

Biggest ALF/ELF busts yet (page 3)

Eastern Europe is back in the dog & cat fur trade

BRUSSELS, BUDAPEST, SOFIA—Dog and cat fur of eastern European origin appears to be back on the market, almost a decade after the post-Communist rise of animal advocacy put an official end to the centuries-old *budka* system of funding animal control by selling pelts.

“The long battle to keep cat and dog fur out of Europe has focused on trying to ban the import of pelts from China—until now,” Humane Society International said, inviting media to a December 8, 2005 press conference at the European Parliament headquarters in Brussels.



This dog joined a December 20, 2005 protest in Kharkov, Ukraine, against cruel animal control practices such as collecting and killing dogs and cats just to skin them and sell their pelts. Even where selling dog and cat pelts long ago ceased being official procedure, animal control personnel within the former Soviet Union and satellite nations often continue selling pelts covertly. (CETA-Life)

Featuring HIS investigator Richard Swain and Heather Mills McCartney, wife of composer Sir Paul McCartney, the press conference was called to support a bill against importing dog and cat fur introduced by European Parliament members Struan Stevenson, Phillip Whitehead, and Paulo Casaca.

“In December 2003, Stevenson won the backing of the majority of the European Parliament for a ban. Three hundred and forty six members supported the declaration, which subsequently became a formal resolution of the European Parliament to the Commission and the Council of Ministers,” recounted Stevenson’s parliamentary secretary, Luisa Strani. “It was only the 6th time in history that the Parliament has obtained a majority of signatures on a Declaration,” Strani said, but the requested legislation is still not in effect.

The Brussels press conference was the first of a two-part televised hit at the Chinese dog and cat fur trade. The second part was an hour-long *Larry King Live* broadcast on December 11, 2005 featuring (continued on page 19)

1958 slaughter act protects all species, say lawsuits

SAN FRANCISCO, WASHINGTON D.C.—Separate federal lawsuits filed by the Humane Society of the U.S. and the Humane Farming Association contend that Congress meant the 1958 Humane Methods of Slaughter Act to cover all species who are routinely killed for human consumption.

Filed in San Francisco one month apart, both lawsuits place jurisdiction for the first ruling and first two steps of the inevitable appellate phase before the Ninth U.S. Judicial Circuit, a court which has historically been more friendly toward animals than most other jurisdictions.

USDA enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, as well as being sporadic and uneven, has always exempted poultry, rabbits, and ranches “wildlife” species such as bison, deer, and elk. In consequence, more than 95% of all the animals slaughtered for meat in the U.S. have had no legal protection from cruelty.



(Kim Bartlett)

The HSUS and HFA lawsuits loosely follow the template used by the American Anti-Vivisection Society in a 1998 case contending that in 1970 the USDA improperly excluded rats, mice, and birds from federal Animal Welfare Act protection by writing them out of the definition of “animal” used in the enforcement regulations. This meant that more than 95% of all animals used in U.S. laboratories have no coverage.

In September 2000 the USDA agreed (continued on page 10)

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care

About Animals

January/February 2006
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U.S. SUPREME COURT ENDORSES SEIZURE OF HOARDED ANIMALS

WASHINGTON D.C., Philadelphia—The U.S. Supreme Court in early December 2005 upheld the right of humane societies and animal control agencies to seize animals from alleged hoarders and charge convicted hoarders for their care, by refusing to hear the last appeal of Janet Jones, 55, of Hatfield, Pennsylvania.

Jones founded a local animal rescue organization, Animal Orphans, in 1998, operating out of her home. In September 2002 the Montgomery County SPCA seized 96 cats, nine dogs, several hamsters, rats, and mice, and a turtle who were found on the premises in allegedly negligent conditions. Charged in December 2002 with 105 summary counts of cruelty, Jones was in November 2003 ordered by the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas to pay the SPCA \$45,600 for the animals’ care during the year while the case was pending, and to forfeit the animals.

The sum was within \$5,000 of the animal care costs for 2002 declared on the Animal Orphans Inc. filing of IRS Form 990. But Jones appealed. After the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas convicted her a second time, the Pennsylvania Superior Court upheld the conviction in September 2004. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court in June 2005 refused to hear the case. Jones then took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Montgomery County SPCA operations manager Edward Davies estimated that looking after the animals throughout the appeals phase of the case had increased the cost to \$267,000, but Jones will only be billed

for the original \$45,600.

