

**Tsunami animal rescue coverage from  
India, Thailand, Indonesia, too**  
*(pages 3-5, 7-8, 10, 14-18, 20-21)*

**Kenya hunting legalization vetoed**

NAIROBI—"Yesterday, 31st December 2005, the president of Kenya, His Excellency Emilio Mwai Kibaki, publicly declined assenting the G.G. Kariuki private members Bill passed in Kenya's parliament on 9th December 2004. This means that the hunting ban of 1977 in Kenya remains. This is a great victory for Kenya's wildlife!" Youth for Conservation president Joshat Ngonyo declared, seconds after midnight, in the first e-mail that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** received during the new year.

Introduced in June 2004 as a measure to compensate farmers and others for harm incurred by wildlife, "the Kariuki bill was hurried through when there were very few Members in the house," Ngonyo said, late in the evenings of December 8 and 9.

"It was sneaked through Parliament through the back door," Kenya Coalition for Wildlife Conservation Management Sydney Qutai told Agence France-Presse. With national elections only weeks away, many members were already



Cheetah. (Elissa Blake Free)

away campaigning.

The compensation aspects were a thin disguise for the bill, the central part of which would have allowed Kenyan land-owners to operate hunting ranches similar to those of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

"Private property triumphed over wildlife conservation," said Masai activist Godfrey ole Ndopaiya when the bill passed.

"At the centre of the campaign," wrote *East African* correspondents John Mbaria and Kevin Kelley, "was Safari Club International, an elitist hunting club with deep roots in the United States government and Congress."

Both U.S. President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney are life members. Bush, while Texas governor, was the Safari Club "Governor of the Year" in 1995 for vetoing a bill that would have curtailed game ranching.

"The U.S. government may also have rendered financial support to local pro-hunting groups through the United States Agency for International Development (USAid)," Mbaria and Kelley continued.

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*"Refugee camp children happy their puppy is going to be vaccinated," e-mailed Robert Blumberg with this photo. Quelling post-tsunami rabies panics that swept Sri Lanka after thirsty dogs drank saltwater and frothed at the mouth, Blumberg began with vaccines and vehicles funded by ANIMAL PEOPLE.*

**An unexpected  
hero in Sri Lanka**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Electrical engineer Robert Blumberg had just arrived in Sri Lanka with his wife, a State Department employee, when the December 26 tsunami hit.

Blumberg had never done disaster relief work, but as a longtime animal welfare volunteer in Egypt, where he and his wife formerly worked, he knew the animals of Sri Lanka would need help.

He began calling Sri Lankan animal welfare groups and e-mailing to the major multinational animal charities to volunteer.

To prepare himself, Blumberg asked **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for a list of web sites about animal disaster relief and began studying.

While waiting for his many messages to animal welfare groups to be returned, Blumberg volunteered at the U.S. consulate.

Seventy-two hours after the tsunami, Blumberg began to realize that organizing animal relief would be up to him, ready or not.

Most Sri Lankan animal rescuers were in urgent need of help themselves,



Blumberg found, not yet able to organize a relief mission.

"Everyone has been rendered helpless and are indeed in shock," said Kandy Association for Community Protection Through Animal Welfare director Champa Fernando.

No international group had help on the way yet—but **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett sent Blumberg start-up funding.

"About 90 people per year die from rabies in Sri Lanka," Blumberg learned. Tsunami victims crowded together in tent cities

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*News For People Who Care*

*About Animals*

**January/February 2005  
Volume XIV, #1**



**Video law holds up in first  
test against animal fighter**

PITTSBURGH—Reaching a unanimous verdict in only 45 minutes, a federal jury on January 13, 2005 convicted video distributor Robert Stevens of three counts of selling depictions of illegal cruelty to animals across state lines.

The case was the first court test of 1999 legislation introduced by Representative Elton Gallegly (R-California).

U.S. Senior District Judge Alan N. Bloch rejected federal public defender Michael Novara's contentions that the law violated Stevens' First Amendment right to freedom of expression, and that it was misapplied because the law was introduced to address "wanton cruelty to animals designed to appeal to a prurient interest in sex."

The law prohibits the interstate distribution of videos or films depicting illegal cruelty to animals, if they are without "serious religious, political, scientific, educational, journalistic, historical, or art value."

Stevens, 64, of Pittsville, Virginia, in 2003 sold two videotapes of dogfights and one video of a "hog/dog rodeo" to investigators for the Pennsylvania State Police and USDA Office of the Inspector General. Stevens advertised the videos for sale in the *Sporting Dog Journal*, whose publisher James Fricchione, 34, was convicted in March 2004 of six felonies and five misdemeanors for allegedly promoting dogfights.

Setting Stevens' sentencing for April 21, Bloch ordered him to surrender to the court any pit bull terriers he owns by January

24, and to refrain from any involvement in training, breeding, selling or otherwise dealing with pit bulls. Stevens also may not associate with any other persons involved in such activities, and may not sell any equipment that might be used to train dogs to fight.

Brian Haaser, USDA Office of the Inspector General chief special agent-in-charge of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Region, said in a prepared statement that the "landmark investigation and conviction will open the doors" to further prosecutions of alleged dogfighters based on seizures of videotaped evidence.

The Gallegly bill was introduced in response to public outrage over Internet sales of "crush videos," depicting animals being crushed to death by scantily clad women and transvestites. The traffic came to light when British Customs in mid-1997 intercepted several videos mailed by one "Jeff Vilencia" of "Squish Productions" in California.

British Customs took the videos to Martin Daly of the Royal SPCA. Daly eventually enlisted investigative help from Cassandra Brown of the London *Sunday Telegraph*.

Unaware of that case, then-America Online "Animals & Society" host Susan Roghair, now producer of *Animal Rights Online*, independently discovered several web sites which promoted and sold crush videos. Roghair in October 1997 sought help from **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, PETA, AnimalTalk

*(continued on page 6)*



*The Spanish organization Amigos de los Galgos recently found homes for these greyhounds, previously used either in racing before bettors or to chase rabbits in coursing competition.*

**Greyhound racing ends on U.S. west coast**

PORTLAND, Oregon—Greyhound racing appeared to be finished on the west coast of the U.S. on December 23, 2004, when Magna Entertainment Corporation announced that it will not reopen the Multnomah Greyhound Park in Wood Village, a Portland suburb.

Multnomah Greyhound Park animal welfare coordinator Patti Lehnert told Eric Mortenson of the *Portland Oregonian* that the 46 dogs left in the kennels at the end of the 2004 racing season would be kept until rehomed.

"It's business as usual for the adoption kennel, Lehnert said. "We will find homes; we will place them."

Betting at the Multnomah Greyhound Park fell from \$25 million in 1995 to \$11 million in 2002, reported Mortenson. Magna attributed the decline to the rise of online gaming and Native American casinos.

"Believe me, we know how big this is," Christine Dorchak of Grey2K USA e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Our co-founder Carey Theil grew up in the shadow of the Multnomah Greyhound Park, and dreamed as a young man of closing it. His mother, Connie Theil, who is president of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds, is ecstatic."

"I'm ecstatic," agreed Connie Theil. The opening of the Multnomah Greyhound Park in 1957 actually represented a

downsizing of the industry, at that time in response to competition from television.

The previous dog racing venue in Portland was reputedly the biggest greyhound racing stadium in the world, seating 30,000 bettors, when opened in 1933. Greyhound racing left the ever more obviously too large facility after the 1956 racing season. Converted to use by professional baseball, it has been known since then as Portland Civic Stadium, Multnomah County Stadium, and currently, PG&E Park.

Magna acquired the rights to run both horse races at Portland Meadows and dog races at the Multnomah Greyhound Park in 2001. Based in Toronto, Magna did not operate any other greyhound tracks, but owned all or part of 12 other U.S. horse racing tracks, one in Canada, and one in Austria.

Among the other Magna horse racing facilities are Santa Anita Park and Golden Gate Fields in California, Pimlico in Baltimore, Thistledown in Cleveland, and Gulfstream in Miami.

"Ultimately, we don't believe the industry in Portland can support both greyhound racing and horse racing," Magna chief U.S. counsel Scott Daruty told Mortenson.

About a dozen Oregon breeders supply as many as 400-500 greyhounds to tracks around the U.S., Carey Theil estimated, but

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not even  
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January 2005

Dear Partner,

Zorro is an amazing dog . . . to have been in the wilderness for a long time . . . and to be so trusting of us so quickly.

You can see his picture above . . . he is worried about all this because just a few days ago he was soaking wet and cold, yet again, looking for something to eat.

He had no way to even dream of his life being any other way. And in the end, it was his hunger that saved him. Zorro ate his way into our trap, blind to anyone standing there, blind to the cage itself, so hungry he didn't skip a beat when the door came crashing down behind him.

He didn't care . . . even if this was his last meal.

All Zorro knew is that he had food and that no matter what happened next, his night terrors were over . . .

. . . nights filled with the horrible cries of other abandoned dogs falling prey to hungry packs of coyotes, trying to feed their young . . .

. . . nights filled with the loud blasts of guns and bullets slamming into his friends while gangs of bad humans laughed with the joy of killing yet another living being . . .

. . . nights of watching his friends slow down with hunger, contract deadly disease, and eventually die . . . good friends . . .

even relatives.

Zorro wondered why he was never eaten, or shot, or broken with disease . . .

. . . then he remembered being a puppy and having distemper (we can tell from his teeth). He remembered being so very sick he almost hoped for death.

He probably remembered his brothers and sisters dying in convulsions, so horrible he prayed his would go quickly.

And somehow, though every time his legs jerked awake from a nap he thought this was it . . . it wasn't. Zorro was spared because he has an important message to tell the world.

It's as if the bad guys slaughtered a whole village and left one man alive to tell the other villages what's in store for them.

Zorro was left alive . . . all these years . . . to eventually tell us his story. For now, the only part I understand is the change in Zorro from when I first saw him, to the way he was yesterday when I took his picture.

Zorro likes it here. And that makes me feel good. It makes it worth all the struggles I have to endure to maintain our integrity.

Thanks to you, we created a shelter unique in the United States, a huge care-for-life Supershelter, unlike anything anyone could have imagined . . .

. . . a place where Zorro can now live a life that he could never even imagine during his horror . . . a life that will go on.

As we work to rescue Zorro's family and friends, still out there, more of Zorro's message will unfold. For now, just look at him . . . and see the profound "thank you D.E.L.T.A. Rescue" in his eyes.

Leo Grillo, founder

**D.E.L.T.A. Rescue**  
**PO Box 9, Dept. AP, Glendale, CA 91209**

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Write today to get your free video, and then build a house your dog will truly love and enjoy. Send to: **D.E.L.T.A. Rescue, P.O. Box 9, Glendale, CA 91209.** Or call us at **661-269-4010** and get it faster!



Editorial feature

First responders respond

An earthquake just west of the northern tip of Sumatra triggered the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 26, 2004 at 4:59 p.m. on Christmas Day, Pacific Standard Time—still officially the day before, on this side of the International Date Line.

Word that the tsunami had hit Indonesia and Thailand reached the outside world at 6:58 p.m. The first report that it struck Sri Lanka came at 7:30 p.m., just as it hit India.

Returning home near midnight from a family Christmas celebration, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** learned of the tsunami through a two-hour-old e-mail from Eileen Weintraub of Seattle, a volunteer fundraiser for the Visakha SPCA in the coastal city of Visakhapatnam, as well as for other animal charities in India—

Subject: Mild tremors hit Indian coastal areas  
Date: Sat, 25 Dec 2004 22:01:04 -0800

Merritt, any news about Vizag, Chennai? Are you following this — tsunamis and aftershocks all over the place. thanks, Eileen

At 12:03 a.m., after verifying the news reports, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton sent out quick inquiries to each of our e-mail contacts in the tsunami region—

We are hearing reports of catastrophic damage in your region from tidal waves. Hoping all are well.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett at that moment reached Visakha SPCA hospital manager Swathi Buddhiraju by telephone, and set up a telephone tree. Buddhiraju called Blue Cross of India chair Chinny Krishna, verified that he and the Blue Cross animal hospitals and shelters in Chennai had survived, and promptly informed us of their status.

Within the hour we had also connected with Margot Park and John Dalley of the Soi Dog Foundation in Phuket, Thailand, and longtime animal welfare volunteer Robert Blumberg, who had just moved to Colombo, Sri Lanka, from Egypt. Bob became our representative. We had already gathered the basics about who was in trouble, where, and who was there to help, before the sun rose here on December 26.

At 10:48 a.m., aware that Humane Society International Asian representative Sherry Grant was mobilizing in Bali to help the Sumatran animal victims, but having heard nothing from the International Fund for Animal Welfare and World Society for the Protection of Animals, Clifton shared with WSPA director general Peter Davies the first particulars we had from Thailand and India, and followed up soon thereafter with details from Sri Lanka.

By mid-afternoon on Monday, December 27, with still no word about organized relief efforts from IFAW and WSPA, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** began globally distributing by e-mail the details of how to donate to the surviving animal charities in the tsumani zone.

Our first clear warning that IFAW and WSPA were not yet on the job came from Dalley at 9:49 p.m. on Tuesday, December 28:

If you have any contacts with organizations willing to help, we desperately need to buy large quantities of food. Hundreds of dogs who relied on local restaurants are now starving as all the restaurants are gone.

Seventy-two hours after the tsunami hit, the Soi Dog Foundation had yet to receive even an inquiry from any of the multi-national organizations with multi-million-dollar budgets, whom animal charity donors are led to believe are first responders to any major disaster.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** is a newspaper and electronic information service, not a disaster relief charity, but saw the need to step in with a hand. Kim immediately transferred money for food to Soi Dog. We also forwarded the Dalley message to the Best Friends Animal Welfare Society and the Animals Asia Foundation, who each chipped in, and shared the message with many activist e-mail lists. Concerned individuals as far away as Switzerland and Argentina were soon helping to feed the homeless dogs of Phuket.

Learning of urgent needs elsewhere in the tsunami zone, Kim on December 31 transferred money to Blumberg for animal relief in Sri Lanka and to the Blue Cross of India, and on January 3 sent funds to the Visakha SPCA and the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes Society for the Eradication of Cruelty to Animals relief efforts, along with more aid for the Blue Cross.

Donors all over the world were by then asking **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to route their contributions to wherever the need was most severe. Some also began forwarding fundraising appeals received by e-mail from WSPA—along with their complaints about getting no answer when they called WSPA and IFAW to offer assistance.

Neither had the other animal charities in the tsunami zone heard from WSPA and

IFAW, we soon learned. IFAW, to our knowledge, has never had extensive contacts in that region, but Blue Cross of India chair Chinny Krishna is a WSPA board member.

We began e-mailing to everyone involved with WSPA for whom we had contact information, trying to find out what was going on. An initial concern was that key personnel might have been killed, missing, or injured. In Thailand, prominent animal defender Leone Cosens was among the first westerners whose remains were found; French dolphin freedom advocate Natacha Zana is missing and presumed dead. (*See Obituaries, page 22.*)

Overnight several WSPA board members separately leaked to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** by mostly roundabout means an explanatory correspondence. It began with lower echelon personnel sharing early news about the tsunami, speculating about what they might do to help. Mentioned was the idea of recalling as many key people as could be reached from vacation, to get the relief effort started. But that thought was promptly squelched.

WSPA director general Peter Davies on December 29 advised member organizations that, “Those whose Societies may wish to donate to disaster relief are asked to hold for the moment until things are clearer (we have already had a generous financial offer from Hans Peter Haering from the Swiss Society). In spite of the fact that the London office is closed until 4 January and our disaster relief director does not join until then [*replacing the recently retired John Walsh*], deputy director general Tim Bowman is doing what is possible to gain a clear picture of what is required.”

The December 29 memo from Peter Davies was accompanied by another, from Bowman. “It is very important,” Bowman said, “that we do not give people the idea that making contact means we are going to assist...any contact by ourselves will be latched onto. We must not get ourselves into a position of providing money without a clear view on how it is going to be spent effectively...If you are concerned as to how they are going to treat requests for information then it may be best to not contact them.”

“Be prepared”

Gaining that clear picture should not have taken longer than a quick web-surfing session. The animal welfare community has had enough experience with disaster relief to know some things that are required in all such situations, detailed on at least 25 web sites whose coordinates **ANIMAL PEOPLE** had already forwarded to Robert Blumberg, at his request, to help him become self-educated, in the absence of experts, about what he should do.

The most immediate needs after disasters are always for potable water, food, transportation, generators, temporary housing, clean work clothes, tools, and medical supplies, along with trained personnel to assist. Veterinary skills are valuable, but truck drivers, plumbers, electricians, and people who can fix generators and chainsaws may also be needed.

Beginning to fill these universal needs does not take a nine-day needs assessment, especially when one has the resources and contacts of a global organization and the disaster is of such a magnitude that no amount of help will be too much.

Since Hurricane Andrew hit Florida in 1992, impressing upon the animal welfare community the need to develop disaster relief plans, leading organizations have hosted hundreds of disaster relief training workshops, published many good disaster relief manuals, and trained thousands of volunteers.

Leaders in both teaching and delivering disaster relief have included Noah’s Wish, United Animal Nations, the Humane Society of the U.S., the North Shore Animal League America, the American SPCA, and American Humane. The latter, in institutional disarray since the mid-1990s, is no longer among the most active responders in most disaster situations, but was historically the first to take on the job and train others.

A focus of much of this effort has been enabling animal charities to begin responding effectively, immediately, as soon as they hear of a crisis developing, so that by the time personnel reach the scene, they are already bringing the most urgently needed material aid.

HSUS is a WSPA founding partner. If WSPA had even paid attention to the disaster relief protocols accessible through the HSUS web site, and the tsunami updates posted by HSI/Asia, some help could have reached the animals of the stricken parts of India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia within 24 to 48 hours, with more to follow.

By January 4, when the WSPA head office reopened, starving and injured animals had been at large for nine days. The already overburdened animal welfare societies serving several of the poorest nations in the world had been laboring to assist, with next to nothing beyond what **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and readers of our e-mails sent them, for all that time.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** had tried to expedite the response.

“Among the major threats to public health and morale in the disaster areas will be packs of hungry street dogs, used to living off refuse, forced to scavenge human remains,” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** warned Davies on December 30. “They need to be fed, treated for any infections, and be impounded if practicable in areas where they might otherwise be shot, poisoned, or stoned for scavenging. This is an urgent matter.

“Rabies can spread in the wake of major natural disasters, where people and animals are all more exposed and vulnerable. Rabies prevention has to be a priority. Vaccines and personnel trained to give them were needed yesterday and the day before.

“Rounding up, identifying, and rehoming work animals is urgently important, especially since equines can go many places in disaster areas that motor vehicles cannot.

“Finding milking cattle and goats and keeping them healthy is a vital part of maintaining the food supply.

“Finally, as most seasoned first responders to disasters know, among the best antidotes to post-disaster shock is to give the people wandering in a daze something warm to look after and cuddle. Looking after a frightened homeless dog is not a replacement for looking after one’s dead children, but can be the beginning of reconnecting with life.

“We hear over and over from disaster areas that a valuable side effect of animal rescue is providing therapy to the human victims, and the present case will be no exception.”

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** emphasized to Davies, first responders respond. In a crisis, police, firefighters, doctors, nurses, and journalists who have an authentic sense of duty, commitment, and pride in their work cancel their vacations and get on the job, to relieve as much suffering as possible, as promptly as possible. Donors expect nothing less of humane workers, especially those whose organizations tout themselves as global standard bearers.

First responding agencies, if in need of specialized personnel when a disaster hits, hire or borrow the help they need. They know who to call. We called on Blumberg, for example, whose response was magnificent but who was known to us already as a man who cares about animals and gets things done.

Chief executives of credible first responding agencies do the necessary. They do not excuse delay, certainly not in advance of delaying.

“Thank you for your statements. Your earlier emails had not reached me as the WSPA office is closed,” responded Davies on December 30. “This is the first message I have had from you as I am on my laptop working from home as are my other senior staff.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out that we often work from the road on a laptop, sometimes from remote and difficult places. We nonetheless almost always manage to check our office e-mail at least once a day, in case there is an emergency requiring action.

At that point we had already been in communication with humane organizations helping animals in the wake of the tsunami in Phuket, Colombo, Chennai, and Visakhapatnam for nearly five days. We had already helped them to meet their immediate animal relief needs, and were routing further aid to them as quickly as we could raise it.

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# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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Editorial feature

First responders respond

(from page 3)

Said Davies, “We need some sort of assessment of the number and types of animals in distress or in need of help; the scale of the veterinary drug requirement by medicine type, what cash is needed and for what purpose specifically, who is able to receive and distribute any aid either sent or purchased locally, etc.”

Easily accessed online references, including those of the Indian government and **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, could have informed WSPA, IFAW, and anyone else interested that India has national ratios of about one dog per 10 humans, one bovine animal per 35 humans, and more draft animals than cars.

Similar information was quickly accessible for Sri Lanka and specifically for the Phuket region of Thailand.

Even without knowing the exact numbers of animals involved, there should have been no question that relief aid for dogs, cats, cattle, and equines would urgently be needed. A mere glance at online satellite photos could confirm that thousands of acres of former pasture and ponds were now inundated with salt water, mud, and debris, and that the beachfront mar-

kets, restaurants, and hotels whose refuse formerly fed the dogs and cats were no more.

With 1.5 million people homeless in India, 745,000 homeless in Sri Lanka, and a comparable number homeless in Thailand, we could crudely estimate even before casualty figures arrived from Indonesia that at least 150,000 dogs in India, 75,000 in Sri Lanka, and 75,000 in Thailand needed help—and dogs were only one of the many species needing to be helped.

Better late than never

Later on December 30, WSPA granted \$15,000 in emergency aid to the Blue Cross of India. The amount was substantial, yet still less than the commitments we were aware of from individuals and small private trusts on that day alone.

