letting their dogs loose," Butler remembered.

In **Laurinburg, North Carolina**, population 15,766, I spoke with animal control officer Elaine Modlin. A 1997 Laurinburg bylaw allowed dogs to be tethered, unattended, for up to eight hours a day. This proved to be too hard to enforce, so in July 2000 Laurinburg reduced the maximum unattended tethering time to one hour. Complaints about tethering gradually dropped from probably seven or eight a month to only one or two.

Modlin told me that running-at-large decreased after the present tethering limit

passed, because dogs cannot escape from behind fences as easily as they can break loose from chains. Reported dog bites fell from an average of one a month before the law passed, to an average of just one a year since 2001.

"We've had less of a problem with unwanted litters," Modlin said, noting that penned females are less accessible to roving males than chained females. "People call us more often about stray male dogs hanging around a penned female, trying to dig their way into the pen, than about stray males hanging around a chained female," Modlin added.

After the 2000 bylaw passed, about 30% of the people caught in violation of it either gave their dogs away, let the shelter impound them, or did not reclaim the dogs despite being advised that they had been impounded, Modlin said. This was two or three people a month at first, and later only about one or two per quarter.

More dogs were killed at the Laurinburg shelter after the bylaw passed than before 2000, Modlin said, but she attributed this to the vogue for acquisition of pit bull terriers by young men who then neglect them.

I spoke with records technician Marie Wilson in **Big Spring, Texas**, population 25,346. The Big Spring anti-tethering ordinance took effect on October 1, 2004. The next year, the number of dogs at large increased from 912 in 2004 to 938—but in 2006, the number dropped to 876.

Big Spring records only "animal bites," not specifically dog bites. Bite complaints increased from 38 in 2004, to 56 in 2005, and 58 in 2006.

Dog surrenders, for all reasons combined, surged from 154 in 2004 to 313 in 2005, and 235 in 2006. The number of dogs killed at the Big Spring shelter fluctuated from 774 in 2004, to 999 in 2005, and 852 in 2006.

Dodge City, Kansas, population 26,101, in June 2005 adopted a bylaw providing that dogs may only be tethered for three hours per day, for no longer than one hour at a time, with at least a three-hour break off tether between hours of tethering.

Dodge City shelter director Glenna Walker believes complaints about tethering have decreased from as many as 20 per month to about 10 per month.

She noted that 173 dogs were caught running at large in June 2004, and 172 in June 2005. The number of cases fell in each month thereafter, to 112 in June 2006.

Dodge City keeps records of dogs who either bite people or attack another domestic animal. Dodge City had 62 bite cases in 2004, but only 43 in 2005, and just 37 in 2006. Dodge City banned pit bull terriers at the same time that the tethering limit was passed, but Walker believes the drop in bites and attacks is mostly due to the tethering limit.

The numbers of dogs surrendered to the Dodge City shelter followed the normal U.S. pattern both before and after the tethering limit took effect, rising in spring to the summer peak of "puppy and kitten season," falling thereafter. Shelter killing briefly increased, but partly because the pit bull ban brought more surrenders of unadoptable pit bulls.

Scotland County, North Carolina, population 42,303, in January 2006 began enforcing a one-hour tethering limit. Complaints about tethered dogs have gradually decreased from as many as 25 a month when the ordinance took effect, animal control officer Larry Herring told me, to about 60% as many during the last three months of 2007.

"I think we had a lot fewer dogs running loose—at least a 50% to 70% decrease," Herring said. "The number of dogs hit by automobiles has gone down," he added.

Reported dog bites fell from 50 and 48 in the last two fiscal years preceding the ordinance to 33 and 28 in the next two.

Shelter surrenders of dogs, for all reasons, increased shortly before the tethering law went into effect. Altogether, Herring guessed, probably 50 people have given up dogs due to the tethering law, but now only one or two dogs per month are surrendered because they cannot be tethered. Herring believes the ordinance discourages some acquisitions by people who would not keep dogs properly.

Shelter killing has remained about at the previous level.

Battle Creek and Bedford Township, Michigan, population 53,514, "did not receive a flurry of tethering complaints," recalled animal control officer Edwina Keyser,

after it adopted essentially the same ordinance as Dodge City, at about the same time. The numbers of dogs found running at large, numbers of dog bites, and volume of shelter killing did not increase. To Keyser's knowledge, no one has given up a dog as a result of the tethering ordinance.

Lawton, Oklahoma, population 113,041, banned dog-tethering circa 1990-1991. Animal Welfare Division superintendent Rose Wilson could only provide statistics going back to 2004. Since then, reported bites have fallen each year from 252 to 204 to 194. Wilson attributed the decrease in part to the tethering limit. She could not recall anyone relinquishing a dog to the shelter because of the ordinance, nor any cases in which dogs disappeared between her response to a complaint and a later check on compliance.

The Lawton shelter killed 5,071 dogs in 1991, and killed 4,643 in 1993.

Topeka, Kansas, population 122,113, shares essentially the same tethering ordinance as Dodge City, Battle Creek, and Bedford Township, also taking effect at about the same time. Animal control supervisor Linda Halford told me that running-at-large and biting complaints remained about the same before and after the ordinance, but that bites associated with tethering decreased. Tethering complaints peaked soon after the ordinance took effect, but are now few.

Halford estimated that 20 to 25 dogs were relinquished due to the tethering bylaw, in the first 30 months that it was in effect, and guessed that probably an additional 20 to 30 people gave their dogs away because of the bylaw. Shelter killing in Topeka has not significantly changed.

Mark Takhar, director of the SPCA in **Burnaby, British Columbia**, population 197,292, told me that the city allows dogs to be tethered unattended for a maximum of one hour. After the Burnaby bylaw took effect in March 2006, Takhar said, the SPCA received 44 complaints about tethering in the next 18 months. The numbers of dogs found at large



(Dogs Deserve Better)

and numbers of bites remained unchanged. Three people surrendered their dogs to Takhar, and he heard that two other people "gave their dogs to a farm." All of these people, Takhar believed, had reasons in addition to the tethering law for giving up their dogs, including inability to afford veterinary care.

No dogs have been killed in Burnaby as a result of the tethering bylaw, Takhar said.

Wichita, Kansas, population 357,698, has the same tethering time limit as Topeka, Dodge City, Battle Creek, and Bedford Township, but adopted it in 2002. A 21-year employee of Wichita Animal Services who declined to give her full name told me that running-at-large, bite complaints, shelter surrenders of dogs, and shelter killing were all not visibly affected by the ordinance.

In all, three communities had fewer reports of dogs running loose after enforcing tethering restrictions. Only one had more.

Five communities had fewer dog bites. Only one had more.

Shelter surrenders and killing increased in four communities after tethering restrictions were introduced, but in three of them, the increases in surrenders and/or killing were only short-term.

Freelance writer *Ambuja Rosen*, of Ashland, Oregon, specializes in animal topics. She presently leads the campaign to ban prolonged tethering in Ashland. For a complete copy of her survey findings, contact her at <ambujar@hotmail.com>.



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Enviros expose lab monkey business in S.E. Asia *(from page 1)*

appeared in Vietnamese newspapers in October 2007, reaching the U.S. in translation several months later.

The Vietnamese project originators were Quoc Dung of *Tien Phong*, Phuong Lieu of *Dong Nai*, and Phuong Thao of *Nhan*. The primary authors of the Cambodian material were Bun Khy, Reasmei Kampuchea, and Kompong Thom. The Vietnamese environmental group PanNature provided a translated transcript to EJNI that was edited before publication in English by Marty Bergoffen and James Fahn.

"Located in a remote place near Cambodia, in Vietnam's southwestern Tay Ninh province, the wildlife breeding farm owned by Tan Hoi Dong Co., Ltd. is well known in Vietnam as one of the first in Vietnam to obtain certification" by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species," the series opened. "But it is also an essential transit site for the most sophisticated and largest trans-border wildlife trafficking network in Vietnam up to now."

Two Vietnamese companies, Trung Viet and NAFOVANNY, exported at least 2,700, 4,300, and 2,636 macaques to the U.S. in 2004-2006.

Trung Viet founder Tran Quy, the EJNI team reported, is also director of Tan Hoi Dong Co., and is now a partner of Primate Products Inc. of the U.S. in building an \$8 million laboratory to do stem cell research on primates in Tay Ninh province.

NAFOVANNY has operated in Vietnam for 10 years, the EJNI team learned, and is 40% owned by the Vietnamese government, but is "majority-owned by VANNY, a Hong Kong company."

Trung Viet initially tried to start a macaque breeding farm in 2003, in Cat Ba National Park in northern Vietnam, but this was blocked because the park was under consideration to be named a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. Trung Viet had already imported 5,000 macaques. When the Cat Ba scheme failed, Trung Viet sold the macaques to NAFOVANNY, the EJNI team recounted.

This was the beginning of a quiet partnership, EJNI continued. While NAFOVANNY has been able to import fewer than 1,000 macaques per year from Cambodia, Trung Viet was able to import as many as 21,853 in 2004-2006.

The EJNI team found numerous discrepancies between Vietnamese paperwork and the data that Vietnam eventually provided to CITES about the macaque traffic.

Most notably, they found that "the whole set of documents allowing Xay Savang Co., of Laos, to export 80,000 wild animals to Trung Viet Co., was confirmed as fake by Thongphath Vongmany, the Vice Director of the Vietnamese Forestry Department."

These documents enabled the export to Vietnam of 7,000 monkeys, 13,000 wild-caught snakes, and 60,000 wild-caught turtles.

The monkeys went to Trung Viet.

The paperwork appeared to have been altered from a permit originally issued in April 2004 for the transit of 1,450 monkeys from Malaysia through Vietnam to Laos.

"Chinese companies prefer to buy monkeys from Trung Viet over other networks," the EJNI team reported, "because only Trung Viet can obtain so-called 'legal' permits. In many cases," the EJNI team continued, "Trung Viet was not able to supply enough monkeys to fulfill the permits. By purchasing the excess permits from Trung Viet, the Chinese could convert smuggled monkeys from other sources into legal ones. This is reported to be the trick used by Tran Quy, who established wildlife farms to make illegally imported monkeys from Cambodia and other South-East Asian countries appear to be legally bred."

Cambodian captures

"Investment companies have set up monkey breeding farms at over 10 sites in Cambodia," the EJNI Cambodian team found. "It is suspected that these breeding efforts are phony, resulting in a serious loss of wild Cambodian monkeys."

For example, the Cambodian

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries authorized a company called the Golden China Group to buy or catch 5,000 adult monkeys, the EJNI team reported. Instead of trying to capture monkeys themselves, the Golden China Group "just set up places to buy monkeys from local people," the EJNI team found.

Cambodian regional environment Department chief Heng Huot told the EJNI team that "The number of crab-eating monkeys in the inundated forests surrounding the Tonle Sap Lake has gone down by 70% to 80%," since the laboratory monkey supply companies became locally active.

Locals typically "force the monkeys onto one or two trees by cutting down the surrounding trees. Then, they spread nets around the trees to catch the monkeys," the EJNI investigators learned. This accelerates deforestation and human encroachment on wildlife habitat.

"Although the companies have been buying monkeys for three to five years" the EJNI team observed, "they do not seem to catch enough of them," hinting that the quotas may be ignored wherever possible.

Reported the EJNI investigators, "A Forestry Administration official said there was corruption at all of the monkey farms, even though each farm has been inspected by Forestry Administration officers. In an announcement issued by the ministry, the official states that, 'Raising and breeding crab-eating monkeys is aimed at producing baby monkeys for export.' But the companies have secretly bought and exported adult monkeys without following the law."

The Golden China Group, "which recently transferred its license to Angkor Primates Centre Inc.," EJNI said, has as many as 10,000 macaques housed at each of two Chinese-supervised farms. Another two farms are operated by the Mony Company, with 3,000 to 10,000 monkeys each. A third firm, the Chhang Huor Company, reportedly has 7,000 monkeys.

A Forestry Administration official who visited the Golden China Group monkey

facilities in Shenzhen, China at company expense told the EJNI team that, "In Shenzhen province, there are farms with tens of thousands of monkeys, most of whom are suspected to have been imported from Cambodia. He said the company explained that it was not true that they exported monkeys to China so that their brains could be eaten."

According to the unnamed official, "The company explained there was a single monkey whose brain was eaten alive. It said they were only raising the monkeys for export to the U.S. for use in laboratories."

The rumor about the monkeys being sent to China to be eaten, gruesome as it is, appears to be part of the cover for the traffic. U.S. law prohibits importing wild-caught monkeys for research. And neither crab-eating nor rhesus macaques, the species most often sold to U.S. labs from China, may be legally hunted or captured from the wild within China. Importing macaques nominally for consumption may provide an opportunity for "monkey-laundering," since a monkey who has purportedly been eaten could disappear from any existing records, yet perhaps be resurrected as "captive-bred" by a monkey broker, and therefore legal for use in breeding or export.

A case of illegal monkey capturing reported in February 2008 by the *Phuket Gazette* hinted at the possible existence of a similar trade running from Thailand to South Korea. Arun Kertphetch, 38, was arrested in the act of capturing monkeys at the Wan Village Monkey Forest, a local tourist attraction. Two alleged confederates escaped but were sought by police. The suspect claimed to be just their driver.

"Police collected as evidence two monkey cages, 20 nets, a selection of various traps, hunting equipment, and nuts and some bananas, which were used as bait," the *Phuket Gazette* said, adding that "Arun said that he overheard the other two men saying that they would catch monkeys and export them to Korea" to be eaten.

However, while dogs and cats are

(continued on page 8)

HOW TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

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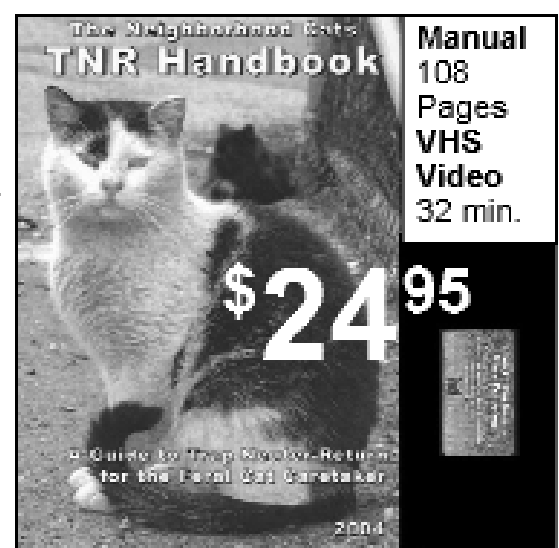
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Enviros expose lab monkey business in S.E. Asia *(from page 7)*

eaten in Korea, monkey-eating is not common there, and has historically been common only in the parts of China that are directly north of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, more than 1,000 miles from the Korean peninsula.

South Korea does, however, have a booming biotechnology industry, which in recent years has been importing macaques for lab use from some of the same Shenzhen suppliers who sell macaques to the U.S.

Malaysia involved

Malaysian natural resources and environment minister Seri Azmi Khalid on February 2, 2008 told the *New Straits Times* that he has decided against lifting a ban on exporting long-tailed macaques, in effect since 1984.

Seri Azmi Khalid in August 2007 floated the idea of selling nuisance macaques captured in urban areas to China for laboratory use and human consumption, but backed away from it after it drew adverse public response.

Former Malaysian Wildlife and National Parks Department chief Musa Nordin, who retired in October 2006, admitted to *Malaysia Star* reporters Hilary Chew and S.S. Yoga that he was "indirectly involved" in a scheme to export as many as 20,000 macaques per year to buyers including

the Kunming Primate Research Centre, affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The center was set up in 2005 as a research base for experiments against infectious diseases and bio-terrorism," Chew and Yoga learned.

Seri Azmi Khalid said the export scheme was cancelled because, "A study of 2,000 macaques in urban areas, which began several months ago, found that 80% of them were infected," with diseases including tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis, and simian AIDS, and that "Only half the remainder were suitable for export."

But an informant told the EJN team that there is nonetheless a substantial traffic in wild-caught macaques from Malaysia, who are "anaesthetized, bound and gagged in order to keep them silent," and flown in containers labeled "vegetables" to nations including Vietnam for resale to China.

From e-mails posted by unnamed "conservation experts" to a United Nations Development Program discussion forum on wildlife conservation in Vietnam, the EJN team identified Indonesia as another apparent major conduit of illegally wild-caught monkeys to the U.S., but acknowledged that hard evidence is lacking.

Long-tailed macaque exports from Indonesia have more more than doubled

recently, rising from 2,000 in 2000 to 4,100 in 2007, with a 2008 quota of 5,100, according to ProFauna Indonesia.

ProFauna Indonesia noted that this is only one of many threats to the Indonesian macaque population. Deforestation has reduced habitat for all wildlife, forcing macaques into adapting to urban dwelling. About 5,000 macaques per year are killed as nuisances in Kalimantan province, according to ProFauna. As many as 3,000 a year are eaten in cities including Jakarta, Medan, and Palembang, ProFauna estimated, while about 50 macaques per month are sold as pets at Javanese bird markets.

