

Sealing on thin ice

CAP-AUX-MEULES, Quebec— Seal clubbing and shooting started on March 22, 2012 for Iles-de-la-Madeleine vessels, five days ahead of schedule, because ice floes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence were receding so rapidly that Quebec sealers were at risk of finding no seals to kill.

Canadian Fisheries Department area director Vincent Malouin told Canadian Press that only two to five boats from Iles-de-la-

Madeleine were expected to hunt seals in 2012. Iles-de-la-Madeleine was allocated a sealing quota of 25,000, from a total Canadian quota of 400,000, the same as in 2011, despite a lack of evident markets for seal pelts since 2010, when the European Union banned seal pelt imports.

Canadian sealers killed 37,609 seal pups in 2011, after killing 67,000 of a quota of 330,000 in 2010. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper hoped to arrange a sale of seal pelts to China during a February 2012 state visit to China, but the deal did not materialize.

Instead, Chinese media amplified objections to the proposed sale raised by the Capital Animal Welfare Association and the Beijing environmental charity Green Beagle, named in honor of the ship that carried *The Origin of Species* author Charles Darwin on his 1831 voyage of discovery to the Galapagos Islands.

“In the wake of international bans on the sale of seal products, including Russia banning imports and exports recently, it is unacceptable that the Canadian government has turned to China in continuous attempts to create a new

(continued on page 8)



Harp seal pup. (Arthur E. Benjamin/Zucker Public Relations/Humane Society of the U.S.)

Iowa & Utah are first states to pass ag-gag laws

DES MOINES, SALT LAKE CITY—Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Utah Governor Gary Herbert on March 2, 2012 and March 20, 2012 signed into law the first two U.S. state “ag-gag” bills, written to suppress undercover video exposés of animal handling.

Following a template introduced into at least eight state legislatures since 2010, the Utah law creates a criminal offense called “agricultural operation interference,” committed if a person, “without consent from the owner of the operation, or the owner’s agent, knowingly or intentionally records an image of, or sound from, the operation, while the person is on the property where the agricultural operation is located, or by leaving a recording device on the property where the agricultural operation is located.”



White hen at Pasado’s Safe Haven. (Kim Bartlett)

A first violation of the Utah law is a class A misdemeanor. A second violation is a third degree felony.

“If an individual steps on someone else’s property and takes a picture of a horse that appears to be starving, and then provides that photograph to the authorities, that person would be in violation of this law,” unsuccessfully objected Humane Society of Utah executive director Gene Baierschmidt in a letter to Governor Herbert.

Said Government Accountability Project food integrity campaign director Amanda Hitt, “As a dairy farmer’s daughter, I know animal agriculture is often misunderstood and thankless work. I also know that events seen out of context can be misconstrued. But we all know there are right and wrong ways to run businesses, and bad actors shouldn’t enjoy the benefits of overreaching legislation.”

A bill similar to the one passed in Utah and the bills considered in other states stalled in Iowa in 2011 over questions of constitutionality. Taking a different approach, the newly passed Iowa law stipulates that “A person is guilty of agricultural production facility fraud if the person willfully...obtains access to an agricultural production facility by false pretenses [or] makes a false statement or representation as part of an application or agreement to be employed at an agricultural production facility...with an intent to commit an act not authorized by the owner.”

A first violation of the Iowa law is

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ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care

April 2012
Volume 21, #3

About Animals

Suspect allegedly planned “hit” on fur wearer “partially to get away” from family

CLEVELAND, Ohio—The Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 21, 2012 arrested Meredith Marie Lowell, 27, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, for allegedly trying to use a Facebook account accessed from a public library computer to solicit the murder of “someone who is wearing fur.”

According to an affidavit sworn on February 17, 2012 by FBI special agent Ryan M. Taylor, “On November 4, 2011 the FBI was provided information that a person owning a Facebook page under the name Anne Lowery,” an alias that Lowell acknowledged using, “posted a message on Facebook stating that Lowery wanted to hire a hit man to kill someone wearing fur.”

A Florida animal advocate named

Anne Lowery made global headlines in January 2010 for spending nearly \$75,000 in a futile effort to save her parrot Areba from cancer, but **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found no indication that Lowell knowingly assumed the identity of the Florida woman.

Said the Facebook message, “I would like to create an online community on Facebook which would allow me to find someone who is willing to kill someone who is wearing fur toward the end of October 2011 or early November 2011 or possibly in January 2012 or February 2012...I am willing to pay this person up to \$830-\$850.”

Using the e-mail address <luckydith@hotmail.com>, Lowell allegedly invited response from “the Animal Liberation Front, the Animal Rights Militia, and similar groups...and anyone else who believes that people who wear fur should be killed.”

Testified Taylor, “As a result of this message, the FBI began to investigate the Facebook posting, to include engaging the Facebook page with the use of an online covert employee.”

The FBI online covert employee initiated contact with Lowell by seeking to ascertain her seriousness, and by warning her that if she was serious, she was undertaking a criminal act.

“If you are serious I will help you,” the online covert employee told Lowell, according to the affidavit, “but you must immediately take down or change your post before Facebook whacks it or law enforcement arrests you!”

Added the online covert employee, “Posting an advertisement to buy a hit man is not only illegal, it brings negative attention to what some of us are doing in shadows.”

Lowell outlined her intentions in detail 11 days later, on November 15, 2011, according to

(continued on page 13)



Romeo, a retired racing thoroughbred, at H.O.R.S.E. of Connecticut. (Debra Danowski)

Luck runs out but racing goes on

SANTA ANITA, CHELTENHAM—Home Box Office cancelled the made-for-TV Dustin Hoffman/Nick Nolte drama series *Luck* on March 14, 2012 after three on-set horse fatalities in three years of videotaping at the Santa Anita race track in Arcadia, California. At Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, United Kingdom, however, the annual four-day Festival jumps meet continued before 220,000 spectators despite the deaths of three horses on opening day, the same day that *Luck* ended, and two horse deaths more the next day.

“All five of the horses to die at this year’s event suffered fractured or broken legs and had to be put down,” reported Katherine Faulkner of the *Daily Mail*.

Thirty-eight horses have died at Cheltenham since 2000, Animal Aid recounted—nine in 2006 alone. Altogether, 804 horses have been killed at British race tracks during the past five years, said Animal Aid.

While the Cheltenham meet does not draw nearly the 600 million television viewers claimed by the Grand National, the

most prestigious British jumps meet, the TV audience is in the hundreds of millions.

Luck, however, “despite hefty hype and critical praise, has been a ratings underperformer for HBO, averaging about 625,000 total viewers per episode,” assessed Lesley Goldberg of *Hollywood Reporter*.

“Executive producers David Milch and Michael Mann together with HBO have decided to cease all future production on the series *Luck*,” HBO said in a prepared release. “While we maintained the highest safety standards possible,” HBO said, “accidents unfortunately happen and it is impossible to guarantee they won’t in the future. Accordingly, we have reached this difficult decision.”

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals claimed the *Luck* cancellation as a victory. “Just one day after PETA sent a complaint to Los Angeles law enforcement urging the agency to investigate the deaths of two horses during the filming of the first season, we learned that another horse had died on the set,” PETA posted. PETA alleged that HBO,

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Editorial feature

Don’t let irrational extremists define the cause

This April 2012 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial is written amid an unusually fiercely contested series of primary elections and state caucuses to select the Republican nominee for U.S. President in the November 2012 national election.

Animal issues have barely surfaced during the many months of speeches, debates, and electronic media commercials through which the candidates seek to rally the electorate. Almost the only mention of animals so far has come from a web site called Dogs Against Romney, posted to publicize and decry how front-runner Mitt Romney in 1983 hauled his family’s English setter Seamus on a 12-hour drive to Canada in a carrier tied to a roof rack. Several Dogs Against Romney viewers demonstrated against Romney on Valentine’s Day outside the Westminster Kennel Club dog show in New York City.

Yet, though animal issues are not prominent in the race for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, strategic issues have come to the fore that invite parallels to the conduct of some of the animal advocates who still style themselves “the animal rights movement”—and believe themselves to be the whole of it, dismissing others of differing views about animal rights as “welfarists” or worse. Overlooked by name-callers is that the spectrum of those who are termed “welfarists” runs all the way from those who are struggling to maintain the status quo in agribusiness to those who are continuing the initiatives to dismantle intensive confinement husbandry begun by Henry Spira, who helped to spark the contemporary animal rights movement by founding Animal Rights International in 1976, and later founded the Coalition for Nonviolent Food.

Critical to note is that for the most part the narrowly self-defined animal rights movement of today is no longer the movement in which Spira participated. That movement, long before Spira’s death in 1998, grew into a highly diverse and still fast-growing animal advocacy sector of unprecedented size and influence. Even by 1998 the animal rights movement of decades ago had matured and mainstreamed itself effectively enough to win the passage of many pro-animal ballot initiatives, made achieving no-kill sheltering a popular political goal in countless communities, and had begun to put vegetarian and vegan foods into the freezers of almost every supermarket.

That momentum continues. Though most animal rights movement goals of 20 and 30 years ago have yet to be won, almost everyone in the developed world and most educated people in the developing world can cite at least a few “animal rights” goals—and most people express sympathy for some of those goals, even in places such as Africa, China, and eastern Europe, where at Spira’s death organized animal advocacy had been introduced repeatedly during the preceding century but had mostly failed to thrive.

Part of the process of maturing and mainstreaming involves shedding the hard shell of defiance and exclusivity through which activists resist social pressure to yield and conform, while growing into political and economic strength. A “movement” confronts the rest of society, but a mature cause welcomes and encourages fellow travelers, whose transformation may be less profound and complete than activists might like, yet are nonetheless moving in the right direction. Self-conscious movement identity drops away as demands for change are more broadly accepted. Fewer sympathizers express their views on bumper stickers, but thousands more cast pro-animal votes and make pro-animal choices while shopping—and for many, this is just a matter of reflexively reaching for the brand of milk or eggs with some sort of humane certification on the label, instead of the cheaper brand without. Animal advocates would of course wish that the reflexive reach was for non-animal products, but more people are reaching for non-animal products too: USDA data indicates that U.S. per capita meat and poultry consumption fell 12.2% between 2007 and 2012. Meanwhile, that humane certification even exists is a quantum leap ahead in public awareness of farm animals from 15 years ago, when such certification had yet to begin in the U.S.

Animal rights activists of a generation ago may still think of themselves as participants in the “animal rights movement,” though remaining involved chiefly as donors. But many of them, now newly retired and/or with children grown, are reconnecting with participatory advocacy, and more than just a few are shocked to discover through online forums,

and especially the AR-series of conferences hosted since 2000 by the Farm Animal Reform Movement, that a small but noisy sub-sector of the self-defined animal rights movement of today has become an ugly caricature of itself.

Twenty-odd years ago some of the major animal use industries employed agents provocateur to promote the use of violent tactics and rhetoric—and these agents provocateur were flushed out in several instances precisely because they advocated actions which were at odds with the goals of a cause which exists to extend principles of non-violence, non-exploitation, and non-coercion from human relations to our relationships with animals. There were always some organizations whose names sounded militant, but the former peace activists who founded Animal Rights Mobilization had no truck with armaments. Some activists praised the covert tactics of the Animal Liberation Front when those tactics focused on procuring evidence of cruelty or on actually rescuing animals from laboratories where the animals were subjected to horrific experiments—but most of the activists who praised ALF actions quickly distanced themselves from vandalism, and at least two onetime prominent “ALF spokespersons” dropped their representation of ALF in 1996 when arsons and bombings done in the name of the ALF put human and animal life at risk.

There was always admiration of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, whose 1979 debut in the public eye was ramming the pirate whaler *Sierra* on the high seas—but Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson himself was outspokenly critical of ill-considered and reckless activities that might harm innocent people and discredit the animal cause.

“Our movement needs humor, it needs imagination, it needs evolution, and it needs flexibility. We do not need the shroud of violence and dark, evil associations with the tactics of the Irish Republican Army, the CIA, and the Red Brigade,” Watson wrote in a March 1994 guest column for **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Leave the bombs and the torches to those who would negate life by taking it,” Watson counseled.

Watson and the Sea Shepherds are still skirmishing with whalers on the high seas. Their vessels still sometimes collide. But even as Watson flies the Jolly Roger and stars in *Eco-Pirate: The Story of Paul Watson*, a video biography premiering on March 6, 2012 at the Salem Film Festival in Massachusetts, he has kept his “piracy” within bounds which would have been acceptable to “family television” pioneer Walt Disney.

The Animal Planet series *Whale Wars*, aired since November 2008, features the Sea Shepherds in confrontations with the Japanese whaling fleet which—though consisting of unscripted real-life adventure—somewhat parallel the 1957-1961 Disney drama series *Zorro*, in that the “outlaws” pursue goals and maintain values which are shared by most of the prime time cable audience. Ineffective “attacks” on the whalers with bottles of rancid butter are slapstick. The activities of the Sea Shepherds probably represent the most extreme and confrontational aspect of the mainstream animal rights movement, the part which has become an enduringly influential aspect of everyday lives.

Failed elements implode

But, while much of the animal rights movement has become ubiquitous, elements who have not managed to win mainstream support have imploded inward. Among them are vegans so extreme that they cannot endorse any reform in agricultural methods short of complete and immediate abolition of animal husbandry; “scientific” antivivisectionists who maintain that all animal experimentation is scientific fraud, regardless of the results; people whose animal advocacy is inextricably intertwined with a variety of essentially unrelated cultural, religious, economic, and political beliefs; and various others whose prescriptions for change are so mixed up with pursuit of personal purity as to have little chance of appealing to anyone less obsessed. Most of these people are well-meaning but ineffectual. Mingling among them, however, are also passive/aggressive animal hoarders masquerading as operators of no-kill shelters and sanctuaries, dogfighters pretending to be pit bull rescuers, scam fundraisers, recruiters for miscellaneous cults, and a smattering of sociopaths, schizophrenics, and chronic depressives who seek a cause, any cause, within which to vent, rave, and commiserate with others whose approaches have no persuasive appeal.

The net effect resembles the implosion of the “Republican base” much discussed of late by political commentators. Traditional presidential election strategy calls for successful candidates to moderate extreme positions to appeal to “swing voters,” who choose among individuals running for office, rather than voting along party lines. The primary election system, however, in which only members of one party vote to choose the party presidential candidate, encourages office-seekers to espouse the positions that they believe will most appeal to the members of their own party who are most likely to vote in a primary. The early primaries are held in several states of low population, within which voting blocks of relatively little national significance may be disproportionately influential.

The outcome this year, in a closely fought race with multiple closely matched contenders, is that candidates have taken impractically extreme positions on so many issues, trying to win primary support, that the eventual nominee may struggle to repackage himself as “mainstream” enough to get elected. Comparably, within the AR conference series and allied web sites and Facebook pages, would-be leaders compete for the support of the perceived base by taking ever more “pure” positions to the point of practically excluding themselves from any hope of attracting reasonably mainstream people.

So long as the larger animal cause continues to expand and advance, the implosion of unpersuasive elements might be of little concern. To begrudge the excessively purist their social events and a few online meetingplaces would seem mean-spirited. Dozens of other conferences and electronic media are influentially reaching and involving tens of thousands more people, including the young people who are the future of the cause.

Unfortunately, there is reason for concern that the actions of zealots on the fringe of animal advocacy may damage the larger cause—with or without help from agents provocateur. On February 17, 2012—as detailed elsewhere in this edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**—the FBI arrested Meredith Marie Lowell, 27, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, for seeking to hire “someone who is willing to kill someone who is wearing fur.”

The case somewhat parallels the November 1988 arrest of fringe activist Fran Trutt for placing a bomb in the U.S. Surgical Corporation parking lot. Like Trutt, Lowell appears to have been a socially isolated individual who had little actual involvement in animal advocacy. But Trutt turned out to have been befriended and counseled for months by private security operative Marylou Sapone, whose company had been hired by U.S. Surgical. Sapone loaned Trutt the money to buy four pipe bombs, and introduced her to a second undercover operative who drove Trutt to the scene of the crime.

So far there are no indications of an agent provocateur among Lowell’s few animal advocacy contacts. Lowell appears to have been motivated, according to a note to herself that was included in the FBI arrest affidavit, by “Animal rights attourney [sic], activist, rescuer, and vegan [who] says it is okay to risk legal trouble to help animals and I believe this 100%. So, yes, it is okay to risk personal freedom to help animals.”

The animal rights attorney, activist, rescuer, and vegan who inspired Lowell may have been someone whom Lowell only read about online. Possibly that person had no awareness of inciting anyone toward committing or soliciting murder. But this one abortive incident, resulting in no actual harm to anyone, within just a few days produced more than 2,000 headlines in electronic and print media associating animal rights extremism with murder.

There was little follow-up. A school shooting a few miles away soon usurped even local coverage. By itself, the Lowell case is so extreme, so bizarre, as to possibly have no

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Don't let irrational extremists define the cause *(from page 3)*

lasting negative effect on public opinion.

But small mobs of activists using Lowell-like rhetoric are another matter. Hardly anyone likes masked nightriders, or menacing anonymous callers, such as the six individuals associated with "direct action" animal advocacy and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty who were convicted in 2006 of conspiracy to commit animal enterprise terrorism and interstate stalking against employees of Huntingdon Life Sciences and companies that did business with Huntingdon.

The SHAC web site offered personal information about targeted individuals, including not only names, addresses, and home telephone numbers, but also in some cases the schools that their children attended, the names of their teachers, and their after-school activities. Several of the targets testified that "they were besieged by screaming protesters outside their homes at all hours, deluged by threatening phone calls, and were sent pornographic magazines they had not ordered," summarized Wayne Parry of Associated Press. "One woman said she received an e-mail threatening to cut her 7-year-old son open and stuff him with poison. A man said he was showered with glass as people smashed all the windows of his home and overturned his wife's car." The testimony was supported by videos of some of the home demonstrations.

Animal advocacy leaders who are attentive to public opinion had already distanced themselves from SHAC. Most of the animal advocacy cause, in the six years since those convictions, has avoided tactics and rhetoric which might appear threatening and invasive to average citizens, who tend to favor being kind to animals but not anti-social displays, regardless of the pretexts of the sociopaths.

Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) has tested the bounds of public perception of tactics by using long-range cameras and sky-spy drone helicopters to identify and expose pigeon shooters in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. But SHARK has videotaped and exposed only armed men, who four times have shot down the drone helicopters and

on another occasion pointed a gun at founder Steve Hindi.

Once, about 15 years ago, SHARK participated in a demonstration outside the home of a protest target. Hindi concluded that this was an inappropriate tactic. Hindi has since then drawn a hard line against confronting anyone in protest who is not actively engaged in obvious violence against animals. The SHARK exposés of pigeon shooters and rodeo cowboys succeed because they show the violence and often show the participants trying to avoid identification even as they commit acts that most of the public will find offensive.

But while SHARK carefully positions itself on the side of public opinion, the AR conference series has in recent years developed an expanding reputation as an assembly point for mobs whose tactics approach lynching and whose rhetoric goes farther.

AR conference series founder Alex Hershaft, also founder of the Farm Animal Reform Movement, in 2000 invited **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to participate in the first revival of the series, which had been suspended for a decade, but ordained that we would have to comply with a gag order to not say anything critical of other animal advocacy organizations. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** of course declined. Hershaft several times in the next few years repeated the invitation, with the same gag order. The invitation was declined each time.

But eventually **ANIMAL PEOPLE** president Kim Bartlett did attend an AR conference in Los Angeles, and was appalled to discover that while Hershaft muzzled criticism that he felt might show portions of the animal rights movement in a poor light, he allowed militants to organize "home visits" similar to those for which the SHAC members were convicted.