“I am touched,” Chinny Krishna e-mailed in thanks to Davies, “because the Blue Cross is broke and I am not sure how we have managed til now. We are committed to spending \$300 U.S. per day on hired vehicles, grass, hay and dog food. We can increase our activities to go a little bit further south but

after that we will have to ask the Karuna Society (of Prasanthi Nilayam) to help with volunteers to make sure the food reaches the intended beneficiaries. We can directly use about \$500 per day. If we get more, we can use it through Karuna.

“Our volunteer Chanda Walke, a teacher, has offered to spend six weeks on the road helping, and Mr. S. Raghavan, an insurance agent, has promised to do likewise. God bless them because without such volunteers, we cannot undertake this. Ms. Gayathri Ramesh and Shanti Shankar have been taking care of all the beach dogs of Chennai the last week,” Krishna added.

The \$15,000 substantially helped two of the organizations most in need—but by the time WSPA formally reopened for business, the Visakha SPCA had made comparable commitments with help from concerned individuals such as Eileen Weintraub and Australian philanthropist Phil Wollen, along with **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and the Best Friends Animal Society.

Rahul Sehgal of the Animal Help Foundation in

(continued on page 5)

Editorial

Prioritizing animal & human suffering

While investigating the WSPA and IFAW responses to the December 26 tsunami, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on January 5 received this message from Worldwide Veterinary Service chief executive Luke Gamble:

“With regards to the Asian earthquake disaster, we are getting a considerable number of e-mails. Although we are very grateful for numerous offers of help, it is essential that the priority continues to be very much of a humanitarian nature. In a few months perhaps there will be a way we can help our associated charities in the affected regions but please be patient with regards this and we will keep everyone informed.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out to Gamble the immediate need for veterinary help in the tsunami zone, both to relieve animal suffering and to protect public health.

“Having been to Aceh and several of the islands off the North coast of Sumatra in the last few years,” Gamble responded, “I honestly don't believe that WVS can logistically assist on the ground at the moment, especially when even the U.S. Army helicopters cannot land with human food and medical supplies due to the looting and state of intense panic amongst the people of Northern Sumatra

(we had a lot of trouble logistically trying to get equipment to Iraq).

“During the last 10 days,” Gamble continued, “I felt that it was important to recognize the huge loss and devastation of human life in this disaster and to focus all efforts and fundraising to human emergency aid. I believe that this should be done on a personal level and I was/am not prepared to advertise Worldwide Veterinary Service on the back of any fundraising for these tremendously courageous and worthwhile human charities.

“It doesn't for a second mean that I have forgotten about the animals, simply that I am struggling to come to terms with human issues,” Gamble went on. “It is a constant dilemma in many of the third world countries I visit and work in as to whether I am ethically making the right decision to help the dogs, cats and donkeys, etc. and not the people. I wrestled with retraining to become a doctor on numerous occasions.

“If I think about all the drowning cats and dogs, the strays being caught and eaten for food, of course I want to help them,” Gamble said, “but then I think about all the dying children and the destitute separated families and I decide that at the moment these peo-

ple must be the priority.”

“Time to stand up”

Responds **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett to all such arguments, “I simply cannot pretend that animals are not our priority to keep from offending people who think that animal suffering is of no consequence. It doesn't matter what they think. Now is the time to stand up for animals. If we—the animal protection community—cannot stand up and say that animals suffer just as much as humans from pain, starvation, and even emotional distress, then why do we wonder that the general public cares so little for the welfare of animals?”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton pointed out that regardless of whatever priority a person assigns to animal suffering relative to human suffering, the appropriate response is to use the tools and skills one has to relieve as much suffering of whomever's as one can right now, not “in a few months.”

*New York Times* correspondent Amy Waldman on January 12 reported from Sri Lanka that at least some of the survivors are attributing the tsunami to divine wrath over disregarding animal suffering.

—Wolf Clifton

LETTERS

Vaccine, poison

Israel is now cooperating with the Palestinian Authority in distributing the oral rabies vaccine in Palestinian areas, funded by the European Union. Israel has permission to fly planes over Palestinian territory to distribute the vaccine. However, Israeli Veterinary Services also sells strychnine to the Palestinian Authority, and encourages them to use it along the border to keep rabid dogs out of Israel.

At long last all the steps have been taken to get Fatal Plus into Israel, in powdered form. The head of Veterinary Services has repeatedly assured us that when the drug is in stock and proves effective, he will ban strychnine. The Veterinary Services official responsible for distributing strychnine within Israel told me that he hands out enough of it to kill about 25,000 dogs per year. Municipal vets in Jerusalem, Arad, the West Bank, and other border areas use the most.

The American vet responsible for the entire southern region supports the use of strychnine and sees no other way to control the situation, but the vets doing the poisoning say they hate having to do it.

—Nina Natelson  
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Sofia dog panic brings threat of purge

I contacted you a year or so ago about a student project I wanted to design, to study stray dogs in Greece. Actually, I ended up volunteering for 3 weeks in my home country of Bulgaria, in the summer, in a small town near Sofia called Elin Pelin. I intended to write a letter to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** about the Elin Pelin project... but I still haven't found time, and in addition, results were mixed. We used the help of the Romanian Vier Pfoten and their mobile clinic, but it seems the number of neutered dogs was well below the expected.

But let's get to the core... On January 7, 2005 a woman was attacked while jogging on a track by more than 10 dogs in a Sofia neighborhood called “Studentski grad” (“Students' town”). A female dog was in heat there and intact males clustered around her, including a runaway or abandoned Dogo Argentino [a breed developed by crossing pit bull terriers and other “fighting” breeds with Great Danes and mastiffs]. The woman, in her thirties, was badly bitten and in shock. The event received a lot of media attention; dogcatchers swamped the neighborhood, catching and immediately killing in the city “shelter” the dog pack, along with ten or so other animals. They now

want to clean the entire neighborhood of all stray dogs. The entire city even.

The municipality immediately tried to put the blame on humane organizations. Animal protectors were accused of adopting animals and releasing them into the streets (the fact that these are neutered dogs was left out). Public officials and the media claimed the 8000+ dogs caught and killed last year were too few to combat the stray dog problem. The municipality promised to increase its dogcatching power and provide money for a new shelter outside the city.

Unfortunately the municipal council never really took NGO advice into consideration. There was only a semi-formal agreement to leave alone neutered and marked dogs, which are about 5,000 currently alive, out of about 10,000 neutered altogether since nonprofit sterilization efforts began. The stray population in the city is estimated at from 20,000 to 40-50,000. From 1999 though 2002, 45,000 dogs were killed; 8,000 dogs have been killed annually in the past two years.

People now fear that there will be dog pogroms in Sofia.

—Alina Lilova  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
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Stars fight the dog & cat fur trade

Some time ago I requested information about the dog fur industry. You sent me many wonderful articles. I am now working with Paul and Heather McCartney, Kim Cattrall, Alicia Silverstone and many others to educate people about this horrific industry. Heather showed photos and a video on a talk show in England that sent shock waves around the country. The press picked it up. Next month she is meeting with Tony Blair and holding a press conference in Brussels with the European Parliament to promote enforcement of a total European Union ban on dog and cat fur. We are also doing a documentary. Charlize Theron has put up a billboard here in Los Angeles of herself and her dog that

asks, “Would you wear your dog as fur?” (Having nothing to do with us, Simon Cowell has done the same thing—which is fantastic.)

We are doing much more, and it all started with you.

—Dennis Erdman  
Los Angeles, California  
<Denniserdman@aol.com>

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Editorial feature

First responders respond

(from page 4)

Ahmedabad brought experience gained during the 2001 Gujarat earthquake to the scene, as did Kartick Satyanarayan and other personnel from Wildlife SOS in Agra and Friendicoes SECA in Delhi. Their biggest sponsors were One Voice of France and International Animal Rescue, of Britain.

In Sri Lanka the relief operations initially funded by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and organized by Robert Blumberg were running and up to speed. In Thailand the Soi Dog Foundation was extending operations into the community.

PETsMART Charities temporarily suspended a policy against funding projects outside the U.S. to help support the tsunami relief efforts coordinated by Best Friends and **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

More help was urgently needed, everywhere, including more trained hands. WSPA personnel were welcomed, when they finally came, two weeks after the tsunami struck.

“WSPA yesterday offered to help tsunami-affected animals in six southern provinces,” reported *The Nation*, of Bangkok, on January 13, 2005. “WSPA pledged to provide financial support, technological assistance and veterinarians during a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisang, said Roger Lohanan, president of the Thai Animal Guardians Association...WSPA will also open its Asian regional office in Thailand this September,” Lohanan added.

Confirmed John Dalley, “The new WSPA director of operations, Philip Russell, has been with us most of the week, and is offering us and other groups in the area massive post-tsunami aid, spread over two years. This aid is such that it could revolutionize the stray animal care in Phuket.

“A representative from IFAW has arrived,” Dalley finished, “and is looking at our veterinary and medical supply needs, though no specific offer of help has been made as yet.”

### Where was IFAW?

Where had IFAW been all this time?

“We have been in touch with our colleagues in India and the Asia Pacific offices,” IFAW representative Anand Ramanathan “reported” to headquarters on December 29. This “report” and later installments were dressed up with photos and

anecdotes to resemble Satyanarayan’s authentic reports from the field before IFAW shared them with news media. But Ramanathan, 30, did not actually leave IFAW headquarters to go to the tsunami region until January 21. This came to light when Ramanathan participated in a “puff piece” interview with Marc Parry of the *Cape Cod Times* on the eve of his departure.

“In India, our colleagues are undertaking damage assessment missions to disaster-hit areas, especially to wildlife refuges in coastal Tamil Nadu,” Ramanathan continued. “Andaman & Nicobar Islands is another area where reports of large-scale wildlife habitat destruction have come in.”

In other words, what IFAW knew by December 29 was what anyone with web access might have known by sun-down three days earlier.

On January 1, Ramanathan wrote, “We are in communication with local NGOs,” naming three, “and are networking with international animal welfare NGOs, which includes WSPA, HSI, **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, among others, and will be pitching into a combined effort as deemed necessary to do a tsunami animal vaccination campaign to protect companion animals against rabies.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** did not even hear of Ramanathan’s existence, nor hear anything about IFAW activity, until January 3—but Ramanathan’s next paragraph was a close paraphrase of an update based on e-mails from the Soi Dog Foundation that we first distributed on December 26. Close paraphrasing from a Visakha SPCA report was also evident.

Between January 3 and January 8, Ramanathan said, IFAW assisted a pair of rescue teams fielded by the Chennai chapter of People for Animals and the Wildlife Trust of India. They fed and vaccinated “over 1,500 livestock and dogs,” wrote Ramanathan—but three teams each from the Blue Cross of India, Visakha SPCA, and Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA had already been at work in the disaster area for almost a week.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** meanwhile received repeated complaints from organizations and individuals both in need of help and offering help that e-mails to IFAW were either going unanswered or bouncing, undelivered, due to full mailboxes.

On January 10 both an IFAW press release and the

IFAW web site informed us that “In Sri Lanka, an IFAW-sponsored stray dog vaccination drive is underway,” just as Sri Lankan news media reported that such a drive was in planning. It apparently started a week later.

The vaccination drive that was underway was the one initiated more than two weeks earlier by Robert Blumberg, with start-up funding from **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“In the Phuket and Khao Lak areas of Thailand,” the IFAW materials continued, “IFAW is providing food and medical care to displaced companion animals and livestock.”

Maybe—but that was three days before IFAW Asia Pacific director Mick McIntyre visited the Soi Dog Foundation, the most prominent animal welfare organization in Phuket.

“IFAW is also using a mobile veterinary clinic based in Bali, Indonesia to gather and distribute supplies of food, water and medicines for relief efforts in Banda Aceh, one of the coastal towns most devastated by the tsunami,” the IFAW web site claimed.

IFAW donated the mobile clinic to the Yudisthira Foundation, also known as Bali Street Dogs, in October 2002. The Yudisthira Foundation was formed several years earlier by Sherry and Ken Grant. Since 2003, Sherry Grant has also represented HSUS/HSI-Asia.

“All of Bali Street Dog’s work on the tsunami is being funded directly by HSI. They are giving us money as required to fund whatever is necessary, plus they are paying a lot of expenses directly,” Ken Grant told us.

IFAW donors are in effect being asked to accept that having donated a vehicle 26 months before the tsunami entitles IFAW to claim to be doing work after the tsunami that involves neither funding nor personnel from IFAW.

Unfortunately, most recipients of IFAW fundraising appeals will never know the truth of the matter.

IFAW spends more on fundraising alone each year than the total WSPA budget, more than 10 times the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** budget, and could raise more money with appeals about tsunami relief than any of the other involved organizations—maybe more than all combined.

Almost a month after the tsunami, however, several

Fiona Oakes

I am writing to you as Fiona Oakes’ partner, as she would never consider writing about her wonderful achievements herself.

Fiona looks after 250+ animals here at the Towerhill Stables Animal Sanctuary, including horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats. She is on 24-hour fire call, and also runs marathons to promote animal rights and veganism. Last year Fiona won the Vegan Society’s Vegan Achievement Award for service to animals.

In November 2004 Fiona was the 5th female finisher at the Florence International Marathon with a time of 2:49. She has earned an elite starting position for the London Marathon, to be held on April 17. In a field of 42,000 runners, she hopes to place among the top 20 women. The BBC have asked to feature Fiona on their pre-London Marathon program, to be shown the day before the race.

We are still seeking sponsors for Fiona, who will be raising funds for the animals as well as promoting veganism.

—Martin Morgan

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Fiona Oakes at Florence.

HFA

U.S. News & World Report.

Poultry issues

The Knesset, the Israeli parliament, on January 3, 2005 banned force-feeding ducks and geese to produce *foie gras*, effective at the end of the month, one day after the Knesset Education Committee refused a request from the Agriculture Ministry to delay the ban until the end of March. Israel ranked fourth globally in *foie gras* exports, the Israeli *foie gras* industry was worth \$16.5 million per year, it employed 500 people, and it killed about 700,000 ducks and geese per year as of August 11, 2003. Then the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that force-feeding ducks and geese violated Israeli law, but allowed the industry an 18-month phase-out.

A California Court of Appeals panel in San Francisco on January 11, 2005 upheld San Francisco Superior Court Judge David Garcia’s March 2003 dismissal of a lawsuit filed by PETA in December 2002 against the California Milk Producers Advisory Board for alleged false advertising. PETA argued that the slogan “Great cheese comes from happy cows. Happy cows come from California” misrepresents the reality of how dairy cattle are raised. Garcia ruled that the laws against false advertising and unfair competition laws cited by PETA exempt government agencies.

Ginny Conley, acting executive director of the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute, on January 10 told Vicki Smith of Associated Press that 11 former workers at the Pilgrim’s Pride poultry slaughterhouse in Moorefield, West Virginia will not be prosecuted for allegedly kicking, stomping and slamming chickens against a wall, as captured on video by a PETA undercover investigator. Conley contended that the incidents “need to be handled more on a regulatory end than prosecuting someone criminally.” Pilgrim’s Pride, a major supplier to KFC, fired the 11 workers and provided remedial training to supervisors at all of its 24 North American facilities.

McDonald’s Corporation, the world’s largest restaurant chain, in late December 2004 disclosed in response to a proposed PETA shareholders initiative that it is studying “controlled atmosphere killing,” i.e. gassing poultry with nitrogen or argon, as a possible less stressful alternative to conventional slaughter.

Federal video law holds in first court test (from page 1)

host Dick Weevil, and Ohio animal rights attorney Shawn Thomas—who turned out to be pursuing a parallel investigation of his own, after finding some of the same web sites. On October 6, 1997, at Thomas’ request, ANIMAL PEOPLE postponed publishing an article about crush videos to avoid jeopardizing the investigation.

Cassandra Brown in November 1997 scooped ANIMAL PEOPLE. Learning thereby of the British investigation, ANIMAL PEOPLE introduced the British and American investigators by e-mail.

Unknown to any other investigators, the Suffolk County SPCA was separately closing in on crush video producer Thomas Capriola, 30, of Islip Terrace, Long Island. Two days after Capriola was arrested in May 1998, ANIMAL PEOPLE introduced the Suffolk County SPCA investigators to Daly, Thomas, and Roghair.

Capriola in December 2000 pleaded guilty to misdemeanor cruelty to animals and fifth-degree possession of marijuana, and was sentenced to serve 280 hours of community service with three years on probation.

The original investigation brought the August 1999 arrests and eventual plea bargain convictions of “crush video” star Diane Aileen Chaffin, 35, of La Puente, California, and producer Gary Lynn Thomason, 48, of Anaheim. Each drew a year in jail and three years on probation.

Convicted in Britain were Craig Chapman, 27, Christine Besford, 26, Sarah Goode, 22, and Tharaza Smallwood, 22. Chapman was in May 2002 sentenced to serve two years in jail. The three women drew four months each. All four defendants were also fined and banned for life from keeping pets.

Following the money

Dogfighting, hog/dog rodeo, cockfighting, and the sale of videotapes of fights and training methods are all magnitudes larger than the crush video industry. Affirmation that animal fighting can be attacked by prosecuting the video distributors allows law enforcement to strike at a revenue source for animal fighters which is much more vulnerable to interception than either betting on fights or the cash-only commerce in animals.

Intercepting either gambling or ani-

mal transactions requires putting an undercover investigator inside the activity, among people who are typically also involved in drug trafficking and other types of violent crime. This is slow and high-risk work.

Intercepting videos by contrast involves no more risk than routine inspection of materials transmitted by post and other common carriers.

High stakes

Confirmation of the high stakes involved in animal fighting came on January 19, 2005 in Columbia, South Carolina, when former state agriculture commissioner Charles Sharpe, 66, formally resigned, six months after he was suspended, and pleaded guilty to accepting a bribe of \$10,000 from the South Carolina Gamefowl Management Association, to protect a cockfighting venue near Spartanburg.

Sharpe was originally charged with accepting as much as \$26,000 in 2001-2002. A November 2003 raid on the site seized \$50,000 in cash and brought citations against 118 persons found at a cockfight.

South Carolina 6th Circuit Judge Kenneth Goode on January 19, 2005 upped the ante for prosecuting an alleged hog/dog ring by ordering that 95 dogs seized on December 17, 2004 be kept alive, at least until a court date is set. The order will significantly increase the cost of pursuing the case.

A conviction could oblige the defendants to make restitution, but the most recent precedent was not encouraging, as 8th Circuit Judge Wyatt T. Saunders on December 17, 2004 reduced from \$150,000 to \$80,000 the restitution assessed to convicted dogfighter David Ray Tant for the care of 49 pit bull terriers between his April 2004 arrest and his November 2004 plea bargain sentencing.

Tant, 57, was sent to prison for 40 years. He can get five years off for paying \$20,000, and 10 years off for paying the full amount, but may never pay any of it, since most of his assets have been seized by the Internal Revenue Service.

The South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division and USDA had placed the dogs seized on December 17 in custody of Chester County Animal Control and representatives of the Humane Society of the U.S.

Fifteen hogs seized in the raid were left on the premises of suspects Arthur Parker Sr., 47, his son Arthur Parker Jr., 20, and Mary Evans Luther, 50, all of the same address in Fort Lawn. All three were charged with felony animal fighting and baiting.

Arrested later were Thomas Gene Guffey, 29, of Huddelston, Virginia, for allegedly attending an illegal animal fight, and Chester County animal control director Vicky Stultz Land, 47.

Land was charged with animal fighting and baiting and misconduct in office. State Law Enforcement Division agent Jack Rushing III testified at Land’s arraignment that investigators became aware of her involvement in March and April of 2004.

Land’s attorney, Leland Greeley, acknowledged that on September 11, 2004 Land attended a hog/dog contest with five officers of the Chester County sheriff’s office, wrote Denyse Clark of the Rock Hill Herald, but Greeley contended that she was there in the line of duty.

Land was videotaped attending a hog/dog contest on October 16, 2004, Rushing told the court.

Three-state raids

The South Carolina arrests were part of a three-state coordinated crackdown on hog/dogging.

Richard Lee Landers Jr. and his wife Shina Giles Landers, of Warrior, Alabama, were charged with misdemeanor cruelty. Seven dogs were seized from them. They allegedly operated a web site that promoted hog/dog rodeo.

James M. Curry and Jodi Marie Curry-Liesburg, of Phoenix, Arizona, were reportedly charged with child abuse, cruelty to animals, and drug and weapons offenses. Yavapai County Child Protective Services took three children into custody. Thirty-two Russian boars and 17 dogs were seized.

On January 18, Mississippi state senator Sidney Albritton (R-Picayune) and visiting Louisiana state representative Warren Triche (D-Thibodaux) urged fellow legislators to join Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana in specifically banning hog/dog rodeo. Albritton has introduced a bill, state SB 2354, modeled on the Louisiana hog/dog rodeo ban authored

MORE LETTERS

Catholic Concern for Animals

I know you like to be on top of everything and I couldn’t find anything about Catholic Concern for Animals in your archives.

Catholic Concern for Animals is a British group, active since 1929, now working in 52 countries. They will soon be opening a U.S. chapter.

Promoting vegetarianism and an end to all “human inflicted cruelty perpetrated on animals today—in the wild, on factory farms, in laboratories, during long-distance transport, and in captivity,” their influence is growing rapidly, especially among Christians who had all but given up on their churches.

Their campaign partners include Quaker Concern for Animals and the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals.

You can check them out at <www.catholic-animals.org/>. Another terrific site, offering wonderful inspiration and hope is <www-all-creatures.org>.

—Bobbie Anderson  
Boulder City, Nevada  
<BobbieandHolly@aol.com>

Enabling caring people to help

Concerning your December 2004 editorial “The importance of enabling caring people to help,” fundraising by needy organizations is very important and all avenues must be explored. I have emphasized the importance of increasing our fundraising activity at every Visakha SPCA board meeting in the past three years. We are torn between immediate and urgent field work and the need to raise the money we needed to create awareness, add staff and volunteers, and invest in more fundraising activity, so as to sustain our growth.