African monkeys

Monkey trafficking to laboratories has resurfaced as an issue in parts of Africa, after fear of importing diseases such as simian AIDS and the Ebola and Marburg viruses inhibited buyer interest for about 20 years.

Gerald Tenywa of the Kampala *New Vision* disclosed in February 2008 that a company called Navina Exports had used an expired permit to export 300 monkeys to the Chumakov Institute of Poliomyelitis in Moscow. The Uganda Wildlife Authority had authorized Navina Exports managing director Yekoyada Nuwagaba to export monkeys in 2007, however, and UWA acting chief Sam

Mwandha told Tenywa that Nuwagaba had been given verbal permission to continue.

The export operation "was exposed," Tenywa wrote, "when primate trapper Ronald Sendagire was arrested with 16 monkeys at Gerenge on the shores of Lake Victoria. The monkeys were loaded in sacks and cages. This attracted the attention of residents," who tried unsuccessfully to stop the captures.

Demand rising

An especially dramatic indication of the recent rise in laboratory demand for monkeys was disclosed in February 2008 by Dave Howden of Students for Transparency in Animal Research and Testing at McGill University in Montreal. Howden found that McGill University laboratories used just 24 nonhuman primates in 2003, but used 268 in 2004, 664 in 2005, and 919 in 2006.

Obtaining the information via freedom of information requests took Howden more than two years, reported Jennifer Markowitz of *The McGill Daily*.

Laboratory use of macaques has increased worldwide partly because bioengineering has increased the numbers of products that are ready for testing before going on the market, and partly because of intensified research about biological agents which might be used as weapons. —Merritt Clifton

Chilean ex-lab capuchins fly to new

WAREHAM,

U.K.—Approaching the March 2008 first anniversary of the death of her husband and rescue partner Jim Cronin, Monkey World cofounder Alison Cronin took on the biggest project in the 15-year history of the sanctuary: attempting to rehabilitate 88 capuchin monkeys, ranging in age from two to 30, most of whom have never known a life beyond single housing in cages and use in experiments.

Flown to Britain from Santiago, Chile, aboard a Chilean Air Force C-130 Hercules prop-jet, the capuchins arrived on January 29, 2008.

Alison Cronin called it "The largest rescue of primates in the world ever." Not quite: Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care founder Carole Noon in 2002 took in 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys formerly kept by the now defunct Coulston Foundation, a major laboratory supplier. Her Florida sanctuary is now called Save the Chimps. But the Monkey World capuchin rescue is the largest laboratory primate rescue to cross international borders.

Approached for help by the lab that formerly kept the capuchins, Alison and the late Jim Cronin began planning the rescue together, before he was felled by liver cancer at age 55.

Monkey World has previously rescued and rehabilitated about 50 former laboratory primates. Located on a former pig farm, the sanctuary attracts about 500,000 visitors per year.

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Johns Hopkins medical school is last of top 20 in U.S. still using animal labs

BALTIMORE—Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore is “the lone holdout among medical schools in the top 20 in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* ranking still convening live animal labs,” wrote *Baltimore Sun* reporter Jonathan Bor on March 27, 2008.

“Just 10 of the nation’s 126 M.D.-granting medical schools use live animals during surgical rotations, according to the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine,” Bor added.

Ironically, the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, founded in 1981, is the oldest such center in the world.

Among the other top-ranked U.S. medical schools, New York Medical College in November 2007 announced that echocardiography and simulators would replace the use of live dogs to teach heart function to first-year medical students, beginning in 2008.

Case Western Reserve University announced in December 2007 that it had

already quit using live dogs, cats, and ferrets in medical training, and would eliminate the use of pigs after the spring 2008 semester.

The Medical College of Wisconsin quit using dogs in teaching exercises in 2007, but still uses pigs. PCRM protested a February 2008 exercise using 36 pigs with a billboard posted nearby.

Altogether, 12 U.S. medical schools have quit using live pigs since 2006, Dallas cardiologist and PCRM representative John J. Pippin told Bor.

Medical schools abroad are moving in the same direction. Monash University in Australia is among the holdouts. Australian shadow minister for agriculture John Vogels in February 2008 asked the Department of Primary Industry to investigate Monash exercises in which undergraduate clinical and experimental cardiovascular physiology students make an incision in the throats of anesthetized rabbits, insert a catheter, and admin-

ister drugs to adjust the rabbits’ heart rates.

“The rabbits are then given a fatal drug overdose and disposed of,” reported the *Melbourne Age*. About 30 rabbits per year are killed in the exercises. Students may watch a videotaped version of the procedure instead.

The trend toward eliminating live animal labs in medical schools developed after dissection fell out of vogue in middle schools and high schools, inspiring suppliers of teaching resources to develop increasingly sophisticated simulations, which eventually replaced more advanced and costly procedures.

The replacement process recently gained momentum in Russia.

“The International Network for Humane Education and the Department of Ecology, Health & Safety and Hunting Management of the Faculty of Zoology at Tomsk Agricultural Institute have signed a formal agreement to end the use of animals for dissection,” announced InterNICHE coordina-

tor Nick Jukes and Elena Maroueva, co-founder of the animal rights group VITA.

“InterNICHE and VITA will supply the department with computer hardware and zoology software,” Jukes and Maroueva said on March 17. “The project will save hundreds of animals every year. Tomsk Agriculture Institute has become the sixth Russian higher education institute to sign an agreement with InterNICHE to end such use of animals in teaching,” Jukes and Maroueva added.

The Tomsk project was funded from a bequest by Tatyana Pavlova, founder of the Centre for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in Moscow, who died on August 21, 2007.

In India, the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education in February 2008 instructed sixth grade syllabus publishers to omit experiments involving mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. A similar directive was issued in 2005 to eliminate such experiments during the last two years of high school

Events

April 19: Family Abuse: Linking Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, & Animal Abuse, George Washington U. Law Center, Washington D.C. Info: www.abanet.org/tips/animalabusereg08.html

April 25-27: Confronting Cruelty conf., Salt Lake City. Info: <http://confrontingcruelty.com/>

April 27: Party Animals house parties for farm animals. Info: Humane Society Legislative Fund, www.partylaunch.com/party-animals

May 3: Animal Acres Country Hoe Down, Acton, Calif. Info: 661-269-5404; info@animal-acres.org; www.animal-acres.org

May 3: Country Hoe Down, Farm Sanctuary, Orlands, Calif. Info: 607-583-2225, x221; www.farmsanctuary.org

May 4: Touched By An Animal spring books & baskets benefit, Skokie, Ill. Info: 773-728-6336

May 12-15: Ingestion of Spent Lead Ammunition: Implications for Wildlife & Humans, Boise, Idaho. Info: tpf@peregrinefund.org, or www.peregrinefund.org

May 14-17: HSUS Animal Care Expo, Orlando. Info: 1-800-248-EXPO; www.animalsheltering.org/exo

May 21-28: International Meeting About Animal Rights, Canary Islands. Info: Magaly.Miranda@laca-jadecanarias.es

May 24: ASPCA Continuing Education Conf. for Vet Techs, Urbana,

(continued on page 12)

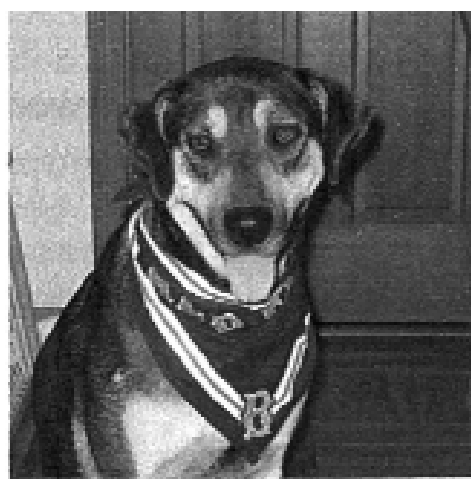
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To bring attention to two big, brown, nondescript dogs, who had many times been passed over for adoption, **Pet Matchmaker Rescue of Walpole, Massachusetts** renamed the dogs after Boston Red Sox stars. Photographed wearing Red Sox bandannas, Daisuke and Big Papi were quickly adopted.

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The Pet Rescue Foundation

Bison, wolves, & the wild

any time and for any reason in the predator area, which covers nearly 90% of the state."

As many as four wolves were shot on the first day that they were no longer officially endangered. Two more were killed within the week.

Wolves other than Mexican gray wolves, a somewhat smaller subspecies, are no longer officially considered endangered anywhere in the U.S.

"The premature delisting leaves wolves at the mercy of aggressive, non-scientific state management plans," objected Sierra Club spokesperson Melanie Stein. "Right now, the policies of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are based on politics rather than the best available science. They treat wolves as pests, rather than as a valuable wildlife resource," Stein charged.

EarthJustice, representing a coalition of 12 animal and environmental protection groups headed by the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed notice of intent to challenge the wolf delisting on the day that it became official.

Mike Leahy, Rocky Mountain director for Defenders of Wildlife, explained that if wolves are immediately killed in large numbers, the coalition may seek an emergency injunction, but otherwise will "wait and see how much people exploit the flexibility in the

state plans to go out and kill wolves."

Defenders of Wildlife has extended to the whole of Wyoming a program that has paid ranchers more than \$1 million since 1987 for livestock losses to wolves and grizzly bears. To be eligible for compensation, ranchers must remove dead or dying animals from grazing areas in a timely manner, patrol their property to prevent predation, and corral livestock at night when practical.

GAO rips bison plan

With the wolf issue smoldering, the bison issue caught fire politically with the April 3, 2008 release of a General Accounting Office report criticizing almost every aspect of the Interagency Bison Management Plan, which since 2000 has governed how the Yellowstone bison are handled.

The GAO report acknowledged that killing bison at the Montana border has prevented bison from coming into contact with cattle, thereby preventing the theoretical possibility that bison might transmit the bacterial disease brucellosis to cattle. Brucellosis, nearly eliminated from U.S. domestic cattle, remains endemic among Yellowstone elk and bison, and still occasionally occurs in cattle in the Yellowstone region—but all known cases have been traced to other domestic livestock.

There are no cases on record of cattle having contracted brucellosis from bison;



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but bison and elk are believed to have become infected long ago from domestic animals.

"The Interagency Bison Management plan does not have clearly defined, measurable objectives," the GAO assessed, "and the partner agencies share no common view of the objectives. Consequently, the agencies have no sound basis for making decisions or measuring the success of their efforts. Additionally, the agencies have not designed a monitoring program to systematically collect data from their management actions, nor have they set forth a coordinated research agenda to resolve remaining critical uncertainties related to bison and brucellosis-related issues.

"The plan states that all captured bison are to be tested for exposure to brucellosis," the GAO continued, "but fewer than half of those captured since 2001 have been tested. For example, in early winter 2006, the agencies lost an opportunity to collect scientific

data on about 900 bison. Park Service officials captured these bison as they attempted to leave through the park's northern boundary. The bison were consigned to slaughter without being tested at the capture facility because the Park Service determined that they would not be used for research, and could not be held in the capture pens until the spring for release back into the park."

The GAO pointed out that after eight years of a purported 15-year plan to eradicate brucellosis among Yellowstone bison, the participating agencies are still mired in the first phase. "The agencies have no estimate regarding how long it will take to meet the conditions for starting step two, nor have they revised their estimated dates for reaching step three, which was expected by winter 2005-2006," the GAO said. The GAO also noted that the agencies "lack accountability among themselves and to the public."

Said Defenders of Wildlife executive vice president Jamie Rappaport Clark, who headed the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under President Bill Clinton, "Yellowstone's bison are the last pure descendants of the millions of bison who once thundered through the American landscape. Yet as soon as they set foot outside of Yellowstone, even into national forests, they are harassed and killed. This is one of the worst examples of wildlife management in the country."

"The Buffalo Field Campaign strongly opposes the Interagency Bison Management Plan, and maintains that wild bison should be allowed to naturally and fully recover throughout their historic native range, especially on public lands," said Buffalo Field Campaign spokespersons Darrell Geist and Stephany Seay in a joint statement. "As the GAO report notes, the bison plan is nearly all paid for by American taxpayers, with appropriations from the U.S. Congress reaching a high of \$3,304,817 in 2006."

Added Geist, "Millions of dollars of taxpayer money now used to slaughter wild bison can buy the grass that cattle now graze on."

Assessed Amy McNamara of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, "The Department of Livestock and USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service have been unwilling to treat bison as wildlife, and instead continue to manage them like livestock."

"Yellowstone Park is being treated like a zoo," alleged Defenders of Wildlife representative Mike Leahy. "Bison aren't allowed outside the park, and those who leave in search of food are either chased back in or shot. There is plenty of room for bison on public lands around the park such as the Gallatin

(continued on page 11)



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Bison, wolves, & the wild

National Forest in Montana,” Leahy added. “The only reason we don’t have bison there now is that the livestock industry is calling all the shots and demanding that bison be kept out of this historic habitat.”

The Yellowstone bison herd numbered about 4,700 going into the winter of 2007-2008, but at the end of March had officially dropped to 3,000. “At the level of 3,000 animals, government officials have the option, but not the obligation, to back off on the killing,” explained Scott McMillion of the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*.

But National Park Service spokesperson Al Nash told McMillion, “We don’t anticipate making any operational changes.”

Wrote McMillion, “That’s because rangers began last week to test animals for brucellosis. Now, only those testing positive for exposure to the disease are sent to slaughter. Those testing negative will be held, fed hay, and released after green grass emerges.”

As of March 28, McMillion wrote, “1,087 bison have been shipped to slaughter, hunters killed 166, and 74 calves who tested negative were sent to an experimental quarantine facility. A handful of bison were euthanized or died of injuries during handling.”

Predators & prey

Wolves within Yellowstone prey mostly on elk and bison. Outside Yellowstone, the absence of bison may contribute to wolf predation on livestock.

“Government agents and ranchers legally killed a record 186 wolves in the

Northern Rockies region in response to depredations on livestock, according to recently released 2007 figures,” reported Mike Stark of the *Billings Gazette*. “Despite taking out about 12 percent of the population, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimates that there were at least 1,513 wolves in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming at the end of 2007, up from 1,300 at the end of 2006.

“The number of wolves in the three-state area has increased every year,” Stark noted. “In Montana, the number grew 34%, to 422 wolves last year, according to Carolyn Sime, leader of the wolf program for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Confirmed wolf kills included 75 cows and 27 sheep in Montana, 55 cows and 16 sheep in Wyoming, and 53 cows and 170 sheep in Idaho. More than 120 wolves were killed in retaliation.

“Sheep are still far more likely to die in Montana from attacks by coyotes and foxes, along with bouts of disease, bad weather or poison, according to USDA statistics,” wrote Stark. Wolves do not even rank high among sheep predators, Stark pointed out. “Of 273,000 sheep lost to predators in 2007, coyotes accounted for about 61%,” easily more than all other species combined.

WildEarth Guardians on March 25, 2008 sued the U.S. federal government for allegedly not seriously considering reintroducing wolves to Rocky Mountain National Park in lieu of culling elk. The park now has about 3,000 elk. Half that many is considered ideal.

Sumarized Associated Press writer Judith Kohler, “The lawsuit claims federal



Bison foraging in snow. (Mona Lefebvre)

officials ignored scientific evidence showing that releasing wolves in Yellowstone has improved the ecosystem by returning he natural predator. The lawsuit, filed with the help of student attorneys at the University of Denver, also contends the Park Service is obligated to conserve endangered species.”

“The Park Service should accept that their elk problem stems directly from a lack of wolves in the region,” WildEarth Guardians spokesperson Ron Edwards told Kohler. “It’s time to restore the balance of nature.”

Wrote Kohler, “The plan approved last year calls for sharpshooters to kill up to 200 elk annually over 20 years. The number

killed each year will depend on the herd’s size, which fluctuates.”

Wolves persisted in Colorado as recently as the 1930s, but only a few wanderers from the Yellowstone region have reached the state since then.

Mexican gray wolves were expected to spread into southern Colorado when they were first returned to the wild in Arizona and New Mexico in early 1998, 22 years after being listed as endangered. None remained in the U.S., and not more than 50 remained in Mexico, where none are known to survive now. Five Mexican gray wolves captured in Mexico became the progenitors of about 300

Mexican gray wolves now living in captivity, mostly in zoos. Nearly 100 Mexican gray wolves have now been released into the wild, *Washington Post* staff writer Juliet Eilperin reported on March 31, 2008, but 117 wolves have either been recaptured or shot for attacking livestock, and just 52 remain at large.

“We are facing the second extinction of the Mexican gray wolf in the wild,” said WildEarth Guardians executive director John Horning. —Merritt Clifton

A brief win for Alaskan

ANCHORAGE—

Alaska Superior Court Judge William F. Morse on March 14, 2008 obliged the state to suspend an aerial wolf-killing program for 10 days, ruling for Friends of Animals, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance that the Alaska Board of Game bypassed required steps when it expanded the wolf-killing into two areas beyond the original scope of the program.