Hershaft did not put a gag order on the organizers of mob action, even though it has such demonstrated potential to harm the whole cause of animal advocacy that animal use industries have paid millions of dollars to the several dozen agents provocateur who have been unmasked in court, and may have paid millions more to others who have evaded exposure.

Instead, "home visits" have become a regular if unofficial feature of the AR conference series, while the roster of speakers has increasingly spotlighted people who promote these tactics and others that tend to alienate most of the public.

Hershaft has thus far not answered **ANIMAL PEOPLE** president Kim Bartlett's February 2012 inquiry as to whether he would allow "home visits" to

be organized at the AR 2012 conference. Hershaft and other AR 2012 conference attendees should take note, though, that intimidation does not win over the public. Rather, intimidation tactics tend to create sympathy for the targets, regardless of whatever those people may have done behind closed doors. Likewise, gratuitous vandalism done in the name of animal advocacy, whether by the "ALF" or anyone else, tends to take public discussion away from what is being done to animals by the people whose property has been vandalized, and instead spotlights what the activists have done to people engaged in "lawfully conducted enterprises."

Nightrider tactics are often cited by animal use industry fronts in their efforts to railroad ag-gag laws like the one recently passed in Iowa through state legislatures. (*See page one.*) Ag-gag legislation is directed at organizations such as Mercy for Animals, whose undercover video exposés of factory farming in countless venues is precisely the sort of activity that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was written to protect: nonviolent documentation and exposure of abuses which without freedom of speech and press might never be brought to light and redressed.

The animal use industries could not win legislation breaching or circumventing the First Amendment by forthrightly acknowledging that they wish to suppress evidence of cruelty to animals. Instead, the promoters of ag-gag laws equate undercover videography with "terrorism" that might somehow threaten the U.S. food supply. For example, warned the Animal Agriculture Alliance, "At AR 2011 the recommended tactics discussed [included] use of violence, sabotage to farms, and other illegal actions."

Animal advocates should understand that giving a platform to people who advocate violence and tactics of terrorism entails bearing some responsibility for what happens when impressionable and irrational people hear the message—and recognition that animals pay the biggest price when ill-considered tactics backfire. Hearts are not won over by coercion or intimidation but by persuasion.

In the words of Martin Luther King, "The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

The truth has power. We should believe that our cause is just, and that justice will prevail over time, through exposure in the court of public opinion.

LETTERS

"The Animal Rights Agenda 25 years later"

Concerning the January/February 2012 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial "The 'Animal Rights Agenda' 25 years later," how I wish I had read the original "Animal Rights Agenda" co-authored by Kim Bartlett, Marti Kheel, and Henry Spira way back in 1987; I would not have had to muddle through in complete ignorance all these years! Every word you wrote I say "amen" to.

I also liked Kim's memorial to a poor injured rat in that issue. Oh, how sad! One consolation was that he experienced love before he died. I love rats, too. My husband and I secretly nurtured one when we were staying with my in-laws. Valentino, as we

named him, enjoyed the special meals we put for him in the fuse box closet. But his blissful life ended tragically a few months later when he decided to approach me as I sat in the living room with our dog Spotty.



—Nita Hontiveros-Lichauco
New Manila, Quezon City
Philippines

Editor's note:

Nita Hontiveros-Lichauco was among the youngest volunteers recruited by Muriel Jay, the British missionary teacher who founded the Philippine Animal Welfare Society in 1954. PAWS lapsed into inactivity after Jay returned to Britain, but Hontiveros-Lichauco revived it in 1986 and led the campaign that won passage of the Philippine Animal Welfare Act in February 1998.

Wildlife Friends

Re "Accused of involvement in elephant poaching, Thai officials raid Wildlife Friends," in the March 2012 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, I am glad you are covering this. Nearly all the primates were removed from Wildlife Friends, including 33 gibbons and 47 macaques. Their current location is unknown. I have visited Wildlife Friends. It was impeccable. Several gibbons lived on islands. Babies born there had never had human contact, yet were shot out of the trees with tranquilizer darts. Someone caught a video of a darted youngster crashing to earth and not knowing what to do.

We are hoping that Wildlife Friends founder Edwin Wiek and his wife Noi will be present at the International Primate Protection League conference here in Summerville, April 13-15, 2012.

—Shirley McGreal, OBE, Chairwoman
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CORRECTION

The March 2012 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** included a photograph on page 9 of a male pigtailed macaque who had been abusively handled by Thai National Park, Wildlife and Plants Conservation Division personnel during a raid on the Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand sanctuary in Bangkok, after Wildlife Friends founder Edwin Wiek criticized the agency for allegedly failing to prosecute elephant poachers and traffickers who illegally sell wild-caught baby elephants to tourism venues.

Former Primarily Primates president Wally Swett accurately identified the macaque, at request of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, but through a transcription error the species was miscaptioned "pygmy macaque."

Dogfights in Pakistan

Dog fighting is legally banned in Pakistan. However, rich people do not care. We of the Ravi Foundation have learned that this year's All Pakistan Dogfighting Contest was held on February 26, 2012 in village called Chak 310-JB, Thatha, near Gojra in the Toba Tek Singh district of Punjab province, Pakistan.

Our daring journalist friend Rana Khalid Mehmood put his life at risk and went to cover the event to highlight the cruelty to animals. He was stopped at gunpoint. However, he was able to get some images. *Dawn*, Pakistan's leading English newspaper, covered the event, condemned it strongly, and highlighted the negligence of law enforcement agencies. The police have reportedly registered a case against the culprits, but have not provided details. No arrest has been made. Rana Khalid Mehmood has informed us that scores of dogs were badly injured. One owner killed his two dogs on the spot for losing their fights. Rana said that thousands of people were present to watch the fighting, that millions of rupees were bet on the fights, and high profile private security ensured that the fights were not disrupted.

We take this opportunity to praise and encourage Rana Khalid Mehmood, who is district reporter for Dunya News TV, and also Tariq Saeed, district reporter for *Dawn*, for their daring steps to cover the issue in the national media. The Ravi Foundation condemns the government of Pakistan for not stopping inhumane crimes against animals in Pakistan. The Ravi Foundation believes Pakistani society needs to be educated about the rights of animals.



—Ashfaq Fateh
Ravi Foundation
Pakistan
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JuJubee Needs Your Support



The Animal League recently rescued JuJubee from a puppy mill – inhumane commercial breeding facilities where dogs live in horrible conditions, lacking even the most basic medical care and affection of any kind.

Unfortunately, this sweet Boston Terrier spent the first two years of her life there, forced to have litter after litter

of puppies. When our rescue team brought her to the safety of the Animal League, our veterinary staff discovered that JuJubee not only has life-threatening heartworm disease, but she also has a broken jaw—an old and painful injury that had been completely neglected and untreated.

Due to the nature of the injury, it is likely that JuJubee suffered this fracture as a result of a traumatic event. We have already started JuJubee on the regimen of medication to rid her of heartworm, which can be fatal if not treated, and she requires extensive reconstructive surgery to repair her broken jaw. She will need months of aftercare and medication to heal from these injuries.

Without the Animal League and its supporters, JuJubee, who had outlived her "usefulness" as a breeding dog to the mill owners, would most certainly have been destroyed.

When you donate to our Help Me Heal program, you are giving hope and health to sick, injured and abused animals like JuJubee.

To ensure the continued care for JuJubee and the many other animals in our Help Me Heal Program, please visit AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal.

"North Shore Animal League America's Help Me Heal Program Cares for Pets in Need!"



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“We were able to get HSUS to endorse a cage system that our industry wants. The alternative is we go cage free.”

- United Egg Producers

Eggribusiness Groups and Commercial Egg Companies Backing HR 3798 (partial listing):

• United Egg Producers • Association of California Egg Farmers • Colorado Egg Producers Association • Florida Poultry Federation, Inc. • Georgia Egg Association • Michigan Agri-Business Association • Michigan Allied Poultry Industries • New England Brown Egg Council • North Carolina Egg Association • Ohio Egg Processors Association • Dixie Egg • Warren Farms • Benton County Eggs • Cal-Maine Foods (Arkansas) • Hickman's Egg Ranch • Chino Valley Egg Ranchers of CA • Demler Egg Ranch • Gemperle Enterprises • Harmony Egg Ranch • Hickman's Family Farms of CA • Hidden Villa Ranch • Pine Hill Egg Ranch • J.S. West Milling Company • Valley Fresh Foods • C.B. Nichols Egg Ranch of CA • Colorado Egg • Morning Fresh Farms • Puglisi Egg Farm of Delaware • Cal-Maine Foods (Florida) • Dixie Egg • Hillandale, LLC • Tampa Farm Service • Cal-Maine Foods (Georgia) • Country Charm Eggs, LLC • Dixie Egg • LC Browns • L & R Farms • Lathem Farms • Rose Acre Farms (Georgia) • Ritewood, Inc. • Hy-Grade Egg Producers • Rose Acre Farms (Illinois) • Creighton Brothers • Midwest Poultry Services • Rose Acre Farms (Indiana) • Wabash Valley Produce • Center Fresh Farms • Centrum Valley Farms, LLP • Daybreak Foods • Hawkeye Pride Egg Farm • Hillandale – Iowa • Sioux County Egg Farm • Cal-Maine Foods (Kansas) • Cal-Maine Foods (Kentucky) • Cal-Maine Foods (Louisiana) • The Country Hen • Farm Crest Foods • Herbruck's Poultry Ranch • Konos, Inc. • Sunrise Acres • Forsman Farms • Cal-Maine Foods (Mississippi) • Rose Acre Farms (Mississippi) • Lincoln County Egg Farm • Marshall Egg • Puglisi Egg Farm • Giroux Poultry Farm • Kreher's Farm Fresh Eggs, LLC • Wayne County Eggs, LLC • Braswell Foods • GCB Foods, LLC • Rose Acre Farms (North Carolina) • Simpson's Eggs • Cal-Maine Foods (Ohio) • Daybreak Foods • Hemmelgarn & Sons • Hertzfeld Poultry Farms • Midwest Poultry Services • Trillium Farm Holdings • Weaver Brothers • Willamette Egg Farms • Wilcox Farms • Valley Fresh Foods • R.W. Sauder, Inc. • Sperry Farms • Century Farms • Hillandale – Gettysburg, L.P. • Hillside Poultry Farms • LeValle Egg Farms • Powl Associates • Cal-Maine Foods (South Carolina) • Dakota Layers • National Foods Corp. • Cal-Maine Foods (Texas) • Feather Crest Farms • Maxim Egg Production • Delta Egg Farm • Oakdell Egg Farm • Rigtrup Egg Farm • Ritewood Egg Farm • Shepherd & Sons • Glenwood Foods • Dynes Farms • National Foods Corp. • Oakdell Egg Farms • Stiebrs Farms • Valley Fresh Foods • Wilcox Farms • Willamette Egg Farms • Daybreak Foods • S & R Egg Farm...

The Less You Know – The More *They* Like It

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is distributing two distinctly *different* lists of groups backing the Rotten Egg Bill (HR 3798).

One list is being distributed to members of Congress and shows the actual egg industry backers of HR 3798. It includes all of the egg companies listed above, along with other livestock industry supporters.

The other list is distributed to animal activists. That list *excludes* the names shown above. The fact that HSUS feels compelled to hide from activists the names of egg industry groups backing HR 3798 serves to showcase its glaring duplicity.

As does its current invoking of the European Union (EU).

HSUS's latest justification for supporting the United Egg Producers' federal bill is to make specious comparisons to the EU. Don't fall for it.

Among the many major differences: The EU's directive on cages did *not* nullify any pre-existing laws against egg factory cages – nor did it revoke the voting rights of member states.

From the EU Directive on Cages:

*“Member States **may...maintain or apply** within their territories **provisions for the protection of laying hens which are more stringent** than those envisaged by this Directive.”*

The EU merely established a *floor*. That is, it established a *minimum standard* which explicitly **ALLOWS** better laws to be enacted by individual member states. That is the exact opposite of HR 3798.

The egg industry introduced HR 3798 with the openly stated intention of *preempting* existing anti-cage laws and *prohibiting* any and all future state laws regarding egg-factory cages!

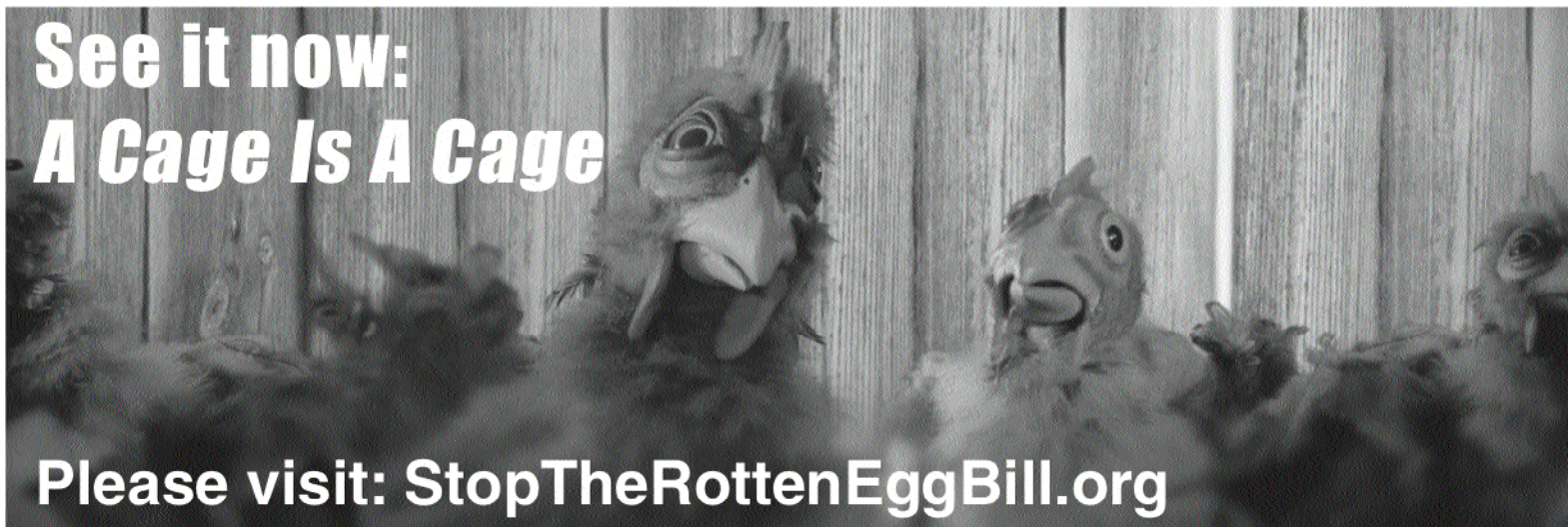
From the Rotten Egg Bill (HR 3798):

*“**Prohibition against additional or different requirements** than federal requirements related to minimum space allotments for housing egg-laying hens in commercial egg production: Requirements...for egg-laying hens housed in commercial egg production **which are in addition to or different** than those made under this chapter **may NOT be imposed by any State or local jurisdiction.**”* [emphasis added]

In stark contrast to the EU's directive, HR 3798 establishes a *ceiling*. That is, it establishes an ironclad legal barrier which explicitly **PROHIBITS** states from enacting *anything* better. Thereby, keeping hens suffering *in* cages – forever.

The position of the Humane Farming Association and other responsible activists and organizations is clear:

- Cruelty is cruelty.
- There is no such thing as an “enriched” battery cage.
- Our state laws and voting rights must ***not*** be given away.



Help stop this outrageous bill that would keep hens in cages *forever* – while taking away *our* voting rights.

Another Chicken Activist’s Perspective on Federal Legal Protection for Hens

by Paul Shapiro

Senior director of farm animal protection, Humane Society of the U.S.

In 1999, United Poultry Concerns rightly lauded the passage of the European Union’s law requiring a phase-in of better treatment of egg-laying hens by 2012, including a switch from barren battery cages to enriched colony cages.

“Europe Bans Battery Hen Cages” was the UPC newsletter’s headline, with the article continuing that caging systems will be improved by reducing stocking density, but that cage-free would have been better. “Historic Day for Hens,” continued another UPC headline about the EU announcement. The article asserted, “It is time for the United States and Canada to climb aboard,” adding “The vote is a victory for the birds and for our struggle on their behalf in a country that, to date, accords to birds and to farmed animals no federal protection at all.”

Fortunately, the United States is now closer to affording these long-suffering birds more federal protection than the European law that UPC lauded, but not if the beef and pork industries get their way and kill HR 3798, the Egg Products Inspection Act of 2012.

HR 3798 would help hens in a number of ways, including: essentially doubling the amount of space each laying hen has (with more space than the EU standard that UPC lauded); requiring that battery egg producers label their cartons as “eggs from caged hens”; banning forced starvation molting, which is still practiced by some egg producers; and requiring perches and nesting areas so that birds can get off of wire flooring and engage in more natural behavior.

Groups like Compassion in World Farming that worked to enact the EU law in 1999—and are striving for cage-free conditions—are also enthusiastic supporters of the proposed U.S. hen law. CIWF notes that the bill is “historic” and a “significant step in the right direction.”

Addressing concerns

The overwhelming opposition to HR 3798 comes from the beef and pork industries, which are desperately trying to kill the bill because they see it as “unconscionable federal overreach.” Their main opposition to the bill stems from their belief that the federal government should not be in the business of passing laws to protect farm animals. They apparently don’t realize that train has left the station, and they conveniently ignore current federal laws relating to transport and slaughter of certain farm animals—though not chickens—including the 28-Hour Law of 1873 and the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958.

It is not just the beef and pork industries that oppose H.R. 3798. The groups that signed on in opposition to H.R. 3798 comprise a veritable “who’s who” of industry groups that oppose farm animal protection, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Turkey Federation, the National Pork Producers Council, the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the American Sheep Industry Association.

ANIMAL PEOPLE readers know that United

Poultry Concerns also opposes the bill, despite the group’s support for the less comprehensive EU law. Even many years after the EU law was enacted, UPC stated that the organization “applauded the banning of battery-hen cages in the European Union.”

The Humane Farming Association and Friends of Animals are two other groups that oppose the bill. HFA claims to be concerned about the fate of California’s Proposition Two ballot measure, approved by voters in 2008, because of HR 3798 would entail federal preemption, but HFA never supported Proposition Two. Friends of Animals actively opposed it.

The animal protection organizations most actively involved in legislative efforts on behalf of laying hens enthusiastically support HR 3798, including all of the groups that funded the Proposition Two campaign. Not only do we know that the big egg production states like Iowa, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Texas, Indiana and others don’t allow ballot measures—and therefore don’t offer much of a pathway to gain legislative improvements for these birds—but there is a serious legal dispute about how Proposition Two will be interpreted in California with very unclear outcomes regarding how it will be resolved.

Many in the California egg industry have been arguing that they want the Proposition Two space standards to be defined as only 93 un-enriched square inches per bird. That is far less space (not to mention the lack of enrichments) than the standards HR 3798 would set, which are 124 to 144 square inches per bird, depending on the size of the bird breed. Some state agricultural officials and animal scientists are making the same arguments, meaning there is a real question as to how Proposition Two will be defined if HR 3798 isn’t enacted.

Unlike Proposition Two, HR 3798 includes environmental enrichment requirements, egg carton labeling requirements, air quality and molting requirements, and more. No matter who wins the legal disputes in California, none of these important provisions will take effect in California or anywhere else if HR 3798 fails. And importantly, given that there is little pathway to securing positive change in the biggest egg production states, having the opportunity to affect the 280 million hens in all 50 states is a unique opportunity.

What are the alternatives?

Those in the animal protection movement who oppose HR 3798 don’t offer an alternative plan for the hundreds of millions of animals this would help. They are not suggesting another legislative way forward for hens, or showing how this bill is worse than having no law at all.