I began with field activities, with my salary only meeting my expenses, to prove that this nonprofit organization is genuinely working for the cause. Nonprofit organizations are often suspected of corruption in India, as I heard from bystanders on February 19, 2004 while I was under attack by a group of butchers. The bystanders were saying that I was stopping animal slaughter and helping street dogs as part of a scheme to make money.

My intention was to come through the hard way, though this was risky, but the Visakha SPCA did come through, and now with a strong record of good work behind us, I am concentrating very hard on strategically raising funds to make the Visakha SPCA as strong financially as it needs to be to do the best for the animals.

One of the most valuable ANIMAL PEOPLE how-to articles about fundraising for humane work describes the use of an animal shelter to raise revenue, by attracting and inspiring visitors. What you say is true. People enquiring and witnessing our work are often impressed enough to give us donations, both in animal feed and cash. For example, we were surprised to begin receiving donations of milk for our animals from the temples where milk poured in ritual by devotees used to be lost, but is now collected and given to us. They also give us green feed that is offered by devotees.

Our expenses are now at least \$130 per day U.S., on average, not counting our additional expenses for tsunami relief. Having to raise this much just to meet daily needs is a constant stress, as it is for most humane societies.

However I am happy to say that the Visakha SPCA has quickly learned and gained immensely from your guidance and help with innovative decisions. We are a research-and-development project for others who wish to start humane organizations in India, and hope to become a role model.

—Pradeep Kumar Nath  
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Band-aid responses

Thank you for your extremely sensible holiday appeal letter, stressing the usually futile use of band-aid responses to cruelty and neglect, instead of working to abolish the causes through education, legislation, and law enforcement.

One of the weapons most successfully used by our opponents is the animal shelter. The use of shelters as an all-purpose response to everything diverts energy, time, and money away from outreach to the public, pitting long-term against short-term programs. This is not to say that a supply of band-aids should not be on hand and used when appropriate.

Another tool of the opposition is the preoccupation with the tax-deductible status of donations that scares too many animal advocates away from political activity.

As you know, I am among your staunch supporters, and will continue to help as best I can (my friend who reads each edition to me and is transcribing this, also.) It is good that you have key articles translated into French and Spanish. How expensive would it be to add Mandarin, Arabic, and Hebrew?

I pray that 2005 will bring some enlightenment, and that the peoples of the world will learn to thrive on a more compassionate lifestyle.

—B.B. Eilers  
Mesa, Arizona

Eilers, now more than 90 years old and blind, was long associated with Animals’ Crusaders, founded in Spokane, Washington in 1950 by L. Constance M. Barton, with affiliates in New Zealand, Scotland, and Canada. The strategic concept behind Animals’ Crusaders was sound, but the technology required to inexpensively build, maintain, inform, and activate the global pro-animal network they envisioned did not exist until the advent of the Internet in the early 1990s.

Though the Animals’ Crusaders network broke up due to the difficulty of maintaining communications with the methods and very limited donor base that animal advocacy had at the time, at least two groups descended from it still exist.

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might be especially vulnerable to a rabies outbreak, Blumberg saw—and fear of rabies might spark dog massacres.

Finding Pets V Care, a 24-hour clinic with 14 vets on staff and four mobile clinics, Blumberg recruited Fernando and any other local animal welfare volunteers he could find to put an emergency vaccination team on the road. A local LandRover dealer donated additional transportation.

Doing human disaster needs assessment from December 27 through January 3, Sri Lankan businessman Michel Nugawela did what he could to assess animals’ needs as well.

“Dogs and cats are clustered around camps with displaced people and destroyed or abandoned villages,” Nugawela found. “They are without food and water. In Mutur I saw dogs drinking puddles of sea water and initially mistook the froth from their mouths for rabies. Food and water, rather than medical attention, would be their priority.”

Nugawela discovered when he tried to feed some of the dogs that many seemed afraid of kibble, often a hint that poisoned kibble has been used nearby to kill dogs.

“Initially, people were hostile when I dished out the dog food,” Nugawela said. “This eased,” as human needs were better met, “but I could still sense considerable disbelief and dislike at what I was doing.

“The animals are terrified,” Nugawela concluded. “The slightest noise, even of a car door shutting, is enough to send them running. One dog beside the road was splashed by a puddle of water. The dog ran out of sight yelping. If I took even one step in the direction of a dog, the dog ran. The situation was particularly acute in the east.”

Blumberg’s vaccination effort began on January 3 in Moratuwa. The first Pets V Care team vaccinated 179 dogs at the Moratuwa refugee camps in two days.

“Using funds from **ANIMAL PEOPLE**,” Blumberg on January 5 e-mailed to other organizations he was asking for help, “an additional 500 doses of vaccine have been ordered, and a megaphone was purchased in response to the first day’s observations that it would be helpful in spreading the word. The

areas we visited were devastated, but the people do have food and water, which makes a big difference in attitude.

“With our limited resources, what we are doing is a drop in the bucket,” Blumberg admitted. “We know there are animals beyond our reach needing food and water, but we just don’t have the resources to get to them. **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the Best Friends Animal Society, and the Ahimsa Foundation have dispatched additional funds for these efforts, and WSPA and Humane Society International have advised that funds are *en route*.

“I must make special note of the outstanding cooperation we are receiving from Pets V Care,” Blumberg finished, before falling asleep, exhausted. “They are making vets available, with vans and drivers, at about half the usual cost. They are also helping to buy vaccines, passing them along at cost, and providing medical supplies at reasonable cost.”

## Dog panics

The first post-tsunami outburst of dog panic broke out at Paiyagala. Hungry dogs were allegedly menacing refugees.

“One of our group is using 30 kilos of meat scraps donated by the Keel Grocery and mixing them with rice to take early tomorrow morning for a general feeding, to try to keep things calm,” Blumberg told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on January 8.

HIS/Asia representative Sherry Grant arrived with Bali Street Dogs veterinarian Luh Putu Listriani Wistawan to do assessment on January 3, Blumberg said.

“At their suggestion, we will completely vaccinate one area before moving on, so our vaccination team will return to Paiyagala later,” Blumberg explained.

“Grant and Dr. Listriani left at midnight to be at Hambantota on the southeast coast by daybreak,” he added. “We vaccinated during their assessment. The HSI team distributed hundreds of puppets sent from the WSPA-sponsored Kindness Clubs on Bali for the kids—a huge hit, as the kids in the refugee areas have nothing to. Based on this lesson, our team heading out tonight to Trincomalee is

carrying 350 sets of colored pencils and drawing paper, donated by the Free Masons. HSI also left additional puppets for us.”

Another dog panic crisis erupted within 24 hours. “Last night at midnight a van set out for Arugam Bay on the east coast,” Blumberg reported. “Vaccinations were done on one side of the bridge leading to Arugam Bay, but upon crossing the bridge, we ran into reports of two to three thousand dogs running amok from hunger, biting people, exhibiting aggressive behavior, spreading rabies, etc., with discussion of killing them. We spoke directly with the Pets V Care vet on the scene, and the president of the Rotary Club chapter that is hosting us at Arugam Bay.

“While the numbers and incidents may be exaggerated, there is an issue. People are afraid to go out at night for fear of being attacked by dogs, and sleep is difficult from the sounds of barking and dog fights all night. The Pets V Care vet reported that he had not personally seen the suspected rabies cases, but the descriptions of clinical symptoms fit. The problem may nonetheless be entirely from drinking salt water. The French Red Cross is there, met yesterday with a local health inspector, and the decision was reached that the situation is beyond control and unfortunately dogs must be killed.

“We focused our limited resources on vaccinating pet dogs, so that they will be safe,” Blumberg said. “We feel as if we have failed and let the animals down, but don’t know what we can do. And we are afraid this is only the beginning.”

But the anticipated government dog-killers never came.

Instead, Blumberg updated, “The HIS-sponsored team returned,” on January 9, with more supplies, “and vaccinated as many owned dogs as possible before dark, also giving advance notice to surrounding areas for folks to bring their dogs for vaccination.

“Another HSI-sponsored team will return to Paiyagala tomorrow to do additional vaccinations to ensure this area is covered and things remain calm,” Blumberg continued. “This area is just to the south of Moratuwa, where the initial vaccination efforts funded by

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** were conducted, so we are building an arc of vaccinated regions along this section of coast.”

Also on January 9, World Society for the Protection of Animals representative Gerardo Huertas and Juan Carlos Murillo arrived, “to begin to help develop a proposed overall strategy into which all donors can plug and to provide coordination for the relief effort,” Blumberg said.

“They stressed the need for a scientific dog count in several representative areas,” already recommended by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, using a methodology Huertas had helped to use in Costa Rica, “so we can shoot down rumors of ‘thousands of dogs running amok’ when it may be that a much lower number is seen over and over; help determine the resources needed for a vaccination campaign, and in the long term, a sterilization campaign; and provide government with updated numbers that will help stop purges.

“WSPA also suggested rapid preparation of a brochure or flyer that describes dog behavior,” Blumberg continued, “so that people can avoid dog bites. It will also stress the importance of vaccination. This could be distributed along the coasts. Anusha David of our team has a public relations company and can prepare the flyers.”

By sundown on January 10 the Pets V Care teams had vaccinated about 1,200 dogs, including hundreds at Trincomalee on a three-day LandRover trip sponsored by the Best Friends Animal Society.

There, Blumberg told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “The Sri Lankan military even helped catch strays for vaccinating, and several military personnel expressed an interest in adopting one.

“Noah’s Wish founder Terri Crisp arrived today. One of her folks came yesterday, with two more en route,” Blumberg e-mailed on January 11. “One went out today with a mobile unit. We vaccinated over 600 dogs today, really started using the megaphone, and it really helped, so we bought three more. We’ll have three vans out tomorrow, and four the next.”

(continued on page 8)

By January 14, Blumberg reported, “We’ve now vaccinated about 2,500 dogs, not counting today. We’ve also been vaccinating cats, running about maybe 5% of the vaccinations given. The International Fund for Animal Welfare is preparing to establish a vaccination effort centered near Galle, in the south,” five days after the IFAW web site described the project as underway, “and we are coordinating with them. Now that we have a feel for the situation in various parts of the country,” Blumberg said, “we are going to focus on saturating the hard-hit southern area, and, as resources permit, on the lower middle eastern area. The goal is to vaccinate about 10,000 dogs in the next few weeks, while a wider-ranging government program gets started. They need to train additional vaccinators.

“We have decided that all trips should be at least three days, to minimize driving time,” Blumberg continued. “Some small hotels are still functioning. Citihealth, a local medical supply/vet supply importer, has donated 1.5 liters of Ivermectin, and we have purchased additional Ivermectin. Many of the dogs have mange and other problems, so we’ll give them Ivermectin at the same time as their rabies vaccine. We’ve just received an order of another 3,000 doses of rabies vaccine.”

## Our donors helped

To that point, the vaccination program had received \$9,020 from **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, including \$2,000 relayed from the Ahimsa Foundation; \$ 5,500 from HSI/HSUS; \$4,008 in cash and pledges from WSPA; \$500 from Best Friends; and had a pledge of \$8,820 from the RSPA.

The Pets V Care team topped 3,000 vaccinations performed on January 16. IFAW representatives that day joined a press conference about the vaccination work, but apparently did not actually vaccinate any animals until the 17th—more than three weeks after the tsunami, two weeks after Pets V Care started vaccinating at Blumberg’s instigation with **ANIMAL PEOPLE** funding, and more than one week after IFAW claimed to be doing it.

“In the entire operation we’ve had to euthanize only one dog, and that was due to a very advanced case of cancer,” Blumberg said. “We have had reports of women and children refusing to move from the refugee camps back to their homes near the ocean. This of course complicates re-situating displaced dogs and cats. It’s going to be a long recovery period. We hope companion animals can help,” Blumberg added.

The threat of massacre was still pending at Ulle, on Arugam Bay.

“For three weeks,” reported John Glionna of the *Los Angeles Times*, “hundreds of dogs have wandered through the rubble in search of food, puddles from which to lap, and often just a reassuring pat on the head. The animals are too timid to compete with humans for the food that arrives at refugee camps every day. Yet in Ulle and across this poor island nation, some dogs are getting meaner, howling at night, joining wandering bands, snarling at one another over the animal carcasses that wash up along the beach.

“Sri Lankan officials began a dog eradication program,” Glionna continued prematurely, “after one person in Ampara province, which includes Ulle, reportedly contracted rabies, presumably after a dog bite.

The victim’s condition was not known. In Ulle, more than a half dozen people, including two foreign relief workers, have been bitten.”

Sri Lankan Army Major Shene Gunawadhane told Glionna, “We really don’t want to do this, but dogs are becoming a big problem. We simply cannot afford a major rabies outbreak.”

Pets V Care veterinarian Danajaya Karunaratna told Glionna that, “In all my travels throughout Sri Lanka, I have never seen so many dogs. They need to do something here, because there are far too many dogs for a community of this size.

“They’re very nice dogs, most of them,” Karunaratna continued. “It is not their fault that they have lost their people.”

The emphasis of the January 8-10 vaccination drive in the Arugam Bay area had apparently been misunderstood.

“Since the word seemed firm that the street dogs would be killed the next day, we vaccinated as many pet dogs as we could and left broken-hearted,” Blumberg explained. “This was apparently misinterpreted in a flurry of e-mails forwarded worldwide that the authorities had stopped the vaccination of non-owned dogs, which was not the case.”

After Glionna’s article hit the international newswires, “A WSPA-sponsored team left for Arugam Bay at 3 a.m. Blumberg told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “accompanied by American Humane consultant Dick Green,” who took leave from his regular job as emergency response coordinator for the Spokane Regional Health District in Washington state.

“WSPA meanwhile moved forward with establishing operations near Galle in the south,” where the IFAW program was slow to develop. “Volunteers in Colombo assisted in procuring 34,000 syringes and 75 bottles of Ivermectin for this operation as well as for the WSPA-sponsored Arugam Bay trip,” Blumberg said. “WSPA uses three syringes per animal, one for rabies vaccine, one for Ivermectin, and one for a combination vaccine against other diseases. More megaphones were procured to support these operations.”

Green reported that the “thousands of dogs” supposedly running amok in Ulle were actually only about 500—“Still a sizeable number,” Blumberg observed. “This is an area where dogs are not usually kept as pets. Yet people were appreciative that assistance was provided to the animals,” Blumberg noted. For some, familiar animals were all that remained of their families.

“Sri Lankan health minister Nimal Siripala De Silva, who has seven dogs of his own, is keenly aware of the link between the well-being of the people and well-being of the animals,” Blumberg added. At a January 17 meeting with the vaccination program coordinators, Blumberg recounted, DeSilva “strongly stated that his policy is to sterilize, not kill. He was very happy with our work and offered his full cooperation. He was especially glad to hear that HSI would start sterilization in the refugee camps next week. He was also very enthused to hear of the education component we proposed.

“The Minister advised that a major difficulty for him was the cost of human post-exposure rabies vaccine. He sought help to acquire more, as he said if he could assure people it was available, there would be less pressure to kill dogs. The Minister had said he could only give us five minutes, but met with us for 45 minutes.”

Back at Ulle, “The flood of red collars [denoting vaccination] quickly spread relief to the community. People are moving back, beginning to rebuild,” Blumberg saw by January 18, “and more and more food is available to trickle down to the dogs.

“We were contemplating launching a feeding program if the situation warranted,” Blumberg said. “The Sri Lankan Association for the Welfare and Protection of Animals had two staff members ready to set up a feeding operation, including sending rice, sardines, and cooking equipment, and recruiting local folks to run the operation. But this does not appear necessary, given the improving situation, though there are still some hungry dogs. “The team reported that there is definitely overpopulation on what is now an island, since the bridge to Arugam Bay is gone. Residents pointed out ‘that this dog has had seven litters, and that cat 11 litters,’ and they have no vet to do sterilizations at all.”

“HSI, poised to start a Bali-style sterilization program in the refugee camps starting next Tuesday, enthusiastically agreed to field-test the Sri Lanka operation near Colombo, to facilitate press coverage of the same-day release method and to allow observation by veterinarians and others who didn’t know such a method can be used. They will then to head to Arugam Bay for about five days to do saturation sterilization.

“So, while there may be other crisis spots, the situation at Arugam Bay appears to be under control,” Blumberg hoped, conveying “great thanks to John Glionna for bringing this situation into the global spotlight.”

“The WSPA operation near Galle vaccinated about 1,100 dogs in the last two days,” Blumberg added on January 20.



*Cat in the rubble. (Robert Blumberg)*

“WSPA is developing a larger-scale plan. We had a mobile unit out today, with Noah’s Wish, who reports that the vets are very enthusiastic about their work, as it enables them to contribute to the national recovery.

“We’ve purchased another 3,000 vaccine doses and syringes,” Blumberg continued, to outfit a team that would go for five days “to the east coast above Arugam Bay. Whole villages are just not there,” Blumberg said, “but dogs are there and hungry.”

The team would also take 1,000 vaccine doses supplied by Public Veterinary Services director P.L. Harischandra, who advised that they should emphasize sterilizing roaming female dogs. “Male dogs are usually kept,” Blumberg said Harischandra told him, “but females are abandoned around temples. Our teams have confirmed this.

“The Noah’s Wish team is returning to the US tonight,” Blumberg finished, “having helped us immensely during a critical time, helping to monitor the pulse of the communities in which we have worked, and doing whatever needs to be done with a ‘can-do’ attitude. Noah’s Wish also sponsored several vaccination trips. We will miss them, and convey our thanks.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** was still the largest contributor to the Sri Lankan relief effort at that point, having sent more than

## CHAMP

*“People following the day-by-day progress of animal relief work in Sri Lanka may have seen pictures of a vet holding a stick-like device to vaccinate from a distance. They are not jabbing the dogs,” Robert Blumberg explained, “but using an ‘auto-vaccinator,’ for which Dr. Gamaika of Pets V Care won an award. You just touch the end of the stick to a dog—no jabbing—while the dog is eating a bit of bait food, snap the release, and the vaccine is injected with minimal stress to the animal. In market areas where the government has vaccinated every year, some dogs actually come when they see the auto-vaccinator, since they know that for a minimal price they will get a treat. All the Pets V Care mobile units carry these devices, and because of the gentle nature of the device, we can vaccinate for rabies, then reload with a shot of Ivermectin for mange.”*

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Fund for Animals

Tsunami & vegetarians

**KHAO LAK**—Exposure to death revived the Thai tradition of Buddhist vegetarianism, at least among tsunami relief workers, the newspaper *Matichon* reported on January 12.

“After we turned to vegetarian food and lighting jos sticks to the spirits asking for help, the job became much easier,” Khao Lak body recovery team leader Chatchawan Suthiarun said. “

Indicating that a vegetarian soup kitchen was among the most popular with Khao Lak refugees, *Matichon* quoted a tsunami survivor as saying that the smell of death had put her off meat.

Most Thais today eat some meat, chiefly fish and poultry, but Thailand was for centuries —like India and Sri Lanka—a vegetarian enclave.

While the World Conservation Union and other environmental organizations pointed out that logging coastal mangrove swamps to start shrimp farms had left coastal Thailand unprotected against tsunamis, the International Vegetarian Union noted that the shrimp farms exist to produce meat.

“Would this not be the right time,” the International Vegetarian Union online newsletter asked, “for bodies such as the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization, World Health Organization, and European Union to draw up blue-prints for a future in which vegetarianism plays a much larger role?”

Meanwhile, announced the vegetarian service group Food For Life on January 1, “We are serving more than 10,000 freshly cooked vegetarian meals to tsunami victims per day, consisting of rice, dhal, and vegetables.”

Vegetarian food was also served to tsunami victims by 11 Indian charities supported by the Sabina Fund, a subsidiary of the Farm Animal Reform Movement, begun by founder Alex Hershaft in memory of his mother.

Kenya hunt ban (from page 1)

“Besides funding a trip by 23 Kenyan officials to countries in Southern Africa, *The East African* can reveal today that SCI had been working with an affiliate group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) on a proposed pilot hunting project in Samburu.”

Safari Club director of governmental affairs and wildlife conservation Richard Parsons told Mbaria and Kelley that the Safari Club “had been working with the chairman of IUCN’s Sustainable Group for East Africa, Eric Bosire, to set up the Samburu project.

“It is true we have been working with the Safari Club on this project,” Bosire confirmed to Mbaria and Kelley.

“He revealed that the three-year project was to be based in the Wamba area of Samburu, and its goal was to introduce sport hunting,” Mbaria and Kelley reported.

Parsons acknowledged providing “a very small amount of money” to the Kenya Wildlife Working Group.

“This is an umbrella body,” Mbaria and Kelley explained, “that brings together major wildlife forums in Kenya, with offices at the East African Wildlife Society premises in Nairobi. It is reputed to be the local coordinator of the pro-hunting lobby in Kenya.”

Many landowners who want to introduce hunting already raise wildlife for tourist viewing. They have drawn support from subsistence farmers whose crops, homes, and lives are often jeopardized by rampaging animals, including elephants, leopards, lions, and baboons. The farmers have usually blamed the Kenya Wildlife Service for failing to control the animals.

After years of effort reinforcing national park boundaries to keep animals in, the Kenyan government is increasingly aware that many depredations can be attributed to the wildlife ranchers, national security minister Chris Murungu told Amos Kareithi of the *East African Standard* on January 20. Murungu hinted that the government might expropriate and redistribute to the landless poor the land of ranchers who fail to keep wildlife within bounds.

“Deep and sincere thanks go to everyone who supported our campaign,” Ngonyo said. “It is our shared victory. But we must not be complacent,” Ngonyo emphasized, noting the influence of the hunting lobby and Kariuki’s stated intent to reintroduce the bill. “We need to embark on an awareness campaign,” Ngonyo said, “to prevent any such legislation from being passed again.”



The Kariuki bill rapidly advanced three days after acting tourism and wildlife minister Raphael Tuju dismissed the entire Kenya Wildlife Service board of directors, for the second time in two years. The board was dissolved this time after forged papers were circulated which purported to implicate two-time KWS director Richard Leakey—and other leading critics of hunting—in alleged plots to take over, privatize, and profit from running KWS.