“The Alaska aerial predator control program is in its fifth year,” recalled Associated Press writer Anne Sutton. “Pilot/gunner teams have killed more than 750 wolves. The goal is to reduce wolf populations in each of the specified areas by as much as 80%. The program has also included bears.”

Alaska voters in November 2008 will have the chance to limit aerial wolf control to so-called emergency hunts by state biologists. Meanwhile, the Alaska Board of Game held an emergency meeting to amend the rules governing predator control. Wolf-killing resumed on March 25.

“Pilot/gunner teams have reported killing 81 wolves in five control areas thus far this winter,” wrote Tim Mowry of the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*. “The program will be suspended when conditions deteriorate to the point that pilots can no longer land planes to collect the wolves.”



A Cotton-top Tamarin at Primarily Primates

Something’s Abuzz at Primarily Primates

Primarily Primates is now a beehive of activity. New construction and renovations are evident everywhere. With more than 30 projects underway, contractors, electricians and plumbers are hard at work preparing new living quarters for animals whose safety has been assured.

The aging squirrel monkey house has been torn down and rebuilt. The new area is higher and larger, and the sleeping quarters are more comfortable and roomy. Lemurs and emus have new, enlarged enclosures with warmer, more comfortable sleeping areas.

Shade trees have been planted all around the sanctuary, including around the Air Force chimpanzee structures. Ropes, tires, cargo nets, drums, climbing ladders, swings, new perching structures and heating systems have been installed in the primate living areas. Walk in food units keep a variety of produce and other foods clean and safe. Using hose donated from the Austin fire department, sanctuary staffers have fashioned nest like hammocks for the chimpanzees to enjoy.

Our veterinarian has been busy as well, performing dentistry and vasectomies on tamarins, lemurs, civets,

capuchins, and petas monkeys. This prevents breeding, maintains good health, and allows for socializing.

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wise remained uncertain. The Zanu-PF party, ruling Zimbabwe since 1980, appeared to have lost control of the national parliament, but *Harare Daily News* editor Barnabas Thondiana told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that agents of Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean president since 1980, "secretly stuffed ballots to enable him to achieve a respectable election figure." Claiming military support, Mugabe tried to remain in power despite many indications that he had been electorally defeated.

Cadres loyal to Mugabe had resumed invading farms owned by Zimbabweans of European descent, as they often have since 2000, while Mugabe announced new measures to reallocate land. A frequent Mugabe tactic in times of political challenge, land redistribution has both kept the Zanu-PF government in power and bankrupted the national economy. Farm invasions have typically brought the slaughter of domestic animals for immediate consumption and the destruction of wildlife habitat to create awkwardly and ineffectively cultivated fields, where families struggle to grow food in a nation previously among Africa's net food exporters, now struggling through perpetual food scarcity.

Amid the turmoil, the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority in mid-March claimed to have raised about \$900,000 U.S. from its annual auction of animals from three safari camps in the Zambezi

Valley—about 10% less than the 2007 auction raised, and only 60% of the 2006 receipts, even at the questionable official exchange rates. The animals are sold chiefly to be shot by trophy-hunting tourists. Long-term investments in hunting ranch breeding stock have declined due to political instability and a steep drop in hunter visits.

Amid the Zimbabwean wildlife disaster, internationally distributed e-mails and photos from Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues turned orphaned baby black rhinos named Tatenda, Carla, and Lisa Marie into national symbols of hope.

Tatenda's mother and two other black rhinos were killed at the Imre Safari Ranch, operated by John and Judy Travers, on November 7, 2007, when "Four armed poachers dressed in camouflage uniform assaulted and tied up the rhino guards and opened fire on the three adult rhinos in their pens," Rodrigues reported.

While John and Judy Travers undertook bottle-feeding Tatenda, then just six weeks old, Janie Style of Buffalo Range bottle-fed Carla and Lisa Marie, each six months old. "Carla's mother was shot and killed," Rodrigues wrote, "and little Carla was shot through her shoulders and chopped on her face with a panga (machete). Lisa Marie was caught in a snare and almost lost her back foot."

Rodrigues' appeals brought repeated donations of urgently needed milk powder from the Clover Milk company of South Africa and other South Africans who usually personally deliver their contributions, also including nipples and medications, as far as Bulawayo. Rodrigues takes the supplies the rest of the way to the rhinos.

The bottle-feeders have also raised an orphaned hyena and an orphaned warthog during the long effort—and most importantly, have demonstrated to the world that people who care about animals still exist in Zimbabwe.

The 13 branches of the Zimbabwe National SPCA have continued operations throughout the prolonged national crisis, but since July 2007 have had to euthanize most animals rather than holding them, because pet food is no longer available. Some supplies have been donated by the South African National SPCA.

ANAW in camps

In Kenya, while Kibaki and Odinga negotiated, the African Network for Animal Welfare spent much of March vaccinating



Tatenda the orphaned black rhino devours one of Judy Travers' ornamental palm trees. (Johnny Rodrigues)

and/or deworming 883 animals at 10 camps for internally displaced persons. ANAW also took food to the animals in camps where supplies were locally scarce.

How soon the camp residents will all be resettled, with their surviving animals, is among the open questions in the abruptly and violently redrawn ethnic landscape.

Another open question is the fate of Amboseli National Park, explored on March 17 by Rupi Mangat of the Nairobi *East African*. "A few years ago," Mangat explained, "Amboseli was to be degazetted and handed back to the Ol Kejuado County Council. This was seen as a political maneuver [by the Kibaki government] to win favor.

However, the move was unlawful. For degazettement, a whole process has to be followed. One requirement is to win 60% approval from parliament. This never happened, but [the proposed return of the park to the county council] caused tremendous confusion. To make things worse, a new district was carved out of Kajiado [as Ol Kejuado is now more often called]. Now the

(continued on page 13)

More events

III. Info: 217-337-9751.

June 5-7: Natl. Animal Control Association conference, Spokane.

Info: <naca@nacanet.org>; <www.nacanet.org>.

June 6-8: Compassionate Action for Animals conf., Minneapolis.

Info: <gil@exploreveg.org>; <www.tlov.org>.

June 13: Natl. Pigeon Day. Info: New York Bird Club, <bestbirdclub@yahoo.com>.

July 9-11: 6th Intl. Symposium on Canine & Feline Reproduction, Vienna, Austria. Info:

<joyce@acc-d.org>.

August 14-18: Animal Rights 2008 conf., Alexandria, Va. Info: <1-888-FARM-USA>; <www.arconference.org>.

August 27-29: Asia for Animals 2008, Bali, Indonesia. Information:

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park lies in Loitokitok.”

Amboseli is still managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service, still rich in wildlife, and is increasingly a flashpoint for wildlife/human conflict, surrounded by agriculture and development.

“Crops are getting closer and closer to the park,” elephant researcher Cynthia Moss told Mangat. “In February,” when post-election conflict paralyzed the Kenya Wildlife Service as much as the rest of the nation, “14 elephants were speared and four died. We need to save as much of the ecosystem as we can, because the park on its own cannot survive,” Moss said. “If the ecosystem changes, the park will not be viable for other species.”

“Amboseli is fascinating because of the swamps,” Moss added. “It would never be able to feed a huge number of animals on its own,” without the wetlands. “The problem is the land use policy,” Moss continued. “There is nothing to stop someone from putting 20-story buildings on the boundary of the park.”

“There is also the issue of Mount Kilimanjaro,” Moss mentioned. “It is estimated that by 2015, Kili’s ice glacier will be gone. We don’t really know the long-term impact of this,” but runoff from the glacier is the primary source of the water in the wetlands. Without the glacier, Amboseli could become as harsh and dry an environment as Tsavo National Park, to the east. This would inhibit growing crops close to the park, but would increase the pressure to prevent wildlife depredation on whatever still grew, and would increase the desperation of pastoralists to find grazing land.

“Already, a lot of the elephant corri-

ANAW founder Josphat Ngonyo watches as a dog is vaccinated at a Kenyan displaced persons camp.
(ANAW)

dors are blocked off,” Moss continued. “There should be a directive for no more lodges and camps, because Amboseli is a fragile ecosystem, and cannot take a big increase in vehicular traffic.”

Assessed Mangat, “This is not likely to happen if we are to go by what has happened around the Maasai Mara, where the joke is that there are more lodges than the lions.”

Proponents of degazetting Amboseli often cite the Maasai Mara as their model—but Maasai Mara development schemes also have a problematic history. “Particularly in recent years,” *The New York Times* editorialized in 2001, “the millions of dollars in gate receipts and lodging fees brought into the Mara by foreign tourists have been used not for road repair or schooling and health care for the Maasai,” as was promised when the Maasai gave up some their ancestral lands to create the park, “but instead to enrich officials...The infrastructure has steadily deteriorated, poaching has persisted, and the Maasai have remained among Kenya’s poorest and least educated people.”

In June 2001 the Maasai Mara management was turned over to a new nonprofit corporation, the Mara Conservancy, which



was supposed to share half of all revenues with the Maasai. Touristic development accelerated, but the economic goals were not met, bringing the formation of a new management regimen, the Greater Maasai Mara Tourism Development Plan, in October 2007.

Poaching increases

Economic ambition during the recent unrest tends to have mostly involved looting in the riot-torn cities, and poaching in rural districts. Tsavo East senior warden Julius Cheptei recently told Pascal Mwandambo of *The Nation* that poaching for bush meat in the Tsavo region, a growing problem for 20 years, has reached unprecedented levels.

“While very little poaching is going



[ADVERTISEMENT]

on inside the park,” Cheptei said, “outside, especially on community ranches, the menace has increased tenfold.”

Poachers apparently took full advantage of several months when Kenyan law enforcement was focused on stopping post-election ethnic violence and inhibitions on travel, including taking livestock to market, made meat relatively scarce and expensive.

Several prominent poaching and wildlife trafficking arrests in late March 2008 signaled that the KWS was back on the job. Eight poachers were caught in possession of 187 dikdik carcasses in the Tana River region; four men were caught in the act of skinning an endangered Hirola antelope they had illegally snared, also in the Tana River region; and a Nakuru parcel delivery driver was on March 31 found in possession of 64 pounds of ivory.

But rebuilding the economic base of wildlife protection in Kenya, one of the few nations that does not allow sport hunting, will require rebuilding visitor confidence that Kenya is a safe destination.

“Revenues to parks and reserves have plummeted, putting at risk countless conservation initiatives carried out by KWS and others,” United Nations Environment Program chief Achim Steiner told Reuters reporter Lisa Ntungacim-paye on March 26. “If we can’t regenerate tourism, then many of these environmental investments will either be severely reduced or collapse,” Steiner added, mentioning that KWS has had to cancel the purchase of 200 vehicles due to recent revenue losses.

Tourism is the leading source of foreign exchange in Kenya, worth about \$1 billion in 2007, “but has seen massive drops in profits and numbers since television showed images of bloody street protests, burning and looting in the wake of the December 27 vote,” wrote Jack Kimball of Reuters.

TRIBUTES

In honor of Genesis 1:29 and Isaiah 11:6-9.
—Brien Comerford

In honor of Kim Bartlett.
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Tracking bear rescue & rehabilitation in India

RAJGIR, AGRA—Ten years into a deep disagreement over how best to rescue and rehabilitate former dancing bears, and other bears confiscated from poachers and smugglers, the score is approximately 460 bears accommodated by the three bear sanctuaries now operated by Wildlife SOS, to two Asiatic black bears claimed to have been successfully returned to the forest by the Wildlife Trust of India, with five more Asiatic black bears and five sloth bears in various stages of preparation for release, according to a WTI project summary issued on April 4, 2008.

WTI in March 2005 announced the release into the Pakke Reserve Forest in Arunchal Pradesh of two Asiatic black bears named Lucky and Leela. Their fate is unclear. The release of two more, Seppa and Seppi, was announced in March 2008. "Seppa and Seppi were monitored in the wild for over seven months last year," WTI said, "and when monitoring through radio collaring was stopped as planned, this was considered the first successful release of bears in the project."

"Earlier attempts [to release bears] in 2003 and in subsequent years failed, as the bear cubs could not develop necessary self defense instincts because of their proximity to

human beings," recounted the *Assam Tribune* on February 28, 2008. "In one investigation it was found that two released bears were killed by a leopard, according to wildlife officers," the *Assam Tribune* added.

Responded WTI, "One hard-released bear, Liza, was predated upon by a leopard in 2005. Despite the fact that this is a natural occurrence, changes to the technique of release were made and a soft release technique adopted in tropical countries was tried. This is what has resulted in success for the project."

WTI founded the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation at the Pakke reserve in 2002, backed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

One of the five sloth bears being prepared by WTI for eventual release is now at the Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa. This bear was confiscated from an illegal trafficker at



A keeper with two sloth bear cubs at the Wildlife SOS sanctuary near Agra. (Kim Bartlett)

Rairakhol, Orissa, in December 2007.

The other four sloth bears are at the Rajgir Deer Park in Bihar. This project is funded by the World Society for the Protection of Animals. The four bears are the survivors of a litter of five who "were confiscated by the Bihar forest department in April 2007 from the Munger district in the eastern Indian Bihar state," according to WTI.

(continued on page 15)



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CHENG DU—"Madam Xiong, literally Madam Bear, of the Sichuan Forestry Department has kept her promise of closing a bear bile farm before the end of March—and 28 newly rescued bears are here!" Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson e-mailed to supporters at 8:09 p.m. on March 31.

The new arrivals brought the number of ex-bile farm bears handled by the China Bear Rescue Project since July 2000 to 248—almost halfway to the total of 500 whom Robinson agreed to accept if the Sichuan government closed the smallest, oldest bear bile farms in the state. The survivors have become nationally publicized witnesses against the cruelty of keeping bears in close confinement to extract bile from their gall bladders. Bear bile is used for a variety of purposes in traditional Chinese medicine, but chiefly to relieve fever.

About 7,000 bears remain on bile farms.

Few bears received at Chengdu have been in worse shape than the March 31 group, the Animals Asia Foundation staff soon learned. "All were in impossibly small cages, skeletal, wounded in various ways, and terrified," Robinson said. "Some are blind, some have shattered teeth and grotesquely ulcerated gums, and some have shocking necrotic wounds from the free-drip method of bile-extraction. One of the emaciated bears was dead on arrival, his body still warm."

One more bear died and six were euthanized during the next week, due to advanced liver cancer or gall bladder tumors.

"I would seriously question the quality of the bile and the health of the population who would take it," Robinson told Kelly Chan of the *South China Morning Post*.



The yard where ex-bile farm bears learn to play at the Animals Asia Foundation rescue center in Chengdu, China. The bears are later moved to semi-natural habitat. (Kim Bartlett)

Tracking bear rescue & rehab in India (continued from page 14)

The bears' arrival at WTI was actually a bit more complicated. Reported the *Hindustan Times* on April 15, 2008, "On a tip-off from Rohit Singh, an investigator with Wildlife SOS, a team consisting of 50 enforcement officers and five jeeps raided and arrested two Kalandars," members of the far-scattered tribe who traditionally train dancing bears. The Kalandars "bought the cubs from poachers in West Bengal who had killed the mother bear," the *Hindustan Times* continued. "The bear cubs have been lodged at the Patna zoo and are likely to be shifted to the Agra Bear Rescue Facility run by Wildlife SOS after getting clearance from the Bihar forest department."

Wildlife SOS web postings and e-mails anticipated receiving the bears, but they went to WTI instead.

Progress toward their release was interrupted on August 5, 2007. According to a WTI web posting of the following day, a band of alleged Maoist rebels chased away an unarmed keeper named Vinod, who was "taking five bears for an acclimatisation walk inside the Rajavaran forest in Bhimbhand Wildlife Sanctuary," which was to be their eventual release site. As the keeper fled, the rebels shot one bear.

"These gangs have been creating all sorts of nuisance here, but police have failed to take any action against them," WTI quoted divisional forest officer Manoj Singh as saying. "They don't want our activities here since they have hideouts inside the forest. The place is no longer safe."

Wildlife pre-release projects usually field one observer per animal, to avoid losing sight of animals who may rapidly disperse out of sight of each other, while tracking how each animal fares in finding food and coping with hazards.

The April 2008 WTI statement mentioned that as a matter of routine, "two keepers took the bears out for acclimatisation," but added that the "armed men, about 40 in number, accosted one of the keepers...Both keepers later returned to the spot with forest department officials to find four bear cubs hiding in the bushes and one dead."

"It has been asked why the keepers were not armed while taking the bears out," WTI continued. "In India not even forest rangers go around armed in the forest, except where the government allows them to. In cases such as rehabilitating wildlife, arms are generally not provided."

The bear shooting had longterm consequences. Just 24 hours after WTI announced that Seppa and Seppi were wild bears again, *Indian Express* investigative writer J.P. Yadav on March 19, 2008 reported finding "Four orphaned bear cubs locked up in a dark and dingy room inside the Rajgir Deer Park...two other cubs locked in a similar room..." and "Three adult bears locked in small rooms," all at "an abandoned forest range office." An accompanying photo attributed to Paras Nath showed three bears in a room, with one bear up at the window.