Only 59 cats and three dogs were still alive and offered for adoption at the end of the case. “The animals were not only subjected to filthy conditions, they were malnourished, and quite a number of them had to be destroyed,” Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce L. Castor told *Philadelphia Inquirer* staff writer Bonnie L. Cook.

“Happily, we were able to place our friendly cats and found a rescue group for the FIV/FelV cats. Now we are left with the feral cats,” Montgomery County SPCA humane educator Kim Bonanni e-mailed to other Philadelphia-area humane organizations in early January 2006. “Clearly, we are looking for a suitable placement. We want to give them a cage-free rest of their lives.”

Happy endings tend to be few in hoarding cases.

“Officers of the SPCA testified in court in 2003 that they encountered an overwhelming odor of urine inside the home and said walls were stained with urine,” summarized the *Lansdale Reporter*. “Feces coated other surfaces of the house, according to prosecutors. Some of the animals were emaciated and had respiratory infections, according to testimony. Dead animals were discovered stored in plastic bags in Jones’ freezer and refrigerator...The carcass of another animal was discovered under an entertainment center, testimony revealed.”

A three-judge panel from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati in (continued on page 18)



The European Union has ended live cattle export subsidies—see page 13. (Kim Bartlett)

Greenpeace, Sea Sheperds chase whalers

SOUTHERN OCEANS WHALE SANCTUARY—Neither Australia, New Zealand, nor the United Nations defends the Antarctic whale sanctuary declared in 1974 by the International Whaling Commission, so Greenpeace and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society did it themselves in December 2005 and January 2006, while the Japanese whaling fleet sought to kill 935 minke whales and 10 fin whales within the sanctuary limits—which Japan does not recognize.

Greenpeace pursued the whalers with two ships, the *Esperanza* and the *Arctic Sunrise*, a helicopter, and combined crews of 60 people, including two photographers and two videographers. For Greenpeace, wrote Geoff Strong of the *Melbourne Age*, “the most important weapon is not the water spray designed to confuse the harpoonists’ aim,” a new tactic used to reported great effect, “but the new satellite Internet link that allows them to send fresh broadcast-quality images.

“Sea Shepherd has a different method of disseminating the message,” Strong continued. Aboard the *Farley Mowat* were “an embedded contingent of independent media, including representatives from Australia’s Seven network, *National*

Geographic, and documentary filmmakers from the U.S., France, Brazil, and Canada.

“The whalers have a public relations machine too,” Strong noted. “For the first time they too have been releasing images.”

The most intense action of the campaign started on January 8, according to a chronology pieced together by Andrew Darby of the *Age*. Minutes of high seas drama spun out into almost a week of competing claims.

“Greenpeace expedition leader Shane Rattenbury, in the middle of an interview to Australia by satellite phone, suddenly described the [8,000-ton] *Nisshin Maru* taking a 360-degree turn after breaking away from the resupply ship *Oriental Bluebird*, heading for the [1,000-ton] *Arctic Sunrise*, and the ships colliding,” Darby recounted. Rattenbury did not mention, and perhaps did not know, that the *Farley Mowat* was on the far side of the much larger *Oriental Bluebird*.

“A New Zealand public relations firm acting for Japan’s Institute of Cetacean Research distributed the first still images,” Darby wrote, “showing the *Arctic Sunrise* ramming the *Nisshin Maru* and unidentified activists throwing wires into the water near (continued on page 12)

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POB 960, CLINTON, WA 98236-0960

“Jill knows
the cougar
can’t get
her now--



January, 2006

Dear Partner,

Jill is still amazed, she can’t believe it . . . yet.

Every day of her life was a struggle. She was born in the desert where it gets very cold in winter, and up to 120 degrees in summer.

In the first year of her life, Jill saw each of her siblings . . . and her mom . . . die or be killed in this harsh place.

By luck and cunning, Jill survived for two years.

Look into her eyes (above) . . . she’s seen a lot. A lot.

Then one day, it happened again . . . and over the next few weeks, Jill found herself slowing down more and more, as the puppies inside her grew heavier and heavier.

I don’t know when Jill found our feeding station, but it was soon after she got pregnant.

But unlike most of my rescues . . . where the dogs who discover your gift stay close to our feeding station, making it easier to rescue them . . .

. . . Jill had to keep moving. This poor girl was the equivalent of a woman’s being seven months pregnant . . .

. . . so tired, her legs ached, and her back was tied in a knot, but she couldn’t rest . . .