KWS director Evans Mukolwe was meanwhile dismissed after 980 trainee wardens were recruited to fill 460 positions. The *East African Standard* alleged that many of the trainees were hired as political favors to members of Parliament.

President Kibaki vetoed the Kariuki bill nine days after Tuju appointed Julius Kangogo Kipng’etich, 39, to become the tenth KWS director in only 12 years. Kipng’etich was managing director of the Investment Promotion Centre, which seeks to attract foreign business to Kenya, and was previously director of student welfare and a commerce faculty lecturer at Nairobi University.

Tuju also named a new KWS board, including former World Bank staffer Shem Migot Adhola, who once worked under Leakey in an economic recovery project; Helen Gichohi, who heads the Kenyan branch of the pro-hunting African Wildlife Foundation; Moi University art professor George Fungo Chengo; Tourism Trust Fund chair Olotisatti ole Kamuaro, who is also an International Livestock Research Institute consultant; and Ker & Downey Safaris board chair Allan Earnshaw, 53, a photo safari guide since 1973, associated with Ker & Downey since1980.

Events

**Jan. 29-30: Equestrians Spa Weekend**, in Lenox, Mass., to benefit The Equine Fund. Info: 518-392-5999 or <equine-fund@aol.com>.

**Feb. 4: Jim Boggia “Concert for Critters,”** Philadelphia. Info: <www.peoplepetpartnership.com>.

**Feb. 7-14: Have A Heart For Chained Dogs** week. Info: 814-941-7447 or <info@dogsdeservebetter.org>.

**Feb. 7-8: Florida Regional Student Animal Rights Action Conference**, Gainesville. Info: <www.DemandLiberation.com>.

**Feb. 12-13: Texas Regional Student Animal Rights Action Conference**, Austin. Info: <www.DemandLiberation.com>.

**Feb. 17-19: Intl. Conf. on Legal Protection of Animals in Spain**, Barcelona. Info: Fundacion Altarriba, <www.altarriba.org>.

**Feb. 18-21: Grassroots Animal Rights Conference**, New York City. Info: <info@grassrootsar.org>; <http://grassrootsar.org>.

**February 24-25: Minnesota Regional Student Animal Rights Action Conf.**, Minneapolis. Info: <www.DemandLiberation.com>.

**March 7: National Capitol Hill Day for Wild Horses.** Info: 866-983-3456; <www.ahdf.org>.

**Feb. 24-25: Two Days of Thinking About Animals In Canada**, Brock U., St. Catharine’s, Ontario. Info: <jsorenson@brocku.ca>.

**March 12-14: Farm Animal Forum.** Info: Farm Sanctuary, <office@farmsanctuary.org>.

**March 17-18: Compassion In World Farming** conf., London. Info: <ciwf-events@eventbookings.com>.

**March 19: Political Training for Animal Rescue & Rights Advo-**

No More Homeless Pets Conference

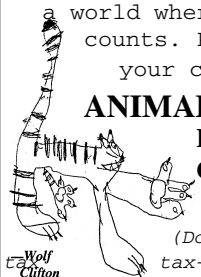
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**TEHRAN, BAGHDAD**—If humane societies are imagined as a chain of beacons, illuminating their surroundings and spreading the word, two new points of light just ignited.

“We recently opened the first Iranian shelter for dogs in Kooshkezar, and the first for cats in Karadj. Both cities are suburbs of Tehran,” wrote Center for Animal Lovers founder Fatemeh Motamedi, “After my husband Sirous provided us with land, the efforts of dedicated volunteers have made possible building the shelters,” which actually are to function mostly as out-patient hospitals for street dogs and feral cats.

The Center for Animal Lovers’ plan is “to provide care for sick and injured cats and dogs, and also take in strays, sterilize them, give them a health check, then release them to safe public areas,” Motamedi wrote. “Unfortunately adoption programs are not socially popular enough yet,” for adoption promotion to be part of the regular routine.

“At this point,” Motamedi continued, “our team



Opening of Center for Animal Lovers at Kooshkezar, Iran.

consists of two Iranian veterinarians and 18 volunteers, most of whom are university students.”

The Iraqi Society for Animal Welfare formed in mid-2003, shortly after the fall of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Among the cofounders was veterinarian Farah Murrani, who helped care for the animals at the Baghdad Zoo after nearby fighting stopped in May 2003.

Now doing an internship at the Chyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Murrani told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that ISAW activities so far have included providing care to homeless dogs and cats at Al-Zawra Park in Baghdad and opposing the use of poison for animal control.

Working with the Humane Centre for Animal Welfare in Jordan and Military Mascots, founded by Bonnie Buckley in Merrimac, Massachusetts, ISAW has also helped U.S. soldiers stationed in Iraq to send about 40 adopted pets home via Jordan and/or Kuwait, Murrani said.

U.S. Army veterinarians have been helping to train the Iraqi staff in small-incision, high-speed dog and cat sterilization, so that ISAW can assist local neuter/return work.

Future efforts, Murrani pledged, will include public education about proper care of pets, working animals, and livestock; organizing vaccination clinics to combat rabies, leishmaniasis, and screwworm; pursuing the passage of animal welfare laws; and protecting endangered species.

A feeding program for 13 Iraq Interior Ministry police dogs also recently started with U.S. humane community help. The impetus came when U.S. Army Reserve Captain Gabriella Cook, of Henderson, Nevada, now stationed in Iraq, on December 28, 2004 e-mailed to the Las Vegas *Review Journal* and other people in the Las Vegas area that “The dogs are starving and urgently need dry dog food. Some have already died,” Cook said. “Half are sick. We have no way of buying actual dog food here.”



Opening of Iraqi Society for Animal Welfare. Inset: veterinarian and cofounder Farah Murrani.

Las Vegas sports handicapper Wayne Allen Root donated \$5,000 to help the dogs via the Las Vegas Valley Humane Society, whose president, Judith Ruiz, began seeking a way to fly pallets of dog food to Iraq.

Staff of Senator John Ensign (R-Nevada), and Representative Shelley Berkley (D-Nevada) meanwhile announced on January 7, 2005 that Hill’s Pet Nutrition of Topeka, Kansas, “has arranged for a continuous complimentary supply of its Science Diet product to be made available” to feed the dogs, wrote Keith Rogers of the *Review-Journal*.

Root then asked the Las Vegas Valley Humane Society to use his donation to help Las Vegas-area dogs and cats, Ruiz told Rogers.

**More events**

**cates**, Las Vegas. Info: Las Vegas Valley Humane Soc, <nicksusan15@hotmail.com>, or Natl. Institute for Animal Advocacy, <jlewin@igc.org>. (continued on page 11)

- March 20: Great American Meatout.** Info: Farm Animal Reform Movement, 1-800-MEATOUT, <www.meatout.org>.
- March 25-27: No Kill Solutions Conf.,** San Diego. Info: 619-825-6219; <www.NoKillSolutions.com>.
- April 3: Barkitecture** live auction of custom-built dog houses and cat condos to benefit Hull Seaside Animal Rescue. Info: 781-925-6167; <www.hsar.org>.
- April 6: Paws for Laughter** comedy fundraiser for PetAbuse.com. Info: <www.pawsforlaughter.com>; 866-240-1179.
- April 6-9: HSUS Animal Care Expo**, Atlanta. Info: <www.animalsheltering.org/expo>; 1-800-248-EXPO.
- April 10: Touched By An Animal** luncheon, auction, raffle. Info: 773-728-6336; <m.galanti@comcast.net>.
- April 22-24: No More Homeless Pets**, Portland, Oregon. Info: Best Friends, 435-644-2001, x163, <Nicole@bestfriends.org>; <www.bestfriends.org>.
- April 24-26: Texas Fed. of Humane Soc.** conf., Houston. Info: 512-282-1277 or <www.txfederation.org>.
- April 25: Romania Animal Rescue charity golf tournament**, Clayton, Calif. Info: 925-672-5908; <RomaniaDogs@joimail.com>; <www.RomaniaAnimalRescue.go.ro>.
- June 22-24: Asia for Ani-**

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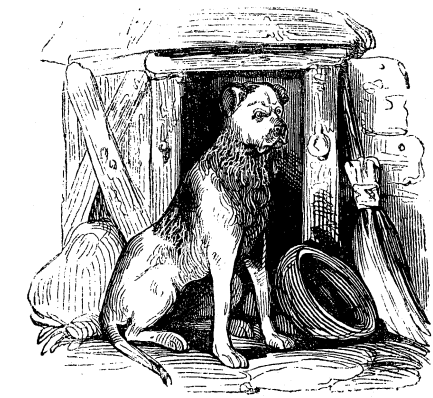


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# The Watchdog

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

## Bill introduced to halt wild horse slaughter; horse lovers rally

**WASHINGTON D.C., RENO—**U.S. Representatives Nick J. Rahall (D-West Virginia) and Ed Whitfield (R-Kentucky) on January 25 introduced a bill to restore to wild equines the full protection extended by the 1971 Wild & Free-Roaming Horse & Burro Protection Act.

The Rahall/Whitfield bill, HR-297, would repeal a stealth rider attached by Senator Conrad Burns (R-Montana), to the Consolidated Appropriations Act passed by Congress on November 18, 2004.

“If allowed to stand, the Burns provision will lead to the slaughter of thousands of wild horses for human consumption abroad,” summarized American Horse Defense Fund attorney Trina Bellak.

An impromptu demonstration of the symbolic significance of wild horses to the American public came on January 21 at Damante Ranch High School in Nevada.

Fearing that the Nevada Department of Agriculture was rounding up mustangs to sell to slaughter, 30 to 40 students left their classes, marched to the temporary corral in two separate groups, so that if one group was intercepted the other might get through, and released about a dozen horses who had already been captured with hay as bait.

The Damante High athletic teams are called the Mustangs.

Nevada Department of Agriculture spokesperson Ed Foster told Don Cox of the Reno *Gazette-Journal* that the horses were captured for relocation, after moving into the neighborhood during heavy snows in the nearby Virginia Range. Foster said that the students would not be criminally charged because they “thought they were doing a good thing.”

The students acted just under three weeks after more than 100 wild horse defenders from 33 organizations formed the Alliance of Wild Horse Advocates in Carson City on January 2 and 3, to respond to the Burns rider.

The Burns rider directed the Bureau of Land Management to make “available for sale without limitation” any captive wild horse who is more than 10 years old or who has been offered for adoption at least three times.

Most of the 14,000 wild horses now held by the BLM may be sold to slaughter, said International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros president Karen Sussman.

The 3,600-page, \$388 billion spending act was signed into law by U.S. President

George W. Bush on December 6, 2004.

“Despite losing most of the California, Oregon, and Idaho delegations due to near blizzard conditions over the mountain passes,” Nevada wild horse enthusiast Willis Lamm said, “the Alliance of Wild Horse Advocates organizing conference achieved most of its objectives. In the years that I have been involved with wild horse issues, I have never before seen such camaraderie. The conference established a number of working groups, who started addressing a host of specific issues and objectives. These working groups will confer via the Internet to develop and implement their assigned tasks.”

The Alliance of Wild Horse Advocates agreed on a nine-point statement of common understanding of the issue:

- In 1971, the Wild & Free-Ranging Horse & Burro Protection Act stated that wild horses were fast disappearing from the American scene.
- Since 1971, the Bureau of Land Management has not complied with the Act to protect wild horses and burros on public lands.
- Today there are fewer wild horses and burros on public lands than in 1971.
- The BLM has created a myth that wild horses and burros are overpopulating.
- The BLM designation of older mustangs as unadoptable is a myth.
- Because of this myth, the BLM has created a quagmire of wild horses in long-term holding pastures who rightfully belong back on the range.
- The Burns stealth rider dismantled the Wild & Free-Roaming Horse & Burro Protection Act.
- This was done without the knowledge of the American public.
- A majority of Congress were unaware that this last-minute rider was attached to the federal appropriations bill.

### Western beef boycott?

“During TV coverage of the inaugural parade,” Trina Bellak observed to fellow Alliance of Wild Horse Advocates members on January 21, “the news anchor described an equestrian group as it appeared on the screen, and mentioned that they counted amongst their members some Senators and Representatives—including Senator Burns. Needless to say nothing was mentioned about his betrayal of wild horses and burros.”

Increasing public awareness of the plight of wild horses and burros is the first goal of the Alliance of Wild Horse Advocates.

“While it is not our intent to promote economic sanctions at this time,” Lamm suggested, “I think it is not a bad idea for those who are involved with campaigns such as ‘Eat Something Else!!!’ and ‘Quit Beefin’ to encourage the development of some kind of cooperative market for mustang-friendly beef.”

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, both that idea and the idea of trying to promote boycotts of western range beef and Montana tourism seemed to be gaining momentum.

“It is fatuous to argue that 30,000 wild horses roaming the West are degrading the region’s arid lands,” Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle wrote to *The New York Times*, “when there are more than four million livestock grazing on those same lands. Where population reductions are well justified, nonlethal strategies like contraception should take the place of costly roundups, which are now just an antecedent to the slaughter of horses for export to foreign markets for human consumption.”

But seething rancher opposition to sharing leased range with wild horses was evident in Elko County, Nevada, on January 10, when the county commissioners discussed suing the federal government to seek expanded and expedited wild horse roundups—and the only reported opposition came from a commissioner who said the county couldn’t afford to fight the Department of the Interior.

Western States Wild Horse & Burro Expo director Nancy Kerson meanwhile found that the BLM has already removed older horses from its online adoption web site. Kerson explained on Lamm’s <www.KBRhorse.net> web site that she called the BLM wild horse holding facility at Burns, Oregon to ask what was happening, and was told that listing older horses for adoption is now illegal, since “under the new law they can only be sold, not be adopted. But the BLM is hoping that would-be adopters will be able to buy them,” Kerson added.

“When the American people understand what the [Burns] measure really means, they will rally to our cause,” predicted National Wild Horse Association vice president Laurie Howard to Tim Anderson of the Reno *Gazette-Journal*.

### Birds on hit list too

The Consolidated Appropriations Act also included a stealth rider that exempts any birds deemed “introduced” and “non-native” from protection under the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which animal advocates have invoked several times to stop mass exterminations of mute swans and non-migratory giant Canada geese.

Many other species may be killed. “We have tried to make the list as comprehensive as possible,” wrote John L. Trapp of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, in preface to publishing the roster of 113 potential target species. “It is not, however, an exhaustive list of all the non-native species that could potentially appear in the U.S. or its territories as a result of human assistance,” Tripp continued. Any other introduced non-native species might also be designated for massacre.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is preparing to oil the eggs of mute swans this spring, and has acknowledged that adult swans may be shot this summer.

“Federal and state wildlife agencies are once again jumping the gun in their fervor to kill mute swans,” said Michael Markarian, formerly president of the Fund for Animals and now executive vice president for external affairs at HSUS, following a merger of the two groups that became official on January 1.

Markarian hinted that HSUS would again seek to protect the swans with a strategy based on the impact study requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, a strategy which has had some past success.

“The Maryland mute swan population has been unfairly blamed for the loss of submerged aquatic vegetation in Chesapeake Bay,” Markarian continued. “As the court pointed out,” in a previous ruling that delayed a proposed mute swan extermination campaign, “the state of Maryland’s own experts have characterized the ‘bay-wide’ impact of mute swans as ‘negligible.’ The waste run-off from chicken factory farms and the sewage treatment plants on Chesapeake Bay kill dramatically more vegetation than the tiny population of swans. Moreover,” Markarian said, “Maryland’s mute swan population has been declining without lethal control—from approximately 4,000 birds in 1999 to 3,600 in 2002, the last year for which data is available.”

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

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## Hunting, brucellosis, and the Yellowstone wolf reintroduction 10 years after

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**—Ten years after the January 1995 reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park, elk near Gardiner, Montana, are getting a reprieve from seasonal human hunting pressure. A planned resumption of bison hunting along the northern park boundary has been postponed—not directly because of wolves, but because of increased local sensitivity toward the views of non-hunters.

Growing numbers of wolves are killed attacking livestock, however, and wildlife managers in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming are already anticipating the opportunity to sell wolf hunting permits when wolves come off the federal Endangered Species List.

The role of wolves in regulating Yellowstone elk and bison numbers is still disputed, but biologists increasingly credit the return of wolves with increasing the health of the herds by devouring sick animals, including those who carry brucellosis and chronic wasting disease.

Brucellosis, called undulant fever in humans, can cause spontaneous abortion in pregnant females of any vulnerable species, including domestic cattle. It can be passed to humans through consuming animal products or byproducts, such as unpasteurized milk.

Montana has for more than 20 years sought to prevent brucellosis from spreading out of Yellowstone to infect domestic cattle—which can occur in theory, but in fact has never documentedly occurred among free-ranging cattle and bison.

From the winter of 1985-1986 through the winter of 1990-1991, hunters were authorized to kill any bison who wandered north out of the park. The toll fluctuated with climatic conditions from six in 1986-1987 up to 589 in 1988-1989 and back down to four in 1989-1990.

Later the killing was done by state and federal government workers. The current management plan involves trapping and testing bison who move north. Bison who test positive for brucellosis are sent to slaughter. Others are hazed back to the park or relocated.

The Montana legislature in 2003 authorized a resumption of bison hunting this winter, but a week after newly inaugurated Governor Brian Schweitzer appointed three new members to the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission, the commission voted 4-1 on January 10 to cancel the month-long bison season. It was to have started on January 15.

“The commission also unanimously agreed to refund all the money people paid to apply for bison permits,” wrote Jennifer McKee of the *Billings Gazette*. 8,200 people applied for just 10 tags, McKee wrote, “to be drawn for the opportunity to hunt on a 25,000-acre parcel north of Yellowstone. Agency scientists told the commission that although the parcel was relatively large, the bison were concentrated in two small areas.

“All of the commissioners said they were determined to have a bison hunt this fall,” McKee added, “and would work to design a free-chase bison hunt better than the shortened, confined hunt envisioned for this year. The commission decided to draw 10 names from among the applicants,” McKee continued. “Those 10 people will be offered the opportunity to purchase the first 10 licenses for the anticipated 2005-06 hunting season.”

“The buffalo are not in the clear by a long shot,” cautioned the Buffalo Field Campaign in a prepared statement. “While the hunt is cancelled for this year, the buffalo are still under attack.”

### New strategies

Going on to criticize the current Yellowstone bison management policy, the Buffalo Field Campaign asserted that “Bison are also threatened with a new quarantine and vaccination program by agencies who would foolishly attempt to eradicate brucellosis.”

Since brucellosis is endemic in the Yellowstone region elk herd, and apparently does pass from elk to bison, trying to eliminate any risk to cattle by focusing on bison instead of addressing the disease in both bison and elk would appear to be foredoomed.

Most zoonotic disease experts, however, would agree that eradicating brucellosis is a worthwhile goal.

Montana Governor Schweitzer on January 18 outlined a new strategy to *Billings Gazette* reporter Mike Stark.

“His ideas include taking several years to run all park bison through a quarantine facility, where they would be tested for the disease,” Stark wrote. “Those who show signs of brucellosis would be destroyed or hunted, and healthy animals would be adopted to Native American tribes or private landowners. Over time, the herd—recently estimated at 4,200—would be reconstituted with animals who were adopted out, or their offspring. For a brief period, perhaps about 90 days,

Yellowstone would be without bison.”

Said Schweitzer, “In order to be brucellosis-free, you have to be bison-free for a period of time.”

The 19-member Wyoming Brucellosis Coordination Team on December 15, 2004 recommended a similar strategy to Governor Dave Freudenthal to try to eradicate brucellosis in elk. Once officially free of brucellosis in cattle, Wyoming has had growing numbers of detected cases since late 2003. The cattle are believed to have become infected by elk, who are most likely to carry brucellosis if they have congregated at any of the 23 state-managed elk feeding stations, or at the National Elk Refuge near Jackson Hole.

National Elk Refuge manager Barry Reiswig objected to Associated Press that testing and slaughtering elk to combat brucellosis would be “ridiculously expensive” and ultimately unsuccessful. It also would be hugely unpopular with hunters, who are already unhappy about declining herds, currently blamed on wolves.

Two hunters who shot a wolf in the Bridger-Teton National Forest in September 2002 recently drew plea-bargain sentences for misdemeanor killing of an endangered species in U.S. District Court in Green River, Wyoming. James Brent, 25, of Diamondville, on January 17, 2005 drew four days in jail, was ordered to pay \$2,628 in fines and restitution, lost his hunting privileges for two years, and will spend a year on probation. Levi Adams, 26, of Opal, received the same penalty in November 2004.

Trying to reduce antipathy toward wolves in Wyoming, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service removed nearly 30 wolves from the state in 2004, staff biologist Mike Jimenez told reporters on January 16, 2005.

Seven of the eight wolves who had belonged to the Owl Creek pack were killed, Jimenez said, including two males who were shot on January 9. Only one female from the pack survives. During 2004 the wolves were blamed for killing six cattle and a horse.

### Wolves & ESA

Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced on January 3 that after February 2, state agencies and property owners in Idaho and Montana—but not Wisconsin—will be allowed to kill wolves without prior written approval, if the wolves are demonstrably pursuing livestock.

“Under the old rule, the wolf had to have teeth in the livestock,” U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wolf recovery team leader Ed Bangs told Rebecca Boone

of Associated Press. “Under the new rule the wolf has to be a foot away, chasing them.”

Summarized Boone, “The wolves have thrived and now exceed recovery goals. About 825 wolves live in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming,” more than 450 of them in Idaho, “before they can be removed from Endangered Species Act protection, each of the three states must have management plans approved by the federal government. The Idaho and Montana plans have been approved, but Wyoming’s was rejected, and that state is suing. The wolves will not be delisted until that dispute is resolved.”

Wolf predation on livestock throughout the west, mostly in the Yellowstone region, nearly doubled in 2004, to three times the volume projected by the 1994 environmental impact statement on the probable outcomes of wolf reintroduction. The toll included 110 cattle, 442 sheep, and six other animals.