A reporter named Akhilesh Ranjan Jha who participated in the investigation posted more photos to his web site.

Yadav quoted handler Vijay Kumar as saying that, "Initially, we used to take the bears out for a walk inside the park, but stopped after the cubs developed teeth. It is dangerous. They could attack us."

Yadav did not mention the August 2007 bear killing, and apparently neither did Vijay Kumar. But WTI vice chair Ashok Kumar and WSPA wildlife program chief Dave Eastham mentioned it, in a joint response to the *Indian Express*.

"Due to security considerations in Rajgir, the 'walk the bear' program was suspended and the bear cubs were transferred to the custody of the government of Bihar in early September 2007," Kumar and Eastham wrote. "After the suspension of the 'walk the bear' program, the Bihar Forest Department temporarily kept the bears in a smaller enclosure, awaiting the construction of larger planned enclosures."

Elaborated the April 4 WTI statement, "The government discontinued the rehabilitation project in the wild and sent the bears back in August 2007 to where they were earlier, at Rajgir, where the forest department is in the process of setting up a Sloth Bear Rehabilitation Research Centre."

Initially the bears were walked as before, WTI said, in hopes of finding another release site. However, "By this time the bears were over a year old and their permanent canines were grown," and the bears "were reluctant to return to their night shelter...The frequency and the time spent in the outings was reduced to three days a week, as the bears were [now] supposed to remain in life time care."

"When the photograph published in the *Indian Express* was taken," WTI continued, "the cubs were awaiting a shift to a newly constructed temporary enclosure. When the story came out a few days later the cubs were already in the new enclosure."

The 78-year-old *Indian Express* is distributed

throughout India, with a U.S. edition and extensive web readership. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** received the Yadav article from multiple familiar sources both in India and the U.S.

ANIMAL PEOPLE began asking questions on March 20, but WTI founder Vivek Menon first responded on March 29, four days after one Harvey "Hangul" Mainkar, calling himself "Wildlife Watchdog," forwarded the *Indian Express* article and other coverage of the WTI bear release projects to animal advocates and news media worldwide, asking recipients to protest against the proposed Orissa bear release.

Menon objected that "The original story was written by someone who visited the center at a time when the vet was away for a day, talked to keepers who are illiterate, and took photographs, all without either our knowledge or that of the forest department."

"We have not been privy to videos or photos or what people claim they have," Menon added, but asserted that "It is easy to deliberately doctor stuff if malicious intent is there. That malicious intent is there is clear," Menon claimed, "by the very wide leakage of this hate mail...No journalist in small town Bihar has such a targeted address book! We have over the past few days taken steps, both legal and enforcement related, to ensure we come to the bottom of the mess."

Delhi attorney Ritwick Dutta, retained by WTI, on April 2 asked Mainkar to withdraw his e-mails or face "civil as well as criminal proceedings" for defamation, "punishable with imprisonment for a term of up to two years." The demand letter did not specify what content of the e-mails might be considered defamatory. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** asked Menon and Dutta to identify any of Mainkar's statements which they believe to be demonstrably factually false, outside the leeway normally allowed by Indian courts for opinionated comment about public issues. At press time Menon and Dutta had not responded.

Wildlife SOS

Menon did not accuse Wildlife SOS of involvement in Mainkar's campaign. But Wildlife SOS, which was the target of anonymous e-mail attacks in mid-2007 that apparently did not reach mass media, has had open rivalries with WTI, WSPA, and IFAW.

Recent issues between Wildlife SOS and IFAW have pertained to disaster relief operations, in which Wildlife SOS has had a leading role, but IFAW prominently claimed credit without acknowledging Wildlife SOS—and in the case of the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, without actually being on the scene until weeks after Wildlife SOS.

The Wildlife SOS conflicts with WTI and WSPA have focused on bears, with origins dating to 1998, when Menon formed WTI, and then-Indian minister for animal welfare Maneka Gandhi began enforcing legislation that prohibited using bears, lions, tigers, elephants, and monkeys in entertainment.

Kartick Satyanarayan and Geeta Seshamani, who earlier founded the Friendicoes SECA animal hospital and shelter in Delhi, had started Wildlife SOS in 1995. They began raising funds to build a bear sanctuary the following year.

Satyanarayan contends that providing lifelong care in sanctuaries is the most appropriate way to look after bears who have typically been captured as young cubs, have usually been hand-raised by humans, have often been defanged and otherwise injured in ways that would inhibit survival in the wild [although the bears handled by WTI may not have been], and

have been kept in proximity to humans for most of their lives.

Even if the bears could learn to feed themselves in the wild, Satyanarayan believes, they would be easy targets for poachers, might be recaptured for use as dancing bears, and might be more inclined than other bears to seek food from human homes, stores, or farms.

Meanwhile, viable niches for wildlife of all sorts tend to be quickly refilled by other wild animals, as litters disperse, seeking habitat. Even finding habitat for animals who need as much feeding territory as bears tends to be difficult, as WTI learned after the Rajavaran forest shooting, because of human encroachment into forest reserves.

WSPA eventually provided about half of the initial cost of building the first Wildlife SOS bear sanctuary, near Agra, but was no longer part of the project by the time the sanctuary opened in December 2002.

Most of the rest of the Agra sanctuary construction and start-up funding came from the Australian charity Free the Bears, One Voice of France, and International Animal Rescue of Britain, all still project partners. Wildlife SOS also now has a U.S. affiliate, based in Salt Lake City.

WSPA meanwhile joined IFAW in financing the Wildlife Trust of India bear rescue and rehabilitation projects. As well as starting the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation in 2002, WTI opened a bear rescue center at Bannerghatta National Park, near Bangalore—where Wildlife SOS has operated the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Center since late 2005.

Both Wildlife SOS and WTI accept bears who have been confiscated by police and wildlife wardens, along with bears who have been voluntarily surrendered by dancing bear trainers in exchange for help in establishing new ways of making a living. In 1999 Wildlife SOS began forming contacts and credibility among traditional bear-handlers. Wildlife SOS began funding restarts in life in exchange for bears in 2002, as soon as the Agra facility was able to house the bears. WTI began their parallel Integrated Sloth Bear Conservation & Welfare Project in 2005.

In addition to the original Wildlife SOS sanctuary at Agra, and the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Center, Wildlife SOS now operates a bear sanctuary at Van Vihar, near Bhopal, and has two other sanctuaries for other species.

After the Wildlife SOS bear sanctuary at Agra opened, WSPA temporarily suspended the "Liberty" campaign, which had also contributed to starting bear sanctuaries in Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, and Pakistan. WSPA revived the campaign at the beginning of 2004, according to annual filings made to the British Charities Commission, with a budget balance of zero. During the next three years, "Liberty" raised £2,829,000, spent £2,073,000, and at the end of 2006 had an unspent balance of £756,000.

The WSPA filings with the Charities Commission did not indicate the sums allocated to the various different "Liberty" projects, including the Pakistan sanctuary, a new sanctuary in Romania, the WTI bear project, and other bear-related projects elsewhere in Asia.

—Merritt Clifton

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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.

KATHMANDU—A three-member audit committee on March 26, 2008 confirmed years of rumors that the Nepalese royal family had extensively misused the King Mahendra National Trust for Nature Conservation.

Examining financial records from 2000-2006, the audit committee reported that, “Millions [in Nepalese rupees] were spent on travels abroad and lavish parties,” summarized the Nepal Horizons News Service, in an account also internationally distributed verbatim by the Indo-Asian News Service.

“Money meant for boosting Nepal’s conservation efforts was instead spent by Queen Komal when she went to Britain for her annual health checkups; by King Gyanendra during his foreign trips during his army-backed absolute rule; and by Crown Prince Paras,” Gyanendra’s son, “who went to Austria and France with his wife and became embroiled in rhino diplomacy,” the Nepal Horizons News Service said.

Gyanendra, the present king of Nepal, surrendered his reign in 2006. He headed the NTNC from formation in 1982 until his ascension to the throne in 2001, when Paras succeeded him in charge of the NTNC.

The NTNC audit report was released just two weeks ahead of an April 10, 2008 election, in which Nepalese voters are to decide whether to retain a constitutional monarchy or to become a democratic republic.

Charles Haviland, the Kathmandu correspondent for BBC News, questioned the sources and timing of the audit report.

“While many Nepalis will find the report plausible, it has not come from an entirely objective source,” Haviland objected. “All three of its authors are Maoists, as the ministry which controls the conservation trust is now headed by a minister from the former rebel group. A recent newspaper article alleged that the trust was now staffed with many Maoist supporters or activists who have minimal conservation expertise. The article said some foreign donors were suspending their co-operation as a result.”

But the audit report allegations chiefly add detail to matters already on the public record.

Paras, recalled the Nepal Horizons

News Service, “was sent to Austria in a bid to improve Nepal’s strained ties with western governments after King Gyanendra seized power through a bloodless coup,” soon after Crown Prince Dipendra, an avid hunter, on June 1, 2001 shot nine members of the royal family, including the previous king and queen, and then shot himself.

Paras and his wife took two endangered Nepalese one-horned rhinos to the Schonbrunn Zoo in Vienna. State-run Nepalese media depicted this as an official state visit, but international and independent media soon revealed that no ranking Austrian government representatives were involved.

“Since King Gyanendra’s ascension to the throne,” Nepal Horizons News Service continued, “the nature trust spent over one million Nepalese rupees on alcohol and hotel bills. Three laptops, a [desktop] computer, an air compressor and four vehicles,” collectively valued at about \$90,625, “were carted away by staff of Nirmal Niwas, the residence of the crown prince, and never returned.”

Published NTNC financial statements from 2005 and 2006 show expenditures of \$47,597 and \$45,170 on “international promotion and travel,” apart from other promotional costs, and \$11,617 and \$11,913 for “entertainment,” but give no further details.

“Much of the money released by the fund was used for entertaining the royal family,” affirmed NTNC secretary in charge Bimal Kumar Baniya in a statement to news media.

Added the Nepal Horizons News Service, “The probe also found that after Crown Prince Paras was named in a hit and run accident, in which a popular folk singer was killed, money from the trust fund was used to repair Paras’ damaged vehicle.”

The accident, on August 6, 2000, was initially reported as Paras’ second fatal hit-and-run while driving drunk, and later identified as his fourth.

The vehicle, a jeep, was registered to the NTNC. The victim, Prabin Gurung, was knocked off his motorcycle. A soldier, Khadka Bhujel, claimed to have been the driver, despite having no association with the NTNC. Gurung’s widow issued a statement exonerating Paras after accepting cash compensation. Charges were filed against Bhujel,

but were later withdrawn, after a month of public protests against the alleged cover-up.

The case became a landmark in the sequence of events leading to the 2006 loss of royal power. The royal handling of the case led to widespread skepticism of Paras’ role as the only unscathed ranking survivor of the 2001 palace massacre.

Founded in 1982, the NTNC manages Nepalese wildlife and nature conservation projects, cultural heritage sites, ecotourism, and “sustainable development.” The NTNC operates 16 national parks, the Central Zoo, the Nepalese access points for Himalayan climbing and trekking, and a major gender equality program that provides education and jobs for women, especially in rural areas.

The NTNC raised about \$3 million in 2005, the last full year under royal control, and \$3.7 million in 2006, dropping the royal name and affiliation in October 2006. About 40% of the NTNC income in 2005 and 2006 came from foreign grants and investment. Most of the remainder came from tourism fees.

King Mahendra ruled Nepal from 1955 until his death in 1972. He abolished all political parties in 1959 and reigned thereafter as an absolute monarch. Mahendra had no direct role in creating the NTNC, but was instrumental in the evolution of two of the most renowned NTNC holdings.

The Central Zoo, now attracting nearly 900,000 visitors a year, almost all of them Nepalese, was founded in 1932 as a private menagerie by then-prime minister Juddha Sumsher J.B. Rana. The Rana family dominated Nepalese politics for several decades before the re-ascendancy of the monarchy in 1951. In a popular gesture symbolic of the Rana downfall, Mahendra opened the Central Zoo to the public in 1956.

Royal Chitwan National Park originated as a Rana hunting preserve. Mahendra designated part of it as a rhino sanctuary in 1963, and authorized the creation of the park, Nepal’s first, in 1970, but died a year before it actually opened in 1973.

Representing Nepal in dealings with the World Wildlife Fund at least since 1976, Gyanendra with his wife Queen Komal Rajya Laxmi and his daughter Princess Perna in June 2002 sacrificed a buffalo, a goat, a sheep, a

duck, and a pigeon at the Goddess Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, Assam. The actual killing was done by royal priest Acharya Raguhunath Aryal, who flew to Guwahati from Kathmandu for the ceremony.

Gyanendra returned the following day to sacrifice a second goat.

Gyanendra had previously sacrificed animals at the Kalighat temple in Kolkata, but “abstained from sacrifice” in Kolkata after protest greeted his visits, Compassionate Crusaders Trust founder Debasis Chakrabarti wrote to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in November 2004, and reaffirmed to the Indo-Asian News Service in November 2007.

Gyanendra continued to sacrifice animals in Nepal, however, killing a goat in October 2007 to initiate the annual Dashain sacrificial festival.

With the Nepalese parliament dissolved, Gyanendra in May 2004 decreed a “Wildlife Farming, Reproduction and Research” policy that authorized ranching barking deer, spotted deer, black buck, sambar, hog deer, wild boar, antelope, gharial crocodiles, and five species of pheasant, including the Impeyan pheasant—the national bird.

The Gyanendra government had already issued permits for commercially breeding rhesus macaques, snakes, and vultures.

The macaques are raised for export to U.S. laboratories, in collaboration with the University of Washington Regional Primate Research Center. The project, begun in September 2003, is funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Only captive-bred macaques may be imported into the U.S., but after several years of constructing facilities, the Nepal Bio-Medical Research Center started breeding macaques in 2007 with 300 captured from the wild.

The snakes are raised for medicinal use, including both the production of antivenoms and traditional remedies made from snake remains.

Efforts were apparently made to breed vultures in anticipation of a market for captive birds to facilitate “sky burial” by Parsees and others whose traditional disposal of human remains has been jeopardized by the declining Indian vulture population.

—Merritt Clifton

Chimp Haven leadership dispute ends *Chimp Haven appeals verdict favoring Primarily Primates*

KEITHVILLE, La.—A lawsuit among the founders of the Chimp Haven sanctuary for retired laboratory chimpanzees was on February 14, 2008 quietly dismissed by the Caddo District Court at request of the plaintiffs.

“According to court documents, Cathe Neukum, one of the plaintiffs, appeared in court to say she no longer wishes to pursue the claims,” reported Vickie Welborn of the *Shreveport Times* on March 27.

Neukum, Chimp Haven founding executive director Linda Koebner, and six coplaintiffs including ex-board members and volunteers sued founding president Linda Brent and board chair Tom Butler in November 1996 for alleged mismanagement. “The parties reached a mutual agreement to dismiss the lawsuit,” plaintiffs’ attorney Julie Blewer told Welborn. Blewer did not offer details.

The settlement came to light after Chimp Haven appealed a February 2008 order from Bexar County Judge Michael Peden to return to Primarily Primates seven chimpanzees who were transferred to Chimp Haven in November 2006. Primarily Primates was at the time in court-appointed receivership.

Friends of Animals president Priscilla Feral told John Andrew Prime of the Gennett news service that the Bexar County Court court has

ordered Chimp Haven to pay Primarily Primates’ attorneys’ fees through every stage of the appeal.

The chimps are the survivors of a colony formerly kept at Ohio State University. They were retired by OSU to Primarily Primates in February 2006, with an endowment for their housing and upkeep. PETA and researcher Sally Boysen opposed sending the chimps to Primarily Primates.

Two chimps died from pre-existing heart conditions soon after arrival at Primarily Primates.

PETA then funded an unsuccessful lawsuit that sought to move the survivors to Chimp Haven, and forwarded allegations from two former Primarily Primates employees—both fired for cause—to the Texas Office of Attorney General, leading to the receivership. The receivership ended in May 2007, after the Texas Office of Attorney General agreed in an out-of-court settlement to “fully and completely release, acquit, and forever discharge Primarily Primates” from the allegations.

Friends of Animals then completed a merger with Primarily Primates, which had been pending, and now manages the sanctuary.

The U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on January 16, 2008 upheld the transfer of the OSU chimps to Primarily Primates.

SPCA International founder

MONTREAL—Canadian SPCA president Pierre Barnoti has reportedly taken an indefinite sick leave, pending replacement, and board president Michel Poulos and treasurer Howard Scholzberg have resigned, CTV-Montreal reported on April 2, 2008.

Acting president Nancy Breitman disclosed to CTV that the Canadian SPCA is \$4 million in debt, and is in danger of bankruptcy.

Founded in 1869, the Canadian SPCA is the oldest in Canada, but has historically served only Montreal and nearby suburbs. It operates shelters on the island of Montreal and in Laval, just north of Montreal.