. . . because of the mountain lion who was on her trail.

Three times now I’ve found fresh mountain lion tracks on top of the dog tracks all around Jill’s feeding station.

It’s no wonder I hadn’t seen Jill and her small pack before she walked into our cage trap . . . and to safety.

Days after Jill was at our hospital, and getting used to people for the first time in her life . . . she gave birth to 5 precious little angels . . .

. . . who won’t be hunted or killed by hawks, owls, eagles or cougars . . .

. . . and who won’t die of disease, or starvation . . . or of injury or dehydration in the unforgiving Mojave desert.

No, thanks to people like you, these babes will grow up safe and happy at our Supershelter.

Please, send your best gift today to continue the magic of reaching down from the sky and picking up a life . . .

. . . giving it the second chance it so desperately begs for . . .

. . . and delivering it to our 94-acre mountain-top sanctuary where this life-energy will enjoy the beauty and fruits of this earth . . . safe and loved from this day forward.

For the animals,

Le

Leo Grillo, founder



Here they are today at two weeks old. Soon they will be playing with each other . . . never knowing how close they came to tragedy.

And soon Jill will let her smile break through. For now, she still can’t believe her good fortune, something she couldn’t even imagine in the wilderness.

D.E.L.T.A. Rescue

PO Box 9, Dept AP, Glendale, CA 91209

+ Attention: Rescuers and Shelters +

Build your own inexpensive straw bale dog house for your pets’ maximum protection, comfort and fun!

Here at D.E.L.T.A. Rescue, we invented a better housing system for our more than 859 dogs. Using 25 common bales of straw, and three sheets of plywood, two people can build a straw bale dog house in under 10 minutes! This is the same simple structure that withstood our terrible El Nino rains in 1998. The *simple* straw design can last 20 years, but because we are a permanent sanctuary, our houses must last longer.



Our dogs love to play on the straw ... before, during and after construction!



Simple straw house, 4x6 foot interior, 10 x10 foot rooftop play area, and steps!



Newly finished “deluxe” stucco version, which will last 100 years or more!



Our dogs climb their steps and play on top and inside their houses. They have a ball!



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That’s why we now build the *deluxe* “stucco” version. Our materials cost for this stucco version is about \$400, while you can put up the simple building for under \$150. Good news! We put all the building instructions for both versions on video tape for anyone to use, or copy in its entirety. And it’s FREE! To help us help precious animals, besides our own 859 dogs and 552 cats, please get this video today and pass it around!

We spent a year making this video tape. Now, for the sake of cold, unsheltered dogs everywhere, we are offering it to anyone *for free*. To pay for duplication and postage, we are asking for a \$6 donation per tape, but only if you can afford it! And we can send the tape to anyone you want. Or you can get one, copy it yourself, then give it to friends.

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

Ghosts of 9/11 & December 7 haunt animal advocacy

Then-U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that December 7, 1941 was “A date which shall forever live in infamy,” because on that morning a Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into World War II.

Unfortunately, as Americans belatedly responded to totalitarian empire builders, who had already been invading their neighbors since 1937, some Americans took advantage of the crisis to behave much like the enemy, aided and augmented by some branches of the U.S. government itself.

Nothing of note was done to overt Nazi sympathizers, including some prominent industrialists, but U.S. citizens of Japanese descent were interned in remote work camps, ostensibly for their own protection.

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Publisher: Kim Bartlett – anpeople@whidbey.

Editor: Merritt Clifton – anmlpepl@whidbey.

Web producer: Patrice Greanville

Associate web producer: Tammy Sneath Grimes

Newswire monitor: Cathy Young Czapla

P.O. Box 960

Clinton, WA 98236-0960

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

Conscientious objectors fared little better, including many of the most prominent ethical vegetarians of their generation.

The excesses on the domestic front during World War II, and more recent U.S. government abuse of dissidents during the so-called McCarthy Era and the Vietnam War, resurfaced in public debate shortly before December 7, 2005.

The George W. Bush administration found itself having unexpected difficulty persuading Congress that all of the invasive provisions of the so-called Patriot Act—rushed to passage after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001—warranted reauthorization. Hundreds of innocent Americans of Islamic background were wrongly detained, thousands of lives were disrupted, and some victims of mistaken identity were even kidnapped, flown to secret locations abroad, and subjected to prolonged isolation and torture.