On the other hand, a single severe blizzard often kills more livestock.

The 1994 impact statement also estimated that, “Loss of hunting opportunities would cost the regional economy between \$207,000 and \$857,000 annually in spending by hunters, recalled *Bozeman Chronicle* staff writer Scott McMillion. “But that same study predicted that antlerless elk hunting would drop by no more than 30% because of wolves. For whatever reason, the northern Yellowstone elk herd is half the size it was in 1994,” when it peaked at 19,000.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission issued 2,800 elk hunting permits in 2000, but on December 15, 2004 agreed to issue just 148 in 2006.

“The impact statement predicted an extra \$23 million in visitor spending related to wolves,” McMillion added. “While wolves are a popular attraction, and are more visible than anyone predicted, overall park visitation has remained steady.”

Missoula economist John Duffield, who did much of the 1994 analysis, has just begun a follow-up study, McMillion said.

About 165 to 170 wolves actually inhabit the park, Yellowstone chief wolf biologist Doug Smith told McMillion. The number seems stable, and has actually declined slightly from the peak population of 174, reflecting the reductions of the elk and bison herds. Reducing the numbers of elk has allowed more willow trees to grow, enabling beavers to build more dams and expand habitat for many other species.

Smith noted that despite the recent decline of the Yellowstone elk herd, it remains much larger than it was in 1967, when the National Park Service quit shooting elk for population control.

Nathan Winograd

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Caryn Ginsberg of Priority Ventures Group will help you create a blueprint for success.

#### February 7–11: The Link: Animal Abuse and Violence

How do we know there is a connection? And what can be done to help? Alison Gianotto of Petabuse.com offers advice to help end the cycle of violence.

#### February 14–18: Who Will Care for Our Pets When We’re Gone?

Amber Ross of Best Friends will help you ensure the care and safety of your pets when you are no longer able to care for them.

#### February 21–25: Get Your Sound Bites Ready!

Learn how you can reach out to the local media and shine in the spotlight. Dave Ortiz of Best Friends and Anita Kelso Edson of the SPCA of Texas reveal their best media relations tips.

#### February 28 – March 4: Dangerous Dogs?

Are there dangerous breeds and what should be done about it? Karen Green from Best Friends, Kim Bartlett from Animal People, Holly Bukes of Pit Bull Rescue Central, and Jill Buckley, Esq. from the ASPCA, will offer insights.

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Paul Siegel

# Soi Dog Foundation anchors Thai tsunami animal relief effort

**PHUKET, Thailand**—“We are okay,” Soi Dog Foundation president Margot Park e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on December 26, soon after the tsunami, “but the devastation is indescribable. Three Norwegians, including a baby, three Russians, and a German are stranded at our house with seven more Norwegians on their way. Many dogs have lost their homes and more will be dumped as people flee.

“My extremely good friend Leone Cosens has been found dead,” Park added. (*See Obituaries, page 22.*)

The Phuket Animal Welfare Society, founded by Cosens in 1992, lost countless local volunteers. Almost a month later the PAWS web site still said nothing of the tsunami; there was apparently no one to update it.

“If anyone travels to Phuket,” Park asked, “he/she could perhaps bring some things such as long-acting antibiotics, Ivermectin to treat mange, and suture materials for sterilization surgery. But our most immediate need,” Park stipulated, “is funds to buy dog and cat food. Many dogs and cats perished, but those who survived have lost their food sources and cannot find fresh drinking water.”

Park found on her first post-tsunami feeding mission that “Many dogs were totally dazed. They didn’t want to touch food!” But she knew they would be hungry soon.

Her catch-pole was first used after the tsunami to retrieve the German refugee’s rented bicycle from underwater.

Soi Dog volunteer John Dalley “visited Khao Lak [which literally means “Cow Lake”] and spent two days wrapping bodies as well as looking for animals, of which I could find very few alive or dead,” he reported.

At Kamala Bay, however, Dalley found “Many dogs wandering around lost and dazed. The temple was destroyed,” Dalley said, “though miraculously about 12 dogs were still in the bell tower. I found a cat nursing kittens in a derelict building,” Dalley added, “and have no idea how they survived.”

Nearby animal care organizations checked in during the next few days.

“We are thankfully unharmed by the disaster,” e-mailed PhaNgan Animal Care founder Shevaun Gallwey, “but everyone is sad. We are trying to help those who need it.”

“The Gibbon Rehabilitation Project sanctuary in Phuket was untouched,” relayed Wildlife Friends of Thailand director Edwin Wiek, “as it is high above sea-level and is situated on the other side of the island.”

“The Thai Animal Guardians Association and Wildlife Friends of Thailand will do animal rescue in coordination with the Royal Thai Tourist Police and the Royal Thai Forestry Police, supported by the World

Society for the Protection of Animals,” said Animal Guardians Association director Roger Lohanon—but the arrangement was not officially announced until January 12.

The Soi Dog Foundation in the interim became the Phuket animal disaster relief headquarters, with early financial aid provided by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“Margot Park started the Soi Dog Foundation in October 2003, and has since helped to sterilize and release more than 1,470 street dogs and cats,” said Jill Robinson, founder of the Animals Asia Foundation.

“Soi Dog has recently taken over the organization called Atigaro, previously run by Allison Montgomery of Hong Kong. Margot has adopted the principle of neutering ‘everything,’ rather than only street dogs, because all unaltered dogs contribute offspring to the stray dog population,” Robinson added.

Flying to Phuket from Hong Kong on January 4, Robinson did relief needs assessment the next day with John Dalley and HIS/Asia representative Sherry Grant.

“It was particularly touching to see John’s devotion to helping the dogs at this time, as his wife Gill recently rescued a dog in a buffalo pond and contracted septicaemia, losing both her legs below the knee,” Robinson said. “Meeting Gill later, I was humbled to be talking to someone so upbeat, wanting to hear all about our day in the field, brushing off all reference to her personal trauma.

“In mid morning we met Yvonne deGaay Stokelerburg from the group DIDIT,” short for Dogs [and Cats] In Distress In Thailand. “She previously fed at least 150 dogs every day,” Robinson learned, “but the cafes, restaurants and hotels where she used to beg leftovers for the street dogs are mostly gone, and those that remain have little food to offer. Margot and John passed her sacks of dog food, and promised to follow up.

“South Patong is situated beside a river. Previously, Yvonne would bring food and 25 or so dogs would swim across to meet her. Only five or six dogs survived the tsunami and they now refuse to enter the water,” Robinson observed. “The houses are all rubble, yet the residents are kind to the dogs, and generously offered us water.”

Added Grant, “I had to hold back tears at the sight of a dog standing on the foundation of a demolished house. He looked out from the rubble to the river as if anticipating the arrival of people who would never return.”

About 17,000 dogs, mostly pets, lived along the Soi Dog feeding route before the tsunami. About half were missing.

“After the October 2002 Bali bombing we did not see many street dogs for nearly five weeks,” Grant recalled.

Three monks and fifteen dogs were killed at the Kamala temple, the team learned. The surviving monks, caring for many displaced people, “also fed the remaining dogs,” Robinson saw. “The dogs looked fit and well, but were clearly upset and traumatized.”

“I have never been a fan of shelters, and the Phuket shelter, built in May 2003, is another disaster,” Robinson emphasized. “The municipality wanted to remove all the dogs from the tourist areas. No one thought about the costs of food, veterinary care, and feces disposal. The municipality hoped that restaurants would send food scraps. The shelter turned into a dump. Ads asking the locals to donate money to feed the dogs failed. Instead there was a public backlash. The ads were pulled and the municipality hoped the dogs would disappear...read that as die.”

Park, who described her campaign against starting the shelter in letters to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, stepped in to the feed the dogs, provide veterinary care, and sterilize them. Because of her care, Robinson said, the pound dogs “were for the most part some were the best looking that I saw in Phuket.”

But since the tsunami, “More dogs arrive every day, thrown over the perimeter fence, dumped on the highway along the perimeter fence, or tied to the gate. Fourteen came from the island of Khia Paittang,” for instance, “where of 300 indigenous people, only 85 lived. They are subsistence deer hunters and don’t want dogs on the island because they can’t feed them and don’t want them killing the deer. The dogs arrived anesthetized and woke up confused,” Robinson saw. “Five were pets who lost their people. Margot photographed the dogs so she can publish an appeal to get these dogs re-homed.”

## Cats emerge

“We did not see many cats,” Robinson finished. “Those we did see were in the areas not impacted by the tsunami and seemed to be well cared for.”

The cats reappeared later. Thai Animal Guardian Association director Roger Lohanon removed some cats from Phi Phi island, which he told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was deserted at the time, took them to Bangkok, and was accused of stealing pets. Lohanon responded that Phi Phi residents could reclaim their cats after a 15-day quarantine—but visiting Bangkok will not be easy for the islanders.

Vacationing in northern Thailand when the tsunami hit, Janet Hultberg, 48, of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, made her way to the Soi Dog Foundation with two cases of dog and cat food, and spent the last five days of her trip volunteering. Hultberg, Dalley, and two veterinarians visited Phi Phi after Lohanon did, Margot Park told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and

Veterinarian Kiattisak Rojniran, who heads the Foundation for Stray Dogs, told Kultida Samabuddhi that, “Many of the strays are sick, possibly because they have contracted diseases from decomposed bodies.”

Zoonotic disease experts consulted by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** thought that was unlikely, considering dogs’ ecological niche as scavengers and that decomposing bodies are much less a vector for transmissible disease than the bodies of living organisms.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** in April 2004 extensively inquired into the reputation and operations of the Foundation for Stray Dogs, after the activities of a fundraiser claiming to be associated with it roused skepticism in Britain. It did not appear to be well-regarded.

The report of alleged corpse-eating was “a press exaggeration,” John Dalley told **ANMAL PEOPLE** the following day. “A team from the Soi Dog Foundation and the World Society for the Protection of Animals visited the area,” Dalley explained.

“The dogs from Yanyao temple have been rounded up, and are currently being looked after by a local vet. He said he rounded them up himself. A few dogs had sniffed around around body bags, but nothing more. We’ll start a clinic there next week,” Dalley said. “These dogs will be treated and sterilized, with any others we can find.”

The work was disrupted on January 20, Ken Grant of HSI/Asia reported, when a man who appeared to be intoxicated burst into the field clinic and in an apparent misguided attempt to treat mange, poured a substance believed to be a mixture of creosote and mercurichrome on a dog and three volunteers.

The dog went into seizures and the volunteers had acute nausea for more than 12 hours. Several other volunteers, including Grant’s wife, Sherry Grant, and their daughter Piper, became ill from fumes.



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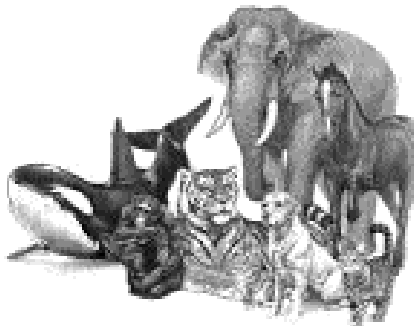


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PETSMART

## Elephants and trained street dogs are heroes of the tsunami in

**KHAO LAK, Thailand**—Elephants, the totems of Buddhism and Thailand, were among the heroes of both the December 26 tsunami and the aftermath.

“After the tsunami, reports circulated that elephants became superheroes, snatching up people with their trunks and pulling them from harm’s way,” wrote *Denver Post* correspondent Jeremy Meyer.

“The owners of eight elephants who live in a tourist camp near one of the worst-hit areas on Thailand’s southwestern coast say they witnessed no pachyderm heroics,” Meyer continued, “but Chain Usak Jongkrit,” one of their mahouts, “believes they may have tried to warn people of the impending disaster.

“Early in the morning they started making an unusual sound,” Jongkrit told Meyer through an interpreter.

“Five minutes before the tsunami hit,” Meyer wrote, “the elephants, secured by chains around their front ankles, began screaming again. One broke free and ran uphill. Another also bolted, carrying tourists.”

“If the elephants didn’t react to the tsunami, more people would have died,” Jongkrit said. “People saw them running and knew something was wrong.”

*The Glasgow Herald*, in Scotland, published confirmation that at least one tourist-carrying elephant bolted, saving a human life as well as his own.

“Amber Mason, of Milton Keynes, befriended the elephant Ningnong during her holiday at Phuket and was enjoying a ride when the tidal wave struck,” said the *Herald*.

Recounted Mason, who visited

Phuket with her mother Samantha and stepfather Eddie Mason, “On the day of the big wave I left Mum having breakfast and dashed out to see Ningnong. I climbed on to him and we started walking down the beach. The sea was right out and Yong [his mahout] was walking in front, picking up stranded fish and putting them in a bag. It was as though Ningnong sensed I was in danger. He turned away from the incoming sea and ran. Then he stood really still and braced himself against the water until Mum came to find me. I love Ningnong so I wasn’t scared for one minute.”

Added Samantha Mason, “Amber spent the whole holiday with Ningnong. As soon as I got outside I was screaming ‘Where’s the elephant?’ Someone said he was dead, which threw me into a panic as I knew Amber had been on his back. Then I saw Ningnong in the distance at the other end of the beach with Amber on his back. She started waving at me. I was almost hysterical with relief.”

### Work elephants

Machinery and human muscle did most of the rescue work in the first week after the tsunami, but Thais on the scene begged for elephant help—even as more than 100 elephants stood idle at the 15 Phuket elephant ride facilities, due to lack of tourists. Elephants were needed, Thai workers insisted, because they will stop and alert their handlers to an injured person or animal, or remains.

On January 2 the Wang Chang elephant farm in Ayudhaya trucked six elephants to Khao Lak to show what they could do.

Arriving in mid-morning, they “got to work immediately, after a quick shower to cool off in the tropical heat,” wrote Richard Vogel of Associated Press.

“These six were chosen because they are smart and can act on command,” said elephant farm partner Romthongsai Meephan.

“The elephants, all males, were cast with Colin Farrell and Angelina Jolie in *Alexander*, recreating their ancient roles as battle tanks,” Vogel continued. “Today, they mostly entertain tourists and give them tours around Ayudhaya, but they also are experienced at dragging logs through forests.”

“They will be assigned to towing heavy objects and pulling out debris,” Phang Nga official Siriphong Leeprasit said.

“In Indonesia, another 11 elephants, native to badly hit Sumatra, were pressed into similar duty because there were few trucks and other heavy equipment left. A TV report showed elephants pulling a sport utility vehicle from a collapsed building,” Vogel reported.

“Elephants shouldn’t be used,” objected veterinarian Alongkorn Mahannop to Agence France-Presse, “because they could be injured by nails and scattered wreckage. It would be better to use backhoes,” he insisted.

Contradicting conventional belief about the animals with the biggest noses of any species, Alongkorn Mahannop claimed that elephants’ “sense of smell is not good enough to locate bodies,” but asserted that “their respiratory systems could be infected by the stench of corpses. Their stomachs could be harmed if they eat contaminated food,” he added. “If they get sick, it would put a burden

on the officials responsible for them.”

But by then one elephant had already recovered a corpse, Wang Chang elephant farm director Laithonglian Meepan said.

### Dogs help

The elephants worked in partnership with Maklua, Makok and Bua Daeng, a trio of former street dogs who were trained to sniff out explosives in 2003, at the suggestion of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

“His Majesty advised that Thai dogs can work better in rough areas than imported foreign dogs, so I ordered the army to deploy Thai dogs to help search for dead bodies,” Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra told Rungrawee C. Pinyorat of Associated Press.

“The dogs’ small size and agility makes it easier for them than for humans to sniff around in the nooks and crevices of debris and the tangle of mangrove swamps,” Rungrawee C. Pinyorat observed. “Already highly disciplined, they still needed a crash course in sniffing out human remains, so they were trained with pieces of rotting pork.”

“They and the elephants seemed to have good teamwork,” a trainer told Rungrawee C. Pinyorat. “The dogs sniffed for bodies and then the elephant used his trunk to remove the debris and get the bodies out. Bua Daeng was frightened at first when he looked up and saw an elephant nearby,” the trainer added, “but he later worked well with the elephant.”

The dogs found four bodies during their first two days on the job: two policemen, a middle-aged man, and a six-year-old girl.

## Greyhound racing ends in Portland, done in Vermont; cruelty exposed *(from page 1)*

Wood Village was their major venue.

“About 520 dogs on Oregon farms will turn one year old in 2005,” Mortenson wrote. “Dogs can race at 15 months.”

On January 20, 2005 the Oregon Greyhound Association, representing the breeders, filed suit against Magna, seeking to force Magna to host the racing season.

The Magna contract with Multnomah Greyhound Park property owner Art McFadden “prevents anyone else from holding races at the facility,” Mortenson wrote. “As if to emphasize the point, Magna removed the starting boxes and greyhound blankets and hauled them to Portland Meadows ...Dog fanciers wryly note that the starting boxes and blankets are too small to be of much use at Portland Meadows.”

Alternatively, Mortenson reported, the breeders may try to hold races at a small track in Silverton.

No other west coast state allows greyhound racing.

### No racing revival

Two years of rumors that Vermont Governor James Douglas would seek to revive both horse racing and greyhound racing at the Green Mountain Raceway in Pownal apparently ended on December 13, 2004, when Progressive Partners Ltd. of nearby Shaftsbury bought the 140-acre site for about \$1 million, and announced plans to demolish the track to clear the land for a mixed-use residential and commercial development.

Rutland attorney Jack Welch emphasized that Progressive Partners has no interest in promoting gambling.

Opened as a thoroughbred track in 1963, the track

struggled to break even for 13 years, transitioning briefly to harness racing before converting to greyhound racing in 1976. Dogs last raced there in 1992.

In 1995 Scotti Devens, founder of Save The Greyhound Dogs, and Sharon Bucklin, president of Greyhound Rescue of Vermont, won passage of a statewide ban on greyhound racing. Quickly endorsed by then-Vermont governor Howard Dean, the bill not only kept the Green Mountain Raceway closed, but also killed 15 years of proposals by Delaware North and other greyhound racing promoters to build a track in St. Albans, to lure gamblers from Montreal.

### A rescue in Spain

Staff of the Scooby Refuge in Medina, Spain, and local firefighters on January 6 rescued five galgos, as Spanish greyhounds are called, from a deep well near the village of Alaejos. Dumped to die, they were heard barking.

“It is believed from the stench coming out of the well that it is a dumping hole for unwanted galgos, and that decomposing bodies remain,” said a Scooby press release.

“Galgos are protected under the Spanish penal code,” the Scooby release continued. “There are penalties for disposing of unwanted dogs in this manner, which can lead to imprisonment. Two men have surfaced since the rescue claiming to own the galgos and demanding they be returned. One man showed up at the well just before the dogs were pulled out and afterward reported them stolen. On the day after the rescue, the other man claimed his dogs had escaped. The dogs have

tattoos, which could lead to the arrest of the owners.”

Amplified by online activists, the Spanish case drew condemnation from around the world, as did a British case involving a dog who suffered a toe injury, performed poorly, and “was discovered by a walker in South Wales, whimpering on a rubbish heap. The dog had been shot through the head with a captive-bolt pistol, his ears cut off to remove identifying tattoos,” wrote Jonathan Brown of *The Independent*.

The dog was euthanized—but in a break with history, his remains were identified.

Continued Brown, “In December 2004 at Caerphilly Magistrates Court, in a case brought by the Royal SPCA, Andrew Gough, 28, a greyhound track groundsman, was sentenced to six months in jail for his treatment of Rusty,” as activists called the dead greyhound.

Allegedly paid £10 by the dog’s owner to kill him, Gough also was banned from keeping animals for life.

Two comparable U.S. cases involving many more dogs meanwhile went almost unnoticed:

- Delroy Reed, 48, of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, faces a February 8 preliminary hearing on 15 felony counts of neglecting greyhounds. Reed was charged only with neglecting the greyhounds who survived to be rescued in April 2004. Four dead greyhounds were also found on the premises.

- Kenneth Sherrets Jr., of Independence, Iowa, in October 2004 lost his permits to race dogs in both Iowa and Wisconsin, after 33 malnourished greyhounds were discovered on his property.

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# Indian humane community rises to meet the challenge of tsunami waves

**VISAKHAPATNHAM, CHENNAI**—“Around 6.30 a.m. the earthquake came. A nearby house collapsed. But we didn’t feel anything,” said Visakha SPCA hospital manager Swathi Buddhiraju of Chennai, the first person **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reached in the tsunami zone.

At 9.30 a.m. on December 26, 2004 Buddhiraju was preparing to leave Visakhapatnam to attend a meeting in Bhimili, the next city to the north, when “Suddenly one of our workers started crying and said that the sea was coming forward,” Buddhiraju continued.

“Then when I came on the road I saw many people running. A nearby hospital was evacuated and people were carrying their newborn babies. The water was coming forward and going back. Pradeep and my mom took all of our birds and some of our other animals to the Visakha SPCA shelter and thought of taking the rest of our pets,” which would have required a second trip.

“But by God’s grace,” Buddhiraju said, “the situation calmed down and the sea level stabilized.

“After talking to you,” Buddhiraju e-mailed later, “I went to the port. The water was black. I could see many fish floating on the surface. Some people starting catching the fish who were washed ashore, still fighting for their lives.

“I was at the fishing harbor,” recalled Visakha SPCA founder Pradeep Kumar Nath. “Just after I left the water started to swell alarmingly and flowed in with great force, but receded after fifteen minutes. I saw people leaving their houses without locking them, with pet dogs following. One dog was not lucky enough to jump into the jeep that his people got into. The dog ran after the vehicle at a great speed.”

Nath rescued two dogs and a cat whose people left them behind. Another 23 dogs, most of them previously sterilized by the Visakha SPCA, required food and water during the next few days. Many other dogs and the local cats remained temporarily in hiding.

“As the situation eased,” Nath continued, “I stayed back at the shelter working with 110 new calves” who were impounded on Christmas Eve, with another 120 due to arrive for medication and feeding. We were already having a hectic time,” Nath said, “even before the tidal wave.”