Early in his tenure Barnoti tried to establish control of humane investigations throughout Quebec. Province-wide authority over humane investigations was eventually given to a new government-created nonprofit corporation called Anima Quebec, under auspices of the provincial department of agriculture.

Barnoti, Poulos, and Scholzberg departed after recent former board member Neil Halsey and three other Canadian SPCA members on March 19, 2008 called a special board meeting to address issues including Barnoti’s failure to produce an annual report for the 2006-2007 fiscal year in a timely manner.

They had requested access to the Canadian SPCA membership mailing list, which they were entitled to see under the Canadian Corporations Act, and were finally allowed to see it, but only to take notes, they said in a joint media release. They were not allowed to copy the list.

A meeting to select Barnoti’s successor was scheduled for April 9.

Barnoti had headed the Canadian SPCA, also known as the Montreal SPCA,

since 1995. He claimed to have increased the donor base from just 700 to 127,000, but his aggressive mailings were in 2006 denounced by other Canadian humane societies from Nova Scotia to Edmonton. Using the Canadian SPCA name and soliciting donations to be sent to local post office boxes, the mailings were said to give donors an erroneous impression that the organization is active nationally.

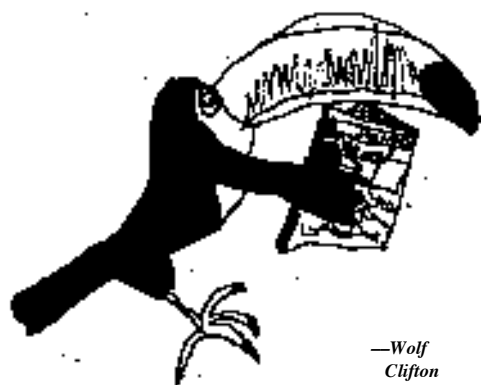
While that controversy simmered, Barnoti formed a nonprofit organization calling itself SPCA International in the U.S., with a New Hampshire post office address. SPCA International rapidly negotiated mergers with several small U.S. animal charities, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported in November 2007, acquiring their history and record of achievement while SPCA International itself was still less than one year old.

In one instance, SPCA International created a program called Baghdad Buddies which closely resembled the Military Mascots project founded by Bonnie Buckley of Merrimac, Massachusetts, but which Buckley believed might jeopardize the connections through whom she helps U.S. soldiers to bring pets home from Iraq.

Barnoti is now expected to make developing SPCA International his fulltime occupation.

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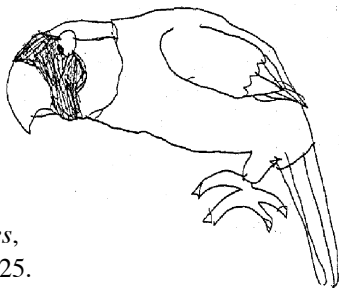
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Olympian efforts for animals in China—but no humane

understand what the standards are.

Enforcement of the live market slaughter ban was originally to begin on October 1, well after the Olympics, when outside observation of China will be less intense. The enforcement deadline is now to come “between three and six months later,” Chen Chien-jen announced.

The prohibition of poultry slaughter at live markets was at least the fourth measure introduced in China since November 2007 to curtail branches of animal commerce that have long been activist targets. Each measure has extended existing legislation meant to protect public health and the environment.

Wildlife & cat traffic

The first was a ban on selling snakes and snake meat for human consumption announced by Guangzhou bureau of forestry director Guo Qinghe, days before the 2nd China Companion Animal Symposium, held in Guangdong. Based on a law introduced in January 2004 to control the spread of Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome by halting the sale of non-captive-raised wildlife, the ban inhibited eating cats as well as snakes, by prohibiting the traditional Guangdong dish “dragon fighting tiger”—as the state newspaper *China Daily* pointed out.

Whether the ban is enforced is unclear, as cats continue to be sold in the live markets of Guangdong, the only region where cat-eating is common, and as cats are consumed in other dishes. No quantification of the cat traffic now, as opposed to six months ago and longer, has been made available.

Fiona Tam of the *South China Morning Post* reported on February 26 that the

2004 legislation appears to be partially effective in achieving its original goals, but is still not fully enforced.

“Long blamed as a key source of the SARS virus, civets and other wild game are still on the menu for many Cantonese,” Tam found. “But while they are still available, diners now have to scout for the animals on the black market,” except in Guangzhou, where “37 major wildlife trading hubs” offer “various species of fowl, as well as deer, boar, rabbits, fox, pangolin and civets.”

Recalled Tam, “When Guangdong imposed the ban [on wildlife sales for human consumption], it offered a reward for whistle-blowers, and authorities oversaw the killing of at least 7,200 captive civet cats that year,” who were confiscated from vendors.

Now, Tam wrote, “To avoid the crackdown, animal dealers and restaurant owners keep civet cats and other wild game in nearby ramshackle rooms, and diners, who used to select their animal or bird outside the restaurant, must phone in an order.”

Guangdong banned raising civets, “but the ban stops at the provincial border,” Tam continued. “Insiders say that more than 70% of the civet cats available in Guangdong are farmed in neighboring provinces, making it difficult for Guangdong to enforce its ban. Last year,” Tam reported, “the Guangdong forestry bureau seized more than 20,000 wild animals from vendors, but the bans and fines haven’t deterred civet breeders and dealers.”

However, “More and more young and well-educated people refuse to eat wild game now,” Shenzhen cat protection activist Isobel Zhang told Tam, and government discouragement of wildlife trafficking intensified in early 2008.

First, selling song thrushes and six other bird species often kept as cage birds was

banned throughout China, effective on January 1, 2008.

Six weeks later the State Forestry Administration introduced a nationwide crackdown against online wildlife trafficking. Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office deputy director Meng Xianlin told the official Xinhua news agency that staff of the International Fund for Animal Welfare had discovered 1,973 incidents of wild animal and product trade online in the preceding three months, including offers to buy or sell more than 30 animals listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

“The items included wild tiger bone wine, tiger whiskers, rhino horns, and live slow lorises, a furry primate mostly found in southeast Asia,” Xinhua News said.

“Acting upon the reports, the Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office cooperated with public security and forestry departments in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong, where most of the trade information was uncovered,” Xinhua News continued. “More than 80% of the information was deleted [from web sites]. Several websites were closed.”

An IFAW media release said further investigations were continuing.

Dog meat ban rumor

A possible fifth Chinese action against a cruel form of animal trafficking was described by an anonymous undercover reporter for Sky News, of Britain, on March 11, 2008—but was apparently not mentioned by Chinese state media.

“Restaurants serving dog meat in Beijing have been ordered to close for fear of

upsetting western tourists arriving for this year’s Olympic Games,” Sky News claimed. “But British activists say the dog-meat ban is a cynical, cosmetic move while appalling animal cruelty continues throughout China.

“Investigation agency Ecostorm gained access to China’s dog-meat industry and secured pictures of dogs being brutally killed with clubs and knives,” Sky News continued. “The images show the animals taking up to seven minutes to die before they are boiled and skinned to be eaten.

“Posing as British businessmen, investigators spent several weeks visiting dog restaurants and processing factories outside Beijing,” Sky News said. “Travel a few hours west out of Beijing, to the city of Datong, and you’ll find what China doesn’t want them to see. On display outside dog-restaurants, the video shows dozens of dogs cramped into wire cages, waiting to be killed and eaten.”

Datong, a longtime regional railway hub known for ancient Buddhist temples and statues, is actually about eight hours by train or car northwest of Beijing, and is much farther north and west than any other Chinese cities with documented dog meat industries.

Raising dogs for human consumption does not appear to have been noted by visitors to Datong until the “Saint Bernard Dog Meat Breeding Center” opened there in 1998, coinciding with significant expansion of the tourist trade.

Rabies control

A dog-related decree that did get national attention from *China Daily* was a reinforced national rabies vaccination requirement, jointly issued on January 18, 2008 by the ministries of health and agriculture.

(continued on page 18)

Senior conservation official charged with ordering massacre of Virunga National Park gorillas

GOMA, DRC—Honore Mashagiro, formerly regional director of the Congolese Wildlife Authority for Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was arrested at his home in Goma on March 18, 2007 for allegedly orchestrating the killings of 10 gorillas whose remains were discovered in June and July 2007.

DRC environment minister Felicite Kalume announced the arrest. Agence France-Presse reported that “Six foresters would also be questioned on suspicion of having trapped and killed the animals in the site on Mashagiro’s orders.”

“Mashagiro was in a position of great responsibility,” Wildlife Direct spokesperson Dipesh Pabari told Claire Soares of *The Independent*, “and allegedly used his authority to promote the destruction of forest for charcoal to make money. This threatened the gorilla habitat, so when the rangers tried to protect the forest, he allegedly orchestrated the gorilla massacres to discourage them.”

Congolese Nature Conservation Institute director Alexandre Wathaut told Agence France-Presse that effects to stop charcoal trafficking from within Virunga had been “seriously stepped up” since the gorilla killings. “The latest development is a departure from previous killings of gorillas,” assessed Agence France-Presse, “when suspicion has fallen on local rebel forces.”

An unnamed inside source hinted to Agence France-Presse that the gorillas “could have been killed to create a diversion from the illicit charcoal trade—or even to throw suspicion heat on rival park workers.”

Wrote Soares, “Poachers were not suspected because the carcasses, potentially valuable on the bushmeat market, had been

left behind. And a hit job for the trophy trade was ruled out as the animals still had their heads and hands.

“Mashagiro, a senior official in the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute, was removed as director of Virunga not long after the killings,” Soares noted—but was apparently not yet suspected, because he was “put in charge of the gorilla population at Kahuzi-Biega National Park.”

Mashagiro in his Kahuzi-Biega role participated in a tree-planting ceremony on November 19, 2007 with representatives of the Gorilla Organization, formerly called the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund Europe.

Dan Bucknell, Africa program manager for the Gorilla Organization, had already observed to Soares that, “The people that did this located the animals in one go and they knew how to approach them, which suggests an inside job.”

Asked how long the Gorilla Organization knew and worked with Mashagiro, Gorilla Organization communications officer Abigail Girling told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “I have passed your questions to our field program manager, who worked with Mashagiro in the past and will be better placed to answer. I will forward his answers as soon as possible.” Eighteen days later no answer had come.

Paul Lughembe, coordinator of the DRC grassroots organization Safe Environment & Enhanced For All, on May 28 and June 20, 2007 distributed electronic warnings about imminent threats to gorillas and other animals in the Virunga region, seeking help that never came to prevent just the sort of massacres that occurred.

But Lughembe was also at first looking in a different direction.

“The deployment of three brigades [of the newly reconstituted DRC army] is a source of annoyance to the local population in Rutshuru, Masisi and Lubero,” said Lughembe in his first warning. “Locals have created their own defence groups to resist the soldiers of the three brigades, who seem to be loyal to the renegade General Laurent Nkunda. So the situation is confused.

“Gorillas have been taken hostage by men of war,” Lughembe explained, who “gave an ultimatum of killing all 20 gorillas living in the reserve” near their encampment.

By June 20, 2007, just before the gorilla killings started, Lughembe did suspect that “corruption or influence” was enabling bushmeat traffickers to conduct a side business in selling baby gorillas. Lughembe on June 16 had gone to investigate a report about one baby gorilla for sale, and found three offered by different vendors in the same area.

Lughembe did not comment on Mashagiro’s arrest, but Bantu Lukambo, a fellow member of his organization, could only confirm the basic facts.

“We were all at the field to investigate the killing of two elephants at Mabenga,” Lukambo told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and therefore they had no new perspective to offer.

The threat to the Virunga gorillas that Lughembe anticipated in May 2007 had emerged into global view just nine days before Mashagiro’s arrest.

Reported BBC News on March 9, 2008, “Rebels who have seized control of eastern DR Congo’s Gorilla Sector have said they will execute any wildlife ranger who attempts to enter the area. Despite the recent signing of a peace deal, a group of rebels have set up a parallel administration in Virunga

National Park. United Nations peacekeepers say land mines have also been planted along one of the main routes through the region.”

Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) senior ranger Diddy Mwanaki told the BBC that the group of rebels had begun taking tourists into Virunga to see the mountain gorillas.

“At the moment, we reckon they are taking about two groups per week, which generates money for their militias,” Mwanaki blogged on a Wildlife Direct web site. “They are not—as far as we can tell—respecting the basic regulations to ensure that the gorillas are kept safe from disease and disturbance.”

Continued BBC News, “Following the signing of a peace agreement to end the conflict between rebel groups and the government in January, rangers were hopeful of quickly returning to the Gorilla Sector.”

But Frankfurt Zoological Society researcher Rob Muir told BBC News that an advance party was stopped on the road. ICCN director Norbert Mushenzi was informed that his ICCN delegation had only been let in out of respect for Monuc,” the U.N. peacekeeping force, and “added that if it was not for the presence of Monuc, the delegation would have been executed.”

About 380 mountain gorillas inhabit Virunga, Africa’s oldest national park. This is about half of the total world population of mountain gorillas.

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Olympian efforts for animals in

Yunnan province epidemiologist Ding Zhengrong told *China Daily* that the national vaccination rate going into 2008 was only 10%, well below the minimum 70% vaccination rate that is necessary to prevent rabies outbreaks from spreading.

Beijing, where dogs are popular pets, charges the equivalent of \$140 U.S. to register a dog for the first time, and \$70 per year to renew the registration. Rabies vaccination is included in the price. More than 300 locations around Beijing sell registrations and provide vaccinations.

In Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong and hub of the dog meat industry, the cost of registering a pet dog is \$1,400 for the first year, *China Daily* said, and \$840 each year thereafter. So-called "meat dogs," however, are neither registered nor vaccinated—and Guangdong leads China in both canine and human rabies cases.

"Compulsory canine vaccination could become one of the first positive outcomes of the 2008 Olympiad," observed Craig R. Pringle, ProMED viral diseases moderator for the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

"Human rabies is an escalating problem in China which requires a drastic response," Pringle editorialized. "The numbers of [human] rabies deaths in China are given by the Ministry of Health as 2,651 in 2004, 2,537 in 2005, 3,279 in 2006, and 3,380 in 2007.

Compulsory vaccination of canines kept as companion animals is a laudable aim," Pringle continued, "possibly achievable in Beijing. But the considerable expense of vaccination for pet owners and lack of uniformity of regulations in other cities may be barriers to achieving control of rabies outside the capital. Canine rabies control in rural areas remains an unsolved problem, and may require implementation of a state-supported free vaccination campaign."

Pro-animal networking

There are now about 15 times more dogs kept as pets in China than are eaten, and 300 times as many cats as are eaten, but halting the dog and cat meat trade would eliminate reservoirs of unvaccinated animals in the areas of greatest risk.

Public demonstrations against eating dogs, cats, and birds have repeatedly attracted favorable Chinese media notice since January 12, 2008, when 10 Northeast Normal University students wearing animal masks spent half an hour on their knees in subfreezing weather, begging for clemency for the animals at a live market in Changchun, Jilin province.

"The slaying stopped," reported *China Daily*. Other reports did not mention any outcome. A leafletting demonstration by sympathizers followed in Beijing.

The Changchun and Beijing activists were participants in the Chinese Animal Protection Network, self-described as "the first Chinese network for animal protection," consisting of "pioneer projects that target different animal issues such as animal ethics, welfare of companion animals, and vegetarianism."

Founded in 2004, the Chinese Animal Protection Network now claims "40 member groups, two branches, and over 10,000 individual supporters," with an active web site at <www.ccapn.ngo.cn>.

In February 2007, the network initiated an online petition against dog and cat eating that within one year had collected more than 40,000 signatures, and had generated more than 100,000 mentions on web pages.

While the Chinese government has aggressively repressed political organization in other causes, there has so far been little hint of opposition to animal advocacy, and have been many signs of official encouragement of animal advocates, especially in the form of increasingly prominent and favorable coverage by state media.

This was overlooked or disregarded in reports by *The Times* of London on February 25, 2008 and *The Daily Mail*, also of London, on March 8, 2008, both of which alleged that as *Times* Beijing correspondent Jane Macartney put it, "Animal welfare activists in Beijing are up in arms over a decision by the city government to clear the capital of its stray cats as part

of a sweeping Olympic facelift."

"Qin Xiaona, head of the Capital Animal Welfare Association, says 160,000 to 200,000 animals at the very minimum are at risk," wrote Macartney. "Strays are already being caught and transported to a holding pen in the suburban county of Changping. Animal welfare activists described seeing the cats crowded together in cages the size of a microwave oven.

"They estimated almost 90% of the animals were diseased, and many had been neutered with rudimentary surgery that led to infections. The order states that strays still unclaimed after 14 days will be 'dealt with,'" Macartney said, based on Qin Xiaona's statements, leaving unexplained why doomed animals are neutered.

Simon Perry of the *Daily Mail* reported similar details, adding that "The cull comes in the wake of a government campaign warning of the diseases cats carry and ordering residents to help clear the streets of them. Cat owners, terrified by the warning, are dumping their pets in the streets to be picked up by special collection teams."