Simply put, no realistic alternatives are offered because none of us are aware of any. The 280 million hens in

Did UPC support “enriched” cages in 1999?

Responding to my March 2012 ANIMAL PEOPLE guest column “A Chicken Activist’s Perspective on the ‘New Deal,’” Humane Society of the U.S. senior director of farm animal protection Paul Shapiro writes that in 1999, United Poultry Concerns “lauded the passage of the European Union’s law requiring a phase-in of better treatment of egg-laying hens by 2012, including a switch from barren battery cages to enriched colony cages.”

The actual facts of our 1999 position are as follows. In the Fall 1999 edition of our quarterly magazine *Poultry Press*, we published a cover article entitled “Europe Bans Battery Hen Cages: ‘A New

SCOTUS on downers

I just received the March 2012 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE in the mail. As always, much of the news is heartbreaking, but the article concerning the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the California law that downed pigs must be euthanized is especially shocking. I don’t mean to be disrespectful toward the Supreme Court, but this kind of immoral decision is an indictment against our society. When humane standards and ethical values are dumped in the interests of industry—any industry—you know that our nation is in trouble. If we cannot get heinous cruelties out of agriculture, what hope is there of more broadly achieving a more just, peaceful and better world? I am appalled and deeply saddened.

I just want you to know how much I respect and appreciate the enormous value of your newspaper. In a vast sea of indifference and ignorance about the plight of animals worldwide, the voice of ANIMAL PEOPLE speaks untold volumes. I look to it as my primary source of information regarding a topic that we as humans will inevitably have to care more about. The status quo of suffering and unspeakable atrocities perpetrated against animals must surely end one day, but until then ANIMAL PEOPLE is a brightly shining beacon that has few peers.

—Lionel Friedberg
Woodland Hills, California



—Karen Davis, PhD, President
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our country aren’t just a statistic. These are real animals who endure real suffering, and we have a chance to help alleviate some of their misery with this bill. Without it, they will be significantly worse off.

While UPC does not offer any potential legislative pathways to help all hens in the egg industry, UPC founder Karen Davis’ March 2012 ANIMAL PEOPLE guest column suggested that people should simply stop eating animal products. Of course you can do that and support this legislation; being vegan does not preclude also reducing the suffering of the billions of animals (over several years) who will be helped by this bill. As a vegan myself for the last 18 years, I am heartened to see the animal movement focusing more on ethical eating options. At the same time, I am heartened that our movement is making so many strides to gain farm animals more legal protection from the worst cruelties, and I would value both approaches if I were a battery hen.

The path forward

Groups like the Humane Society of the United States, Farm Sanctuary, Mercy For Animals, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the American SPCA, and Compassion Over Killing have been waging legislative campaigns to help farm animals on a state by state basis. Now we are in our best position ever to gain federal protection for hundreds of millions of animals every year. This will significantly improve their lives compared to what they are today, and compared to what their prospects will be without HR 3798.

In the words of those who lauded the 1999 EU campaign, this is truly an historic effort, and one that animal advocates should not pass up. It will be very hard to defeat the agribusiness interests lined up against this federal bill, but considering the stakes at hand, we must take on this fight and mobilize our supporters to pass this critical legislation in Congress.

Praises coverage of rats, mice & hens


Thank you for your March 2012 editorial, “Evolving an ethical response to mice & rats.” I can’t recall how long it has been since this subject was comprehensively addressed. Rodents do not fall into the “cute and cuddly” category, and too often suffer in silence.

I also thought you provided an outstanding overview of the pending

federal hen legislation, providing a fair opportunity for both proponents and opponents of the bill to articulate their positions. Treating such a charged subject equitably is not without journalistic challenges, and this synopsis was artfully done in every respect.




—Ed Duviv
San Francisco, California
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“I’m an alley cat ally.”

—Portia de Rossi

Hundreds of thousands of Americans provide care for stray and feral cats and advocate on their behalf. Learn more at www.alleycat.org.



Against HR 3798

Concerning HR 3798, also called "The Rotten Egg Bill," Ed Duvin spoke for me in his "Broken Movement" essay, excerpted in the Humane Farming Association ad on page 5 of the March 2012 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. And so did United Poultry Concerns founder Karen Davis in her guest column "Agreement Raises Flags for Egg-Laying Hens." HR 3798 is the biggest betrayal of animals I've witnessed in my 35 years of activism. Has anyone even read the bill? (It's available online.) Good intentions are not enough.

The statement by Chris Huckleberry, legislative director for the bill's author, Representative Kurt Schrader (D-Oregon), bears repeating: "The Humane Farming Association said the bill nullifies existing state laws that ban or restrict battery cages, deprives voters of the right and ability to pass ballot measures banning cages, and denies state legislatures the ability to enact laws preventing cruelty to laying hens [in standard agricultural practices]. 'Those points are all true,' said Huckleberry."

So, in brief, HR 3798, as written, would enshrine battery cages forever, invalidate California's Proposition Two (which, by the way, did not ban battery cages), and outlaw any future state ballot initiatives to improve the plight of millions of chickens. This is "progress"? This is insane!

Greyhound racing is cruelty

Commenting on the January/February **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial "The Animal Rights Agenda 25 years later," in your March 2012 edition, former World Society for the Protection of Animals director general Peter Davies states that "If it is cruel to animals, I am against it." Bravo! But what does he mean by the word "cruel" exactly?

Davies is "relaxed" about using certain animals in circuses, but rejects dog fighting altogether. He would like that vivisection always be "licensed," but states his firm opposition to fur farming. Fishing is described as a "sport," but puppy farming should be completely "abolished." No rationale and no mea-

Opponents of this misguided legislation include, besides United Poultry Concerns and the Humane Farming Association, Friends of Animals, Farm Animal Reform Movement, Associated Humane Societies, Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and me, amongst others.

People should study the bill carefully, then contact their federal legislators. The chickens (and we) deserve better than this.



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suring stick is given for these varied positions.

Similarly, Davies offers a view of dog racing that seems unanchored in fact or compassion. While racing, greyhounds risk serious injury. The most commonly reported injury is a broken leg, and other reported injuries include broken necks, crushed skulls, puncture wounds, paralysis and seizures. Many times, a dog is killed rather than being offered treatment. Cost-benefit analysis is constantly in place.

Off the track, greyhounds are confined in solitary stacked cages inside barren warehouses that are hidden from public view. They spend up to 23 hours a day in these cages. Surely this is no way to treat a dog.

Since 2001, the number of operating dog tracks in the U.S. has been cut in half. In England, the most well-known dog track, at Walthamstow, closed more than two years ago. The reason for this change is that citizens here and abroad have learned the facts about dog racing. As long as greyhound racing continues, dogs will suffer.



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

Hare coursing

My book *Bad Hare Days*, about the anti-hare coursing campaign in Ireland and its impact on the campaigners, reviewed in the September 2010 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, is now available as a free e-book, from <<http://banbloodsports.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/bad-hare-days2.pdf>>.

I hope that the book's wider availability will assist the campaign to abolish this medieval so-called sport. There are many books promoting blood sports in shops and libraries, but this one promotes the campaign to protect the Irish Hare from the organized savagery of coursing clubs, while also highlighting the sacrifices that campaigners have had to endure over the years for taking up this cause. I hope that campaigners against animal cruelty and exploitation in whatever country may find the book useful or of interest.



—John Fitzgerald
Callan, County Cork
Ireland

Events

April 13-15: Intl. Primate Protection Lg. conf., Summerville, SC. Info: 843-871-2280; <www.ippl.org>.

April 23: Coalition to Ban Horse-Drawn Carriages fundraiser, New York City. Info: <coalition@banhdc.org>.

April 28-29: Ct. Vegetarian & Healthy Living Festival, Hartford. Info: <www.ctvegfest.org/>.

May 5: San Diego Humane Soc. Walk for Animals. Info: 619-250-6801; <kherwehe@sdhumane.org>.

May 12: Oregon Humane Soc. Doggie Dash, Portland, Ore. Info: 503-285-7722; <www.oregonhumane.org>.

May 18: Screening of film Vegucated, Staten Island, New York. Info: <catshark14@aol.com>.

May 19: Bark In The Park, St. Louis. Info: Humane Soc. of Missouri, 314-647-8800; <bark@hsmo.org>.

May 19: Mutt Strut Dog Walk, for Animal Care Sancty. of E. Smithfield, Pa. Info: 570-596-2200 or <rhigam@animalcare-sanctuary.org>.

May 19-20: Farm Sanctuary Country Hoe Down, Orland, Calif. Info: <http://www.farm-sanctuary.org/farm/calendar/ca_hoedown/>.

May 21-24: Animal Care Expo, Las Vegas. Info: <animalsheltering.org/expo>.

May 27: Veggie Pride Parade 2012, New York City. Info: <pamela@vivavegie.org>.

May 31-June 2: Interspecies Enmeshment in Biotech Era conf., U. of Wisc. at Madison. Info: <www.designculturelab.org/2011/10/23/conference-cfp>.

June 21: Universities Fed. for Animal Welfare conf., York, U.K. Info: <www.ufaw.org.uk/animal-welfareconference.php>.

July 4-6: Minding Animals conf., Utrecht/Leusden, The Netherlands. Info: <www.mindinganimals.com>.

(continued on page 9)

Paraplegic Pit Bulls, Catzillas, & the Ones Who Won't Use the Litterbox: Getting to No-Kill by Saving Treatable Dogs and Cats

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Barbara Carr,
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Bonney Brown,
Executive Director,
Nevada Humane Society

Christie Keith,
nationally syndicated
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* The balance of the one-day seminar is subsidized by a generous grant from Maddie's Fund.



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Judge limits Bonneville sea lion cull toll to 30

WASHINGTON D.C.—U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg on March 22, 2012 denied an injunction sought by the Humane Society of the U.S. against a National Marine Fisheries Service decision to allow California sea lions to be culled at the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River to protect endangered spring salmon runs—but Boasberg restricted the proposed killing to 30 sea lions per year, rather than the 92 proposed by

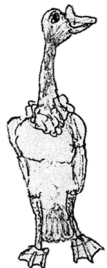
NMFS, and ordered that the sea lions may not be shot.

California sea lions eat under 4% of the Columbia River salmon runs, according to federal studies. But Oregon and Washington have for more than 15 years blamed sea lions for declining catches. HSUS and other organizations have repeatedly blocked or restricted proposed sea lion culls by filing lawsuits invoking the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

HFA & Farm Sanctuary dispute roles in law

The March 2012 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** article "U.S. Supreme Court overturns California law requiring downers to be euthanized" stated that "Farm Sanctuary had in 1994 won passage of a California law intended to prohibit abuse of downed livestock, but the law had been successfully enforced only once." Correction: the 1994 California downer law (PC599f) was activated in CA at least three times before it was amended, including to prosecute the former Hallmark/Westland slaughterhouse in Chino, California after the Humane Society of the U.S. exposed abuses there in 2008.

Farm Sanctuary supported passage of the updated downed animal law later in 2008.



—Gene Baur, President
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Thank you for your March 2012 articles "Federal laying hen standards bill goes before Congress" and "U.S. Supreme Court overturns California law requiring downers to be euthanized." We really appreciate your fairly and accurately representing our perspective and for all the time and work you obviously put into your coverage. However, Farm Sanctuary had no role or participation whatsoever in passing the 2008 downed animal law that former Humane Farming Association general counsel and now California Assembly member Paul Krekorian introduced on HFA's behalf. Farm Sanctuary had no role whatever in drafting the bill, nor did they participate in one single hearing. They did not lobby for the bill in any way, shape, or form while it was being considered in the legislature, and they did not conduct one single mailing in support of HFA's bill. This is understandable. They couldn't very well ask members to help outlaw the transport and marketing of downed animals in California, since for the previous 14 years they had been falsely claiming that they already had.

If Farm Sanctuary or anyone else has led you to believe that they "joined forces" with us in lobbying for the 2008 bill, they are dead wrong, and we would challenge them to find any evidence to back up their claim.

—Brad Miller, National Director
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Hens & horse slaughter

While straightening up my coffee table, I just re-read the Humane Farming Association ad in your January/February 2012 edition entitled "A Veterinarian's Perspective On UEP's Federal Cage Bill." Thank you, Dr. Ned Buyukmihci, for making it crystal clear that the enrichment of hen's cages will not enrich their lives, nor will it relieve their pain and suffering.

That's the final word for me. If you can't believe Dr. Ned, who can you believe?

I have been a lobbyist, lobbyist employer, initiative co-director and initiative co-sponsor in California. One afternoon, after I got a humane bill passed, I remember Doris Day Animal League executive director Holly Hazard saying to me, "Congratulations. You got lucky again." Well, I choose my topics wisely. I work on what I feel will pass at that time, and there is always something important whose time has come. You can also hire pollsters to do that research. I never go after some half-assed compromise law that does nothing, because that's what you will be stuck with long after you could have gotten much more, if you had waited for the appropriate time. Putting hens in bigger cages is a waste of our time and money.

The timing is right for an outright ban on American horses being slaughtered in the U.S. or being taken out of our country to be slaughtered. The U.S. media are ready. The public is ready. Madeleine and Boone Pickens and all their friends are ready. *Carpe diem*. Why are our lead organizations not focusing all their considerable power on getting this job done? It's doable now!



—Sherry E. DeBoer
Political Animals
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Sealing on thin ice

market," Capital Animal Welfare Association director Qin Xiaona told Wei Na of *Global Times*. In absence of other buyers, Newfoundland and Labrador fisheries minister Darin King hinted to John Furlong of CBC, the provincial and/or federal governments may buy and stockpile seal pelts.

Receding spring ice may doom the Atlantic Canada seal hunt more surely than either economic conditions or protest, hinted Duke University researchers David W. Johnston, Matthew T. Bowers, and Ari S. Friedlaender, and International Fund for Animal Welfare scientist David M. Lavigne in a January 2012 paper entitled "The Effects of Climate Change on Harp Seals," published by the online science journal *PLoS ONE*.

Explained the paper, "We tested the effects of short-term climate variability on young-of-the-year harp seal mortality," comparing "sea ice cover in the Gulf of St. Lawrence against stranding rates of dead harp seals in the region during 1992 to 2010."

This, the authors found, "revealed that changes in sea ice may have contributed to the depletion of seals on the east coast of Canada during 1950 to 1972," when the Atlantic Canada seal hunt expanded with little protest, "and to their recovery during 1973 to 2000," when the seal hunt became a globally prominent issue.

"Sea ice cover in all harp seal breeding regions has been declining by as much as 6% per decade" since satellite photos of Gulf of St. Lawrence ice conditions became available in 1979, Johnston *et al* warned.

"Hunting mortality may also affect the population dynamics of harp seals," the authors continued. Up to 389,410 seal pup pelts per year were landed during the 1950-1972 time frame. By contrast, the highest number of pelts landed between 1973 and 1982 was 202,169. The offshore seal hunt was then suspended for a decade. The highest number of landed pelts from 1983 to 1995 was 94,046. By 2005, however, the toll had increased to 365,971.

"It should be noted that in some regions," the authors wrote, "the magnitude of hunting mortality has been lower than the level of natural mortality reported in poor ice years." Concluded the study authors, "Harp seals...are well suited to deal with natural shifts in climate, including the effects on sea ice conditions. However, these animals may not be well adapted to absorb the cumulative effects of human influences, short-term climate variability, and global warming."

"Other ice-associated seals are also likely to be vulnerable to these combined effects," the authors warned. "In particular, hooded seals may be at risk. The Northeast Atlantic stock, which breeds off the east coast of Greenland, has declined by 85-90% over the last 40-60 years, prompting a listing of this species as *Vulnerable* on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species."

Pol speaks out

The Conservative government, the Liberal opposition, and the leadership of the second opposition party, the New Democrats, have remained adamantly supportive of the seal hunt. Only one Canadian government has ever been elected without majority support from the four Atlantic Canadian provinces. That was the government headed by Brian Mulroney, 1984-1993. Mulroney was a Quebec member of the Progressive-Conservative Party, which was later merged into Harper's Conservative Alliance to form the present Conservative Party.

But Newfoundland and Labrador member of Parliament Ryan Cleary, a New Democrat, on January 24, 2012 broke ranks with the seal hunt defenders.

"Part of our history is also whaling, for example, and the day came when whaling stopped," Cleary told the CBC. "Now, is that day coming with the seal hunt? It just may be. I may be shot for talking about this, and for saying this, but it's a question we all have to ask," Cleary said.

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Raids on wildlife rescue charities put Thai wildlife agency chief under the spotlight

BANGKOK—Making a show of belatedly cracking down on wildlife trafficking, especially commerce in elephants to work at tourist camps, Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife & Plant Conservation chief Damrong Phidet entered April 2012 “under attack from both the goodies and the baddies,” assessed *The Nation* sub-editor and Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand board member Jim Pollard.

“The owners of camps along the Burma border and others in Surin, some of them thought to be deeply involved in elephant smuggling, have talked about blocking highways and petitioning to try to get Damrong Phidet removed,” Pollard continued. Also seeking Damrong Phidet’s removal were more than 58,250 petitioners declaring support for Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand founder Edwin Wiek and Elephant Nature Park founder Sangduan Lek Chailert, whose animal charities were the targets of apparent retaliatory raids by wildlife officials in February 2012.

The raids began after Wiek in a January 2012 op-ed column for the *Bangkok Post* accused Damrong Phidet’s administration of trying to cover up the killing of six wild elephants at the Kaeng Krachan and Kui Buri national parks. Damrong Phidet alleged that the six elephants might have been killed to obtain meat for wealthy visitors to Phuket resorts. “Looking at restaurants catering to rich foreigners visiting Thailand might be looking away from the real problem: the killing of elephants to take elephant babies from the forests to be trained for tourism,” Wiek responded. Sangduan Lek Chailert supported Wiek’s charges.

“There have been claims that up to

half of the young tuskers in Thailand have been smuggled in alongside fake surrogate mothers who already have identity papers,” Pollard wrote. “A loophole in the law, which does not require babies to be registered until they are eight years old, has aided this trade.”

Alleging wildlife permit violations, Department of National Parks personnel in eight separate raids seized 103 animals from Wildlife Friends and seized more in four raids on the Elephant Nature Park. But if Damrong Phidet thought holding the animals for ransom would buy silence, he misjudged his critics.

“Wiek has fought intimidation before, in a long-running battle with a large tourist facility in Bangkok, found with dozens of smuggled orangutans, over 50 of whom were eventually flown back to Borneo,” Pollard recalled.

Meanwhile, when the Department of National Parks moved against the Elephant Nature Park, Pollard wrote, “local reporters and TV crews were on hand to challenge parks officials. Why were they harassing one of the country’s most admired wildlife activists, who operates an acclaimed facility which is just a sanctuary—a retirement home where elephants roam free?”

Recounted Sangduan Lek Chailert, “Initially, the DNP officials came to us expecting to find a camp with over 70 illegal elephants and a breeding facility which trafficked to China. Of course they found only 35 elephants, mostly old or injured in some way. Yet even then, on the second and third raids, they still wanted to confiscate our handicapped elephants, and threatened to check our property and disturb our animals living here.”

Pressured to act against more plausi-

ble suspects, the Department of National Parks on March 8, 2012 raided a home in Sara Buri where 300 to 400 animals were said to have been kept illegally. “Wildlife trader Thanawat ‘Ord Bang Kluay’ Boonpherm, who was arrested on February 4, pointed the authorities to the house, belonging to Si Sa Ketnative Yutthasak Sutthinon, 28,” reported *The Nation*. “Located on an isolated plot 20 kilometres off the Mitraparp Highway, it was barbed-wired, guarded by dogs, and had 30 security cameras, linked via Internet to be watched from Bangkok,” *The Nation* said.