Abandoned at the Srikakulam temple as offerings, the first 110 calves “arrived as Christmas gifts at 4:00 a.m.,” Nath noted. “They were transported under very bad conditions. Some were dead on arrival. Most were dehydrated, needing lots of fluids and milk replacement feed, donated to us by Eileen Weintraub of Seattle,” who is now forming a U.S. charity to help support the Visakha SPCA and several other Indian animal welfare programs.

Another 130 calves were seized at Srikakulam on Christmas Day. “We sent them to Eluru to be looked after,” Nath said. Yet another mass seizure of calves was scheduled for the day of the tsunami. “We will put them up in Srikakulam, encouraging the locals and the veterinary association to look after them,” Nath e-mailed amid the chaos. “I have personally donated 2,000 rupees worth of feed” to help.

## The VSPCA moves out

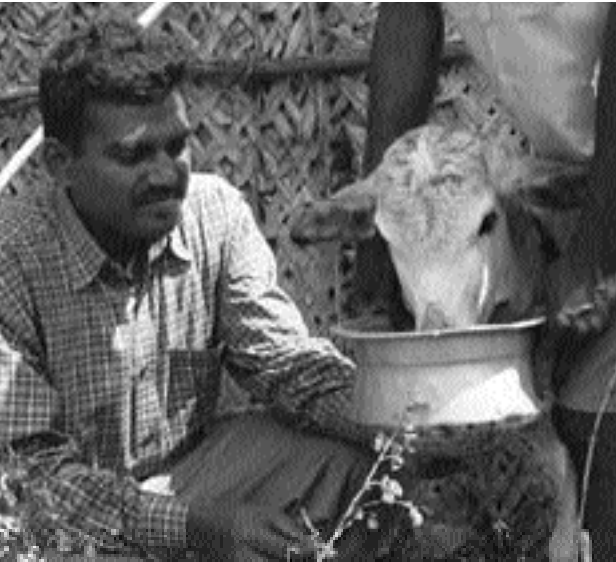
“Domestic animals were worst hit, mostly cattle and dogs, but not those who live in the streets. The street animals ran. The deaths were among confined animals. Many people left their pets behind,” Nath added, “while in some areas dead cows could be seen tied to poles and trees.”

After doing what could be done locally, the Visakha SPCA “organized an expedition to access the Andhra Pradesh coastline,” Nath said.

Operating on a budget of less than \$100 per day with which to hire a veterinarian and animal handlers, rent transportation, and buy feed and medicines, the first of three four-member Visakha SPCA relief teams set out on December 28, and by December 31 had worked their way 170 kilometres south to Uppada.

A second team pushed 60 kilometres north through 20 villages in the Srikakulam region.

“If other volunteers are available, we will send more materials,” Nath said. “The idea is to inspire local animal welfare organizations to continue from where we began, and help them with supplies, because it is difficult to bring injured animals all the way back to our hospital. With help from a few donors we are hiring vehicles and asking for more volunteers to move out further along the coast, as we need to cover 700 kilo-



Thrown down a well by the tsunami, this calf was rescued by the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA team. (K. Satyanarayan)

metres of coastal villages. No one else is covering these areas.

“We are presently without a shelter vet,” Nath added, “because he had to leave suddenly to look for his missing parents in Tamil Nadu.”

By January 6 the first Visakha SPCA relief team had covered 305 kilometres of coast. They saw the floating carcass of a buffalo, and treated a goat whose eyes were injured somehow, but “Not many livestock casualties have been reported,” Nath e-mailed. The official livestock toll was to that point 163.

While coastal flood plain stretches for miles in the Chennai region, steep mountains come almost to the sea near Visakhapatnam. Being able to reach high ground quickly made a huge difference for both the people and the animals.

The Visakha SPCA rescuers heard “endless stories of beach dogs giving much needed warning to village residents or fishers,” Nath reported. “The dogs’ uneasiness gave sufficient warning to the people to be alert. Water entered their homes, but not before they had time to flee and take their livestock.

“This occurred throughout the 11 villages that our team visited. We have provided counsel to the affected people and fed or rewarded the beach dogs. Our Animal Birth Control program will work in these villages100%,” Nath anticipated.

A third Visakha SPCA team with a truckload of supplies and the shelter vet, who had returned, on January 8 took an inland route to Machilipatnam, the hardest-hit city in the region, and continued south along the coast from there.

“We have a vet coming from Boston,” Nath said, anticipating four days of doing without. “With our Animal Birth Control program, cattle rescuing, assistance to migratory birds and sea turtles, and emergency cases, we have 700 different animals at the Visakha SPCA shelter to look after.”

Animal Rescue League of Boston director of veterinary services Bosmat Gal and Sara Winikoff, DVM, of Blauvelt, New York, responded to an appeal for volunteers issued by Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights. Winikoff spent a week helping the Blue Cross of India in Chennai.

“Since I was in India recently—I just came back a few days before the disaster—I couldn’t turn my head away. I had a visa and all the vaccinations,” Gal told Kiley Russell of the *Contra Costa Times*.

Both Gal and Winikoff assisted injured search and rescue dogs after the terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

## Dog hero Selvakumar

Some of the first tsunami rescue stories to emerge in India involved animals. The most widely circulated was that of Sangeeta, mother of three sons, reported in greatest detail by Chris Tomlinson of Associated Press on January 3. Indian news media had already been narrating the incident for days.

A resident of Chinnakalapet, Sangeeta responded to her husband’s warning shout from a rooftop by grabbing the two youngest boys and running, crying for Dinakaran, 7, to follow. Misunderstanding, Dinakaran ran to their hut, 40 yards from the sea.

Their dog Selvakumar raced after him. Nipping, nudging, and finally dragging Dinakaran up a steep slope by the collar, Selvakumar brought the boy to safety.

“Selvakumar looks much like every other dog in the village,” Tomlinson wrote. “He hardly ever barks, and lets the three boys climb all over him and pull his tail without protest. At night, he sleeps among the family, no matter how often they throw him out. Most days he escorts Dinakaran to and from school, spending the rest of the day playing with the other two boys, or begging for food. Sangeeta’s brother-in-law gave her the puppy, following the birth of her second son. When the brother-in-law died in an accident two years ago, they changed the dog’s name to his.”

## Blue Cross of India

“A photograph in *The Hindu* of a fireman with a bedraggled kitten in his hand and the help given by the police to the Blue Cross ambulances reminded us that in crisis the best in people comes out,” Blue Cross of India chair Chinny Krishna e-mailed on December 28.

“The Point Calimere wildlife sanctuary,” normally home to about 1,800 blackbuck and about the same number of sambhars, is reportedly under five feet of water. Two elephants have reportedly been stuck in the water for three days and efforts are underway to rescue them,” Krishna said.

“Our volunteers were on the beaches of Chennai within minutes of the tsunami striking,” Krishna added. “Mrs. Shanti Shankar and Mrs. Radha Rajan, president of Vigil, helped save many tethered animals by cutting them free. Several rat snakes and a cobra rescued from the flood waters were handed over to the Government Forest Department at Snake Park. Many dead pups were seen. Many surviving pups and injured dogs were removed to the Blue Cross shelter.”

Some volunteers housed as many as 15 rescued dogs each in their homes for more than a week, Krishna noted later.

“On Dec 26 and 27, we were overwhelmed by just helping out, and it was only on the 28th that the real enormity of what we were facing and what had to be done struck us,” Krishna said. “Except for occasional flooding after cyclones, we have never seen something like this. The situation is much grimmer than first thought. Healthy cows, goats, ponies, and dogs are getting unwell due to lack of good water. Many were living on salty water, since all water sources were inundated by the sea. The cattle have been living on rotting food. Many have ingested substantial amounts of plastic, which means that a larger problem—intestinal blockage—is looming ahead.”

As a first priority, Krishna said, “The Blue Cross is



Veterinarian Asha Arun of the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes

trying to mobilize water tankers. Since potable water is in very short supply even for people, volunteers working in coastal areas have been told that they should take water bottles to give to the people, while water is being given to animals, so that people do not feel that animals are being given water when people do not have enough.

“Starting from December 27, Krishna added, “volunteers led by Ms. Gayathri Ramesh fed dogs on the city beaches once a day. Mrs. Chandralehka prepared the food at her home near the marina. Volunteers led by Ms. Chanda Walke trucked feed to the cattle in the coastal areas, plus food for the dogs.”

The water-hauling was reduced after January 8, due to restoration of tap water in much of the tsunami zone. The beach dog feedings ended on January 9, by which time “Most residents in the areas affected by the tsunami had returned and the dogs did not need our help any more,” Krishna said.

“A very touching scene in some of the relief camps, including the one at Olcott Memorial School in Besant Nagar,” Krishna added, “was the large number of dogs the people took with them, with whom they were sharing the food provided by relief agencies. As Jack London said, ‘Charity is not giving a bone to a hungry dog. Sharing your food with a hungry dog when you are equally hungry—that alone is charity.’

“While much goodwill and fellow-feeling was shown in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, lorry drivers have now doubled their charges and price of fodder is up,” Krishna reported as the relief effort continued into a third week with no end in sight.

“Added to this, our volunteers are beginning to tire, and the daily heavy workload at the Blue Cross is beginning to fall behind. A larger-than-usual number of animals are being left at our shelters. Some people confess that they are surrendering their companion animal; many just say that they found the animal in their neighborhood.”

Some of the shelter turn-ins were because families in Chennai were taking in displaced relatives, some because animals followed refugees into the city and got lost.

“We can only imagine the problems that other organizations like the Karuna Society must be having, with their president and others working 600 kilometres away in Cuddalore,” Krishna mentioned.

## C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation

Krishna’s wife, Nanditha Krishna, heads the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, whose primary mission is social welfare.

“We say that when evil walks the land, Mother Earth protests,” Nanditha Krishna said. “After seeing what has happened, I think the Earth must be very angry. The greatest number of dead were children. My office stopped work to mobilize food, clothing, and utensils for the affected. People from all over Chennai bring their contributions to my office. We sort out the clothes to make sets which can be distributed easily. In the evening our staff takes them to the Red Cross camps in coastal villages.”

“Animals in the Kalpakkam/Marakanam stretch of Kanchipuram are fed by staff of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar foundation,” Krishna said. “We are thankful to them for this help as well as for much more, including the loan of a mobile phone to one of our four teams at Nagapattinam.”

The Tsunami Animal Relief Task Force, formed by Krishna, Commonwealth Veterinary Association chair Abdul Rahman, and Animal Welfare Board of India secretary R. Balasubramanian to coordinate the disaster relief effort, occupied donated space “in the 200-year-old beautiful building of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation,” Krishna said.

“Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar,” Krishna explained, “was the Dewan (Prime Minister) of Travancore, and made Travancore the first state in India to ban hunting animals.”

## Animal Help Foundation

The two most experienced animal disaster relief workers in India may be Rahul Sehgal, who heads the Animal Help Foundation in Ahmedabad, and Kartick Satyanarayan, founder of Wildlife SOS in Delhi. The focal activity of the Animal Help Foundation is operating an ambitious Animal Birth Control Program. Wildlife SOS initially handled wildlife emergencies in partnership with Friendicoes SECA of Delhi, and is now best known for operating a sanctuary for rescued dancing bears near Agra.

Both organizations fielded disaster relief teams after the January 2001 Gujarat earthquake, working their way toward each other from opposite ends of the stricken region.

“Help is never too late and never too little, from anywhere, however distant or close,” Sehgal e-mailed to organizations both in the tsunami zone and abroad, in nations capable of providing economic support.

(continued on page 17)



# Indian humane groups rise to challenge *(from 16)*

Sehgal visited Chennai to do one of the first animal relief needs assessments to reach western donors, then returned to Ahmedabad as the first outside relief teams arrived.

## Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA

“Wildlife SOS and Friendicoes SECA began work on January 1, thanks to the immediate generous support of One Voice in France and International Animal Rescue in Britain,” e-mailed Satyanarayan.

The first animals the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA team saw were “eight to 10 dogs feeding off of dead goats lying half buried in the sand at Marina Beach,” Satyanarayan said. “The Besant Nagar beach repeated the story.”

Finally, at Pallavakkam Beach, villagers “pulled forward 7-8 cows who were treated for bruises; their tethered goats had drowned. Fifteen to 20 surviving dogs all were lame or bruised. After suitable treatment the team moved on,” Satyanarayan continued.

“For the survivors,” Satnarayna soon saw, “livestock has become a lifeline, and finding even a pet dog or cat is assuming a larger-than-life meaning.”

At Nalangrai and the Kovalam Estuary the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA team “gave first aid to dogs, cows and goats who had run to safety earlier than the humans,” who were mostly killed.

At Mayajal and Toll Plaza beaches, however, Satyanarayan and team found “nothing but large numbers of dead animals. We buried some bodies, burned others, and hoped this would prevent infection,” Satyanarayan said.

At Kannathur Reddikuppam the team met a man who “was combing the beach hoping to find his 10 cats and five dogs,” Satyanarayan wrote. “At that moment our alert paravet noticed a brown blob being washed ashore. It was a tiny mixed breed dog, miraculously alive, terrified and shivering, who was treated for shock and adopted by the local people.

“The team advised everyone to bury or burn the carcasses on the beach and moved on,” Satyanarayan continued.

“At Nainaarkuppam we treated the sole surviving cow for her injuries.”

The Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA team finished their first day in the tsunami zone at Kuppam.

“No medical help had reached them,” Satyanarayan found. “Hence our team switched gears and medicated and treated the injuries of old people and children,” including strapping a broken rib.

Like the Visakha SPCA animal rescue workers, Satyanarayan heard “several tales of how the animals had run to higher ground before the people knew what was happening, and how dogs washed off managed to swim back to shore.”

Sleeping at Pondicherry, the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA team proceeded the next morning to Cuddalore. They began the day by lifting an orphaned calf out of a well in Madhavapallam village.

“She was treated for shock and dehydration and then adopted by delighted villagers, who survived the tsunami but lost all their livestock,” Satnarayn said. “But there was nothing to feed the calf. This problem recurred in each surviving village of the Cuddalore district. Ingenuity prevailed: the leaves from a sugarcane stockpile were chopped up to feed not only this calf but nearly 60 more cattle surviving on tiny patches of high ground in villages nearby.”

Moving through villages that had been hit without warning by 14 feet of water, Satyanarayan and team found only “a few dogs and a woman, Parvathi, who ran to them shouting that her bullock was left for dead but her son loved the animal and went there to mourn and found him blinking. Overjoyed they dragged him to the temple and our team seemed to them to be God sent. Fluid therapy, shock treatment, and antibiotics soon had the bullock recovering,” Satyanarayan continued, “and the villagers, excited at their luck, led in 25 to 30 cows and bullocks, followed by 20 goats. Even the stray dogs scavenging in refuse were collared and dragged to us for treatment.



Vet Geeta Godson at Port Blair.

(K. Satyanarayan)

“All the cattle we encountered were suffering from *acidiosis* from trying to eat leftover rice packets given for human relief, and from dehydration,” Satyanarayan found. “The tsunami has made the soil and the wells saline, and have stripped the land of greenery,” Satyanarayan noted.

In Sonarukuppam, Chinoor Pudduppettai, “only dead animals washed up. Here the team met Rani, who was feeding the only survivors of her village, two kid goats, with her share of milk from the relief workers.”

Mgrthittu village had vanished, along with the land it occupied. “This area was rich in mangrove swamps which housed 4000 feral cattle,” Satyanarayan said, “but our team could not find any of them.”

“Hungry cats and hundreds of cattle roamed the ruins of Chinnavaikal, a small fishing hamlet, looking for food,” Satyanarayan and team discovered.

The cattle were expected, but the cats, relatively few and seldom very visible in much of India, due to the constant presence of street dogs, were something of a surprise.

At Pazhayyar, where the tsunami surged more than a kilometer inland, the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA team found as many as 60 hungry cats. At Thirumalivasal “22 dogs were fed with bread and milk in plastic bags, and cats came running to try the food.” At Chinanguzhi and Tharangampadi “over 50 hungry cats were fed milk and bread. Goats and dogs joined the meal.” At Puthukuppam, “28 dogs were fed and five cats joined them, with 30 goats swarming around.”

Wrote Satyanarayan, “We have asked our next team to bring lots of cat food.”

## Reaching Port Blair

By January 10, three Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA teams were in the field, led by veterinarians Cyril Roy, Asha Arun, Bhavar Singh, and V. Prabhakar. As well as treating sick and injured animals, they distributed up to five truckloads of green feed per day among the livestock of 35 villages.

“All cats and dogs encountered in these areas were fed dry dog biscuits, and cat food was given to the cats,” Satnaryayan said.

In the shrine city of Velankanni a woman named Ariammal “returned to where her hut had existed, after days of searching for her lost daughter, to find that her three dogs had returned,” Satyanarayan recounted. “She asked Dr. Cyril for four loaves of bread to feed them. She said, “At least the sea spared my three sons, even if it took my daughter.”

“Our teams continue to work in Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, and Kanyakumari district,” Satyanarayan told People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi on January 15.

“We also sent over 100 kilos of medicines to Port Blair,” the capital of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands,” Satyanarayan said. The Port Blair animal welfare group, Bharatiya Jeeva Jantu Rakshan Samardhan Parishad, employs a veterinarian, Gita Dodson, who was trained in shelter work some years ago by Friendicoes SECA director Geeta Seshamani, through a program sponsored by the Royal SPCA of Great Britain and the Animal Welfare Board of India.

Godson treated more than 400 animals in the first few days after the tsunami.

Satyanarayan and Jonathan Pearce of One Voice personally resupplied her. “We encouraged the BJRRSP to go forward and establish camps on Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, and other affected islands,” Satyanarayan said.

“The tsunami tossed many salt water crocodiles from the Loha Barrack sanctuary several kilometers inland,” Satyanarayan found “Due to the availability of easy food in the form of dead bodies, the crocs are staying back, and are considered a potential threat to human survivors. The locals also report seeing large numbers of snakes.” He anticipated possibly needing to do large-scale reptile relocation.

## Karuna Society

Karuna Society for Animals & Nature president Clementien Pauws, her son Arjuna, and three other helpers began a three-day journey into the disaster area on December 31, following three Blue Cross of India teams who worked for 10 days largely under the direction of Shanthi Shankar.

From the Karuna Society headquarters in Puttaparthi, in southern Andhra Pradesh, Pauws’ team drove to Bangalore in a rented truck filled with first aid supplies, rice, and drinking water. In Bangalore they picked up additional supplies collected by Compassion Unlimited Plus Action. Driving on to the Blue Cross of India head office in Chennai to find out where they would be most needed, they began delivering food and water to animals along the coast between Pondicherry and Cuddalore on January 2.

Hearing that many animals were trapped on an island off Chidambaram, Pauws “went there on January 4 with three vets from the Animal Husbandry Department in a boat,” Blue Cross of India director Chinny Krishna recounted. “They found about 45 cattle and a larger number of goats. There was a well from which good water was available. However, there was no



Rani and her two goats were the sole survivors from their village. (Kartick Satyanarayan)

fodder or place to graze. A lorry was hired to get fresh fodder from the AHD center at Pinnathur, 20 kilometres away.”

Pauws alerted Chinny Krishna to a more ominous problem the next night. The Nagapattinam district collector (chief administrator) “wanted the dogs in the area to be destroyed because there were reports that a dog had been seen eating a human corpse,” Krishna said. The district collector also tried to deny Pauws access to the area.

“I asked her to tell the collector point blank that we were in the area to help, and that killing the dogs is against the law,” Chinny Krishna said.

Overnight Animal Welfare Board of India secretary R. Balasubramanian ensured that the Blue Cross/Karuna Society team received all the papers that anyone could ask for—but 80 dogs were massacred in Nagapattinam on January 6th.

“Our protests and the intervention of Balasubramanian stopped it. We have been assured by the district collector and the Animal Husbandary Department that this will not be repeated,” Chinny Krishna reported.

From more than 1,000 miles away in New Delhi, relying on second-and-third-hand accounts, London *Daily Telegraph* correspondent Rahul Bedi in New Delhi meanwhile amplified the story from one starving dog eating one dead body, as described by the district collector, into an alleged regional dog panic.

“Stray dogs are being killed in India’s southern Tamil Nadu state after the starving animals began attacking tsunami survivors, especially children,” Bedi opened. “Municipal officials in the devastated Nagapattinam district, 160 miles south of the state capital, Madras, said at least 30 dogs had been destroyed after reports that they were attacking and terrorizing refugees packed into relief shelters, particularly at mealtimes.”

Bedi quoted one “Shantha Sheela Nair, who is in charge of relief work in the district,” as saying that “The starving dogs’ behaviour changed after they began eating animal and human corpses washed ashore after the tsunami.”

Continued Bedi, “The bodies since were cleared, but the dogs started snarling at people and attacking women and children. Moving in wolf-like packs they further traumatised tsunami victims, already in shock, by howling at night.”

Neither Pauws, Krishna, Balasubramanian, nor Commonwealth Veterinary Association chair Abdul Rahman reported hearing of any such incidents, from the Nagapattinam district collector or anyone else.

Wildlife SOS founder Kartick Satyanarayan did encounter one dog “howling loudly at night.”

At Puthukuppam, Satyanarayan reported, “We walked through the wreckage in the darkness to see if any people or animals were trapped in the wreckage. A school room lay in ruins, next to a broken hut where a dog howled incessantly. After much coaxing and petting, the dog became quiet, but refused biscuits and water. We decided to spend the night in the open, under the stars, to keep the dog company.”

## Roads & language

Congested roads led repeatedly to delayed deliveries of relief supplies. “With the roads blocked and officials all over, movement of vehicles—even ambulances—was very slow,” Pauws reported through Chinny Krishna. “One 70-kilometer feed haul took over five hours. The truck reached Cuddalore at about six p.m. and promptly broke down. Fortunately, we were able to hire another lorry to take the feed on to Nagapattinam. It was unloaded at midnight.”