The view from Beijing

"The real situation is only worse," claimed China Small Animal Protection Society international liaison Luguang Yan. "The Da Niu Fang compound in Haidian District is very close to our shelter, and even we do not have any access to the cats inside. We are trying to lobby the government against culling cats, but since we are terribly understaffed, we are not sure how much impact our efforts may have."

But others found a different picture.

"As soon as ACTAsia heard the news, our colleagues in China immediately started looking for evidence," wrote Pei F. Su of ACTAsia for Animals. Pei Su, a British resident, is fluent in Mandarin.

"We also contacted members of several key Beijing animal groups," Pei Su said. "We found no evidence that Beijing has started organized operations to remove stray cats from streets or other public areas.

"In June 2007, the municipality started to establish cat pounds," parallel to the existing dog pounds. "Telephone numbers were introduced for the public to report stray animals and to find out how to hand over unwanted pets. So far, we have confirmed that two pounds have been set up specifically for cats, one permanent and one temporary, from which cats are transferred to the permanent facility," Pei Su continued.

"In November 2007 the municipality started to publicize these facilities to encourage the public to send unwanted and stray cats to these pounds. The municipality is planning to build more temporary animal pounds in different districts.

"When animal groups visited the pounds," Pei Su acknowledged, "they observed that the cats were kept in appalling welfare conditions. Many cats were ill, and had not received treatment. The cages were small, and were placed in vertical stacks. In December 2007 the animal group Lucky Cats rescued more than 60 cats from these pounds."

In January 2008, Pei Su wrote, "several key cat rescuers, together with Lucky Cats, met with the vice director of the Animal Health Inspection Center and suggested that the municipality increase the size of the cages, isolate sick cats, give them appropriate treatment, and not remove neutered and monitored animals from the streets," in neighborhoods where Lucky Cats and others conduct neuter/return programs.

The delegation also asked the city to "Acknowledge the rescue methods and experience of the animal groups, and allow volunteers to visit and help at the cat pounds," as was introduced at Beijing's main dog pound in 2003.

In addition, Pei Su said, the delegation asked the city to "Explain to the public the real purpose of animal pounds, and what happens to unwanted animals in the pounds, so that people do not have any unrealistic perceptions about the fate of these animals," including disclosing how unclaimed animals are killed at the end of the 14-day holding period.

"The Centre agreed to inform Lucky Cats when it received neutered cats," Pei Su recounted. "However, cat rescuers are no longer allowed to take other cats from the pounds.

"People are allowed to adopt cats from the pounds if they do not already have cats at home," Pei Su said.

"To date," Pei Su assessed, "the majority of the cats in the pounds appeared to have been handed over by their owners, with a small percentage of cats caught from the street. The abandonments appear to be at least partly due to a long-run-



Animal Rescue Beijing volunteer. (Kim Bartlett)

ning government campaign about the disadvantages and dangers of keeping a cat, in which a false picture is painted of the wonderful life a cat will have in a pound. Animal groups in Beijing are trying to counteract this by educating the public about the conditions in the pounds and the death that awaits abandoned cats. They also provide information about the benefits of keeping cats, and how to care responsibly for a cat.

"In conclusion," Pei Su e-mailed, "we are relieved that no organized operation has been started to actively catch stray cats in Beijing at this stage, but we have heard from reliable sources that the municipality is actively seeking training on how to catch stray cats. This could be an indication that there may be government action on this front before too long. Therefore, it is very important to urge Beijing Municipality to understand that catching and killing will not resolve stray animal problems, and that it is important to take a comprehensive approach. ACTAsia will continue to monitor the situation," Pei Su pledged.

The Animals Asia Foundation issued similar findings, and joined the Capital Welfare Association in offering material support for expanded neuter/return efforts.

"We recently funded a similar program in Guangzhou," Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson said, "and are setting the standard for vet care in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and soon Chengdu with team outreach programs, which are providing training at veterinary clinics in basic spay/neuter and animal care."

Recalled Sharon St. Joan of the Best Friends Network, "In 2006, there was massive killing of dogs in China. In October 2006 a demonstration in front of the Beijing Zoo by dog owners and several Chinese animal welfare groups helped bring an end to the killing. There are reports now circulating on the internet about the large-scale killing of cats in Beijing," St. Joan acknowledged.

"However, unlike the situation in 2006, there is no clear confirmation from inside China that this is happening. Animal Rescue Beijing manager Irene Zheng," who interned at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in 2005, "has written that ARB founder Wu Tianyu talked with the managers of the parks in Beijing, and was told that they are no longer seeing cats being trapped by the authorities."

Olympic boycott threats

Inevitably, the British newspaper reports fueled activist calls for boycotts of the Olympics, and of Chinese products and tourism generally.

"Boycotts are not always an effective tactic," reminded St. Joan. "They may be unjust and inappropriate. Boycotting a popular event such as the Olympics may not advance the cause of animals or animal groups in any way—and could work against the animal groups and the animals. Well over thirty very active, dedicated, and highly effective animal welfare groups are working hard in China, courageously fighting for the well-being of animals. Helping them in their work and giving them support is the very best way to advance the cause of animals in China!"

Agreed Robinson, "There is an enormous movement within China, not only working quietly behind the scenes with the central government and local authorities, but also working vocally and increasingly more effectively as the gradual shift of the past couple of years gains momentum.

"Any aggressive pressure surrounding the Olympics from within will quickly see a backlash from



Animal Rescue Beijing founder Wu Tianyu. (Kim Bartlett)

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Four sealers drown at start of 2008 Atlantic Canada hunt

ILES-DE-LA-MADELEINE, Quebec; ST. PIERRE, Miquelon—Treacherous ice conditions for the second consecutive year inhibited the opening of the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt.

Sixteen vessels carrying approximately 100 sealers left Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, on March 28, heading toward a large seal rookery in the Cabot Strait. One of the smaller boats, *L'Acadien II*, with six men aboard, lost rudder control, possibly from the rudder striking ice, and was taken in tow by the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker *Sir William Alexander*.

L'Acadien II captain Bruno Bourque and crew members Gilles Leblanc and Marc-Andre Deraspe were killed and crew member Carl Aucoin was missing and presumed dead after the boat hit a truck-sized chunk of ice early on March 29, and flipped over while still under tow. The sealing vessel *Madelinot War Lord*, following the tow, rescued sealers Claude Deraspe and captain Bourque's son, Bruno-Pierre Bourque.

The *Sir William Alexander* is much larger and faster than the boats usually used to tow vessels as small as the aluminum-hulled *L'Acadien II*, sealer Jocelyn Chiasson told Jonathan Montpetit of Canadian Press. Chiasson, a crew member of the Iles-de-la-Madeleine-based *Emy Serge*, said that *L'Acadien II* accepted a tow from the *Sir William Alexander* to avoid disrupting the hunt for other sealers who might have done the towing instead.

"It was an accident, but it could have been avoided if somebody had been paying attention," *Madelinot War Lord* captain Wayne Dickson told Montpetit.

Another of the 16 *Madelinot* sealing vessels, the *Annie Marie*, was crushed soon afterward when trapped in ice. The crew fled from the sinking boat to the ice, and were rescued by helicopter.

Six of the remaining *Madelinot* fleet returned to Iles-de-la-Madeleine for the funerals of the dead *L'Acadien II* crew, apparently without killing many seals.

"Perhaps if the Canadian Coast Guard spent less time trying to prevent documentation of the seal slaughter and more time being concerned about protecting human lives, these men would not have died," said Sea Shepherd Conservation Society captain Paul Watson from Los Angeles. The Sea Shepherd ship *Farley Mowat* was in the vicinity, but under command of Alex Cornelissen.

"Two coast guard vessels shadowed the *Farley Mowat* all morning," Watson said the next day. "The Coast Guard vessel *CCGS Des Groseilliers* ordered the *Farley Mowat* to leave Canadian waters and to not approach any sealing operation," but despite the order, Watson added, the crew saw "seals being shot and wounded and thrashing about in agony on the surface of the ocean," about 35 miles north of Cape Breton.

As to the dead sealers, Watson said, "These men are sadistic baby killers," who "died while engaged in a viciously brutal activity. One sealer was quoted as saying that he felt absolutely helpless as he watched the boat sink. I can't think of anything that defines helplessness and fear more than a seal pup on the ice, who can't swim or escape as she is approached by some cigarette-smoking ape with a club."

Longtime Sea Shepherd advisory

board member Elizabeth May, now heading the Canadian Green Party, resigned from the board in objection to Watson's remarks. The Canadian Green Party has veered back and forth over the years between opposing and supporting the Atlantic Canada seal hunt.

The Greens have historically drawn significant support from Atlantic Canada, especially Cape Breton, where coal miners protested against the proposed construction of a nuclear generating station as far back as 1966. The last Cape Breton coal mine closed in 2001, adding to the unemployment in the Atlantic Canadian region resulting from depleted fisheries, and leaving behind pollution problems that are a Green campaign issue.

Cut mooring lines

The *Farley Mowat* on April 4 tried to dock at St. Pierre, the capital of the French-held Miquelon Islands south of Newfoundland, but police confirmed to Canadian Press that local sealing supporters cut the mooring lines with axes.

Andre Varcin, identified by Canadian Press as "a senior official with the French government," predicted that if the Sea Shepherds file a complaint based on video of the incident, "The prosecutor will deliver some reprimands and warnings, but I don't think there will be any convictions."

Paul Watson "can return at his own risk and peril," Varcin added, apparently unaware that Watson was not aboard. "But to put it simply," Varcin said, "he knows very well that he will be unwelcome."

Canadian fisheries minister Loyola Hearn appointed retired Canadian Navy rear admiral Roger Girouard to investigate the *Acadian II* sinking, but did not wait for an inquiry before alleging that the 177-foot *Farley Mowat* intentionally collided on April 30 with the 321-foot icebreaker *Des Groseilliers* about 40 miles north of Cape Breton.

"It rammed the stern end of the *Farley Mowat* and when the *Farley Mowat* was stopped, it came back and hit them again," responded Watson. "It was twice so it was intentional."

Farley Mowat captain Cornelissen told Alison Auld of Canadian Press that the two vessels were on a parallel course when the coast guard ship steered into the *Farley Mowat*'s port side, hitting the vessel a second time with icebreaker's stern.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries & Oceans charged Cornelissen and first officer Peter Hammarstedt with breaking "rules that prohibit a person without a valid seal-hunt observation licence from coming within 900 metres of the hunt," and also charged Cornelissen with obstruction or hindrance of a fishery officer or inspector, reported Michael Tutton of Canadian Press.

"The charges were brought forward in Nova Scotia," Tutton added, "and could result in fines of up to \$100,000, or up to one year in prison, or both. The department is alleging that the *Farley Mowat* also broke up the ice around sealers to prevent them from getting off their vessels to hunt seals."

Said Watson at a brief stop in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, en route to join the *Farley Mowat*, "There's no legal validity in these charges, and if they try to storm the vessel and arrest the officers, I think it will provoke an international incident. In fact it would be taken as an act of war."

The *Farley Mowat* is registered in The Netherlands, Cornelissen is a Dutch citizen, and Hammarstedt is from Sweden.

Observers barred

Humane Society of the U.S. representative Rebecca Aldworth—who like Watson is originally from Atlantic Canada—was among about 60 would-be observers who were denied permits to monitor the opening phase of the sealing.

Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans spokesperson Phil Jenkins told the Prince Edward Island CBC affiliate that the DFO "doesn't want the observers to dramatically outnumber the hunters."

Activists who did reach the ice reported that sealers often disregarded new rules requiring them to check the eye-blink reflex or skull palpitations of each clubbed or shot seal for signs of life, as in past years, and then bled the seal by severing arteries under the flippers.

"This new requirement of bleeding out is not being done," International Fund for Animal Welfare representative Sheryl Fink charged to Canadian Press. "It's the same as always. The hunters are rushing. They're not taking time. It's horrible out there."

The rules are meaningless anyway, because the sealers are "shooting at moving seals from moving vessels, often at a distance of 50 to 60 meters," Aldworth told Marianne White of Canwest News Service. "Even if you were able to stun that animal with one gunshot," Aldworth pointed out, "it would take a significant amount of time to reach that animal and test for unconsciousness...and that's done by impaling the animal through the jaw with a hook and lifting it on to the boat. That does not fit with internationally accepted standards for a humane death."

E.U. weighs pelt ban

The bleeding requirement was added this year in response to European Union environment commissioner Stavros Dimas' pledge to introduce proposals to curtail the passage of seal pelts through European ports en route to buyers in Russia and China.

"The commissioner is very concerned at the inhumane way that baby seals are killed," a spokesperson for Dimas told Peter Popham of *The Independent*. "Last year, we sent a team of experts to observe the cull, who were shunned by the sealers and not allowed on the boats. What the team saw did not alleviate the commissioner's worries."

The European Food Safety Authority Animal Health & Welfare Panel on December 19, 2007 concluded that "Seals are sentient mammals who can feel pain, distress, fear and other forms of suffering," and that although "it is possible to kill seals rapidly and effectively without causing them avoidable pain or distress...in practice, effective and humane killing does not always happen."

Canadian ambassador for fisheries conservation Loyola Sullivan visited London, Brussels, Paris, Berlin and Vienna during a 10-day campaign in defense of the seal hunt. The sealing quota for 2008 is set at 275,000, up slightly from 2007. The highest actual number of seals killed in recent years was 335,000 in 2006, whose remains reportedly sold for about \$25 million.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries & Oceans last surveyed the seal pop-

ulation in 2004, finding it to be about 5.9 million. The DFO estimates that the current seal population is about 5.5 million. Sealing opponents believe the DFO figures are significantly high, just as DFO projections of the Atlantic cod population were for years preceding the crash that precipitated the revival of the seal hunt in 1995, after a 10-year suspension.

Rescue seals?

Seal Alert founder Francois Hugo, of Huot Bay, South Africa, meanwhile recommended a tactical change of direction for sealing opponents. "It's time to stop taking pictures of sealers killing seals," Hugo asserted. "It's time to mount the largest environmental rescue operation in history: the relocation of over a million weaned seal pups to safer ice floes, or as many as possible. Seal Alert has been doing so for years," Hugo said, "rescuing baby Cape fur seals and weaned pups fleeing sealers, and re-colonizing them into new and safe offshore colonies."

But Seal Alert, the most prominent opponent of the annual Namibian seal hunt, works in a much less logistically challenging environment. While protest against Atlantic Canadian sealing focuses on the opening phases of each year's hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, most of the killing is done later along the Labrador Front, a region so inhospitable that only two Sea Shepherd voyages have ever been there, and no other protesters.

"Is it possible?" asked Hugo. "Russian sealers regularly transport tens of thousands of harp seal pups from ice floes to seal farms," Hugo pointed out.

Held to molt at the so-called seal farms, the pups are slaughtered later.

Russian hunt halted

But "The slaughter of thousands of seals, many only a few days old, has been halted this year amid protests by celebrities and environmental groups, and calls for hunting to be outlawed," reported London *Times* Moscow correspondent Tony Halpin on March 13. "Officials in Archangel," the hub of Russian sealing, "insisted that the cull had been cancelled to protect the hunters, not the seals, because ice sheets close to the White Sea were too thin to walk on," Halpin continued. "The decision, however, came at a time of heightened protests by animal rights groups," including "a demonstration in Archangel by a group of celebrities and prominent journalists against the practice," which was broadcast on Russian television.

About 335,000 Russians signed a petition against hunting baby seals, approximately ten times as many as the number of seals in the 2008 quota, acknowledged Russian environmental monitoring agency deputy chief Oleg Mitvol.

"We have asked the state committee to work on legislation to ban this trade for humanitarian reasons," a spokesperson for Archangel governor Nikolai Kiselyov told Halpin.

Former Russian president Vladimir Putin in 2000 vetoed legislation that would have banned sealing, after it cleared the Russian parliament by a vote of 273-1. Reaching the end of his term at the end of February 2008, Putin turned the presidency over to his chosen successor, Dmitry Medvedev, but remains in effective control of the Russian government as prime minister.

Lab care techs' stress studied

CARDIFF—Lab animal care technicians feel job stresses similar to those of shelter workers, Cardiff University animal facilities director Keith Davies recently told fellow members of the United Kingdom Institute of Animal Technology.

Davies interviewed six focus groups of lab techs in 2007, including a total of 31 techs, to gather perspectives and data, wrote Andy Coghlan in the March 2008 edition of *New Scientist*.

Previous studies have been done of the psychology of researchers, but Davies' study may have been the first to examine issues such as sorrow and guilt among lab animal care workers.

U.S. patent ruling just before Easter favors rabbits

JENKINTOWN, Pa.—The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office just before Easter 2008 rejected a patent claim by a Japanese-owned company called Biochemical and Pharmacological Laboratories, Inc. which had attempted to patent rabbits whose eyes had been deliberately damaged.

The claim was challenged by the American Anti-Vivisection Society, the Alternatives Research & Development Foundation, and the PatentWatch project of the International Center for Technology Assessment.