Within the next week the Department of National Parks seized two juvenile elephants in a series of raids on three elephant tourism attractions in Phuket. Damrong Phidet took the opportunity to recommend that elephant calves should be registered at three months of age.

But Wiek was unimpressed. Of the Sara Buri raid, Wiek commented in *The Nation*, “A notorious wildlife trader was busted. The man had no zoo license and could not provide any legal documents for almost 300 animals, including 13 white lions, five tigers, two baby orangutans, two red pandas, 30 marmoset monkeys, camels, and 30 more species of protected wildlife. Eight days after the raid all of the animals are still there.”

Meanwhile, Wiek continued, “Raids on elephant tourist camps around the country made headline news. The DNP visited one elephant camp in Phuket and confiscated two baby elephants. Two camps in Sai Yok, Kanchanaburi were raided and 19 elephants were taken. From raiding just these few camps it was clear that claims that a huge number of captive elephants are without proper paper-

work and taken from the wild ae true. Damrong Phidet said it was clear that probably hundreds of elephants were obtained illegally around the country, and vowed to uphold the law to the maximum extent. He stated that under his leadership the DNP would enforce the law without exception, no matter who they are or whom they know.

“So here we are,” Wiek summarized, “more than a month after the first raids against the Elephant Nature Park Foundation and Wildlife Friends. But Damrong Phidet now refuses to further raid and inspect elephant camps country-wide, even though he knows that they house hundreds of illegally obtained elephants. As more insult to injury, he even refuses to confiscate almost 300 illegally imported and obtained wild animals from an illegal wildlife trader who has openly said he imports and exports wildlife for zoos.”

The Department of National Parks countered with a three-page recitation of the alleged permit violations at the Elephant Nature Park Foundation and Wildlife Friends, distributed to Thai consulates around the world for use in responding to letters of protest. Wiek posted both the letter of allegations and his own relatively brief rebuttal to the Wildlife Friends web site.

Because both the Elephant Nature Park and Wildlife Friends have always been open to visitors, Wiek pointed out, and because they have posted the stories of most of the animals in their care to their web sites and Facebook pages, soon after each animal’s arrival, there is no mystery about either charity’s operations, nor about where the animals came from. The same cannot be said of most other holders of captive wildlife in Thailand.

More events

July 11-13: Arts & Sci. of Human/Animal Interaction conf., Cambridge, U.K. Info: <www.isaz-2012.com>.

July 21: Wine & Whiskers Event for the Animal Care Sanctuary of E. Smithfield, Pa. Info: 570-596-2200 or <rhigam@animalcaresanctuary.org>.

August 2-5: AR 2012 conf., Washington D.C. Info: <www.arconference.org>.

Sept. 4-8: Intl. Conf. on Dog Population Management, York, U.K. Info: <DPM2012@fera.gsi.gov.uk>; <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/dogs2012/index.cfm>.

Sept. 20-21: Michigan No Kill Conf., Lansing. Info: 877-387-7257; <conference@michiganpetfund.org>.

Sept. 28: World Rabies Day. Info: <webmaster@worldrabiesday.org>.

Oct. 16-18: Intl. Companion Animal Welf. Conf., Vravona, Greece. Info: <international@dogstrust.org.uk>.

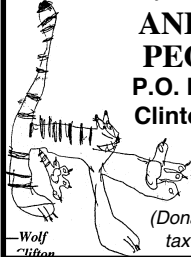
October 16-18: No More Homeless Pets conf., Las Vegas. Info: 435-644-2001, x4478; <conferences@best-freinds.org>.

November 16-18: India for Animals conf., Goa. Info: <helen@fiapo.org>.

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Cattle are landed in Africa after Red Sea stranding, but camels are stuck due to foot-and-mouth outbreak

CAIRO—Fear of foot-and-mouth disease left thousands of camels stranded as of March 31, 2012 aboard a livestock transport ship in the Red Sea, the *Egypt Independent* and *Al-Masry Al-Youm* reported.

Thousands more camels were “stuck in a Suez quarry,” the *Egypt Independent* and *Al-Masry Al-Youm* said. In addition, the Egyptian agriculture ministry prevented the import of more than 10,000 camels from Sudan on March 27, 2012, the *Egypt Independent* and *Al-Masry Al-Youm* added.

A new strain of foot-and-mouth disease called SAT-2, against which most existing vaccine stocks were ineffective, had already hit more than 60,000 animals in Egypt, killing 10,000, said the news portal *Green Prophet*. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Association warned that 6.3 million buffalo and cattle and 7.5 million sheep and goats might be at risk of infection. “In 2012, the Eid will be celebrated at the end of August,” observed the FAO, “which implies an increased risk of virus dispersal across the region via increased movements of animals, particularly lambs, during the months of May through July.” A variety of human service charities and the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends reportedly tried to vaccinate livestock ahead of the fast-moving outbreak, but most used the ineffective older vaccines.

“An [earlier] outbreak of SAT-2 in Libya caused 11% mortality there,” summarized ProMed, the online information exchange operated by the International Society for Infectious Diseases. SAT-2 is believed to have reached Egypt with cattle smuggled from Libya. “The Egyptian authorities are trying to obtain appropriate vaccines abroad and claim that tighter measures are being undertaken to prevent the spread of the disease,” ProMed said. “Steps are also being undertaken to produce the relevant vaccines.”


The *Egypt Independent* on March 7, 2011 published a photo of dead calves “thrown in front of the headquarters of Gharbiya governorate, during a villagers’ protest.” A similar photo appeared a week later in *Al Wafd*. “Throwing FMD-infected animals in front of government buildings demonstrates a deplorable level of biosecurity,” said ProMed cofounder Jack Woodall.


The shipload of camels was the second large livestock cargo in less than a month to be stranded in the Red Sea after being refused permission to land the animals in Egypt. Animals Australia on March 1, 2012 received an anonymous tip that the *Gracia Del Mar*, originally carrying 5,600 cattle, had lost 2,750 en route from Brazil, and was not allowed to land the survivors.

Built in 1981, recently converted to carry livestock, after reported sale to “Syrian interests,” the *Gracia Del Mar* is registered to Bay Route Shipping, of Panama. Reports from various maritime and Egyptian sources agreed that the *Gracia Del Mar* experienced ventilation failure. Instead of stopping for repairs at Gibraltar, which would have prolonged the animals’ time on board, the *Gracia Del Mar* pushed on, according to this version.

Compassion in World Farming on March 18, 2011 thanked “supporters who sent 40,000 emails in 40 hours to the Brazilian and Egyptian authorities and the World Animal Health Organization,” resulting in the surviving cattle eventually being offloaded into small boats and distributed along the coast of Africa, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was told in an unconfirmed report. “We are told that the *Gracia Del Mar* was hit by a freezing snowstorm off the coast of Algeria and thousands of the animals succumbed to the cold,” CIWF said. Skeptical of that, livestock shipping experts at the Animal Transport Association conference in Vancouver told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that cattle deaths from exposure on shipboard are practically unheard of.

This was the sixth largest known loss of livestock in shipment to the Middle East. About 5,500 sheep died aboard the *Cormo Express* in 2003, after Kuwait and Saudi Arabia refused to allow the ship to unload, on the claim that the sheep were diseased. The surviving 44,000 sheep were eventually donated to Eritrea. The *Danny F II* sank off Lebanon in 2009 with 18,000 cattle and 10,000 sheep aboard. The *UNICEB*, carrying 67,000 sheep, burned and sank in 1996, as did the *Farid Fares* in 1980 with 40,605 sheep aboard. Also in 1980, the *Shaddia* sank in the Red Sea with 12,000 sheep aboard.





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San Diego, CA

Dear animal lover,

If you are merely an animal “liker” don’t bother reading on, but if you truly love animals the way that I do and you don’t like what you see in the animal welfare world, then please read on.

I don’t know if you are an employee who cares for animals at a shelter, or if you are a volunteer who gives of your time and energy to walk dogs or clean litter boxes, or perhaps you are a board member for an animal organization, OR maybe you just can’t stand to see another beautiful animal killed because of bureaucracy and red tape – if you fit any of these categories then I am talking to you today.

I have traveled around the world working to change animal welfare and one thing I have learned is that our animal friends will continue to die if we don’t stand up and say that “enough is enough” and the old way of running an animal organization is no longer acceptable. Visiting organizations that still have a 90% euthanasia rate should be unheard of in the 21st century, but unfortunately it is a very real scenario that I see several times a year across the country.

With a busy schedule running Helen Woodward Animal Center and traveling to animal organizations in need, why would I start an international conference? The answer is simple - I am providing the first ever International Animal Center Education Services (ACES) conference because I don’t like what I see in animal welfare.

This conference is not about clinical terminology and kinder ways to perform euthanasia - it is about innovation, inspiration, excitement and most importantly providing tangible programs and ideas to create a better tomorrow for our animal friends. It is about changing perceptions of animal welfare and those of us who work in this industry, so that we can be treated as dedicated professionals instead of second-class citizens.

Our speakers will not only give you a whole new way to look at aspects of animal welfare, marketing, digital marketing, social media, fund raising, training, and more but they will leave you thinking about how these new concepts can breathe life into adoptions programs around the country and the world that are old, stale, outdated, and killing millions of domestic animals annually.


We are creating this conference to provide something that NO other organization is offering – tools to save lives today and end euthanasia tomorrow. We can do it if we truly love animals the way we say we do.

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Yours for a More Humane World,

Michael M. Arms, President/CEO

animalcenter.org/ACESConference



HBO drama series Luck runs out but racing injuries go on (from page 1)

Milch and Mann “refused to tell us anything about the first two horses, so with the help of caring whistleblowers, we unearthed the disturbing evidence ourselves. Both were retired racehorses who wouldn’t understand that when they went through the starting gate on a race-track, it was just for a TV show and not a real race. Outlaw Yodeler was a 5-year-old who hadn’t raced in months and was apparently so sore that he was given a potent cocktail of muscle relaxant and anti-inflammatory and painkilling drugs, including Butorphanol, a painkiller so strong that it’s often used as an analgesic for horses undergoing some kinds of surgery. The other horse, whose name we believe is Marc’s Shadow, was 8 years old and arthritic and had not raced in nearly four years. Both horses were ‘raced’ twice in one day, something even fit thoroughbreds would never be subjected to,” PETA alleged. “Both horses broke down after the second run.”

Responded American Humane Association senior vice president Karen Rosa, who heads the AHA film and television unit, “Although retired, some as recently as 2011,” the horses used in *Luck* “were all soundness checked to run. Also, running for filming was not as fast as in a real race, nor as long. Horses ran from three-eighths to a quarter mile at low speeds, never ran more than twice per day, and ran only after passing daily sound-

ness checks by licensed veterinarians.” The AHA on-set representatives “made sure horses were adequately rested between all running sequences,” Rosa told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The first accident, Rosa said, “occurred following the last shot of the last day. At this time, there was no indication as to whether the show would go beyond a pilot. Due to the second death the following year, while filming the seventh episode, we insisted that filming cease until enhanced protocols were in place, including radiographing the horses’ legs. Some horses were pulled and not allowed to do running scenes. Those horses were then only used as background. For the past year there were no further incidents.”

The third horse who died on-set, Rosa said, “had just finished a soundness check and was passed by the veterinarian. The horse was feeling good and in walking back to the barn, reared up—not uncommon for horses to do—but lost his footing, flipped, and landed on his crown. The attending veterinarian assessed that the head trauma was too severe to be treated and made the difficult but humane decision to euthanize the horse. We immediately insisted that filming with horses cease until a full and comprehensive investigation was completed. This is standard procedure when an animal dies on the set.

“Although the three deaths were unprecedented for a television series,” Rosa noted, “in the sport of horseracing, including steeplechase, far more horses are injured and killed during a year of activity than all species of animals combined in the film industry in a similar period.”

Indeed, seven of the eight horses who started the eighth race at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town, West Virginia fell on February 29, 2012. “The next and final race was canceled, not just because it took so long to clear the track, but also because too few jockeys were available or willing to ride,” recounted *New York Times* horse racing writer Joe Drape and investigative writers Walt Bogdanich, Dara L. Miles, and Griffin Palmer in a March 24, 2012 report that put the *Luck* calamities into perspective.

“On average, 24 horses die each

week at racetracks across America,” the *New York Times* team discovered. “Many are inexpensive horses racing with little regulatory protection. The *Times* found that horses in claiming races,” the lowest level of racing, “have a 22% greater chance of breaking down or showing signs of injury than horses in higher grade races.

“In 2008,” the *New York Times* team recalled, “after a Kentucky Derby horse, Eight Belles, broke two ankles on national television and was euthanized, Congress extracted promises from the racing industry to make the sport safer. But a computer analysis of data from more than 150,000 races, along with injury reports, drug test results and interviews, shows an industry still mired in a culture of drugs and lax regulation and a fatal breakdown rate that remains far worse than in most of the world.”

According to the *New York Times* team, “Trainers at U.S. tracks have been caught illegally drugging horses 3,800 times,” since the Eight Belles fatality, “a figure that vastly understates the problem because only a small percentage of horses are actually tested. During the same time frame, “6,600 horses broke down or showed signs of injury. Since 2009, the incident rate has not only failed to go down, it has risen slightly,” the *Times* team charged. U.S. race tracks from 2009 through 2011 averaged 5.2 horse injuries per 1,000 starts, the *New York Times* analysis learned. “By contrast,” the *Times* team wrote, “Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto, which year after year has one of the lowest breakdown rates in North America, had an incident rate of only 1.4” per 1,000 starts.

The *Times* reporters linked the high U.S. race horse breakdown rate to the introduction of casino gambling at race tracks, “resulting in higher purses but also providing an incentive for trainers to race unfit horses.”

The *Times* team found that five of the six tracks with the highest incident rates in 2011 were “racinos,” as race tracks with casino operations are called. The two worst were Ruidoso, 14.1 horse injuries per 1,000 starts, and Zia Park, 13.3—the latter after management spent \$80,000 to resurface the track after

the track had 11.9 horse injuries per 1,000 starts in 2010.

The *Times* team noted that “New Mexico recently became the first state to temporarily ban all horses from racing on clenbuterol, a drug that aids respiration, but has been widely abused because it can build muscle.” But the *Times* writers also pointed out that the New Mexico racing commission has “had its embarrassments. One former investigator faces trial on charges of stealing horses while working at the commission. A trainer’s doping violation was dismissed because the assistant attorney general handling the case neglected to show up in court. And the commission had to drop charges against Ramon O. Gonzalez Sr. for drugging 10 horses because it forgot to file the proper paperwork, according to the state attorney general’s office.” In a separate case, Gonzalez, his son, and his nephew were in January 2010 indicted by an Albuquerque federal grand jury after Ramon O. Gonzalez Sr. “was arrested while pulling a horse trailer that the authorities said was carrying 26 kilograms of cocaine and 500 pounds of marijuana,” the *Times* team noted.

The *New York Times* report came four months after *Vancouver Sun* reporter Larry Pynn investigated the deaths of 20 horses in 20 months at Hastings Race course in Vancouver. “Thirteen horses were euthanized after leg, shoulder or pelvis fractures,” Pynn learned. “Other deaths were related to medical problems such as pulmonary edema and hemorrhage, perforated intestinal ulcers, foot infections, and brain disease. One horse no longer used for racing had a colon tear,” found necropsies done by the British Columbia Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford.

Thoroughbreds race only about once a month, Great Canadian Gaming Corporation vice-president Howard Blank told Pynn. But, Blank said, the upper body weight of a thoroughbred race horse is “so massive compared with the little sticks it runs on,” that “It’s like putting a Corvette engine in a Volkswagen. It has amazing speed and power, but if we kept doing it without maintaining meticulous care, the Volkswagen would disintegrate as it was running.”

—Merritt Clifton



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Rhino horn trafficking bust nets pro rodeo champion Wade Steffen

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Rhino horn trafficking and rodeo intersected in February 2012 with the arrest of 2010 All-American ProRodeo Finals steer wrestling co-champion Wade Steffen, 32, in Hico, Texas, along with alleged California co-conspirators Jimmy Kha, 49, Mai Nguyen, 41, Kha’s son Felix, 26, and Jin Zhao Feng, a Chinese citizen who allegedly arranged the transport of the horns to China.

Steffen, the Khas, and Nguyen were charged with rhino horn trafficking in violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act. The Lacey Act prohibits interstate traffic in protected species.

Steffen, his wife Molly, and his mother Merrily Steffen “were stopped by Transportation Security Administration officials at Long Beach Airport on February 9, 2012 with \$337,000 in their carry-on luggage.”

Ivory sales boost elephant poaching—as predicted

GENEVA, JOHANNESBURG—Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species secretary-general John Scanlon on February 29, 2012 reportedly expressed “grave concern” that as many as 450 elephants were poached in Bouba Ndjida National Park, northern Cameroon, during the first 60 days of 2012. Earlier, the Washington D.C.-based Environmental Investigation Agency reported the poaching of as many as 50 elephants a month in the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania.

Elephant poaching appears to have accelerated following a record number of seizures of illegally trafficked elephant tusks, worldwide, in 2011, including 13 seizures of more than a metric ton of ivory, up from six in 2010. The tusks confiscated in 2011 came from at least 2,500 elephants. “Some of the seized tusks came from old stockpiles, the elephants having been killed years ago,” reported Michelle Faul of Associated Press. But the leakage from presumably closely guarded ivory stockpiles indicated high-level corruption in the nations of origin.

Ivory poaching exploded across Africa after CITES in July 2008 authorized Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to sell a combined total of 119 metric tons of elephant ivory to China.

“Allowing new ivory to be imported into China will stimulate demand and create loopholes for illegal ivory to be laundered into the legal market,” predicted International Fund for Animal Welfare program director Peter Pueschel, citing experience with previous one-time sales of stockpiled ivory in the years since CITES suspended international sales of elephant ivory in 1989.

Kenya-based ivory trade investigators Esmond Martin and Lucy Vigne found in mid-2011 that ivory sales in China had soared, as predicted. “Not only is the demand soaring, but 63% of the ivory is illegal and law enforcement is minimal,” summarized Mary Powys, spokesperson for the Elephant Family, of London.

“In the past seven years the number of ivory carving factories [in China] has increased from 9 to 36, and ivory product sales offices have grown from 31 to 137,” reported *People’s Daily* on December 14, 2011. “A complete ban [on ivory sales] is the only way to stop the killing of innocent wildlife and end the deadly ivory trade for good,” *People’s Daily* concluded, citing “many officials and animal activists.”

IFAW European Union director Lesley O’Donnell attributed the Cameroon poaching to “incursions by armed gangs from Sudan, to raise money for arms purchases for use in regional conflicts—particularly ongoing unrest in Sudan and in the Central

reported Kenneth R. Weiss of the *Los Angeles Times*. Photos retrieved from a camera carried by Merrily Steffen included images of “\$100 bills bound with rubber bands” and “rhino horns being weighed on scales,” according to the arrest warrant for Wade Steffen. Molly and Merrily Steffen were not arrested.

“During their probe,” Weiss wrote, “wildlife officials intercepted at least 18 shipments of rhino horns from the Steffen family and the owner of a Missouri auction house that trades in live and stuffed exotic animals, court records show. The items were repackaged and sent along to Jimmy Kha’s export business or Nguyen’s nail shop, then presumably smuggled out of the country, according to law enforcement sources and court records. Investigators tracked the movements of hundreds of thousands of dollars through bank wire transfers,” Weiss summarized, “including to African Republic.”

Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues hinted in a March 14, 2012 bulletin that the next elephant massacre might occur in the Chiredzi River Conservancy. “Despite numerous reports and photos supplied to the authorities, destruction of the conservancy by illegal settlers continues unabated,” Rodrigues wrote. “It is now alleged that the settlers are putting together a petition to present to Parliament requesting that all the elephants be shot as they are destroying their crops. This is a very strange request in view of the fact that crops can’t be grown in this arid, unarable area.”

accounts in China.”

The suspects were rounded up during the last weekend in February 2012 in raids by more than 150 federal agents and local law enforcement on homes and businesses in a dozen states. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service spokesperson Ed Grace indicated that additional arrests would follow. Grace said the raids seized 37 rhino horns, more than \$1 million in cash, and about \$1 million in valuables.

“Steffen is accused of buying old rhino horns around the country and selling them to Kha since January 2010,” summarized Barry Schlachter of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*. “The alleged transactions apparently occurred between rodeos, which had earned him \$247,000 over a career dating to 2006.”

Steffen also trained camels to be ridden. Steffen in March 2011 “was attacked and badly bitten by a camel,” Schlachter wrote.

The camel “broke two bones in his left arm, tore two arteries,” and damaged nerves in Steffen’s hand and fingers,” Molly Steffen reportedly posted to Facebook.

“He has not competed in a rodeo since then, and may not for a while, as the legal process runs its course,” offered Bruce Gietzen of KXXV-TV News in Waco.

Separate but simultaneous alleged rhino horn trafficking cases brought the arrests of antique dealer David Hausman in New York City and alleged rhino horn buyer Amir Even Ezra in New Jersey.

South African National Parks chief executive David Mabunda on March 1, 2012 acknowledged the arrests of four Kruger National Park staff for alleged involvement in

rhino horn trafficking. At least 43 rhinos were poached in Kruger National Park, among 110 rhinos were poached throughout South Africa, during the first 90 days of 2012. A record 448 rhinos poached in South Africa during 2011, up from 333 in 2010, 122 in 2009, 83 in 2008, and just 13 in 2007.

“The number of rhinoceros killed in Zimbabwe parks decreased to 23 in 2011, from 30 in 2010,” reported Peter Matambanadzo of the Harare *Herald*—but perhaps less because of improved anti-poaching law enforcement than because of a dwindling Zimbabwean rhino population.

China, though the primary destination of trafficked rhino horn worldwide, banned the import and medicinal use of rhino horns in 1993, in compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which has forbidden trade in rhino horns since 1976.

Nonetheless, a Chinese firm called Long Hui Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. “has imported rhinos from South Africa to farms in Hainan and Yunnan provinces, with the goal of building a ‘rhino industrial base,’” but has not yet started to sell the horns, reported Erin Conway-Smith of the *Global Post* on February 29, 2012. According to *Peninsula Metropolis Daily*, published in Qingdao, China, “Rhinos have fallen ill from poor living conditions, the animals won’t breed, and when student activists got wind of Long Hui’s secretive scheme recently, they wrote about it on Weibo, a Twitter-like microblogging site. The post was quickly shared thousands of times by outraged animal lovers,” Smith recounted.

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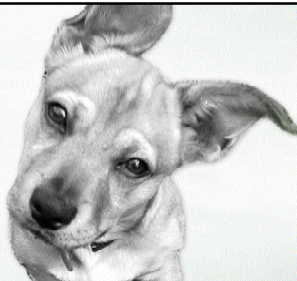
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Iowa & Utah pass ag-gag laws *(from page 1)*

“a serious misdemeanor.” A “second or subsequent conviction is “an aggravated misdemeanor.”

The Utah and Iowa bills both seek to circumvent multiple precedents established between 1992 and 2002 in cases involving use of undercover exposés by the ABC television magazine show *Prime Time Live*.

Food Lion precedent

The first and most prominent of the cases against ABC was brought by the Food Lion supermarket chain. *Prime Time Live* reported, summarized Freedom Forum First Amendment Center executive director Kenneth A. Poulson, after the 1999 final appellate ruling in the case, “that some Food Lion stores engaged in highly questionable food handling, including the repackaging and sale of spoiled meat. Documentation for the report was obtained by two ABC reporters who applied for jobs with Food Lion and taped company employees with hidden video cameras. Food Lion chose not to challenge the truthfulness of the reporting. Instead, Food Lion attacked the gathering of the news, charging that by lying on their applications and providing fake references, the ABC reporters engaged in fraud and trespass.”

Food Lion won a jury award of \$5.5 million in 1997. The Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1999 ruled that the ABC reporters “were indeed guilty of trespass and of violating a breach of loyalty as Food Lion employees,” explained Poulson, but reduced the award to \$2.00.

The court wrote that the use of “run-of-the-mill torts” to attempt “an end-run around First Amendment strictures is foreclosed.”

Prime Time Live also won cases brought against reporters who used a hidden camera and false identities in a 1994 undercover investigation of a medical laboratory, and against use of a hidden camera in an exposé of racial profiling by three New Jersey police officers.

The Utah law is essentially intended as a preventive measure, as few undercover video exposés of factory farming have been produced in Utah. But the Iowa law was passed after multiple exposés of Iowa agribusiness won national notice.

In May and June 2009, for instance, Mercy for Animals videotaped how unwanted male chicks were culled and killed at a hatchery in Spencer, Iowa. Hy-Line North America admitted to “animal welfare policy violations” at the hatchery three months later, after undergoing an independent audit. In February and March 2010, then-Humane Society of the U.S. investigator Cody Carlson worked for 15 days at Rose Acre Farms egg-laying hen hatcheries in Winterset, Stuart, and Guthrie Center, Iowa, and for 10 days at a Rembrandt Enterprises egg farm in Thompson, Iowa. At each facility Carlson documented rough treatment, hens entangled in cage wire so that they could not reach food and water, hens with untreated injuries, and hens who had been dead for many days but remained in cages among live birds. In June 2011, Mercy for Animals released undercover video of sows in gestation stalls, piglets enduring castration and tail-clipping without anesthesia at an Iowa Select Farms piggery in Kamrar, Iowa—and showed workers tossing piglets on several occasions. The Safeway and Kroger grocery chains suspended purchasing pork products from Iowa Select Farms, pending internal investigation.

Then, between May 23 and August 1, 2011, Mercy for Animals investigators at Sparboe Farms laying hen facilities in Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado collected video of comparably shocking conditions plus unwanted male chicks being culled by live maceration. Aired on November 18, 2011 by the ABC television programs *Good Morning America*, *ABC World News Tonight*, and *20/20*, the Mercy for Animals video reportedly cost Sparboe Farms customers including McDonald’s Restaurants, Target, Wal-Mart, Cargill Kitchen Solutions, and SuprValu Inc.

The Mercy for Animals video was broadcast two days after Sparboe was cited by the Food and Drug Administration

for 13 “serious” and “significant” violations of sanitation requirements at five different sites, disclosed ABC News reporters Cynthia Galli, Angela Hill, and Rym Momtaz.

“The intent of the Iowa bill is simple: shield animal agribusiness from public scrutiny by punishing whistleblowers and protecting animal abusers,” wrote Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle to Iowa governor Branstad.

Elaborated former HSUS investigator Carlson, in a guest blog for *The Atlantic*, “The law lets factory farms and slaughterhouses screen out potential whistleblowers simply by asking on job applications, ‘Are you affiliated with a news organization, labor union, or animal protection group?’ Two years ago, I had to answer a similar question. If the ag gag law had been in effect then, I might be writing this article from a cell. Ag gag laws pretend to be about preventing ‘fraud,’” Carlston continued, “but they protect guys like Billy Jo Gregg, a dairy worker who was convicted of six counts of animal cruelty in 2010 after being caught punching, kicking, and stabbing restrained cows and calves at an Ohio farm. They protect the North Carolina Department of Agriculture official who recently pled guilty to obstruction of justice after tipping a Butterball turkey plant off to a police investigation. The investigation, based on Mercy for Animals’ undercover footage, resulted in seven arrests for felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty. Ag gag laws also protect the slaughterhouses that regularly send sick and dying animals into our food supply. But they don’t protect the USDA inspector who had his job threatened after reporting violations. That inspector had to tip off an HSUS investigator, and only then was the plant closed.”

Ag-gag legislation of any sort “has only one purpose: to hide factory-farming conditions from a public that is beginning to think seriously about animal rights and the way food is produced,” editorialized *The New York Times* in 2011.

“These bills share common features,” the *Times* continued. “Their definition of agriculture is overly broad; they include puppy mills, for instance. They treat undercover investigators and whistle-blowers as if they were agro-terrorists, determined to harm livestock or damage facilities. They would criminalize reporting on crop production as well. And they are supported by the big guns of industrial agriculture: Monsanto, the Farm Bureau, the associations that represent pork producers, dairy farmers and cattlemen, as well as poultry, soybean, and corn growers.”

“I think this is incredibly bad public policy for a nonexistent problem that is being worked across the country by big ag that doesn’t want to play by the rules and has had it their way for a long time,” Iowa state senator Matt McCoy of Des Moines told Jason Clayworth of the *Des Moines Register*.

Agreed state senator Herman Quirmbach, of Ames, “Passing this bill will put a big red question mark on every pork chop, chicken wing, steak and egg produced in this state, because it will raise the question of what do you have to hide?”

Following the money

The Iowa law was pushed through by state senator Joe Seng of Davenport. “The National Institute on Money in State Politics has found that almost 10% of the \$8.9 million that Governor Branstad raised in his most recent campaign came from the agriculture industry,” noted Clayworth. “Almost \$8,000—more than one-fourth of all the campaign money raised in 2010 by Seng came from the ag sector, according to the nonprofit, nonpartisan watchdog group.”

State representative Annette Sweeney of Alden, “who was one of the main backers of the bill last year, received about \$8,300 from agricultural interests,” Clayworth continued. Lee Hein of Monticello, vice chair of the Iowa House Agriculture Committee, “received more than \$12,500, and Iowa Senate Democratic Leader Michael Gronstal of Council Bluffs received more than \$20,500, records show,” wrote Clayworth. Contributing \$152,000 to Branstad’s campaign were Eldon and Regina Roth, founders of Iowa Beef Products in Sioux City. The Iowa Farm Bureau donated \$53,787, Iowa Select Farms cofounder Debra Hansen of West Des Moines donated \$50,000, Terra Industries chief executive Michael Bennett, of Sioux City, donated \$40,000, Gerald Weiner of International Cattle Sales of South Dakota sent \$40,000, and the Iowa Corn Growers Association chipped in \$15,000.

Seng received \$2,500 from John Deere & Co., \$2,500 from the Iowa Corn Growers Association, \$1,000 from the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association, \$750 from Kraft Foods, and \$500 from the Iowa Grocery Industry Association, Clayworth reported.

The agrochemical corporate giant Monsanto also reportedly backed the ag-gag bill. “Monsanto has more facil-

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ities in Iowa than in any other state, with more than 25 offices,” explained Food & Environment Reporting Network founder Tom Laskawy in a column for *Grist*. The Iowa law would protect Monsanto’s seed houses, pesticide manufacturing plants, and research facilities,” Laskawy wrote. “That’s a bit ironic, given that Monsanto investigators are notorious for trespassing on farmers’ property and going to extreme measures to produce evidence of seed patent infringement.”

Something to gag about

That wasn’t the only irony. On March 28, 2012 the *Des Moines Register* revealed that “West Des Moines police are investigating whether criminal charges are warranted in the case of a Farm Bureau employee behaving badly. A Farm Bureau vice president told authorities that one of the agency’s employees had been caught on video urinating on the office chairs of four female co-workers. The suspect, a 59-year-old man from Des Moines, was fired. The man had worked in the information technology department and had access to all computers and the employee database, Farm Bureau officials told the police. Police documents said the man would look up employee photos in the database. He ‘would pick out the attractive females and then on off-hours, he would come into work, go to their desk and urinate on their chairs.’ Employees first started complaining about stains on their chairs in October 2011. Surveillance cameras were installed in February,” just as the bill meant to thwart hidden video operations began to move through the Iowa legislature.

“Mercy for Animals will explore all legal avenues to challenge and overturn this unconstitutional law, which is patently un-American and a clear violation of freedom of speech,” pledged MfA founder Nathan Runkle.

Suggested Farm Sanctuary senior director for strategic initiatives Bruce Friedrich, “Responsible industries would meet this stream of horrid undercover investigations” by making “a serious commitment to change their behavior. They would promulgate strong regulations to protect animals and implement ‘no tolerance’ policies for at least the sadistic abuse. And they would, as [livestock handling systems designer] Temple Grandin has suggested,” initially in an article for the livestock industry magazine *Meat & Poultry* in 2008, “put video cameras into their factory farms and into their slaughterhouses to monitor animal treatment. They would hire independent inspectors to review the video and make sure that there was no gratuitous abuse.”

The American SPCA on February 17, 2012 released poll data from Lake Research Partners showing that 71% of Americans support undercover efforts to expose animal abuse on factory farms, and that 64% oppose ag-gag legislation.

Among 27 organizations charging in a joint statement that ag-gag laws threaten workers’ rights, public health and safety, and journalistic freedom were the Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Government Accountability Project, National Freedom of Information Coalition, National Press Photographers Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Organic Consumers Association, United Food & Commercial Workers International Union, and the Whistleblower Support Fund.

Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, and New York had ag-gag bills pending in their respective legislatures as the April 2012 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press. An ag-gag bill proposed in Indiana had died in committee.

—Merriitt Clifton



Piglets at Farm Sanctuary, Watkins Glen, New York. (Kim Bartlett)

Suspect allegedly planned “hit” on fur wearer “partially to get away” from family (from page 1)

the affidavit. “I think the time for you to do the job would definitely be in January or February on a Tuesday sometime between 6:20 at night and 7:00 at night,” the affidavit quotes Lowell. “I cannot have you do it earlier in the day,” Lowell allegedly told the FBI online covert employee.

The timing appears to have coincided with Lowell’s usual library visiting time.

“I assume you know why I am willing to pay someone like you to kill a person who is wearing fur,” the affidavit continues quoting Lowell. “Here is the description of what the person should be who is wearing fur who should be killed...any ethnicity and any race...age preferably 14 years old, but should be at least 12 years old, hopefully a teenager or older, should not be a child...boy, girl, or woman, or man...height at least 4 feet...weight—any. Should not be anyone I currently know and definitely should not be anyone my family knows.

“I will pay you after you kill the person who is wearing fur at the above mentioned time and time of the year,” Lowell allegedly added. “The amount of money I will pay will be \$730,” less than the Facebook offer. “You need to bring a gun that has a silencer on it and that can be easily concealed in your pants pocket or coat. Do not wear anything that even looks even remotely like fur. If you do not want to risk the possibility of getting caught with a gun before the job, bring a sharp knife that is at least four inches long...I want the person to be dead in less than 2 minutes.”

On December 29, 2011, Lowell allegedly reiterated to the FBI online covert employee, “I am serious about paying you to kill someone who is wearing fur at the location mentioned in an earlier e-mail to you and will pay you after you kill the person who is wearing fur...I am paying you to kill one person wearing fur who is 12 or older.”

E-mails attributed to Lowell repeatedly expressed anxiety about coming up with the money she initially offered, and suggested substituting gold jewelry instead.

Lowell allegedly stipulated that she wanted the killing to be done at the Cleveland Heights library building, “near the playground,” adding “I am planning on getting caught.” Elaborated a January 10, 2012 e-mail allegedly sent from Lowell to the FBI online covert operative, “I plan on staying after the hit for reasons of benefit to the movement. And I think being caught would actually benefit me personally.”

From the November 1, 2011 first outline of the alleged plot on Facebook, Lowell appeared to obsess about what to do with “fur advertisements collected since the beginning of [her] investigation into the fur industry,” asking on her Facebook wall, “Do you think the police will find the advertisements if I leave them at home during the hit event/protest?”

Another Facebook posting, also on November 1, 2011, stated that Lowell would “probably have to hold off on the hit job until next week or even January or February 2012. I have been throwing away some unneeded papers,” the posting explained, “and by this morning I realized that I just was not ready. I still need to throw more papers away...so that the paper load is lighter and less weight to carry around during the event. Most of the current papers are about the fur industry that I have been printing out since 2008 at the library.”

“Due to some unfortunate schedule changes,” Lowell allegedly e-mailed on January 10, 2012, “I realize the hit will have to be held off until October.” On January 18, 2012, Lowell allegedly added, “If you are unable to do this hit in October...then I will have to at least try to hire someone else...maybe even a library employee.”

Online friend was FBI

Early in the investigation, said the FBI affidavit, the FBI introduced Lowell to a second online covert employee, who posed as “a female animal rights activist who served as a neutral sounding board for Lowell.” The second persona “did not encourage or discourage Lowell’s beliefs. Rather, she just let Lowell discuss her ideas...and has not engaged her in conversation about the hit man.” Messages from Lowell to the second covert persona, included in the affidavit, offered clues to Lowell’s circumstances and state of mind.

On January 18, 2012, Lowell told the second covert persona, “I am for animal liberation, animal rights movements, and animal welfare. I certainly see nothing wrong with liberating animals from laboratories and fur factory farms...I am for taking legal risks if it means helping animals even when it means risking my own personal freedom and going to jail and/or prison...Animal rights attorney [sic], activist, rescue[r], and vegan says it is okay to risk legal trouble to help animals and I believe this 100%.”

But the longest and most revealing communication from Lowell contained in the FBI affidavit was sent to the first online covert employee on February 15, 2012.

“I had to go to Texas for longer than a week because my uncle who lived there died and he had no one down there who could deal with his legal stuff,” Lowell offered.

Later in the e-mail, Lowell wrote, “Something which especially makes me upset is how the city of Cleveland just opened up an aquarium.”

After discussion of her opposition to the aquarium, according to the affidavit, Lowell added, “I hope for the best outcome for the hit and at least expect for the police to understand why I came to the realization why it is necessary...I am frustrated with living at my current home for several reasons,” the affidavit transcript of the e-mail continued. “I live with people in my home who enjoy eating meat...my mother refuses to get rid of fur items...My mother still buys eggs and leather and wool products...and I have a brother who refuses to stop wearing wool. Both of my brothers don’t see what is wrong with wearing leather...Until the hit on someone wearing fur is

done, I will not be able to get away from my house. So now you know part of the reason why I am going to stay at the location of the hit after the hit is done at the library—partially to get away from my house. I cannot stand living in a house where there are fur products that my family refuses to get rid of.”

Several paragraphs later, according to the affidavit transcript, Lowell asked, “If I do end up going to jail or prison, do you have some advice for me?”

Still later in the same e-mail, according to the FBI affidavit, Lowell mentioned that, “I especially want for the Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute animals to be liberated and put somewhere where they are not tortured.”

FBI searches of trash from the Lowell home found that between November 2, 2011 and February 13, 2012 Meredith Lowell received apparent introductory appeals from animal charities including RedRover (formerly called United Animal Nations), Pasado’s Safe Haven, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, the Best Friends Animal Society, and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. The trash searches also discovered gun magazines sent to the home in the name of Whitney Lowell, 29, the elder of Meredith Marie Lowell’s two brothers. The FBI affidavit noted that Whitney Lowell holds a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Meredith Lowell, Whitney Lowell, and younger brother Emerson Lowell apparently all still lived at home with parents Jeffrey and Madlen Lowell, in a Coventry Road neighborhood near the library which decades ago was considered a hub of the Cleveland counterculture. None of the family appear to have been well-known either in the community or online. Meredith Lowell was listed among the 2003 graduates of the Greater Cleveland Christian School in Middleburg Heights, a Cleveland suburb, which operated from 1996 to 2004.

ANIMAL PEOPLE found no mention of pets in Meredith Lowell’s electronic communications, shared by various correspondents, and none in communications appearing to be from her brothers. A female Whitney Lowell in about the same age range as Meredith Lowell and her brothers, who is a reptile breeder and operates two pit bull advocacy web sites in another part of the U.S., told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that she had no awareness of the family.