Language barriers surfaced, as well. Pauws and her staff speak English and Telugu, but the first language of the tsunami region is Tamil. Though Hindi and English are the

(continued on page 18)

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

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Indian humane community meets the challenge (from page 17)

official national languages of India, many of the poorest people in Tamil Nadu speak neither.

No matter what else a relief worker could do, those capable of translating often found themselves working chiefly as translators, so that the rest could function.

Sleeping in one of the Blue Cross vehicles, along with other rescuers, Pauws eventually fell ill and for at least a day was unable to work, Krishna said, but she remained in Nagapattinam, recovered, and resumed leading her team at a hectic pace.

“All expenses of the Karuna Society

are being reimbursed by the Blue Cross,” Krishna pledged.

Rustlers

As the Nagapattinam dog-killing controversy subsided, cattle rustling broke out, apparently first repotted by Wildlife SOS veterinarian Cyril Roy.

“In some villages the cattle vanished almost overnight,” Roy told Satyanarayan.

Many animals were taken by people who had lost their own animals, Satyanarayan said, calling this “welcome, as they prevent animals remaining as strays. However,”

Satyanarayan added, “it would be a pity if these animals were trucked off by unscrupulous traders for the meat market.”

While investigating the livestock disappearances and continuing to treat animals who had ingested polluted water, Satyanarayan met a man named Muthuswamy, who “refused to leave, even when the water came in, without his three cows and a calf, and thinks it is a miracle they all survived.”

On January 13, the Nagapattinam district collector ordered that cattle may no longer be permitted to roam on the streets, Satyanarayan said.

“They must either be kept tethered by those who claim to be their owners, or be taken to one of the government relief camps,” Satyanarayan said. “The Blue Cross and Karuna Society teams there will ensure their feeding and water supply.”

“Many cattle and ponies who were on the beaches have disappeared, the cattle no doubt transported to Kerala for slaughter,” Krishna reported soon thereafter. Efforts taken by our teams and the Animal Husbandry Department to set up camps for the cattle have come to naught.”

Intl. Animal Rescue

Among the other early responders was International Animal Rescue. Based in Britain, IAR operates an animal hospital in Goa and co-sponsors the Wildlife SOS dancing bear sanctuary near Agra.

IAR founder John Hicks sent veterinarians Kevin D’Mello and Dutch vet Miek, a cattle specialist, to Agapattinam in Tamil Nadu, where D’Mello reportedly encountered outbreaks of upper respiratory disease in stressed goats. This was the only hint of a much-feared zoonotic disease outbreak in the first three weeks after the tsunami, and it was easily contained, D’Mello said.

“The biggest problem we see is contaminated drinking water,” D’Mello told Times of India correspondent Anuba Sawhney.

Other groups

“We have initiated efforts in southern Tamil Nadu through the League for Education & Development and are planning to deploy another team with the help of People for Animals in Chennai,” International Fund for Animal Welfare emergency relief operations manager Anand Ramanathan e-mailed to ANIMAL PEOPLE on January 3.

But PfA/Chennai had already been in the field since December 30, beginning as soon as their own facilities were back in useable condition.

“In my office at a marine science institute,” said Shiranee Pereira, director of the Chennai chapter of People for Animals, “we are yet to get over the shock of losing a colleague and friend who was in the office when the tsunami hit. He was washed away and his body was found a day later. Four other colleagues hung onto the iron beams on the roof and were saved. My office was destroyed beyond recognition,” Pereira found.



(Kartick Satyanarayan)



Wildlife SOS founder Kartick Satyanarayan.

“Thankfully I was with the animals in our shelter. Part of the compound wall collapsed, but we had no casualties.”

The Compassionate Crusaders Trust and parallel PfA/Kolkata chapter were safely outside the tsunami zone.

“Everything is okay here,” Compassionate Crusaders Trust founder Debasis Chakrabarti e-mailed from Kolkata. “The pond shook at our Ashari rescue center, terrifying the staff,” Chakrabarti said, “but we had absolutely no problems in the animal areas. For a while the staff canteen and dormitory were inundated, and some plants got a welcome dry season drenching.”

At last a break

“January 14th was Pongal, the harvest festival and most important holiday in Tamil Nadu,” Chinny Krishna mentioned, describing his efforts to rotate the Blue Cross of India staff so as to allow as many as possible to enjoy a brief break.

S.Raghavan of the Blue Cross and Clementien Pauws of the Karuna Society were among those who worked straight through.

Krishna himself, WSPA veterinarian John Gripper, and Sara Winikoff, DVM, joined them during the holiday at their temporary headquarters in Velankanni.

“All of us were aware that the Karuna team and the Blue Cross staff and volunteers were putting up with a great deal of discomfort, but I was quite unprepared for what we saw,” Krishna wrote. “Clementien Pauws, Ananthapur SPCA president Hari Krishna, and our staff were sleeping, cooking, and eating in a dilapidated 100-year-old relic of a shed that housed the local animal husbandary hospital,” sharing the mosquito-infested space with fodder and rescued animals—“most of them with injuries,” Krishna noted, including “a dog with distemper and a friendly mother dog who had littered a few days earlier.”

“Thank you for all your support and help,” Krishna told donors. “We have most things under some sort of control now, and are not just lurching from crisis to crisis. It is most important,” Krishna finished, “that after the TV crews leave and the spotlight is no longer on this tragedy, that we continue our efforts. There is a lot yet to be done.”

E-mailed Pauws, “Our six people, five dogs, and six puppies returned safely to Puttaparthi on January 17. Digesting this experience will take some time. I hope that animal welfare societies can come up with some structure for a future calamity, so we can act immediately on a larger scale, with more help and resources. We fed hundreds of animals along the shore and in Naggapattinam,



Parvathi, her bullock who was left for dead but rescued because her son loved him, and Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA team veterinarian V. Prabhakar. (Kartick Satyanarayan)

Wildlife fared better in Sri Lanka than Thailand

Like the wildlife of India, Sri Lankan wildlife mostly seemed to have sufficient warning to escape the tsunami—but the wildlife of Thailand, hours closer to the earthquake that detonated it, fared far worse.

Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society president Ravi Corea inspected Yala National Park soon after the tsunami.

“There were reports that elephants fled the coast just before the tsunami hit. We saw no dead animals except for two feral water buffalo,” Corea e-mailed to ANIMAL PEOPLE. “We saw large herds of axis deer, a male elephant, many peacocks, wild boar, black-naped hare, two species of mongoose, and a pack of five jackals,” Corea recounted.

However, Corea saw longterm threats to Sri Lankan wildlife in the extensive damage to vegetation and fresh water sources.

“It is important to assess how salt water is affecting the life in lakes and will affect the food chain, especially for apex feeders such as aquatic birds, fish-eating mammals, and reptiles,” Corea said. “Such study might help us to understand how global warming and a resulting rise in sea level might affect inland coastal areas.”

In Thailand, by contrast, Wildlife Friends of Thailand director Edwin Wiek reported “Only dead animals were found” in the first days after the tsunami.

“The long tailed macaques went up into the hills in most cases,” Wiek said. “Other mammals living in the remnants of the mangrove forests, such as fishing cats and deer, have been seen washed up on the shores, along with many cattle and pigs.”

There was one bright spot. Near Khao Lak, local fishers on January 5 netted an adult female pink dolphin from a small lake created by the tsunami at a former quarry, and released her into the sea, a kilometer

away. They acted after government officials and representatives of animal advocacy groups and the captive dolphin industry all failed to catch the dolphin in two days of abortive attempts.

“She swam away like a rocket. It was fantastic,” said Wiek.

The rescuers believed initially that a baby dolphin had been swept into the lake with the adult, but photo analysis eventually established that there was only one dolphin.

As the dolphin rescue started, kamnan (chief) Nayramit Meepien of the island Tambon Koh Phra Thong sought help for about 40 rare kwang ma deer, whom he said were “becoming thinner and lethargic,” from lack of fresh water and food.

“We have always taken care of them and prevented outsiders from hunting them,” Nayramit Meepien told reporters for the Bangkok Post and The Nation, “but now they are facing death. We are busy collecting our dead. We need help from non-governmental organizations or state conservationists to take care of our deer immediately.”

The Bangkok Post reported that more than 100 people were killed on the island, located near Koh Similan and Koh Surin national parks. But there was no further word about the fate of the deer.

Sightseeing cruise operator Somkit Puangpulee on January 16 told The Nation that a colony of 100-150 dugongs may no longer inhabit Libong Island in Trang.

Somkit Puangpulee said he formerly escorted tourists to view from six to 20 dugongs at a time as they grazed on kelp.

No dugongs had been seen near Libong Island since the tsunami, Somkit Puangpulee said. Even if the dugongs survived the tsunami itself, he added, it buried most of the young kelp that they prefer to eat.

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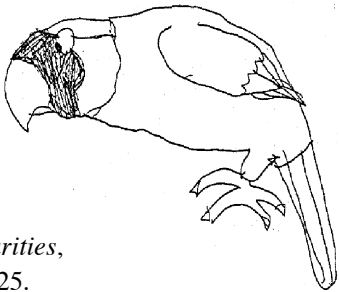
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*Some of the several hundred cattle seized on Christmas Eve by the Visakha SPCA—just before the tsunami. Not shown are the 110 special-needs calves who were among them. (Visakha SPCA photo)*

# Tsunami destruction of fishing fleet brings respite for sea turtles

**VISAKHAPATNAM, VELAN-KANNI, PHUKET**—The Indian Ocean sea turtle nesting season had just begun when the tsunami hit on December 26, 2004. “I was awake by five a.m.,” Visakha SPCA founder Pradeep Kumar Nath told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Every morning during the nesting season Nath organizes volunteer foot patrols to find and protect sea turtle nests along the beaches of Visakhapatnam, India. The volunteers try to spot the turtles as they come ashore, keep crowds away, and ensure that the nests are properly buried, to avert predation by street dogs, jungle cats, jackals, and foxes. “I have witnessed such incidents since we began our turtle protection program,” Nath said. “The dogs eat quite fast.” On December 26, Nath recalled, “Our poacher-turned-volunteer saw a sea turtle laying eggs, while another turtle returned to the sea without laying, he informed me around 8.30 a.m.” It was a quiet morning. Done at the beach, the Visakha SPCA team departed—just in time. “In the state of Andhra Pradesh, India,” where Visakhapatnam is the largest coastal city, “2,000 fishing boats were lost,” the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization summarized later. “About 300,000 fishers lost their jobs. In Tamil Nadu,” the next state to the south, “591 fish-

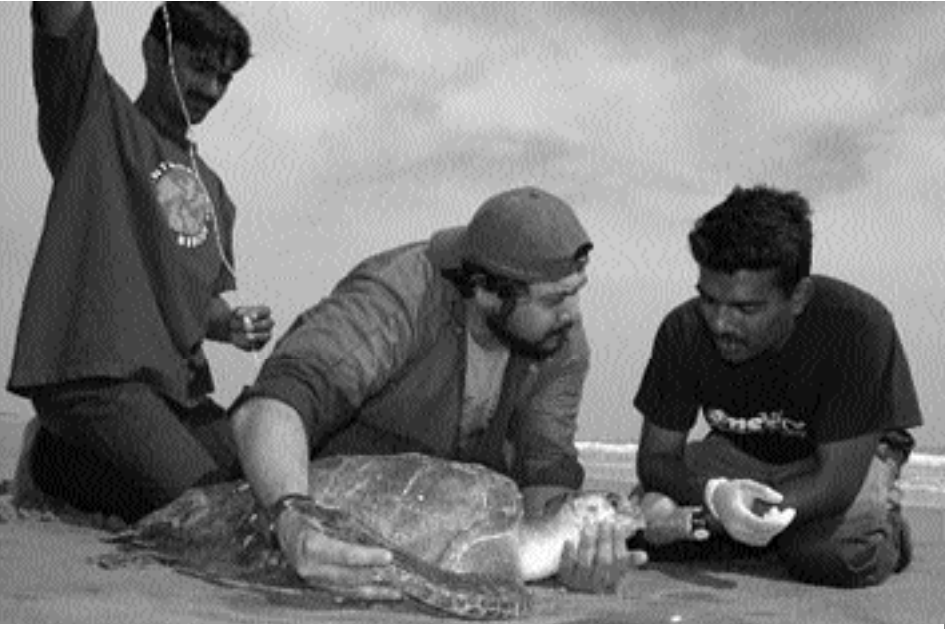
ing villages and the Andaman and Nicobar islands have been badly affected. India’s seafood exports may decline by around 30 percent,” the FAO predicted. “In Sri Lanka more than 7,500 fishers have been killed and over 5,600 are still missing,” the FAO continued. More than 80% of the coastal fishing fleet was destroyed or seriously damaged, the FAO said. Ten of the 12 major fishing harbors were “devastated.” “In Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province, Indonesia, 70% of the small-scale fishing fleet has been destroyed,” the FAO added. “In Nias Island, about 800 fishing canoes have been destroyed. Two thirds of the fishers in Banda Aceh were killed.” The FAO estimated that 4,500 Thai fishing boats were wrecked, along with the infrastructure at eight harbors. “Hundreds of boats and harbours were destroyed in the Maldives,” the FAO went on. “In Myanmar, some 200 villages lost fishing vessels and infrastructure. In Malaysia, the livelihoods of about 6,000 fishers were affected. In Somalia, around 2,600 fishing boats were destroyed.” The consequences of logging coastal mangroves to expand aquaculture were first emphasized to Southeast Asia by the cyclone that struck Orissa state, India, on October 29, 1999, killing more than 10,000 people. Aquaculture itself took a heavy hit on December 26. Equipment losses in

Thailand alone came to about \$33 million, the FAO estimated. FAO Fishery Technology Service chief Jeremy Turner announced on January 13 that the FAO “has embarked on a concerted effort” to help rebuild the fisheries and aquaculture industries of the tsunami-affected nations. The European Union reportedly plans to donate fishing boats bought as part of a plan to reduce the pressure on European fisheries. “After the tsunami our government wants to provide nets for fishers. Norway and Italy have promised to donate nets,” Sri Lankan animal advocate Kala Santha reported. “Though we love all animals, we have to petition to save at least sea turtles, sea birds, dugongs, and other endangered species,” Santha pleaded. “Gill nets should not be used, and turtle excluder devices should be introduced,” a requirement that Sri Lanka, Thailand, and India were reluctant to enforce even before the tsunami. Rebuilding the fishing fleets, aquaculture, and beach development around the Indian Ocean is likely to rebuild many of the threats to sea turtles and nesting habitat that have caused declines in the regional populations of all sea turtle species. Globally, six of the seven sea turtle species are considered critically endangered; leatherbacks have declined 95% since 1980. For now, though, sea turtles are landing, nesting, and returning to the sea with less interference than at any time in decades.

## Nestings, rescue

Despite mobilizing Visakha SPCA staff and volunteers to do animal rescue work along more than 700 kilometres of battered coast, Nath and others kept vigils to protect new nests and any remaining pre-tsunami nests near Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam. “At least seven sea turtles nested near Visakhapatnam just three days after the tsunami,” Nath reported on December 29. “Some sea turtles are coming in dead,” Nath added, “but we cannot conclude that they died due to the tsunami, because at this time of year thousands of turtles wash ashore after drowning in trawling nets. “I am disappointed that the submarine was not thrown away,” Nath admitted, referring to a decommissioned submarine that was dragged to the beach at Visakhapatnam in 2000, against Visakha SPCA opposition, to become part of a war memorial. The Visakha

SPCA fought the project all the way to the Supreme Court of India as a potentially bad precedent for allowing development that might harm sea turtle nesting habitat. At Velankanni, to the south, a Catholic shrine city famed as the site of visions of the Virgin Mary, Wildlife SOS veterinarian Cyril Roy and team found that, “Many sea turtles were washed ashore and killed,” e-mailed Wildlife SOS founder Kartick Satyanarayan. “The rescue team also reported that in many places people were digging the nests in the sands to collect the eggs,” Satyanarayan said. But Dr. Roy rescued an injured olive ridley turtle near the shrine itself. “Local people were trying to kill the ‘bad omen,’ which came with the misfortune of the tsunami,” Satyanarayan explained. “In the local language, the villagers say ‘The place where a turtle comes and the king’s henchmen come are the same,’” perhaps in reference to the Portuguese invasion that established the Catholic colony in the 15th century. Fortunately a water-filled ditch carved by the tsunami kept the mob at a slight distance from the sea turtle. No one knew for sure how deep the ditch was. “Dr. Roy had no option but to cross the creek before the villagers,” Satyanarayan said. “After crossing and towing the turtle to safety, he found that she was severely dehydrated and had an abdominal wound.” Taking the turtle to Chidambaram, 150 kilometres away, Roy “rented a hut on the beach to set up a turtle rescue center,” Satyanarayan finished. “It will be a satisfying moment when we see her go back to the sea,” Roy said. **Recovery at Phuket** Across the Bay of Bengal, Phuket Marine Biological Center researcher Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong on January 10 “awaited the return of a leatherback turtle who laid eggs on Phuket’s Mai Khao Beach late last week—the first of this endangered species to visit the island in three years—to fit her with a tracking microchip,” wrote Punnee Amornviputpanich of *The Nation* in Bangkok. “According to Phuket Wildlife Fund official Wichote Kraithep,” Kittiwattanawong said, “the tsunami waves cleared away the fishing boats and fishing gear that had prevented the turtles from nesting on the beach. “Wichote said activists had long requested a ban on fishing boats and equipment within an 8-kilometre radius of Mai Khao Beach,” Kittiwattanawong added, “but the authorities claimed to lack the personnel and funds to prevent fishing vessels from sneaking in. He proposed three steps to protect sea turtles: declaring Sirinart National Park a no-fishing zone, prohibiting big hotels on Mai Khao Beach, which now has two with four more planned, and banning the sale of food or goods made from turtles.” **SeaTurtle.Org fund** SeaTurtle.Org, hosts of the <www.seaturtle.org> news website since 1996, formed an Indian Ocean Tsunami Sea Turtle Fund to “help rebuild damaged and destroyed infrastructure related to sea turtle research and conservation in the tsunami region. An advisory panel of sea turtlers from the region is being established,” the group pledged, “to determine how funds should be disbursed. “It is expected that these funds will not be needed for a few weeks,” Sea Turtle.Org continued, acknowledging that human services would have to be restored before supplies and labor would be available to rebuild sea turtle facilities. “Our goal,” SeaTurtle.Org said, “is to have a large pool of funds in place when such help is needed. “At present,” SeaTurtle.Org added, “we know that among the worst impacts to turtle conservation activities were in southern Sri Lanka, and to a small extent in the Maldives.” The Sri Lankan wildlife conservation department hatcheries at Bundala and Kalametiya were destroyed. “We lost everything at those hatcheries, which released about 4,000 turtles a year,” wildlife department deputy director H. T. S. Fernando told AFP. Kosgoda Sea Turtle Conservation Project director Dudely Perera, 46, told Agence France-Press that most of the 215 sea turtles he had been looking after were lost in the tsunami. He returned the few adult turtles he found to the sea, hoping they would survive without further care, and took seven baby turtles to raise in his home, which was also flooded and seriously damaged. But Perera was aware, he said, of 13 new turtle nests on the nearby beaches.



Unidentified Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA tsunami relief team member, team leader Kartick Satyanarayan, and veterinarian Cyril Roy with rescued sea turtle. (Wildlife SOS)

## Python was the first animal hero in Sumatra

**MEDAN, Sumatra, Indonesia**—Among the dogs, elephants, and other species who saved humans from the Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26, 2004, the most surprising story may have been that of the python who pulled a 26-year-old clothing vendor named Riza and a neighbor’s nine-year-old twin daughters to safety near Bandar Blang Bintang, Indonesia. The Indonesian state news agency Antara reported on December 30 that, “Riza at about 8 a.m. was enjoying the holiday in bed when suddenly she saw walls of water, mud, rocks and branches rushing into the neighborhood. People were screaming and running. Riza, living in a rented house near the coast in Banda Aceh with three friends, dashed up to the second floor of a neighbor’s house and stood on top of a cupboard. “But as she told Antara from a makeshift shelter, the current swept her and her friends off their perch. As Riza drifted, she saw the two girls and their mother.” All three were badly injured. “Riza, who can swim, managed to help the girls,” continued the Antara account, published in the December 30 edition of the *Jakarta Post*. “The mother shouted, ‘Let me be, but please save my children.’ Riza said. “As she struggled for her own life and that of the twins, a snake as long as a telephone pole approached,” Riza told Antara. She and the twins clung to the snake, drifting with the current, until they reached water shallow enough to wade ashore. Riza and the girls may have saved the snake’s life by lending their body warmth to his survival effort. While pythons routinely swim short distances in warm inland rivers and ponds, prolonged immersion in the much colder sea can cause torpor and drowning. There were no functioning animal welfare societies in Sumatra even before the tsunami. Sherry Grant, part-time Asia representative for Humane Society International, built the animal relief effort from scratch. “The Indonesian effort is based

upon the Bali Street Dog Foundation network,” her husband and volunteer support person Ken Grant explained. “The Bali Street Dog Foundation has enjoyed the strong support of both HSI and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, so it is natural that we should band together now.” Their rescue team reached Banda Aceh circa January 7. They were joined on January 9 by Sherry Grant, WSPA field representative Gerry Richardson, and veterinarians Putu Listriani of the Bali Street Dog Foundation, Ray Butcher of WSPA, and a Dr. Wahyu, recruited in Medan, who has worked with the Sumatran Orangutan Society. *Malaysia Star* reporter Chin Mui Yoon on January 8 described what they would find. “In the streets, there are hardly any carcasses of cows or dogs,” Chin Mui Yoon said. “Limping dogs wander about. They wait where people queue up for food and water. Sadly, not a crumb of food or drop of water is given to these four-legged survivors.” “Somehow, somewhere, the animals fled,” Mercy Malaysia volunteer Dr Quah Boon Leng told Chin Mui Yoon. “Dr Quah, who arrived as part of Mercy Malaysia’s first mission on December 28, said not a single animal was spotted all the first week,” Chin Mui Yoon wrote. “Then, at the Kesdam Hospital, 10 cats straggled in. They sun themselves all day and sleep on the empty student nurses’ beds in the women’s dormitory,” Chin Mui Yoon continued. “The cows have also come home,” Chin Mui Yoon added. “They lie along the roads, grazing on vegetables left behind by sellers or broken coconuts. Nobody seems to know where they hid during the tsunami.” Ducks, chickens, and pigeons emerged as well, Chin Mui Yoon observed. “The lucky creatures who survived will almost certainly go into the pot,” Chin Mui Yoon predicted, “due to a shortage of fresh meat.” Responding to that complaint, “Ampro, the business arm of the Association of Muslim Professionals, sent 500 live sheep

to Aceh” for Ramadan, wrote Arlina Arshad of the Singapore *Straits Times*. “The sheep are being flown or driven from different parts of Indonesia to Banda Aceh, Lhokseumawe and Meulaboh, said the Muslim agencies Saff-Perdaus and Pergas Cooperative, which are handling the gift. Another 400 sheep pledged by Singapore Muslims will be killed and processed in Sydney, Australia, before being sent to refugee camps in Sri Lanka and Aceh,” Arshad added. “I’ve seen dogs nibble human remains. It’s horrific,” Lhok Nga resident Ahmad Syuhada told Karima Anjani of Reuters. Just 12 miles from Banda Aceh, Lhok Nga had still received little aid from anywhere for anyone,” Anjani said. The first post-tsunami news about animals to reach the outside world from Banda Aceh came from Lely T. Djuhari of Associated Press on January 4. “The main airport in Sumatra was closed for hours,” she wrote, “after a relief plane hit a herd of cows. No one was hurt,” except the cows, “but the closure highlighted the vulnerability of the relief effort.” The cows invaded the airport looking for somewhere to graze that was not buried in salty mud and debris. Most of the nonprofit work done for animals in Sumatra before the tsunami was to help endangered wildlife. “We are still evacuating our staff and their families back to some safety in Medan,” Flora & Fauna International Indochina elephant program coordinator Joe Heffernan told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on January 5. He predicted that poaching would surge as tsunami survivors struggle to survive. “We are developing our response,” Wildlife Conservation Society director of Asian programs Joshua Ginsberg told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on January 13. “No staff were lost, and only a few staff lost family members. We are making a collection for them. We are also working to assess coral reef, fisheries, and mangrove impacts.”