AAVS previously won a similar challenge to a patent when the University of Texas tried to claim exclusive rights to produce beagles who had been severely infected with a particular strain of mold.

The U.S. Patent & Trademark office has issued more than 660 patents on animals since allowing Harvard University to patent a genetically modified mouse in 1987, but when patents have been challenged has tended to favor those in which the animal has been changed by manipulating genetic codes, rather than those in which the change was introduced by an external process.

Patent rulings are closely watched by advocates for amending the legal status of animals, since patents define the bounds of what may be considered "property."

A setback in seeking to alter the property status of

animals came in January 2008, when the Austrian Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the Vienna-based Association Against Animal Factories, seeking to have a chimpanzee named Matthew Hiasl Pan declared a legal person. The original petition, by British teacher and Austrian resident Paula Stibbe, was denied in April 2007.

"The animal rights group said it would take the case to the European Court of Human Rights," reported Associated Press.

"Matthew and another chimp named Rosi, were captured as babies in Sierra Leone in 1982 and smuggled to Austria for use in pharmaceutical experiments," Associated Press explained. "Customs officers intercepted the shipment," and turned the chimps over to a now bankrupt sanctuary. Stibbe seeks to legally adopted Matthew to ensure that he will not be sold outside Austria.

Using chimpanzees in experiments was banned in Austria in 2002.

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World minke whale population may be only half previous estimate

SYDNEY, LONDON—Baited by a Japanese government allegation that the Australian government is hypocritical for opposing whaling while allowing dugong hunting, undisclosed Australian officials on April 2, 2008 leaked an International Whaling Commission finding that the world minke whale population is only half of the present estimate, reported Greg Roberts of the Sydney *Australian*.

“Australian government sources said recent research by the IWC put the population at between 40% and 60% of the 1980s numbers—between 200,000 and 680,000,” wrote Roberts. “The numbers are not necessarily lower because of population declines,” Roberts added. “Earlier surveys overestimated the whale numbers in areas of pack ice.”

There are about 100,000 dugongs worldwide. Australia permits aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders to kill about 1,000 a year for food—about the same as the number of whales killed and sold in recent years by the Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research.

“Many more dugongs are killed for food, drowned in fishing nets, or hit by motor boats elsewhere in northern Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia,” Roberts noted.

“Indigenous hunting is a pressure on the population that needs to be dealt with,” James Cook University researcher Ivan Lawler told Roberts.

The reported disclosure of fewer minke whales came amid a flurry of meetings preliminary to the annual IWC meeting, to be held in June in Santiago, Chile.

More than 100 IWC delegates from 46 nations attended a mid-March gathering in London called by IWC chairman William Hogarth “to break the impasse between the pro- and anti-whaling blocs,” reported BBC News environment correspondent Richard Black. The session was chaired by Calestous Juma of Kenya, formerly chief administrator of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity. Other facilitators included Raul Estrada Oyuela, who chaired the talks that produced the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming, and Alvaro de Soto, who in 1991 brokered the end of a civil war in El Salvador.

“The priority for the anti-whaling Latin American bloc is likely to be establishing a whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic,” assessed Black. “Japan has successfully opposed this proposal before, and might interpret its re-submission as rather provocative. Yet there will be powerful domestic pressure on Latin American delegations to secure the sanctuary.”

The IWC delegates passed a resolution asking the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society “to refrain from dangerous actions that jeopardize safety at sea,” barely one week after Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson alleged that he was shot at from the Japanese whaling factory ship *Nisshin Maru*.

Crew of the Sea Shepherd vessel *Steve Irwin* had repeatedly hurled bottles of rancid butter on the deck of the *Nisshin Maru*. On March 4 the whalers acknowledged retaliating with devices that they called “flashbangs,” which Watson described as stun grenades. Australian activists Ralph Lowe, 33, of Melbourne, and Ashley Dunn, 35, of Launceston, suffered minor injuries. Watson reported finding that a bullet passed through his Kevlar vest and stopped against an anti-poaching badge pinned to a sweater underneath. The Institute of Cetacean Research denied that anyone fired a shot.

Before the IWC special session in London, the Japanese government “hosted a seminar on the sustainable use of whales that was attended by 12 African and Asian countries—including landlocked Laos—that have recently joined the IWC or are considering doing so,” reported *Guardian* Tokyo correspondent Justin McCurry.

Japan has repeatedly been accused of exchanging foreign aid for small nations’ support at IWC meetings.

Solomons play for position

“Usually Japan pays for our attendance,” Solomon Islands prime minister Derek Sikua acknowledged to Chris Hammer of the *Melbourne Age* on March 8, after meeting in Honiara with Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd. Sikua told Hammer that the Solomons did not send anyone to the London IWC session because, “This time we have refused their assistance, so we can’t afford it.”

Rudd had just announced more than \$40 million (Australian currency) in new aid to Papua New Guinea and the Solomons, and confirmed that Australian peacekeepers would continue their presence in the Solomons.

The Solomons presently leads the world in exports of live dolphins for exhibition and use in swim-with-dolphins programs, but Solomon Islands conservation officer Jointly Sisiolo told an International Fund for Animal Welfare meeting in Auckland, New Zealand on April 2 that he would prefer to stop lethal use of marine mammals.

“I would prefer it to stop completely. That is my position,” Sisiolo said. “I want to see it stop, and to promote tourism. The Japanese,” Sisiolo added, “are going against how most of us Pacific islanders look at whaling. They kill whales. We are looking at trying to conserve them.”

Former Vancouver sea lion trainer Chris Porter, 37, and his Solomon Islands partner Robert Satu defend their captures and sales of dolphins as a sustainable non-lethal alternative to traditional dolphin hunting.

Porter “wants to build a resort where tourists can have ‘unlimited time’ with the dolphins,” reported London *Observer* correspondent Barbara McMahon on March 16, 2008. “He walks around the former Second World War Japanese seaplane base [where the dolphin export business is headquartered],” McMahon wrote, “describing overwater bungalows he will build on one side, a dive center and backpacker resort on the other, and a luxury hotel in the middle. At present, there is only a half-finished bar and dining hall and a few huts for the workers who feed the dolphins and acclimatise them to human touch.”

Earth Island Institute associate director Mark Berman has threatened to organize an international boycott of Solomon Islands tuna if the government allows Porter and Satu to continue capturing and exporting dolphins.

The export business would create competition for Porter and Satu’s Solomon Islands Marine Mammal Education Centre, if it is developed as they envision.

IFAW data released at the Auckland

conference showed that whale watching of various sorts is already worth \$23 million a year (Australian) to small Pacific nations, with a recent growth rate of about 45% per year. Participation increased from barely 10,000 in 1998 to more than 110,000 by 2005, IFAW said.

About 1.6 million people per year watch whales and dolphins in Australia and New Zealand annually, IFAW found. The Australian and New Zealand whale and dolphin watching industry is now worth \$273 million (Australian) per year.

Other whaling nations

Iceland, despite rumors that it might withdraw from whaling, is likely to authorize quotas of up to 100 minke whales and some fin whales, in a season beginning in May, Black of BBC News reported on March 13. Iceland, not an IWC member, resumed commercial whaling in 2006.

“We caught 45 minke whales last summer and sold them all,” Icelandic minke whaling association chief Gunnar Bergmann Jonsson told Black.

“The fin whaling company, Hvalur hf, is hoping that it will receive a quota perhaps as large as 150 whales,” Black added. “There is a very small domestic market for fin meat, and most of the 2006 catch is still in cold storage, but Hvalur is hoping eventually to set up an export trade to Japan.”

South Korean pirate whalers may have had the same idea. South Korean marine police on March 18 “arrested a boat skipper and two others in connection with South Korea’s largest-ever whale poaching case,” Agence France-Press reported. The arrests were the first since police confiscated more than 50 metric tons of minke meat in January. The meat represented the remains of as many as 60 whales.

South Korean fishers are allowed to sell the meat of whales caught accidentally in nets. About 200 whales per year are reported as accidentally caught, but observers of the traffic “suspect about 400 whales are caught annually and consumed,” Agence France-Press said.

Whether there is enough Japanese demand to sustain much trade is open to question. Kenji Oyamada of the *Asahi Shimbun*, one of the leading newspapers in Japan, reported in February 2008 that Japanese sales of whale meat are “stagnant,” and that the Institute of Cetacean Research “is struggling to pay back its interest-free loans from the government.”



Sea World San Diego sea lion colony. (Kim Bartlett)

Columbia River sea lion removals are delayed by HSUS appeal

PORTLAND, Oregon—The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Oregon and Washington state governments on April 1, 2008 agreed to postpone killing or capturing California sea lions downstream from the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River, pending a U.S. District Court ruling on a motion for a preliminary injunction against the proposed removals, filed on March 28 by the Humane Society of the U.S.

“State officials have put out the message to zoos, aquariums and theme parks that they need homes for sea lions,” reported Michael Milstein of the *Oregonian*.

“The first preference is to ship trapped lions to a captive facility,” Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife marine mammal program chief Robin Brown told Milstein. “If no one wants the animals after 48 hours, they would then be killed.”

Busch Entertainment Corporation overseer of zoological opera-

tions Brad Andrews told Milstein that Sea World would accept a dozen sea lions. St. Louis Zoo curator Steve Bircher would also take some.

The Oregon and Washington governments, with support from the Idaho state government and Native American tribes, in 2006 asked that up to 85 sea lions per year be killed or removed from the waters below the Bonneville Dam for at least five years, to help the recovery of Columbia River salmon runs.

“The states estimate the sea lions eat up to about 4% of the spring chinook run as it schools at the base of the dam to pass through fish ladders en route to upriver spawning grounds,” explained Joseph B. Frazier of Associated Press.

California sea lions, almost extinct in the mid-20th century, now number about 240,000, and are no longer officially endangered or threatened, but are still covered by the Marine Mammals Protection Act of 1972.

Snowmobiles hit dogs in All Alaska

NOME—A hit-and-run snowmobiler at midnight on March 28, 2008 ended Lance Mackey’s effort to become the first winner of the Triple Crown of Alaskan sled dog racing, severely injuring his already ailing stud dog Zorro, 9, injuring several other dogs less seriously, and wrecking his \$3,000 sled.

Mackey, 38, was in third place, 20 miles from finishing the 408-mile All Alaska Sweepstakes, and had just passed a checkpoint at the town of Safety, he told Associated Press, when two snowmobiles overtook him. One of them plowed into his sled and team. “Three or four dogs were sucked underneath and Zorro,” who was being carried, “was trapped in the sled bag,” Mackey recounted.

Mackey had Zorro flown first to Anchorage and then to Seattle for more advanced care than is available in Nome, and took the opportunity to plead for better traffic control along sled racing routes. “I almost got hit on the way into Nome during Iditarod and then was almost hit half an hour later,” Mackey said.

Zorro also failed to finish the 2007 Iditarod, but was the sire of most of Mackey’s team.

The snowmobile collision came just 18 days after a snowmobile crashed into the team of Jennifer Freking, of Finland, during the Iditarod. The accident on the frozen Yukon River near Koyukuk killed a three-year-old dog named Lorne.

The only other fatality during the Iditarod this year was a seven-year-old male dog belonging to rookie musher John Stetson, of Duluth, Minnesota. Stetson dropped out of the race after the dog died of pneumonia.

Mackey entered the All Alaska Sweepstakes after winning both the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail race from Anchorage to Nome and the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, for the second consecutive year. No other musher has ever won both races in the same year—and the Yukon Quest victory was Mackey’s fourth in a row.

But the 408-mile All Alaska Sweepstakes, from Nome to Candle and back, has only been run 12 times: annually from 1908 to 1917, as the first big-money dog sled race; in 1983, as a 75th anniversary revival; and in 2008. No one has ever before had a chance to win a Triple Crown, as the Yukon Quest was first held in 1984.

Five-time Iditarod winner Rick Swenson of Two Rivers won the 1983 All Alaska Sweepstakes, 10 hours behind the record time of 74 hours and 14 minutes set in 1910 by John “Iron Man” Johnson. Swenson, 55, has never entered the Yukon Quest, and did not enter the 2008 All Alaska Sweepstakes, but loaned some of his dogs to Sonny Lindner, 58, also of Two Rivers, who won the first Yukon Quest.

Johnson’s record fell to 2004 Iditarod winner Mitch Seavey of Sterling, Alaska, who won the 2008 All Alaska Sweepstakes Race in 61 hours, 29 minutes and 45 seconds.

Leonard Seppala and his lead dog Togo won the All Alaska Sweepstakes in 1915, 1916, and 1917. Eight years later Togo, already ancient for a sled dog at 12, led Seppala’s team 170 miles to meet the diphtheria serum relay to Nome that inspired the Iditarod Trail race, begun in 1973. Togo then led the team 91 miles back toward Nome through a headwind, across the frozen and often treacherous Norton Sound.

That was by far the longest part of the relay, but Togo wasn’t done. While Gunnar Kaasen and his lead dog Balto, 6, took the serum the rest of the way to Nome, Togo instigated Seppala’s team in a mass break from harness in hot pursuit of a herd of reindeer.

Seppala soon recaptured most of the dogs, but Togo and another dog were lost in a blizzard and presumed dead until they trotted into Nome a week later and were photographed and feted as heroes.

Togo lived to age 16, Balto to age 14, and Sye, the last of the serum run dogs, died at 17.

The 2008 All Alaska Sweepstakes revival became controversial when Rachel D’Oro of Associated Press revealed two days before the start that, “Among the participants is Ramy Brooks, 39, a two-time Iditarod runner-up who was disqualified from the 2007 race for striking his dogs with a wooden trail marker. One of the Healy musher’s dogs died the day after the incident, but a necropsy could not determine a cause of death.”

Brooks was also barred from entering the 2008 Iditarod, but was not charged with any offense. The All Alaska Sweepstakes rules exclude anyone who has been convicted of animal abuse or neglect. As Brooks was not convicted, he could not be excluded.

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The Hot Topic:

What We Can Do About Global Warming
by Gabrielle Walker
& Sir David King

Harcourt (6277 Sea Harbor Drive,
Orlando, FL 32887-6777), 2008.
256 pages, paperback. \$13.00.

“Agriculture accounts for about 13% of global greenhouse gas emissions, approximately the same amount as transport,” Gabrielle Walker and Sir David King acknowledge on page 105 of *The Hot Topic*, in their first and only more than fleeting mention of the contribution of animal husbandry to global warming.

“Almost none of this comes from carbon dioxide,” Walker and King explain. “Though huge amounts of carbon dioxide do pass between the atmosphere and agricultural crops every year, the balance is more or less zero. It’s the sister greenhouse gases—methane and nitrous oxide—that matter most here. Agricultural methane comes from a variety of places,” Walker and King continue, “and almost always involves microbes feasting on organic matter in places where there is little or no oxygen. Thus the biggest sources are the guts of cows, sheep, and water buffalo.”

Reducing the numbers of cows, sheep, and water buffalo raised for human consumption would therefore appear to be as helpful in combating global warming as reducing the numbers of cars, or improving vehicular gas mileage. But Walker and King never so much as mention that possibility.

“There are various ways to control agricultural emissions,” Walker and King suggest, “almost all of which involve increasing the efficiency of how we use our land. For instance, better diets for livestock makes them—to put it frankly—belch less. In New Zealand, scientists are studying how to change the microbates that cows use to digest their food to encourage them to make sugars instead of methane...Agricultural lands could even be encouraged to become net sinks of carbon,” propose Walker and King, “by reducing the amount of plowing, which disturbs the soil and encourages microbes to mobilize the carbon that it contains.”

Walker is a contributing editor for *New Scientist*. King was formerly the chief science advisor to the Tony Blair government in the United Kingdom. In that capacity King in October 2007 supported cattle farmers who then and now seek to kill badgers to prevent outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis—after the government-appointed Independent Scientific Group concluded that although badgers can carry bovine TB, massacring them tends to accelerate the spread of the disease, as infected badgers wander farther to find mates and healthy badgers spread into territory where some infected survivors persist.

As Royal SPCA head of wildlife science Rob Atkinson observed, “The government’s study—which took almost 10 years, cost the lives of more than 10,000 badgers and cost taxpayers £34 million—showed killing badgers is actually



Winged Wonders: A Celebration of Birds in Human History

by Peter Watkins & Jonathan Stockland

Bluebridge (240 West 35th St., Suite 500, New York, NY 10001), 2007. 207 pages, hardcover, \$22.00.

Dogs Miscellany by J.A. Wines

Bantam Dell (1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019), 2007. 185 pages, paperback. \$10.00.

Random compilations such as *Winged Wonders* and *Dogs Miscellany* were fashionably called “non-books” several decades ago, including by some of the most notorious compilers of the era, in recognition that they have no plot, no theme, and little structure beyond a cover and a price.

The term “non-book” came and went, however, and miscellanies are still with us, as they have been for as long as books have been published. Almanacs, magazines, and encyclopedias evolved out of miscellanies, which delighted readers for more than 500 years, offering much information about favorite topics when information was hard to come by.