Activist contacts

Although Lowell mentioned in several e-mails that she had been collecting information about the fur trade since 2008, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found no communication from Lowell to other animal advocates predating an e-mail of November 2, 2010 sent to Los Angeles activist attorney and video producer Shannon Keith, using Keith’s Uncaged Films e-mail address.

Keith has represented militant animal advocacy organizations including Showing Animals Respect & Kindness, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, and Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA. Her organization Animal Rescue, Media, & Education (ARME) led a campaign which on November 22, 2011 won passage of an ordinance against selling fur in West Hollywood, California.

Lowell praised a Keith production called *Skin Trade*, reciting complaints against the fur industry and fur-wearers. “Looks like I never responded to her,” Keith told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Lowell wrote to Keith again on May 17, 2011, but Keith did not respond to that e-mail, either.

Lowell on January 25, 2011 wrote to PETA president Ingrid Newkirk, in response to an online appeal. PETA Foundation correspondence assistant Karen Dickerson responded by sending Lowell several suggestions for engaging in legal anti-fur activism.

“I would like to e-mail Oprah Winfrey and President Obama but not sure if they check their e-mail or even what their e-mail addresses are,” Lowell responded to Dickerson. “I would like to e-mail some police departments and the FBI about the [fur] issue but not sure which ones or even if e-mailing the FBI or police departments is such a good idea.”

Dickerson replied again to Lowell, briefly, on January 31, 2011. Lowell wrote back to Dickerson at length on February 11, 2011, sending a lengthy draft anti-fur law she had prepared. Lowell later complained to other correspondents that PETA was unresponsive to her.

According to the FBI affidavit, Lowell e-mailed to the Cleveland Heights Police Department on April 5, 2011, arguing that the fur trade is illegal and should become the subject of a police investigation.

Lowell may next have approached the Humane Society of the U.S. She later complained that HSUS also ignored her. But HSUS senior director of communications Rachel Querry told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that “We have no record of her being a supporter. Our Ohio state director, Karen Minton, did not know Lowell and could not recall having any direct contact with her.”

Lowell initiated her longest known correspondence with other animal advocates on June 1, 2011, e-mailing to International Anti-Fur Coalition founder Jane Halevy, of Israel. The FBI affidavit took note of that exchange, but Halevy, coordinating activities among dozens of organizations in dozens of nations around the world, replied only briefly to Lowell’s many long e-mails to her.

“I didn’t read all of her e-mails,” Halevy

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admitted to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on February 25, 2012. “I just read them one by one,” Halevy said, after **ANIMAL PEOPLE** alerted her that Lowell had been arrested, “and I feel very ashamed, very bad and very frustrated. I am sure I could have convinced her to drop her terrible ideas. The worst worst worst of all,” Halevy said, “is that I found a key e-mail of hers that I had never seen before, telling me all her crazy ideas. I am sure she expected an answer from me and maybe since I didn’t answer, she might have misinterpreted my silence. She wrote this key e-mail as a reply to an e-mail I sent to many activists about the launching of new anti-fur stickers,” to which Halevy received many automatically generated acknowledgements of receipts. Lowell’s e-mail was lost among them. “I run many sites,” said Halevy, whose Facebook pages have more than 5,000 friends, “and get many e-mails, requests, questions...I really can’t read them all.”

Halevy answered Lowell, to the brief extent that she did, Halevy said, “because “I could understand she was frustrated, disappointed, and I didn’t want to be like the others,” whom Lowell complained had not responded to her.

Lowell on August 12, 2011 asked Halevy “what exactly the Animal Enterprises Terrorism Act means.” Lowell said she was “thinking about organizing some protests...as well as at least one animal liberation event to liberate animals from at least one medical experimentation laboratory,” and was “hoping to do some economic sabotage.”

Halevy explained that as an Israeli, she knew little of U.S. law, and referred Lowell’s question to U.S. activist Rosa Close. Close did not respond to an inquiry from **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Lowell did not mention Close in her subsequent correspondence.

The unread e-mail

Lowell transmitted the e-mail that Halevy mistook for an automated response to her mailing about anti-fur stickers on October 19, 2011, eleven days before Lowell’s Facebook posting soliciting a contract killer came to the notice of the FBI.

Wrote Lowell, “I hope to hire a hit man or hit woman next week, the week after, or some time in January or February to kill someone who is wearing fur...I hope the hitman or hitwoman will kill the person wearing fur through one or several of the following methods—shooting (if they have their own gun and the bullets do not go through walls and the gun must be concealable and be able to put it into a pants holster or into a purse), strangulation using a rope, or stabbing using a sharp knife. I do not want the person to be burnt or for there to be arson or poisoning...I actually encourage [sic] the person I hire to leave evidence at the place where the person is killed and hope the person I hire loves animals as much as I do. They should know how to use the above weapons in order to accurately kill the person who is wearing fur or at least leave the person who is wearing fur close to death.”

Lowell wrote to Halevy once more, on November 4, 2011, before focusing her correspondence on the FBI online covert employees. “I am prepared to take more risky actions with more possibly illegal actions,” Lowell wrote, this time offering no explicit details.

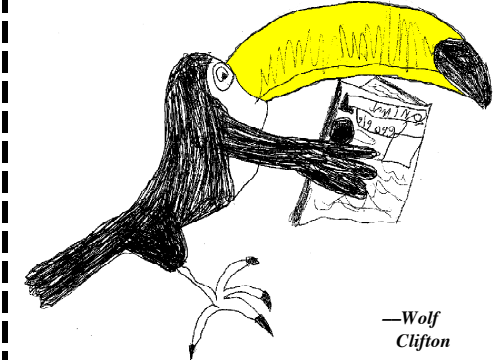
But Lowell described her sense of isolation, as a would-be activist whose activism was for unexplained reasons limited to two nights a week at the library computer.

“I do not have access to a computer at home nor do I have access to the internet at home,” Lowell wrote, “but somehow I do get youtube at home on the blueray dvd player which allows for me to get more information about all things animal rights and animal rights issues including advice from fellow animal rights activists.”

“I feel I missed an opportunity to help someone in need, an opportunity to save someone from very wrong thoughts and horrific ideas,” Halevy told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “If only I had seen her hit plan...I really thank god and the universe that nobody got hurt.” —Merriitt Clifton

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—Wolf Clifton

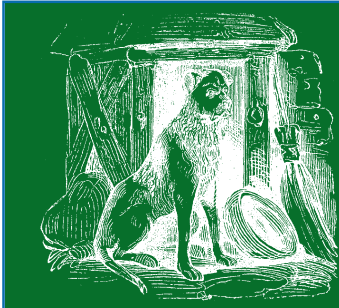
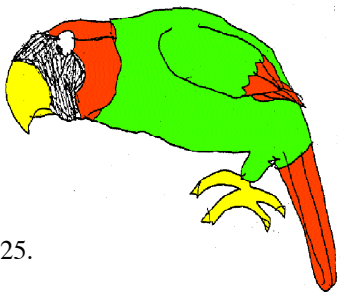
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FoA wins 15-year-old wrongful dismissal case

WASHINGTON D.C.—The District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights on March 20, 2012 ruled that former Friends of Animals special investigator Carroll Cox “failed to establish Respondent (FoA) terminated him based on his race or retaliated against him in the exercise of rights protected under the D.C. Human Rights Act.”

The ruling appears to end nearly 15 years of litigation resulting from about 140 days of employment. FoA hired Cox, a former special investigator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and, earlier, for the California Department of Fish & Game, on a consulting basis on March 31, 1997. FoA relocated Cox from Hawaii and put him on salary on July 7, 1997. FoA terminated Cox on August 20, 1997.

Cox was then pursuing an ultimately unsuccessful wrongful dismissal case against the USFWS. FoA dismissed Cox on the same day that then-FoA general counsel Herman Kaufman announced that FoA had settled unrelated litigation against the USFWS. Suspecting linkage between the settlement and his dismissal, Cox sued FoA in hopes of obtaining evidence that would help his case against the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The DCCHR ruling noted that no such evidence emerged.

However, Cox learned in 2002 that Kaufman had never been admitted to the bar in Connecticut, where FoA is headquartered. FoA replaced Kaufman and Cox vs. FoA proceeded to trial before DCCHR Judge Cornelius R. Alexander Jr. in September 2005. Before issuing a verdict, Alexander on November 29, 2007 died of prostate cancer.

Cox has since 1997 headed the Hawaii-based organization Envirowatch.

Thai charities Soi Cat & Dog Rescue and Soi Dog Foundation merge

BANGKOK, PHUKET—Soi Cat & Dog Rescue, of Bangkok, and the Soi Dog Foundation, of Phuket, on February 28, 2012 announced a merger. Often confused with each other, SCAD and the Soi Dog Foundation have parallel programs, emphasizing dog and cat sterilization, and have parallel histories. British expatriate Sheridan Conisbee founded SCAD, then called Soi Dog Rescue, in 2002. Early mobile sterilization campaigns were assisted by Danish veterinarian Mogens Hansen. Dutch expatriate Margot Park formed the Soi Dog Foundation in September 2003, assisted by then newly arrived British expatriates John and Gillian Dalley.

The Soi Dog Foundation won global-recognition for leading the animal relief efforts in Thailand after the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Gillian Dalley actively assisted despite losing both legs to septicemia contracted during a dog rescue two months earlier.

Park left the Soi Dog Foundation, and left Thailand for a time, in 2005-2006, but returned to Thailand to help lead SCAD after Conisbee left Thailand.

The Soi Dog Foundation became actively involved in Bangkok, Dalley told supporters, in mid-2011, “firstly working with local people to fight the illegal dog meat trade and to introduce animal welfare laws, and

more recently coordinating the rescue and temporary care of hundreds of animals stranded by floods,” which paralyzed much of Bangkok for months. “During this time it became very clear,” Dalley said, “that not only were the problems in Bangkok massive, but also a lot of local people are trying to help the animals, something we rarely see in Phuket. We feel it is very important that the many Thai people helping animals in Bangkok have resources to help them.” Dalley announced along with the merger of the Soi organizations the appointment of Khun Phimpakarn Petpichetchien as

general manager for the Bangkok operations. “Khun Kharn has volunteered full-time throughout the floods, assisting me both in Bangkok and in Nakom Phanom, where the dog meat trade dogs are taken,” Dalley said.

“This will not impact on our work in Phuket,” Dalley pledged, “where we have just employed an additional dog retrieval team and are currently sourcing and training additional vets. We plan to double the number of sterilizations on Phuket,” Dalley said. The Soi Dog Foundation has completed about 5,000 dog and cat surgeries per year, on average, since 2005.

Bob Barker funds elephant move & new PETA HQ

LOS ANGELES—The Performing Animal Welfare Society on March 23, 2012 disclosed that former television game show host Bob Barker has donated \$870,000 to fund the relocation of three African elephants from the Toronto Zoo to the PAWS Ark 2000 sanctuary in San Andreas, California. Barker agreed to fund the transfer in December 2011, after the Toronto City Council voted to close the zoo’s elephant exhibit.

“Since 1984, seven elephants have died at the zoo, four within the past four years. The oldest was 41,” reported Linda Diebel of the *Toronto Star*.

The impending transfer is bitterly opposed by members of the Toronto Zoo staff. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on March 8, 2012 staged a “red carpet, all-vegan, dog-friendly grand opening” of a new West Coast headquarters named after Barker on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, Associated Press reported. Barker, donated \$2.5 million toward renovating the building.

Barker, 88, retired in 2007 after 50 years of hosting game shows including *The Price Is Right*. *The Price is Right* prize lineup on February 1, 2012 included an expense-paid trip to the Calgary Stampede Rodeo. “I

am very sorry that *The Price is Right* producers have chosen to align themselves with an activity that is cruel and violent,” Barker responded in a statement released by Showing Animals Respect & Kindness. “Rodeo does not honor western heritage in the U.S., Canada or anywhere else. Rodeos torment, injure and kill animals,” Barker continued. “I hope *The Price is Right* decision makers will immediately reassess their very bad decision.”

Barker in January 2010 donated \$1 million to SHARK in support of the ongoing SHARK campaign against pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. The funding enabled SHARK to initiate surveillance of pigeon shoots using drone helicopter camera platforms. Also in January 2010, Barker donated \$5 million to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, used to purchase the Sea Shepherd vessel now named *The Bob Barker*, and a shipboard helicopter named *The Nancy Burnett*. Barker has previously funded animal studies and animal rights law programs with \$1 million donations to the University of Virginia, Harvard, Columbia, Northwestern, Duke, Stanford, Georgetown, UCLA, and his alma mater, Drury University in Springfield Missouri.

Genesis Awards 2012

LOS ANGELES—The feature film *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, comedy TV program *The Colbert Report*, IMAX documentary *Born to be Wild*, news programs *ABC 20/20* and *NBC Nightly News*, and magazine *Vanity Fair* were among the big winners at the 26th annual Genesis Awards ceremony, held on March 24, 2012 in Beverly Hills. Sponsored by the Humane Society of the U.S., the awards honor mass media for raising public awareness of animal issues.

Chicago mayor Emanuel replaces pit bull-friendly animal control director Cherie Travis

CHICAGO—Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel on March 21, 2012 abruptly appointed two-time Chicago Animal Care & Control acting director Sandra Alfred to replace incumbent executive director Cherie Travis, effective immediately.

Travis, appointed by previous mayor Richard Daley, had headed Chicago Animal Care & Control since November 2009. Alfred had been deputy director of Chicago Animal Care & Control since 2001, after spending 12 years with the Chicago Department of Health. Emanuel, formerly chief of staff for U.S. President Barack Obama, praised Alfred as “a champion for animal rights and advocate for animal care,” who “knows every facet of the department and is a natural choice to lead the department’s efforts.” Emanuel did not explain why the change was made. “We simply decided to go in another direction with the leadership,” mayor’s office spokesperson Sarah Hamilton told media.

Travis’ administration was

target of an August 2010 exposé by Marcella Raymond of WGN-TV for allegedly allowing kennels to become overcrowded and filthy. Part of the issue involved Travis’ efforts to admit volunteers to work within the Chicago Animal Care & Control shelter without infringing on the duties of unionized city staff.

Nationally known as an advocate for pit bulls, Travis came under criticism from fellow Chicago pit bull advocate Steve Dale, a WGN-TV program host and blogger, and American Humane Association board member. “This change will save animal lives,” Dale posted.

“I am devastated by the news,” Travis told Facebook friends on March 24, 2012. “I gave my heart and soul to transforming the department. In the past two years,” Travis said, “we’ve set records for reducing euthanasia and increasing transfers. More than 7,000 animals were transferred last year—36% of intake.” Travis said the animals went to “200-plus transfer organizations.” But the transfer program and

several of the participant organizations were attacked at length in an anonymous but footnoted and documented March 2012 Blogspot report on “Pit Bull Attacks and Dogfighting in Illinois” as a purported way for Chicago to “transfer its problem with rampant dogfighting and predatory pit bulls to communities all across the country.”

Also in March 2012, Mick Swasko of the online periodical *Redeye Chicago* published city dog bite data showing that pit bulls now account for nearly 40% of all reported bites. “According to the most recent data from the Chicago City Clerk’s office, pit bulls or mixes account for about 4.5 percent of the 37,546 dogs registered dogs in the city,” Swasko wrote.

Earlier, Travis caught online flak for allegedly favoring pit bulls over people put at risk by their behavior after the January 19, 2010 fatal mauling of Johnny Wilson, 56, by one or more of his daughter’s four adult pit bulls, one of whom had puppies, and after the January

3, 2012 mauling of jogger Joseph Finley, 62, by two pit bulls who had escaped from their home and were shot by police at the scene. Finley survived in critical condition.

Travis, formerly associate director of the DePaul University Center for Animal Law, was among several attorneys who in 2001 sued McDonald’s Corporation for advertising that its French fries were cooked in “100% vegetable oil,” when the oil actually included beef tallow. Travis was among the coplaintiffs who challenged the 2003 settlement of the case for \$10 million, distributed among charities benefiting vegetarians, Hindus, Sikhs, and children’s health, and/or promoting Jewish dietary law.

In 2006 Travis obtained public records from the preceding five years which revealed that of 3,282 complaints made to the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Welfare, which oversees shelters, animal control agencies, pet stores, and kennels, only three cases resulted in license

revocation hearings—and no licenses were actually revoked.

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Proposal for an Accord between Animal Advocates and the Biomedical Research Community

Animal advocates hopeful of reaching an accord with the biomedical research community recognize that some biomedical research, testing, training and education using animals will continue in the foreseeable future. The biomedical research community has already agreed in principle that scientific use of animals should be subject to rigorous scientific review including serious consideration of non-animal alternatives and, if approved and funded, conducted in a manner which ensures that the smallest possible number of animals are involved, of species with the lowest potential for pain and suffering, and that such animals should be provided with optimum housing, handling, and care. However, we have identified areas in which both animal welfare and science might be improved in the practices of scientific institutions, in the regulation of animal use by public agencies, and in the federal Animal Welfare Act's definition of "animal."

If the practices and regulations outlined below were changed or amended so that scientific use of animals were to be conducted in an improved and strict manner regarding the welfare of animals, we believe that animal advocates would agree not to interfere with such research or specifically object to it through targeted campaigns. Such agreement would be made in full recognition of the ethical dilemma presented by the use of animals in experimentation, testing, training, and education and without relinquishing animal advocates' philosophical concerns regarding scientific use of animals or their right to protest against or expose the existence of scientific use of animals that does not meet agreed upon standards of animal welfare.

In December of 2010, the Institute of Medicine was commissioned by the National Institutes of Health to assess whether chimpanzees are or will be necessary for biomedical and behavioral research. The IoM report was released on December 17, 2011. We agree with the following five points made by David Jentsch in his analysis posted on <http://speakingofresearch.com/2011/12/17/afterthoughts-on-iom-report-on-the-use-of-chimps-in-scientific-research/>: "Afterthoughts on IoM report on the use of chimps in scientific research":

"We believe discussions on the science and ethics of animal research are inextricably linked and both should be part of any public discussion on animal research. An honest, open and civil discussion on both the science and ethics of animal research that includes animal advocates, animal welfare organizations, scientists, patients and their families, patient advocacy groups, public health officials and the medical leadership of the country" is needed, and to which list of interested parties we would add professional ethicists and bioethicists trained in animal ethics; and

"The IoM panel clearly demonstrated the power of a comprehensive and critical analysis that accounts for progress in research, changes in technologies, models, and questions. However, proceeding in critical analysis on a species-by-species basis is problematic for a number of reasons. We argue that a more general appraisal of the ethics and science of animal research is warranted"; and

"As illustrated by the IoM report and surrounding

discussion, the 'species-wise' approach ignores the more basic and important questions that are at the heart of the issue (the ethical dimension) and that this deserves a much more thorough and broader public discussion based upon empirical data and facts"; and

"There is no reason to think that changes in the technology, questions, and need for certain projects that contributed to a reduction in the requirement for chimpanzees in research might not also apply to other types of animals..."; and

"We believe that conducting a broader review of animal research could significantly advance public understanding of the role that it plays in medical and scientific progress. In many ways, such an exercise is long overdue. The report's conclusions clearly show the value of a rigorous, thoughtful, and public review of even the most controversial type of research. But public interest in animal studies extends far beyond chimpanzee research" ...

Reaching an accord with animal advocates will require the biomedical research community to agree to the following principles for humane research and to take actions necessary to assure compliance with these principles, including commitments to support changes in the federal Animal Welfare Act and its regulations, as well as changes in policies and guidelines of research funding agencies including but not limited to the Public Health Service:

REFINEMENT, REDUCTION, AND REPLACEMENT

If alternative yet equally effective methods of experimentation or testing are available, they must be employed in preference to any experiment conducted with an animal.