**Sea Turtles: A Complete Guide to Their Biology, Behavior, and Conservation** by James R. Spotila

Johns Hopkins University Press (2715 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218), 2004. 224 pages, illustrated. \$24.95 hardcover.

"The lessons from Malaysia are clear," James R. Spotila summarizes in the next-to-last paragraph of his section on leatherbacks, three paragraphs from the end of *Sea Turtles*. "Developers built hotels and cottages right on the nesting beaches to accommodate as many as 1,000 people a night who came to see the leatherbacks nest. In addition, Malaysians continued to take the eggs. The result was near-extinction.

"People can make a difference," Spotila continues, "by assisting in efforts to oppose development on leatherback beaches and by demanding that their governments get industrial fishing under control...We may not be able to accomplish this in counties like India and Malaysia during our lifetimes," he concludes on a note of pessimism.

Spotila's assessment of the threats to leatherbacks actually applies to all sea turtle species, as he makes clear elsewhere in *Sea Turtles*—although one ought to note that ecotourists wishing to view nesting sea turtles are the least of the threats to turtle nesting habitat.

The same hotels and cottages that cater to ecotourists part of the year, along sea turtle nesting beaches worldwide, are used most of the year by others, including surfers, snorkelers, divers, speed

boaters, motorcyclists, dune buggy drivers, horseback riders, birders, sunbathers, and waders. Some are ecologically conscious and avoid disturbing sea turtles' nests, but most have no idea where the unmarked nests are. Collectively, their refuse attracts far more turtle-egg-eating street dogs than the buried eggs themselves, and the artificial lighting that often induces sea turtle hatchlings to crawl away from the water instead of toward it is most likely to be turned off by the turtle enthusiasts.

Further, both in fairness to India and Malaysia and in recognition of the global scope of the sea turtle survival issue, an appreciative yet informed and critical reader must observe that *Sea Turtles* is disproportionately focused on the turtle populations of the U.S., Mexico, and Caribbean nations, with a few nods toward Australia and scant recognition of anywhere else.

Most of *Sea Turtles*, actually, is about the evolution and biology of the seven surviving sea turtle species, interspersed with the personal insights and anecdotes of an author who is himself an active sea turtle researcher. The emphasis on the Americas reflects Spotila's own experience, logically enough—but unfortunately, as thorough as his biological discussions are, and as

spectacular as many of the photos are, this is not nearly the "complete guide" promoted by the subtitle.

Indian sea turtle conservationist Kartik Shanker is among the many contemporary sea turtle activists whom Spotila briefly profiles, but Spotila otherwise writes off the conservation efforts of India, Malaysia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, among other Asian nations, without even mentioning them in his index.

Spotila's maps of the most important sea turtle nesting beaches, worldwide, almost completely omit India, yet about half of the world's population of olive ridley sea turtles nest along the Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu coasts.



Injured olive ridley sea turtle rescued by Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA tsunami relief team in Tamil Nadu, India. (Wildlife SOS photo)

As many as 380 modern trawlers and 50,000 traditional small-boat fishers work the same waters; as many as 10,000 green sea turtles per year wash up dead. The toll dropped by 40% in 2003-2004, but whether that was due to improved conservation measures, a decline in the numbers of turtles, or for unknown natural causes remains unknown.

Now the tsunami of December 26, 2004 has abruptly changed the circumstances. Amid the human and animal suffering occasioned by the tsunami, sea turtles appear to be big net beneficiaries.

Beachfront development has been swept from the shores of approximately half of the sea turtle

nesting habitat in Southeast Asia. More than 150,000 people who formerly resided along the beaches were killed; easily 10 times that many will remain displaced, mostly inland, until after the present nesting season ends.

More than 28,000 fishing and shrimping boats were destroyed.

Relief workers noticed almost immediately that sea turtles were nesting again in places where they had not been seen in years. Some turtles and eggs were poached, but not so much by hungry refugees as by the survivors among the same scofflaws who always poach sea turtles and eggs, if they can, taking advantage of the temporary distraction of law enforcement.

Relatively few dead sea turtles washed ashore during the next few weeks, reflecting the interruption of fishing.

Whether the politics of sea turtle conservation have changed remains to be seen. The economic pressure to rebuild coastal industries will be intense. The sea turtles of the Indian Ocean may have a successful 2005 nesting season without really being any safer than they were when *Sea Turtles* went to press.

Yet the tsunami bought sea turtles some time, and if redevelopment proceeds with clear memories of the disaster, they may get more space as well. —Merritt Clifton

**The Lions of Tsavo:**

*Exploring the Legacy of Africa's Notorious Man-eaters* by Bruce D. Patterson

McGraw-Hill Co. (Two Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10121), 2004. 231 pages, hardcover. \$24.95.

Eight years after shooting two maneless male lions who had killed as many as 135 railway workers in a two-year binge, Colonel John H. Patterson in 1907 published *The Man-Eaters of Tsavo*, the first authoritative book about the already famous episode.

Financially stressed, Patterson in 1925 sold the pelts of the two lions to the Field Museum in Chicago. Stuffed and mounted as a prominent exhibit, the pelts sustained interest in the serial attacks sufficient that Paramount Pictures produced the film *The Ghost & The Darkness* in 1996. The film took a few liberties in condensing incidents and characters, but remained close to the well-known history.

Drawing heavily upon research by Bruce D. Patterson of the Field Museum, Philip Caputo published *The Ghosts of Tsavo* in 2002, exploring and eventually rejecting the possibility that the two maneless lions were representatives of a different subspecies from the familiar African lion.

What can Bruce D. Patterson himself add to more than 100 years of discussion?

Quite a lot, as it happens. Patterson and Dr. Samuel Kaseki of the Kenya Wildlife Service have retraced every known step of the stories of The Ghost and The Darkness, who hunted humans together more avidly yet elusively than any other lions on record.

Discovering a compass error in Colonel John Patterson's description of the site, Bruce D. Patterson and Kaseki found and explored the long-lost cave that the lions had supposedly filled with human remains. Flooding long since emptied it, and it may have been a tribal burial location, not a lion dining hall—but even if it was a tribal burial chamber, the lions might have feasted there.

Looking into local history, Patterson established that the attacks of The Ghost and The Darkness were not without precedent, nor without subsequent parallel. Meat-hunting to feed the railway builders and epidemics of

plague, rinderpest, and dysentery had simultaneously thinned the Tsavo wildlife while making human remains abundant. Many of the recent dead were Hindu laborers whose coworkers' attempts at traditional cremation were often incomplete. In effect, the Tsavo lions were taught to eat people, and The Ghost and The Darkness, who were relatively elderly, with bad teeth, had more incentive than most to make a habit of it.

The most important part of *The Lions of Tsavo* is Patterson's exploration of how their story influenced the subsequent attitudes of Kenyans toward wildlife, especially in the future Tsavo National Park (created in 1949), and what will become of the present-day Tsavo lions as human activity increasingly surrounds the park.

Patterson mentions and praises the education work of Daphne Sheldrick and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, named after her late husband, who was the founding warden at Tsavo. Patterson has high praise as well for the anti-snaring work done by Youth for Conservation. Patterson leans toward the common view of U.S. hunter/conservationists that hunting lions at Tsavo may be necessary to keep them from overpopulating the limited habitat, but unlike Caputo, who is an enthusiastic hunter, Patterson seems to accept the idea rather than like it, and seems to accept it chiefly from not seeing any viable alternatives.

Patterson wrote, however, just before recent advances in contraception which suggest the possibility of restricting reproduction, as habitat conditions require, without permanently interfering in pride structure and without turning lions into a cash crop, as they have become in much of southern Africa.

*The Lions of Tsavo* is likely to stand as the most definitive of all the accounts of The Ghost and The Darkness, and is a valuable source of background about the struggle now underway over keeping the 1977 Kenyan national ban on sport hunting. —Merritt Clifton

**Animal Life In Nature, Myth, & Dreams**

by Elizabeth Caspari, with Ken Robbins

Chiron Publications (400 Linden Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091), 2003.

318 pages, hardcover. \$29.95

*Animal Life In Nature, Myth, & Dreams* might best be described as a field guide to human fantasy. Author Elizabeth Caspari, 78, has spent a lifetime comparing and contrasting the creatures of myth and dream with their living counterparts, and in this opus attempts to explain why animals symbolize whatever they do in different cultures. Her emphasis is on the erotic, perhaps because this is what humans most invent myths and dream about.

In China, for example, "In folktales the fox lives for a thousand years and becomes a master of seduction, with no fewer than nine big, long bushy tails. Stories tell how a fox may seduce a woman during the night. As the woman reaches orgasm and the fox does not, the animal builds up power until eventually he gains the ability to shape-shift into human form."

But why does he want to? Perhaps because a female fox is "a true *femme fatale* who brings doom to her lovers."

Indeed, many a male fox—and coyote—has sacrificed his life to decoy human and canine hunters away from his mate and young.

Some animals have largely unsuspected erotic dimensions.

"Frog images appearing in dreams often have nearly explicit sexual implications," Caspari points

out, "a projection of sexuality, spontaneity, and quickness to joy. Not surprisingly, in a sexually repressed society, frogs and toads are considered archetypally repulsive and loathsome."

Caspari goes on to discuss frog-and-princess stories. The skeptical reader might take time out to examine the paintings of Hieronymous Bosch. Nothing Caspari says would have been any news to him.

Caspari also explores animal imagery in relationship to warfare. Geese were apparently associated with militarism, for instance, long before the Nazis made a fetish of goosestepping.

Most animals, though they might be brave of necessity, have little use for human-style organized mass murder, and make their dislike of it plain.

"In Welsh mythology," Caspari tells us, "an enchanted human in the form of the sow Henwen gave birth to the Great Cat, a terrible creature who could eat nine score warriors."

Where is he now?

A personal lament is that Caspari apparently did not realize that the Asian/African jackal and the American coyote are such close cousins as to be, for all practical purposes, the same animal. Her entries for each are extensive,

detailed, and highly informative, but I would have liked to see Caspari compare and contract the mythological role of the jackal, most often as a harbinger of death, with the role of the coyote, as a trickster, and express her ideas about why there is such a difference.

My own theory is that the mythical view of jackals formed in regions of relatively high human population density, where jackals scavenged the remains of people killed in plagues and wars. The prevailing view of coyotes formed in the sparsely inhabited U.S. west. There, coyotes had relatively little chance to scavenge dead humans, but have long outwitted hunters, trappers, and herders.

Neither the Old World nor the New World view of the jackal/coyote appreciates the extent to which these animals help humans as nature's animal control officers, eating every other mammal whom people consider a nuisance, biting humans not even a ten-thousandth as often as domestic dogs. The few jackals and coyotes in my dreams are a benign and blessed presence.

—Merritt Clifton

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ANIMAL OBITUARIES

**Bolo**, a right whale known to have calved six times, 1981-2001, was found floating 78 miles east of Nantucket on January 11, 2005, dead from unknown causes. She was the fourth North Atlantic right whale found dead in six weeks. During her lifetime the projected life expectancy of female right whales dropped from 50 years to 15, and expected birthings from five to just one, due largely to more collisions with high-speed ships and more entanglements in fishing gear.

**Snorri**, Pyrenean mountain dog of Mick McDonnell, famed for greeting visitors to the Viking Tour boat at Lough Ree, Ireland, including the Irish national rugby team, was found dead on railway tracks near Athlone on January 5, 2005. The *Irish Sun* reported that police were investigating the death, after another dog was rescued from men who allegedly discussed tying him to the tracks.

**Lacumba**, 15, jaguar mascot of Southern University at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died on December 26 due to kidney failure. PETA asked Southern U. to stop having live jaguar mascots, a practice begun in the early 1970s, but chancellor Edward Jackson told the Baton Rouge *Advocate* that the university is raising money to build a memorial to Lacumba, and will probably begin fundraising to build a \$500,000 habitat for a successor.

**Roxy**, 5, one of four California sea lions bought by the West Edmonton Mall from the Blair Drummond Safari Park in Scotland, was found dead on arrival in London circa October 19, 2004, en route to catch a connecting flight to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The death was not disclosed until mid-December 2004, when Voice for Animals discovered that while four sea lions left Scotland, only three reached the mall, which formerly

displayed captive dolphins. West Edmonton Mall spokesperson Kim Evans said no cause of death was determined.

**Titan**, Police Dog #33 in Sydney, Australia, handled by Constable Sean McDowell, was killed on December 29, 2004 while apprehending white supremacist Luke Curtis, 23. After threatening two men with an ax, police said, Curtis broke through a line of officers despite taking three shots from a stun-gun. Titan forced Curtis to drop one of two carving knives he carried, but Curtis stabbed him three times with the other knife. Titan was in his 18th month of duty. Police commissioner Ken Morney announced the creation of an annual Titan Memorial Award for outstanding police dog work, and said Titan's taxidermically mounted remains would be displayed at the Northwest Wales Police Academy.

HUMAN OBITUARIES

**Leone Cosens**, 52, a native of New Zealand who moved with her husband Tim Cosens Jr. to Phuket, Thailand, in 1992, on December 26 responded to a call from nine British guests that water was flooding into the guesthouse the Cosens ran at Yanui Beach, near Laem Phromthep. Unaware that the high water was the result of a tsunami, Leone Cosens apparently ran right into the highest wave. Tim Cosens Sr., visiting from Slidell, Louisiana, found her remains in a nearby rice field the following day. Of the nine guests Leone Cosens was trying to help, eight survived, seven with serious injuries, while one is still missing. A cofounder and former director of the Phuket Animal Welfare Society, "Leone was fired because she was treating and sterilizing too many dogs! Wow, do we miss her! I'm so incredibly sad!" e-mailed Margot Park, founder of the Soi Dog Foundation, also in Phuket. Recalled the *Phuket Gazette*, "Leone worked with her Thai helpers selflessly, tirelessly, and very often at her own expense, to help strays in the south of the island, and around Nai Harn Beach in particular. Leone Cosens was also an outspoken critic of puppy mills in the Phuket area, citing a "mounting number of pedigree dogs appearing at veterinary surgeries with signs of distemper, hip dysplasia or calcium deficiencies" in a recent letter to the *Phuket Gazette*.

**Natacha Zana**, 35, of Paris, France, a cofounder of the anti-orca captivity organization Les Orques Associées and an active member of the European Cetacean Society, was on a diving holiday in Phi Phi, Thailand, when the December 26, 2004 tsunami hit. She is missing and presumed deceased.

**Ena Lagerstrom** died on January 14, 2005 in Sweden. "Ena was a long-serving World Society for the Protection of Animals board member and was latterly one of our few honorary vice presidents," WSPA director general Peter Davies told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "She had been in poor health for a long time."

**Jerry Orbach**, 69, died on December 29, 2004 in New York City of prostate cancer. Orbach debuted on the Broadway stage in a 1955 production of *Threepenny Opera*, was El Gallo in the 1960 first production of *The Fantasticks*, which became the longest-running Broadway musical ever, won a Tony Award as best actor for his performance in *Promises, Promises* (1968), and in recent years was best known as Detective Lennie Briscoe in the NBC series *Law & Order*. "Orbach was a great friend of animals, donating his time and talent to the Fund for animals to help us shed light on numerous types of cruelty to wildlife," Fund president Mike Markarian said, mentioning that Orbach narrated a public service announcement for the Fund in opposition to canned hunts, and "helped support numerous animal protection bills in his home state of New York."

**Thomas Stacy**, 63, a vegetarian food entrepreneur, died of a heart attack on December 31, 2004 in Minneapolis. Stacy invented the "Oops! Scoop" in 1989, a cardboard device for picking up dog messes, designed to be sold in vending machines at off-leash dog parks, but his most successful innovation was the Essential Sandwich, introduced at the Minnesota State Fair in 1991. Featuring a whole wheat tortilla, beans, brown rice, and vegetables, it evolved into the widely distributed Heathy Wrap vegetarian sandwich.

**Sylvia Taylor**, 41, of Temple Terrace, Florida, died suddenly on January 5, 2005. Employed by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service since obtaining her veterinary degree from the University of Georgia in 1986, Taylor in March 1997 was assigned to the 10-member APHIS Animal Care's Primate Environment Enhancement Team. The team produced the APHIS primate care policy that has been in effect since July 1999, 14 years after Congress mandated psychological enrichment for captive nonhuman primates through amendments to the Animal Welfare Act.

**Simon Combes**, 64, was fatally gored by a buffalo on December 12, 2004 while hiking with his wife Kat and cheetah researcher Mary Wykstra on Delamere's Nose, a rock formation on Lord Hugh Delamere's private nature reserve in the Rift Valley of Kenya. A retired Kenyan army paratrooper, Combes rose to prominence as a wildlife artist after a successful exhibition in Nairobi in 1969. He won awards for excellence from the Society of Animal Artists in 1990 and the Pacific Rim Wildlife Art Show in 1994. Combes had been chased by elephants, treed by a rhino, and bitten by a Bengal tiger while researching famed paintings such as "The Angry One," "Tension at Dawn," and "Menace," but said the animal he feared most was humanity. Combes was author of the best-selling books *African Experience* (1990) and *Great Cats* (1998), and was a board member of Friends of Conservation.

**Mary Jane Nixon**, 76, wife of acting Danville (S.C.) animal control chief Ken Nixon, died on December 15, 2004. Born Mary Jane Hogue in Danville, she married high school classmate Nixon in 1946, and moved with him to animal control posts in Illinois, Colorado, and Iowa, often serving as his unpaid assistant, before returning to South Carolina in 1992, where Ken Nixon headed the Spartanburg Humane Society until retiring in 2001. Ken Nixon recently returned to active animal control duty in Danville, where his career began, substituting for his grandson John Kenneth Williams. Williams, the current animal control chief, was recalled with his National Guard unit to serve in Iraq.

**Norman Smith**, 17, drowned on December 24, 2004 at a small lake in Miami while trying to rescue a dog who became entangled in weeds. The dog drowned as well. Smith and a 19-year-old woman, whom police did not name, were watching the dog for a neighbor. The woman also nearly drowned but was pulled out by her stepfather, who was unable to reach Smith in time.

MEMORIALS

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In memory of sloth bears.  
—*Penelope Dixon*

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**Mike Hearn**, 33, director of research for the Save The Rhino Trust, drowned on January 19, 2005 at Swakopmund, Namibia, when he apparently suffered an epileptic fit while surfing. Hearn, a British citizen, had worked for the Save The Rhino Trust since 1992. He was a member of the African Rhino Specialist Group one of the 100-odd Specialist Groups that are part of the Species Survival Commission, a division of the World Conservation Union (formerly called the International Union for the Conservaton of Nature).

**John Wienke**, 59, died of cancer on January 11, 2005 in New London, Wisconsin. A hunter, Wienke was nonetheless among the six cofounders of Wisconsin Citizens Concerned about Cranes and Doves, formed in 1999 to oppose efforts to legalize dove hunting in Wisconsin. The group won an injunction in 2001 that blocked the scheduled opening of a dove season until an appellate court allowed dove hunting to proceed in 2003. In April 2004 the Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the appellate ruling, finding that the 1971 law designation of mourning doves as the state symbol of peace was not meant to preclude mourning dove hunting.

**Tom Thorne**, 63, and **Beth Williams**, 53, of Albany, Wyoming, were killed on December 28 when their vehicle hit a jackknifed trailer in a snowstorm near Virginia Dale, Colorado. A husband and wife veterinary research team, they were best known for investigations of brucellosis and chronic wasting disease. Thorne, a retired 35-year employee of the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, was acting director of the department for nine months in 2002-2003. Williams, teaching at the University of Wyoming since 1982, received honors from the Wildlife Disease Association in 1996 and from the Wyoming Game Warden Association in 1999.

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