But the miscellany publishing business is now challenged. These days anyone can run a web search and produce an instant miscellany, with attractive color illustrations and links to further particulars. Miscellany compilers are still in business, as *Winged Wonders* and *Dogs Miscellany* demonstrate, yet may soon become as obscure in purpose to younger generations as carbon paper and phonograph needles.

Actually, *Winged Wonders* and *Dogs Miscellany* are obscure in purpose to me, too. The former offers some little-known vignettes about the occurrences of 16 bird species in myth and literature, but the birds’ roles are often either abstractly symbolic or seemingly incidental. The latter is just a mish-mash of usually unattributed and sometimes erroneous material, the sources of which, when recognized, tend to be far more deserving of a reader’s attention. —Merritt Clifton

CORRECTION: a retrospective review of *I Care About Animals* (1977) by Belton P. Mouras in the March 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** mentioned “the late actress Kim Novak.” Novak last acted in a feature film in 1991, but is still raising horses and llamas at homes in California and Oregon with her husband of 32 years, veterinarian Robert Malloy.

Six degrees:

Our Future On A Hotter Planet
by Mark Lynas

National Geographic Books
National Geographic Society (1145 17th St. NW,
Washington, DC 20036), 2008.
335 pages, hardcover. \$26.00.



likely to make matters much worse.”

Despite King’s role then as in effect a spokesperson for the cattle industry, neither King nor Walker seems aware that finding ways to produce more crop yield relative to tillage has been an obsession of agronomists since the Dust Bowl years during the Great Depression of the 1930s, and that some of the most rapid advances in that direction came about 35 years ago with the introduction of no-till corn planting. Instead of disc-harrowing a field before planting, a no-till farmer need only clear the field of vegetation that might compete with corn seedlings by dowsing the soil with herbicides, wait a few days for the herbicides to break down enough in sunlight that they will not harm young corn, and then sow seed corn kernels with a device called a seed drill, which essentially injects them into the ground at an appropriate depth.

No-till cultivation minimizes topsoil loss due to erosion, previously the bane of corn-growers, necessitating soil rebuilding with manure after every harvest. A no-till farmer can often just saturate the fields between crops with hog slurry, which soaks in quickly without the need to plow it under.

No-till is so efficient compared to traditional corn-growing that it made raising corn to feed cattle, pigs, and chickens more economical than ever before, in turn enabling the explosive growth of confinement husbandry that markedly cut the price of meat relative to other commodities and sent U.S. corn production and meat consumption soaring.

Other nations have followed the U.S. in turning toward to no-till and raising huge fodder corn crops to feed livestock. Just half a century ago most of the corn in the world was produced for direct human consumption. Humans now eat more corn than ever, yet 70% or more of the total global corn crop is grown to feed livestock. Most of those animals represent the net increase in per capita meat-eating over that time.

Plowing less is accordingly unlikely to do very much to slow the pace of global warming. But raising fewer animals for meat could have a marked and dramatic effect, while increasing the volume of grain available for human consumption several times over.

Though their topic is “What we can do about global warming,” Walker and King obtusely ignore the most obvious answer, but at least acknowledge the problem. Mark Lynas in *Six Degrees* never even gets warm.

Lynas discusses corn growing and cattle grazing in Nebraska on pages 29-30, where “Beef and corn dominate the economy.” Lynas describes the vulnerability of the Nebraska topsoil and water supply to the potential effects of global warming. Yet Lynas never looks at the contribution of raising beef and corn for cattle fodder to the climatic problem that he foresees as a looming threat to the beef and corn industries.

Lynas comes closest to making the connection on page 195. “As the Chinese diet becomes increasingly rich in meat and dairy products,” Lynas writes, “more grain is needed. By 2030, if Chinese consumers are to become as voracious as Americans, they will use the equivalent of two-thirds of today’s entire global harvest.”

But Lynas does not discuss Chinese potential demand for meat and dairy products in terms of greenhouse gas yield. The major consequence Lynas sees is that, “One study conducted by the United Kingdom and Chinese governments suggests that by the latter third of the 21st century, if global temperatures are more than three degrees highest than now, China’s agricultural production will crash. Yields of staple crops like rice, wheat, and corn will decline by nearly 40%, perhaps more if water supplies for irrigation run out.”

If rice, wheat, and corn were only raised for human consumption, not to inefficiently feed to livestock for slaughter, global output of these grains could decline by 40% next

year, while nearly doubling the presently tight supply of grain available to feed people.

“Given that world foodstocks are already at historical lows because of population growth and droughts,” Lynas writes, criticizing the notion that biofuels are an effective response to global warming, “devoting more of our best farmland to growing fuel for cars seems close to insane. It may also be immoral,” Lynas continues. “Because car-owning people are by definition among the world’s rich elite, using food crops to replace gas would create scarcity and drive up food prices on the commodity markets, leaving the poorest to starve. The reality is simple: you can use land to feed cars or to feed people, but not both.”

Overlooked is that the same argument applies to growing fodder crops for factory-farmed pigs and poultry.

“A related question arises with the European Union’s target of 5% biofuels in its vehicle fleet by 2010,” Lynas adds. “Much of this fuel will come from biodiesel, and a major feedstock for this is palm oil grown on plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia. These plantations have been responsible for disastrous clear-cutting of the fast-declining natural tropical forests, destroying the habitat of rare species like the orangutan and causing major additional carbon releases through the burning of wood and underlying peat.”

This is all correct—and this same argument applies to clearing tropical forests in Central and South America and parts of Africa to expand grazing lands used to produce beef.

A hint as to why Lynas is so determinedly oblivious to the role of meat production in creating global warming comes when he mentions that “Anti-wind farm campaigners truly concerned about dangers to bird populations would probably be served to grab a shotgun and conduct a cull of the local neighborhood cats.”

Among other details, the birds most menaced by wind power generation include hawks and owls, who are in no way menaced by cats.

What Lynas advocates as the best solution to global warming is for humanity to retreat to essentially the lifestyle of a time when shotgun-owning people were the world’s rich elite—an argument that King, for one, rejected in a recent interview with Oliver Berkeman of *The Guardian*.

“There is a suspicion, and I have that suspicion myself, that a large number of people who label themselves ‘green’ are actually keen to take us back to the 18th or even the 17th century,” King said. “I think that is utter hopelessness. What I’m looking for is technological solutions to a technologically driven problem, so the last thing we must do is eschew technology.”

Concludes Lynas, “Just as people were better off and healthier in Britain under food rationing during the Second World War, so most of us would see a dramatic improvement in our quality of life if ‘carbon rationing’ were introduced by the government.”

Presumably Lynas does not incorporate the terror of the Blitz or the disease threats occasioned by bombed water and sewer lines in his assessment of “better off and healthier.”

The major food commodities that were rationed in Britain during World War II were meat, milk, and eggs, a point Lynas fails to mention. Some people were “better off and healthier” through avoiding the effects of consuming animal products, and that could be repeated, but is more likely to occur, along with slowing global warming, if what really needs to be done is actually discussed.

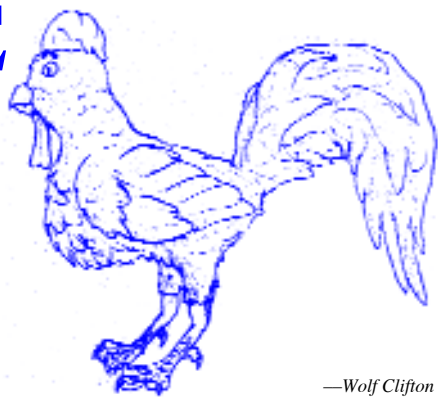
The technological solutions that King seeks may or may not be found. Yet finding a relatively quick, clean fix to much of the global warming problem is as simple as abandoning the meat habit.

—Merritt Clifton

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ANIMAL OBITUARIES

Windchill, 9 months, a mix of Appaloosa and Tennessee Walking Horse, died on February 29, 2008, 20 days after he was found suffering from starvation, dehydration, and hypothermia in the barn of Pam Javenkoski, of South Range, Minnesota. He was discovered by Theresa Farmer of South Range, who had boarded him with Javenkoski since September 1997 as part of a deal by which Javenkoski was to acquire another horse from Farmer. Rated only a 1% chance of survival by the first veterinarian who examined him after his rescue, Windchill was taken to Kathi Davis and Jeff Tucker of Raindance Farms. Tucker told *Duluth News Tribune* reporter Will Ashenmacher that a blog about Windchill's effort to survive had drawn 2.9

million hits in two weeks, plus 40,000 more after his death. Javenkoski, 47, and Shane Edward Javenkoski, 33, identified as her ex-husband, on March 10 pleaded not guilty to failing to feed a confined animal. Equine Allies, a Duluth group that collected donations for Windchill, but split with Davis and Tucker over the treatment protocol, told Aschenmacher that the money would be returned to the donors.

Nakal, 16 months, one of three Sumatran tiger cubs born in October 2006 at the Melbourne Zoo, was found drowned in the exhibit moat on March 13, 2008. The cubs were the first offspring of Ramalon, 13, and Binjai, 6, who arrived from the Rotterdam Zoo in 2004.

OBITUARIES

Charlton Heston, 84, died at home in Beverly Hills, California, on April 6, 2008. Heston had disclosed in 2002 that he had symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease. An avid hunter in boyhood, Heston from 1941 until late in life was chiefly an actor, except during service in the Army Air Force, 1943-1947. Except for several late-career cameo appearances, Heston played mostly starring roles in 126 feature films made between 1941 and 2001, including *Ben Hur*, *The Ten Commandments*, *El Cid*, *Planet of the Apes*, *Earthquake*, and *A Touch of Evil*. Heston became involved in civil rights activism in the 1950s, and later served as president of the Screen Actors Guild and chair of the American Film Institute, but had his biggest influence on public affairs as president of the National Rifle Association, 1998-2003. Heston personally led the aggressive NRA campaign against Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Al Gore in 2000, after Gore expressed support for gun control. Wrote Calvin Woodward of Associated Press, "As he had once lifted Moses' staff in *The Ten Commandments*, Heston held a musket above his head and dared Gore from afar to pry it 'from my cold dead hands.' Gore lost blue-collar votes to Bush in an election so close any setback was perilous. The key finding: About half of voters were from gun-owning households, and they voted for George W. Bush, 61% to 36%. Voters from households without guns backed Gore 58-39. Ever since, Democrats in presidential and many Congressional and governors' races have scrambled to establish their bona fides as hunters, if they can, or as admirers of firearms or the Second Amendment if they can't."

Malam Musa, 80, longtime keeper at the Kano Zoological Garden in Abuja, Nigeria, died in early March 2008, four months after losing a leg to a hyena who bit him as he turned to shovel dung after leaving the hyena's food. His death was attributed to a bladder problem.

There is no better way to remember animals or animal people than with an ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial. Send donations (any amount), with address for acknowledgement, if desired, to
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Violet Soo-Hoo, 90, died on March 11, 2008 in San Francisco. Born Violet Howard, in Oak Park, Illinois, she had already enjoyed a long career teaching English and drama at Balboa High School in San Francisco when she met electrical engineer Carroll Soo-Hoo on a 1966 visit to Africa to observe wildlife. One of 11 children of a Chinese immigrant family, Carroll Soo-Hoo spent 28 years as a senior technician and instructor of instrumentation for submarines at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. During that time he donated the equivalent of 10 years' worth of his wages to acquire 40 animals worth more than \$350,000 for the San Francisco Zoo, then called the Fleishacker Zoo, beginning in 1958. Among them were "gorillas, Barbary apes, cheetahs, Siberian tigers, a jaguar, zebra, hippopotamus, orangutan, spotted hyena, wild dogs, wolves, ostriches, and kookaburras," recalled Irma Lemus of the *San Francisco Examiner* after his death in June 1998, at age 84. All were bought, Lemus wrote, "with the understanding that he could visit and play with them. Mr. Soo-Hoo had his own key to the gorilla compound." After marriage to Carroll Soo-Hoo in 1967, Violet Soo-Hoo helped to raise many of the animals. Among the animals she helped to care for was an orangutan born at the San Francisco Zoo in November 1977, named Violet in her honor, residing at the Honolulu Zoo since 2005. The Soo-Hoos also actively participated in dog and cat rescue and multifaceted animal advocacy. The Soo-Hoos were strongly critical of many zoo practices, including culling older and genetically redundant animals in the name of conservation, and came to oppose wild captures. Eventually they split with the zoo community, but became major supporters of the Primarily Primates sanctuary, the International Primate Protection League, and many other pro-animal projects. Learning of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** from an obituary for Carroll Soo-Hoo, Violet Soo-Hoo became a frequent caller and writer of letters to the editor in her later years.

Ursula Bates, longtime secretary of Solihull Animal Aid, and West Midlands representative for Vegetarians Voice International since Juliet Gelately founded the organization in 1994, died on March 6, 2008 of cancer. A leading campaigner against live exports of British calves in the mid-1990s, Bates in 2005 was instrumental in organizing a memorial for fellow activist Jill Phipps, who was crushed by a cattle truck during a 2005 protest.



—Wolf Clifton

Norman, 40-plus, the African gray parrot mascot of the Gabriel Foundation sanctuary in Denver, a sanctuary resident for 11 years, died on March 19, 2008 due to chronic infections. His death was followed by the March 28 loss of **Gypsy**, 32, a blue-and-gold macaw who had been sent to Texas A&M University for treatment of aspergillosis.



Violet Soo-Hoo

Val Plumwood, 68, was found dead on March 1, 2008 of an apparent snake or spider bite at her home near Braidwood, New South Wales, Australia. Plumwood, who changed her surname from Routley in honor of a local tree species, wrote influential books entitled *Feminism & the Mastery of Nature* (1993) and *Environmental Culture: the Ecological Crisis of Reason* (2002). She had been "a leading campaigner against logging Australia's native forests and for the preservation of biodiversity since the 1960s," recalled Associated Press. Attacked by a river crocodile in the northern Outback in 1985, Plumwood "escaped with terrible wounds to her legs and groin after the animal dragged her underwater three times in a death roll, the maneuver crocodiles use to drown their prey," Associated Press continued. "She said the near-death experience constantly reminded her of the wonder of being alive and gave her a better understanding of our place in nature." Wrote Plumwood herself, "As I began my 13-hour journey to Darwin Hospital, my rescuers discussed going upriver the next day to shoot a crocodile. I spoke strongly against this plan: I was the intruder, and no good purpose could be served by random revenge."

Phillip Terry Hagar, 45, of Bakersfield, California, out for a twilight walk on March 6, 2008, was killed by a car while trying to rescue an injured dog from the Rosedale Highway. The dog was also killed.

Bonnie Turner, a retired veterinary technician, died on March 15, 2008 when a tornado struck her home in Aragon, Georgia, and hurled her 50 feet through the air. Her husband Michael Turner was critically injured. About 35 of her dogs were killed as well, and as many as 100 more dogs were missing. Known locally for doing animal rescue and wildlife rehabilitation, Turner was also known nationally as a breeder and exhibitor of championship Norwegian elkhounds and wirehaired terriers. A photo from the Turner home was found the morning after the tornado in Cornelia, Georgia, 130 miles away.

MEMORIALS



In memory of Tina (1994-2008): a lovable grumpy cat who mellowed over time, taken from us by cancer and renal failure.
—**ANIMAL PEOPLE**

In memory of Gabriel Brunner: very much loved and sadly missed.
—*Judy Youngman*

In memory of Perry Fina.
—*Linda Fina*

In memory of Prissy,
Who brought love, warmth and devotion
To all who had the joy of knowing her.
She now has her wings.
—*Lindy & Marvin Sobel*

In memory of Que and Toto.
—*Hilde Wilson*

In memory of Stefie, Dobie of Matia and John Stevenson: Stefie, you are greatly missed by all at the offices of North Shore Animal League America.

In memory of Tom Lantos: we have lost a true warrior for the animals we love so much!
—*Helen Kett*



In memory of Chase, 13, trained by Kat Albecht, first for police work and then to find lost dogs, whose adventures are recounted in Albrecht's books *The Lost Pet Chronicles* and *Dog Detectives*.

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), Muffin (1/2/08), Blackie (9/9/96), and Honey Boy (11/1/05).



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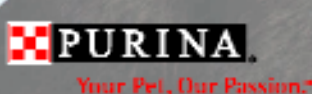
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“International protests would likely backfire too,” Robinson continued. “Worldwide criticism of dog eating during the World Cup [soccer tournament] in Korea brought a backlash from students who objected to being told what to do in their own country—and slaughtered and ate yet more dogs in protest against ‘interfering imperialists.’”

“We do not endorse using this issue to oppose the Olympics,” agreed Luguan Yan. —*Merritt Clifton*

<www.asiaforanimals.org>.
Sept. 10-13: *4th Intl. Workshop on Assess-ment of Animal Welfare at the Farm & Group Level*, Ghent, Belgium. Info: <www.wafl2008.com>.
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October 29-31: *Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conf.*, Stresa, Italy. Info: <hq-icawc@-dogstrust.org.uk>; <www.icawc.org>.