Procedures that are likely to cause pain, fear, or distress to animals must not be allowed if (a) there exist other research methods or models through which the knowledge sought might reasonably be obtained, and (b) the research cannot be performed on consenting human subjects.

Animals with the lowest potential for pain and suffering should be used in preference to animals with greater potential to experience pain and suffering, based on objective criteria (e.g., the possession of a central nervous system, nociceptors, opioid receptors, etc.).

All institutions that conduct research and testing with animals should consider it an ethical obligation to refine research methodologies and reduce and seek to ultimately replace animals whenever possible. These efforts should be supported and funded by both the research-funding agencies and the research institution's administration.

CLINICAL RESEARCH ON ANIMALS

As one alternative to research on laboratory animals, we encourage the biomedical research community to engage in clinical research on animals afflicted with naturally-occurring diseases and disorders in need of treatment, in partnership with veterinarians, especially board-certified veterinarians and veterinary specialty clinics.

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEES

All facilities which use animals for research, testing, or education in the U.S. are currently required to establish Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs)—called ethics committees in some countries—which are comprised of representatives from inside and outside the biomedical research community. In addition to the current requirement for one public member of the IACUC who is "intended to provide representation for general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals" [Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals amendment to the Animal Welfare Act of 1985], there must be added a second public member who is professionally trained in bioethics. If a bioethicist is not available, a professional ethicist should be sought. If no professional ethicists are available to serve on IACUCs, persons may be chosen who have some degree of professional training in ethics (e.g., members of the clergy, jurists, or academic philosophers). In addition to considering ways in which proposed uses of animals may be refined, reduced, or replaced with alternatives, IACUCs must consider the ethics of proposed uses of animals, including a harm versus benefit analysis of the proposed work, so that the use of animals is approved only when any harm done to the animals is greatly outweighed by the anticipated benefits of their use.

An internal mechanism to address grievances brought by dissenting members of the committee must be required.

All research institutions must have a person designated as a public liaison official whose role it is to provide a greater degree of transparency regarding use of animals, and to whom concerns and complaints about IACUC decisions or procedures as well as concerns regarding the conduct of research or the housing, handling, and care of animals may be addressed by members of the public, including animal welfare organizations.

Systems of 24-hour video surveillance should be designed and installed within research facilities to record and archive all activities involving care and use of animals, including all experimental and veterinary procedures. These video recordings must be routinely monitored by a person who reports to the IACUC and audited at regular intervals for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations by a qualified independent agency (such as USDA APHIS) which is legally empowered to report non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations to regulatory and government agencies via reports that will be available publicly through Freedom of Information Act filings.

The committee must carefully consider whether research involving animals addresses questions of importance that cannot be answered using methods that do not require animals, as well as the 3Rs of reduction, refinement, and replacement. The consideration of ethics must be central to discussions about the use of animals in research protocols. The welfare of the animals or, conversely, the toll taken on the welfare of the animals, should be the focus of the ethical considerations involved in designing and approving scientific research with animals.

PAIN SCALE

There is a need for development and compulsory adherence to a pain scale classifying the severity of pain inflicted on animals (from little or none up to severe), the prohibition of experiments that would cause high degrees of unrelievable pain, and the requirement that IACUCs consider the expected degrees of pain in evaluating protocols and stipulate appropriate levels of analgesia and/or anesthesia at specific levels of anticipated pain. Compulsory guidelines would specify the types of experiments and levels of pain that would not be permissible regardless of potential benefit in scientific knowledge that might be obtained through the conduct of such an experiment or procedure. We agree with Dr. John S. Church, in his article "Understanding Pain and its Relevance to Animals," <www.afac.ab.calreports/understandingpain.pdf>, that "Pain scales can be used to educate people about the two alternatives of refinement and replacement, and the need to reduce animal pain. Furthermore, a pain scale has further practical applications: 1) in reviewing procedures which are of concern from an animal welfare standpoint; 2) in developing policies on the use of animals in educational institutions; and 3) as a basis for collecting quantifiable data on animal experimentation, so that meaningful data can be collected on trends in reduction and control in animal pain."

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Minister boasts of tough law while "Lizard King" walks

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia—Wildlife trafficking prosecutions have dropped by more than 80% since the Malaysian Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 came into force, boasted Natural Resources & Environment minister Seri Douglas Uggah Embas to Joseph Sipalan of the *Malaysia Star* on March 15, 2012.

"I'm very happy to note that the Act has had an effect. We've learned from the previous Act that one main ingredient is deterrent penalties," Embas said, noting that only 464 wildlife trafficking cases were recorded in 2011, down from an average of 3,500 cases a year in 2007-2010.

But Anson Wong, 54, the first prominent trafficker convicted under the 2010 law, walked free on February 22, 2012 after the Malay Court of Appeal cut his jail sentence from five years to 17 months and 15 days. Wong was identified by Bryan

Christy in his 2008 exposé book *The Lizard King* as "the most important person in the international reptile business."

Convicted on September 6, 2010 of illegally exporting snakes, one month to the day after his travel bag spilled 95 boa constrictors at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Wong was initially sentenced to six months in jail. After the prosecution appealed, the High Court on November 6, 2010 increased Wong's jail term to five years.

"According to media reports the Court of Appeal reduced the sentence on the grounds that it had erroneously relied on facts which were not in the charges and failed to consider that Wong had pleaded guilty," Sahabat Alam Malaysia president S.M. Mohd Idris told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Wong could hardly be considered a first time offender," Idris said, "when in 2001 he was convicted in the U.S. for smuggling endangered species and was sentenced

to serve 71 months in prison.

"Despite assurances that further investigations were underway," Idris added, "no business contacts or associates of Anson Wong were ever identified or charged. A police report lodged by a lady who was arrested at Kuala Lumpur International Airport for smuggling of tortoises from her country to Malaysia revealed that Wong's tentacles had spread as far as Madagascar, even while he was serving his jail sentence. The early release of this notorious smuggler reminds us that traffickers still run the show in Asia," Idris concluded.

William Schaedia, South-East Asia regional director for the wildlife trade monitoring network Traffic, urged the Malaysian Natural Resources & Environment ministry to refuse to restore Wong's permits to possess and trade in wildlife. Wong formerly operated in the name of the now defunct Bukit Jambul Reptile Sanctuary.

On the Origins of New Forms of Life: A New Theory by Eugene McCarthy

Free download from: <http://www.macroevolution.net>

The March 2012 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** cover article “Why an ancient armored mammal needs better defenses” transiently mentioned the argument of evolutionary geneticist Gene McCarthy that pangolins and armadillos might be living descendants of stegosaurs and ankylosaurs, two related dinosaur families whom McCarthy contends were synapsid proto-mammals, not reptiles.

McCarthy also contends that pterodactyls and pterosaurs were ancestrally related to bats. McCarthy believes that placental mammals emerged much earlier than paleontologists commonly suppose.

In correspondence with **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, McCarthy has hypothesized that triceratops and the other ceratopsian horned dinosaurs might have been giant chameleons—which, while a heretical notion, might be possible within the full context of McCarthy’s ideas about how genetic traits evolve.

These ideas and many others about the relationships among ancient and contemporary animals form the entertaining surface of what McCarthy calls “stabilization theory.”

Stabilization theory, which destabilizes what McCarthy terms “neo-Darwinism,” is the somewhat misleading name of a revised theory of evolution which builds on the “punctuated equilibrium” theory presented by Niles Eldridge and the late Stephen Jay Gould in 1972. By “neo-Darwinism,” McCarthy means a dogmatic belief that evolutionary change occurs primarily and perhaps exclusively through gradual adaptation to facilitate “survival of the fittest.”

McCarthy, a former faculty member at the University of Georgia in Athens, is author of the Oxford University Press *Handbook of Avian Hybrids of the World*, published in 2006.

“Currently, I’m working on a similar book on hybridization among mammals,” McCarthy says in his online biography—but he told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that “My current project is a novel, a satire of academic life. That’s what I work on eight hours a day. You

can think of the things I have to say about evolution as a fossil trace of a former me.... I wrote virtually all of my book on evolutionary theory,” *On the Origins of New Forms of Life*, “twenty years ago or more.”

This appears to explain why *On the Origins of New Forms of Life* incorporates little or nothing of the findings of recent decades about how viruses and other parasites routinely transfer genetic material among animal species, much as the wind, bees, bats, and birds transfer pollen among plant species.

A further explanation, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** learned through e-mail correspondence, is that McCarthy long ago dismissed the possibilities of genetic transfer through viruses and other parasites because such transfers typically involve just a few bits of DNA, in contrast to the high-volume transfers achieved by sexual contact. But McCarthy apparently formed his perspective before virologists learned that some scraps of DNA can activate long chains of recessive traits, to produce significant genetic changes even without significant genetic transfer.

Though McCarthy told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that “The whole project has lost interest for me, and I’ve moved on to other things,” and was adamant that “I don’t think it would be a worthwhile investment of my time to change a single word,” *On the Origins of New Forms of Life* has only just begun reaching readers, and presents ideas relevant to current concerns about endangered and alleged invasive species which could only be strengthened by bringing the presentation up to date.

“During my years at the genetics department,” McCarthy explains in the preface, “I became increasingly dissatisfied with the standard explanation of evolution. The more I read about fossils, the more convinced I became that Charles Darwin’s account of the evolutionary process was fundamentally flawed. Moreover, in my study of hybrids I became aware that an alternative explanation could do a much better job of explaining the available data.”

Like Gould and Eldridge, and many other paleontologists over the past 200 years, McCarthy observed that practically every form of fossilized life ever discovered appears to have changed little, if at all, from the most ancient occurrence of the life form to the most recent. Clear examples of gradual evolutionary change are few—and many of the examples once thought to exist have been discovered to involve misreadings of the evidence. Also perplexing McCarthy was the lack of a source for “the extreme variation that natural selection would require for the rapid production of new types of organisms, which is mysterious when one thinks only in terms of normalizing selection for adaptive traits.”

McCarthy further could find no explanation in Darwinism for “The origin of complex traits that seemingly have no function in an imperfect state,” before becoming fully evolved. McCarthy was perhaps most perturbed that “Neo-Darwinian theory fails to adequately account for the existence of altruism, since everything is there explained by the selfish needs of the individual...An identical difficulty,” McCarthy writes, “pertains to the existence of social insects with distinct neuter forms,” such as worker bees. “How do such forms arise gradually under the influence of selection,” McCarthy asks, “if they do not produce offspring?”

Hybrid vigor

McCarthy found answers to his questions in the genetic mechanics of hybridization. “According to stabilization theory,” McCarthy explains, “the typical form treated as a species already has all of its characteristic traits at the time it first arises,” as a hybrid of two or more previously existing species. “Individual competition is not an important factor in stabilization theory,” McCarthy continues. Therefore, new species “can be successful and yet be composed of individuals who cooperate and make sacrifices for each other.”

McCarthy developed his ideas into a

book, submitted to Oxford University Press in 2007. “After peer review,” McCarthy recounts, “it was accepted for publication and we signed a contract,” but the unconventional and controversial aspects of stabilization theory eventually caused Oxford University Press to back away from the project.

McCarthy instead published *On the Origins of New Forms of Life* on his Macroevolution.net web site.

Though *On the Origins of New Forms of Life* makes scant if any reference to any issues that are controversial outside of academia, McCarthy’s arguments tend to parallel and reinforce **ANIMAL PEOPLE** criticisms of public policies that destroy functional ecosystems and thriving biodiversity in futile efforts to restore the imagined pristine conditions of the distant past.

“Many biologists do not think hybrid animal populations should be treated as named taxa,” McCarthy objects. “They don’t think that organisms of hybrid origin are real ‘species,’ even though the word *species* lacks a clear definition. For this reason, such populations are often stripped of their scientific names as soon as their hybrid origin becomes known.” Yet, “Thousands of natural hybrid populations have been documented in the animal kingdom,” McCarthy observes, citing a wealth of examples.

“That the introduction of genes from another species can serve as the raw material for an adaptive evolutionary advance has never gained wide acceptance among biologists,” McCarthy suggests, “because it conflicts with a core tenet of neo-Darwinism: the consensus belief that forms treated as species typically arise as gradual change occurs in groups of interbreeding individuals reproductively isolated from other such groups...Neo-Darwinian theory says macroevolutionary change occurs through selection of traits existing *within* each isolated population.”

This is demonstrably false. “There are about 130 types of waterfowl treated as

(continued on page 17)

Proposal for an Accord between Animal Advocates & the Biomedical Research Community (from page 15)

ANESTHESIA, EUTHANASIA, AND PAIN MANAGEMENT

Animals’ pain, physical discomfort, maladaptive behaviors, fear and anxiety must be prevented and/or minimized by considerate and scientifically sound experimental design and appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic, and/or tranquilizing drugs.

Any experiment or test that inflicts trauma should be conducted with a fully anesthetized animal. If the procedure is designed to cause irrecoverable traumatic injury, the animal should be euthanized following the procedure and before regaining consciousness.

If an animal is subjected to surgery from which he or she is expected to survive, a pre-planned pain evaluation and pain management schedule must be developed that contains specific signs, behaviors, or physical parameters to be measured in the animal. This schedule must account for overnight and weekend hours. Staff must ensure adequate and timely administration of pain relieving medications until the animal has recovered and the experience of pain is no longer a realistic possibility.

Professional staff must be available at all times to care for the animals. The staff must make rounds for the purpose of ascertaining the state of each animal’s health and well-being. Animal care staff must be trained and authorized to dispense pain relieving or tranquilizing drugs as may be necessary. While it may be a standard operating procedure to phone the investigator or director regarding the need for such care, this

action must not delay the provision of relief for the animal. Nursing care must be provided to all animals following surgery or other injurious interventions and to animals with chronic pathological conditions.

Euthanasia of irremediably suffering animals should be considered a major obligation, and delays must not be permitted in implementing decisions to euthanize.

The decision to euthanize a moribund animal must be made by the attending veterinarian and not the scientist(s) conducting the experiment or study; the attending veterinarian must be empowered to euthanize without seeking approval from the principal investigator. Staff carrying out euthanasia must be well trained to perform the procedure. The venue for conducting the euthanasia should be selected so as not to increase anxiety and fear. The method of euthanasia that is selected should ensure the quickest death possible, in accordance with guidelines published by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Animals should not be discarded without being monitored long enough after death to ascertain clear signs of cessation of life, such as rigor mortis.

DEFINITION OF ANIMAL

The definition of “animal” in the federal Animal Welfare Act must be amended to include all vertebrate animals, and research funding agencies must establish guidelines and regulations to provide for the welfare of invertebrates.

ACQUISITION

Animals used in experimentation and testing should be acquired from professional breeding facilities whose standards of housing and care are equal to those described herein for research laboratories. The use of dogs and cats from Class B dealers must be prohibited. The use of animals sold by members of the public should be prohibited, as this is detrimental to the ethic promoted by community animal shelters that companion animals should be considered members of the household and not disposable commodities.

We encourage veterinary schools to use dogs and cats from animal pounds and shelters to train veterinary students in surgical sterilization with such animals returned to bona fide animal shelters after the period of recovery for the purpose of adoption to the public. Dogs and cats from animal pounds and shelters may be used for procedures performed for the benefit of these animals, in the judgment of community animal control officials, but any such release of impounded animals must be subject to all applicable laws and regulations and information about such transactions must be available to the public. Release of dogs and cats from animal pounds and shelters for any purpose other than adoption into homes is detrimental to the increasing professionalization and growing public confidence in community animal control agencies. Laboratory use of impounded dogs and cats also presents public relations problems for scientific institutions.

ANIMAL CARE

Animal care staff must be trained to treat animals with care, respect, and in accordance with all applicable laws

and regulations. Treatment of animals by staff must be monitored by the research facility and audited for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations by an appropriate agency. Failure to follow all regulations and guidelines and/or failure to treat animals with care and respect must result in disciplinary actions including immediate suspension and/or dismissal as well as any available legal remedies.

It is recognized, however, that animal care technicians often seek to improve the handling, housing, and care of animals in laboratories and their opinions and ideas should be given careful consideration. Whenever possible, animals should be humanely trained through positive reinforcement to cooperate with handlers instead of being forced into procedures such as blood draws.

Ongoing training regarding best practices must be provided. The staff must be trained to recognize signs of discomfort and distress in animals and be empowered to make their observations known to the attending veterinarian. For example, if staff identifies a moribund animal or an animal who is suffering irremediably, that animal should be euthanized without delay. An animal whose suffering is remediable should be provided with analgesia and/or sedation and given supportive care such as fluids, soft food, or custom bedding.

HOUSING

Animals used for scientific purposes should be maintained in ethologically appropriate physical and social environments. Housing should provide sufficient space and materials to permit the expression of basic species-specific behaviors, including species-typical movement, for examples: foraging, hiding or retreating to a safe/sheltered place, burrowing, and gnawing if the animals are rodents; climbing, perching, and swinging if the animals are primates; perching, scratching, and stretching if the animals are birds, and flight space for flying birds; and rooting and wallowing if the animals are pigs. Social animals must be housed with one or several compatible conspecifics (though in some cases, animals of other species are sufficient) to address their biological need for companionship.

RETIREMENT OF ANIMALS

Whenever feasible, animals should be permitted to retire to species-appropriate facilities provided by reputable institutions or organizations after termination of their assignment(s) to research, testing and education or, in the case of companion animals, they might be adopted into homes.

The funding agency and research institution should earmark funds for the lifelong retirement of animals used for scientific purposes.

This document was produced by a drafting committee consisting of Kim Bartlett, president of Animal People, Inc.; Robert C. Jones, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Center for Applied and Professional Ethics, California State University, Chico; Gil Michaels, executive director of Animal Guardians; and one person who wishes to remain anonymous.

Zimbabwe blames dogs for anthrax

MASVINGO, Zimbabwe—Masvingo police and security guards shot at least 20 dogs a day from mid-February to mid-March 2012 in a purported attempt to control anthrax, the newspaper *New Zimbabwe* reported.

“John Chikomo, the Zimbabwe National SPCA regional manager for Masvingo, said they were against ‘indiscriminate shooting of stray dogs,’ but said they were powerless to stop the exercise,” *New Zimbabwe* added.

“Masvingo is a chronically anthrax affected province, but stray dog control has no part in anthrax control,” responded Martin Hugh Jones, resident anthrax expert for the International Society for Infectious Diseases’ ProMed online information service. Jones has long urged Zimbabwe to escalate vaccinating livestock against anthrax.

“If the area is littered with dead livestock and there are problems with their proper disposal, I can see an argument for stopping dogs from scavenging the carcasses,” Jones added, “but vultures will be doing that anyway.”

Zimbabwean officials in January 2012 blamed anthrax for killing 88 hippos, 45 buffalo, 30 elephants, and two kudus in Mana Pools National Park. Asked Jones, “How many of the deaths have followed poachers poisoning the waters?” Earlier Jones noted that vultures, who do not contract anthrax, were found dead among the elephants.

On the Origins of New Forms of Life: A New Theory by Eugene McCarthy (from page 16)

species,” McCarthy notes. “But there are about 500 different known types of waterfowl hybrids. About 18,000 orchids are treated as species. More than 35,000 types of orchid hybrids are on record, and the number is ever increasing.” These successful hybrids account for most and perhaps all waterfowl and orchid biodiversity. Nor are these unique cases. There is genetic evidence that hybridization created the overwhelming majority of fish species throughout the world.

“When zoology was emerging as a science in the eighteenth century,” McCarthy recounts, “practitioners arranged their taxonomies in accordance with an age-old ordering principle handed down from medieval times, the *scala naturae*. This system had religious roots and pictured beings rising in a linear order of perfection, starting with inanimate minerals and rising through fossils to plants, animals, humans, celestial beings, and, ultimately, God. “In Darwin’s day many people considered rapid change unnatural,” McCarthy continues. “Many, especially those of the conservative upper crust to which Darwin belonged, felt any abrupt alteration was a threat to the social order.”

No family trees

Even as Darwin and other early evolutionists challenged the perceived immutability of the *scala naturae*, they preserved it in the form of the family tree, the imagined structural model for evolution.

“When different traits are used to construct phylogenetic trees for the same set of organisms,” McCarthy observes, “different trees are implied. Some traits may suggest the relationships of the organisms should be described by one tree, while other traits may suggest the nature of their relationships are quite different. Under such circumstances, the tree that ‘best’ fits the data is selected. But this procedure presupposes that some ‘real’ tree of descent actually exists. If the production of new forms of life via stabilization processes is common over evolutionary time, then there will be no *real* tree, let alone a best one. The reason: such processes so often involve hybridization that they would give rise to a weblike network of descent, not a tree.”

Of note is that in recent decades the traditional “food chain” of species that eat each other, stretching from bacteria to apex predators and back through the process of decomposition, has given way in science education to the more accurate “food web,” which better describes the complexities of diet.

“Naturalists have long believed that a supposedly treelike pattern of evolutionary history was reflected in the treelike configuration of their chosen system of classification. But this notion may be entirely illusory,” McCarthy continues. “For example, among mammals, flying lemurs are often placed in a separate order of their own, but various authors have also classified them on various occasions as bats, primates, and insectivores. The raccoon dog is placed in the same family as dogs, but is obviously similar to raccoons, which belong to a different family. Scientists have long argued over whether tree shrews are primates or insectivores. Classified as a cat, the jaguarundi resembles a weasel or otter, while the fossa seems to connect the cat family with the civets and genets. Classified as a carnivore, the kinkajou is similar to a primate.

“Under stabilization theory, intermediate organisms are expected,” McCarthy explains. “But under neo-Darwinian theory they constitute a problem.”

Life forms “alleged to be of gradual origin, never seem to be of known origin,” McCarthy continues. “Since even bacteria are known to engage in a form of hybridization, we may reasonably suppose new forms of life were arising by stabilization processes, even in times as old as the earliest strata in the fossil record. There therefore seems to be no need to posit gradual divergence in isolation, even at the very earliest stage of evolution.”

Accurately understanding evolution as the growth of an ever-expanding hybrid web, McCarthy contends, should mean “an end to interminable disputes over whether this group or that one is truly a ‘species.’”

By implication, this would also mean an end to schemes such as shooting ruddy ducks and barred owls, lest they hybridize with “endangered” whiteheaded ducks and spotted owls, who are among their next of kin. Coming to appreciate hybridization would end much, if not all, of the current angst over “invasive” species and an alleged “extinction crisis” which results in large part from species hybridizing successfully to expand biodiversity.

Future perspectives

“I can foresee that our children will look back on our discussions of such issues and fail to understand our concerns,” writes McCarthy in his concluding chapter. “They will accept that geographically and morphologically intermediate hybrid populations connect many distinct types of organisms. They will think, too, that our nomenclatural delineations of such populations, if they understand them at all, were largely arbitrary. For they will see that such distinctions have been ruled not only by differences in form, but also to a great extent by the personal prejudices of those who devised the nomenclature and by traditions that enconced such prejudices on the throne of accepted usage.

“On the basis of stabilization theory,” McCarthy suggests, “we may conclude that evolutionarily successful forms will spawn many offspring forms, heirs to their genes, when they themselves cease to exist. Such forms have a birth and death, just as an individual does. But they are more stable than an individual because they do not undergo gradual change in the time between inception and demise. Under this view, elimination of certain types of individuals does not result in progress toward perfection. It merely reduces the scope of diversity. Indeed, severe selection against all types deviating from a single ideal would eventually reduce a form to a clone-like uniformity in which no change, progressive or otherwise, would be possible.”

McCarthy imagines “a world in which individual competition and selfishness cease to be biological givens...There is hope in this view of life,” he suggests, “in which nature is no longer ‘red in tooth and claw’... Relieved of the grim duty of destroying our imagined competitors for the sake of mere survival,” McCarthy suggests, “we can rise to a higher moral plane where we, as individuals and as societies, can build ourselves environments filled with ‘sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.’” —Merritt Clifton

The Hunter

*Starring Willem Dafoe,
Frances O’Connor, & Sam Neill*

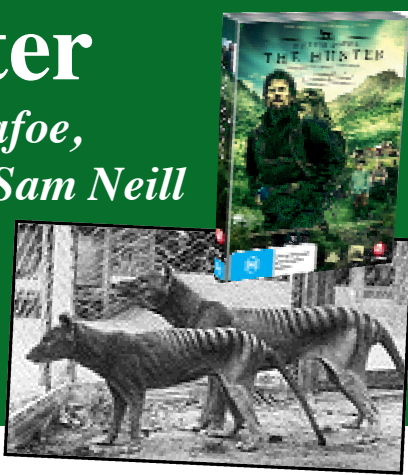
Directed by Daniel Nettheim

Adapted from novel

The Hunter by Julia Leigh.

Porchlight Films, 2011 (Australia).

U.S. release on April 6, 2012.



Thylacines at Beaumaris Zoo, 1931.

The Tasmanian tiger, more properly called the thylacine, was a large carnivorous marsupial with tiger-like stripes and a dog-like build. Thylacines dwelt in the forests of Tasmania until hunted to apparent extinction, chiefly by sheep herders who feared predation—although the historical evidence is that thylacines were only an incidental sheep predator. The last thylacine killed in the wild was shot in 1930. The last known thylacine, captured in 1933, was accidentally locked out of his night quarters at the Beaumaris Zoo in Hobart, Australia, and died of exposure on September 7, 1936.

Founded in 1895, the Beaumaris Zoo had kept thylacines since 1909, and was the only zoo that had them. Without living thylacines to exhibit, the zoo collapsed financially and was permanently closed in 1937. Occasional thylacine sightings are still reported. To confirm the existence of a surviving thylacine is among the Holy Grail quests of cryptozoologists. The Julia Leigh novel *The Hunter*, and the film adaptation by Daniel Nettheim, build on the idea that a remnant thylacine population persists.

The Hunter film weaves a captivating psychological drama around the hunt for the last thylacine, targeted by a biotech company for the toxin that thylacines are said to use to paralyze prey. In actuality, thylacines were not venomous.

The action is somewhat slow-paced, but emotional depth and beautiful atmospheric cinematography make *The Hunter* engrossing all the same. The acting by Willem Dafoe, Frances O’Connor, Sam Neill and others is superb throughout.

From an animal welfare perspective, however, *The Hunter* is troubled at best. Numerous wallabies, brush possums, and at least one chicken are killed, both as bait for the thylacine and for human consumption, without any sense of regret on the part of the characters or filmmakers. The thylacine receives more sympathy, as from O’Connor’s character when she laments that, “It’s better off extinct. While it’s alive, people will always want to find it, to hunt it down.”

The ultimate fate of the thylacine is treated in tragic terms, with lavish mourning, but I felt that the tears shed were meant more for the thylacine as a symbol of the people who died in his pursuit than as an animal with intrinsic value of his own, and who is sacrificed to prevent further shedding of human blood. There is a strong environmental theme, revolving mainly around Tasmanian forest logging, but although environmentalism and animal rights sometimes overlap, in this case they do not coincide. —Wolf Clifton

Falling for Eli:

*How I lost heart, then gained hope
through the love of a singular horse*
by Nancy Shulins

DaCapo Lifelong Books (11 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142), 2012. 272 pages, paperback. \$15.99.



Former Associated Press correspondent Nancy Shulins shares an uplifting memoir in *Falling for Eli: How I lost heart, then gained hope through the love of a singular horse*. Married to a great guy named Mark, Shulins wanted to start a family, but despite a long series of expensive fertility treatments, medical issues prevented her from becoming pregnant. Seeing friends and family doting on their children saddened her. Shulins even stopped walking her dog Jack in the park to avoid the “fertile Myrtilles” women who had recently given birth. Then Mark introduced her to friends nearby who kept horses.

Invited to help with barn chores, Shulins quickly bonded with a horse named Frank. She brushed him, rode him, and fed him carrots. But after several months Frank developed laminitis, a disease with many suspected causes that affects the coffin bone in the horse’s feet. While most laminitis can be treated, the mortality rate for some variant forms runs as high as 50%. Frank died, returning Shulins to despair.

About a year later Shulins met another horse, Eli, who picked up her spirits.

“And now, here he is, with his big sweaty head on my shoulder, looking to me to make it all better. What could be better than that?” she asks.

But Shulins is not living happily ever after. As Shulins learned about horses and their care, she discovered the nagging horse overpopulation problem.

Upward of 170,000 horses lose their homes each year, many of them sold to slaughter. Although the toll is just a fraction of the millions of dogs and cats who end up in shelters, Shulins is crushed by horse neglect, abuse, and abandonment. The treatment of horses as commodities is at odds with her understanding of horses as companions.

Concludes Shulins, “I’ve already cobbled together a list of the worldly possessions I’d sell before parting with Eli, right up to and including my house.”

—Debra J. White

Of Moose & Men: A Veterinarian’s Pursuit of the World’s Largest Deer by Jerry Haigh

ECW Press (2120 Queen Street East, Suite 200,
Toronto, Ontario, M4E 1E2, Canada), 2012. 272 pages, hardcover. \$22.95.



Wildlife veterinarian Jerry Haigh moved from Scotland to Kenya, where he authored *Wrestling With Rhinos* (2002) and *The Trouble With Lions* (2007). *Of Moose and Men: A Veterinarian’s Pursuit of the World’s Largest Deer* has emerged from his subsequent experience at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Haigh’s patients include many large animals, but moose are of most interest to him. He spends considerable time describing moose, including the various subspecies of moose, their taxonomy, history, and relationships with indigenous peoples such as the Cree.

Haigh discusses moose ticks, also known as winter ticks, and the problems they cause such as hair loss and skin irritation. Extensive hair loss leaves moose exposed to the cold. Moose often die as a result.

Moose mostly avoid humans, but Haigh introduces a woman named Beryl and her moose companion, Petruska, who was found as a calf. “Beryl is the only

mother Petruska has ever known,” says Haigh.

Chapters that cover antlers and moose behaviors capture the reader’s interest. Growing up in New York City, my moose experience was limited to Bullwinkle cartoons. But I have never hunted and never will, and struggle with Haigh’s enthusiasm for moose hunting. Indeed, the Cree and other native peoples hunted moose for millennia to obtain the necessities of life, but the times have changed, and of note is that the reason I never saw moose within a day’s drive of New York City is that hunters extirpated them from most of the northeast in the 19th century.

After more than a century of recovery efforts, there are now about 700 moose in Massachusetts, 100 in Connecticut, and some in the forest preserves surrounding the reservoirs serving New York City. Yet moose remain so scarce and so secretive in their habits that most of us, no matter where we live, will never see one without making a multi-day special effort. —Debra J. White

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OBITUARIES

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

Lawrence Anthony, 61, died on March 2, 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Following his father into the insurance industry, Anthony later turned to real estate development. In the mid-1990s Anthony bought the 5,000-acre Thula Thula private wildlife reserve in Zululand, founded in 1911. Anthony “added luxury accommodations and fine dining to attract tourists eager to see wildlife close up,” recalled Douglas Martin of *The New York Times*. Anthony also added vegetarian cooking classes to the Thula Thula program of entertainment and education, and made Thula Thula the headquarters for his own conservation charity, Earth Organization. In 1999 Anthony took in nine elephants who were slated for culling. This episode informed *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life With the Herd in the African Wild* (2009), co-authored with his brother-in-law Graham Spence. Anthony in 2005 and 2008 helped lead opposition to elephant culling in Kruger National Park. But Anthony was best known for making his way to Baghdad after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in May 2003, to help the starving animals of the Baghdad Zoo. Helped by sympathetic soldiers, Anthony improvised a watering system for the animals to replace a system damaged by fighting and dismantled by looters. He drove looters out of the zoo, expanded the depleted menagerie by taking in the remnants of the private animal collection of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein’s son Uday, and added more animals by closing a notoriously substandard private zoo on the far side of Baghdad. Anthony also helped volunteer zoo veterinarian Farah Murrani to found the Iraq Animal Welfare Society, which for nearly two years operated from the zoo premises—although Murrani herself was forced to flee death threats in late 2004. In addition, Anthony led efforts to recover Saddam Hussein’s private horse collection. In mid-2005 the horses were returned to the government of Iraq as a national treasure. Anthony and Spence recounted those adventures in their

first collaboration, *Babylon’s Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo* (2007). Meanwhile, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Lord’s Resistance Army invaded Garamba National Park. “The LRA is notorious for use of child soldiers and has been accused of rapes, mutilations and mass murder of civilians,” reported London *Guardian* environment correspondent David Adam. “Cons-ervation seemed far from its priorities, particularly after members shot dead 12 game rangers and eight Guatemalan UN soldiers sent to the region to keep order.” However, Anthony told Adam, “The political wing of the LRA and the Ugandan government were having peace talks in Sudan. During a break in the talks, I simply walked up to Martin Ojul, the LRA chair for the talks, introduced myself, and explained the reason for my visit. His initial response was distrust, covert hostility and no interest,” but the next day Anthony was invited to talk to the rebels about the rhinos in their own encampment. “When I explained there were only four rhinos left in the wild they were genuinely shocked,” Anthony recalled. Concluded Adam, “When the LRA officials signed a ceasefire with the DRC, it included pledges to protect the rhinos and to allow the park rangers to resume their work unmolested.” Anthony and Spence completed a memoir of that adventure, *The Last Rhinos*, shortly before Anthony’s death.

Cole Warminsky, 28, of Palmyra, Pennsylvania, died of cystic fibrosis on March 18, 2012 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. “He met his wife Jillian when they were both members of the Kutztown University equestrian team. She is expecting their first child next month,” reported PhillyCom blogger Amy Worden. Former Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement deputy secretary Jessie Smith hired Warminsky in 2007 as one of a five-member dog breeding kennel inspection team. Warminsky remained on the job as long as possible despite his illness.

Animal Place & Harvest Home rescue 4,460 hens

TURLOCK, California—“There are still 2,750 hens at our Rescue Ranch facility in Vacaville and 200 hens at our Grass Valley sanctuary. 587 hens have been placed into loving homes,” Animal Place founder Kim Sturla posted on March 28, 2012, a month after volunteers coordinated by Animal Place and the Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, in Stockton, completed the largest hen rescue on record. “About a third of the estimated 50,000 hens at A&L Poultry, west of Turlock, died after about two weeks without feed,” John Holland of the *Modesto Bee* reported on February 22, 2012, a day after the dead and starving hens were discovered. “Company owner Andy Keung Cheung declined to comment when reached by phone. His attorney, Martha Carlton-Magaña, issued a statement on his behalf,” Holland continued. According to the statement, “A&L Poultry has been in the process of arranging the shutdown of its egg production operations utilizing the industry’s business practices and standards. An attempt to arrange for delivery of the chickens to a third party in order to avoid the usual business practice of euthanizing the chickens resulted in an unacceptable situation A&L Poultry did not intend, and profoundly regrets.” So-called “spent hens” were until recently sold at live markets in San Francisco, Richmond, and Stockton. But campaigns led by Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender Compassion founder Andrew Zollman ended live poultry sales in San Francisco in May 2011, in Richmond in September 2011, and

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Goodbye, Friend by Gary Kowalski
New World Library (14 Pameron Way, Novato, CA 94949), 2012. 176 pages, paperback. \$14.00.

Goodbye, Friend enters a crowded market of books written to guide human survivors through grief after the loss of a beloved pet. Unitarian Universalist minister Gary Kowalski came to write about pet loss after receiving a note from a congregant asking him to announce another congregant’s dog’s death. Kowalski hesitated, wondering how the congregation would accept the news. But the entire congregation appreciated the woman’s loss and provided comfort to her. Kowalski recognizes that some bereaved pet keepers may cry over a dog or cat’s death and demonstrates acceptance of their hurt, angry, or confused feelings. He discusses Elisabeth Kubler-Ross’s five stages of death and dying as related to pet loss. He associates pet loss with various religious ceremonies. Kowalski explains that the loss of a pet may be a child’s first experience with death, and should be handled with sensitivity and concern. He suggests coping procedures, including honoring the deceased pet with a memorial, or writing about the pet.

Kowalski does not cover pet loss and grief at animal shelters, but almost no one does. Euthanasia, always a sensitive subject, has become much more so amid rising public enthusiasm for no-kill sheltering; but even shelters that save every healthy animal nonetheless have frequent need to euthanize animals who are suffering and beyond effective treatment, or are too dangerous to allow around other animals and humans. Shelter workers experience grief, anguish, frustration, rage and depression from destroying tail-wagging dogs and purring cats. Pet keepers may grieve with friends, family and even support groups, but shelter workers often receive little emotional help, even from each other, since the culture of shelter work emphasizes maintaining an aura of serene and self-assured competence, to avoid disturbing animals and shaking public trust. —Debra J. White



Grace Tam, 11, killed on July 31, 2010 by falling ice at the Big Four Ice Caves near Granite Falls, Washington, was on March 1, 2012 memorialized by publication of her journal of visits to Hawaii, Japan, and Hong Kong, as well as other writings, for sale to benefit animal shelters. Her parents, John Tam and Tamami Okouchi, told *Everett Herald* writer Eric Stevick that Grace Tam had hoped to found an animal shelter.

Joe Ramonetha, 63, employed by the Johannesburg Zoo for nearly 40 years, was on February 13, 2012 killed by an 11-year-old lioness named Nyanga at the zoo’s Rietkuil conservation farm in Parys, Free State, South Africa. The attack was reportedly the first fatality at a Johannesburg Zoo facility in 50 years. Opened in 1904, the Johannesburg Zoo was one of the few South African public institutions that was never segregated during the apartheid era, 1948-1994.

Andrew Wordes, 53, of Roswell, Georgia, on March 26, 2012 “told a local reporter to warn the marshals who were trying to evict him to back off,” reported Greg Bluestein of Associated Press. He then apparently poured gasoline inside his house and ignited it. “Wordes started raising poultry in 2005,” Bluestein recalled. “At first he had only a few chickens. Most neighbors didn’t seem to mind. But complaints poured in after he got dozens more chickens, roosters who crowed day and night, and then pigs, goats and dogs,” plus attracting coyotes who preyed on the other animals. Wordes “alienated neighbors,” Bluestein continued, “but earned the support of the city’s mayor and others who read about him online. He even convinced former Georgia governor Roy Barnes to represent him in court. The chickens were long gone, but he was still fighting eviction,” after failing to make mortgage payments while jailed for violating probation on an illegal grading conviction.

MEMORIALS



(Ruby, hoto Courtesy of Janet Beller Photography)

In memory of Ruby, our rescued greyhound, who had an innate sense of fairness and patience with the world, despite her rough beginning. You'll always be in our hearts. —R, M, O and A Nardone

In memory of the elephant and other animals killed by the Trump brothers in Africa. —Stephanie Ferneyhough

In memory of all those mice, rats, and birds, to whom my heart belongs. —Action Volunteers for Animals

In memory of Wendy Thomas. —Marilyn Weaver

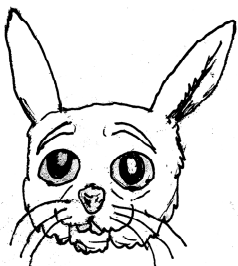
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