Having failed for five years to capture 9/11 architect Osama bin Laden, despite repeated public pledges to “smoke him out,” the Bush administration badly needed to bust some alleged terrorists. Was it merely coincidence, then, or a matter of political timing, that on December 7, 2005 the FBI and local law enforcement prominently arrested six alleged domestic terrorists for acts claimed between mid-1997 and mid-2001 in the names of the Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front?

“Federal investigators seemed powerless to stop the fires that were set with gasoline-filled five-gallon plastic buckets and followed with calling cards from the ELF and ALF,” wrote Jeff Barnard of Associated Press. “Then, after Muslim terrorists struck New York and Washington, D.C., the fires set by extremists in the Northwest stopped,” as if the attackers recognized that 9/11 would change public attitudes toward violent acts of protest, and would enable law enforcement to more vigorously pursue the perpetrators.

“In 2002,” Barnard continued, “investigators got a break when one of the people involved in firebombing a logging company and a gravel pit in 2001 told his girlfriend, and she told her dad, a state fire marshal. Three people were convicted. The alleged leader, Michael ‘Tre Arrow’ Scarpitti, is being held in Victoria, British Columbia, on a shoplifting charge, fighting extradition.”

But, Barnard observed, “It would be three more years before authorities moved,” to round up the rest of the alleged ALF/ELF gang.

Did the FBI merely continue to build their case against the other alleged conspirators all this time, or—knowing that they had given up violent tactics—keeping them in reserve, under surveillance, for a time when producing quick, dramatic results might be necessary?

Facing trial

Defendants Stanislas Gregory “Jack” Meyerhoff, 28, and Daniel Gerard McGowan, 31, now face potential sentences of life in prison for alleged arsons that did more than \$1 million apiece at the Superior Lumber Company in Glendale, Oregon, in January 2001, and the Jefferson Poplar Farm in Clatskanie, Oregon, in May 2001.

Meyerhoff, a student at Piedmont Community College, was arrested in Charlottesville, Virginia.

“Last spring Meyerhoff was an honor student at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon,” reported Hal Benton of the *Seattle Times*. “Public records indicate that in the late 1990s, Meyerhoff lived in Eugene, which has been the scene of numerous arsons and other actions linked to activists involved with—or on the fringes of—the ELF.”

McGowan, 31, the youngest child of a retired New York City transit police patrolman, was arrested in New York City. He worked in Brooklyn for the Women’s Law

(continued on page 4)

Join us

This world may be getting smaller, but the big issues about animal welfare are still going largely unnoticed.

We understand the importance of taking action locally but to achieve fundamental reforms we have to act globally.

WSPA has been active on a worldwide basis for 25 years and our greatest achievements have come from collaborating with other animal welfare societies to achieve common goals.

Today we are the largest animal welfare federation in the world, with 600 Member Societies operating in over 125 countries.

Recently, WSPA has co-ordinated desperately needed aid to animals afflicted by the Tsunami, funded a campaign to help end foie gras production in Israel and helped maintain the moratorium on commercial whaling.

Throughout all of this, we have continued to work with our Member Societies to foster and promote animal welfare, particularly in developing countries.

If we are to continue this animal welfare progress, we need to think bigger.

WSPA is calling for all animal protection societies to join this global movement. Only by working closely together, sharing our knowledge and skills, can we make faster and long lasting progress for animals.

Member Societies work in co-ordination with each other, and independently, to find effective ways of addressing all aspects of animal suffering.

WSPA and its global network also provide advice, support, training and materials for organisations working in communities where there remains great indifference to animal cruelty.

Animal protection groups in any country may apply to become a WSPA Member Society. Member Societies range from large national organizations covering a wide range of welfare issues to small specialised groups.

If your organisation is interested in joining our Global Member Society Network, please email: membersocieties@wspa.org.uk

WSPA, World Society for the Protection of Animals, 14th Floor, 89 Abert Embankment, London EC1 7TP
PHONE: +44 (0) 207 587 5000. FAX: +44 (0) 207 793 0208. WEB: www.wspa-international.org

WSPA
World Society for the Protection of Animals

Ghosts of 9/11 & December 7 haunt animal advocacy *(from page 3)*

Initiative, a project formed to help abuse victims. Chelsea Dawn "Country Girl" Gerlach, 28, arrested in Portland, Oregon, with her Canadian housemate Darren Thurston, 35, could get 25 years in prison for allegedly assisting two other defendants in a December 30, 1999 attempt to topple a Bonneville Power Administration transmission tower. Gerlach, a student at Lane Community College in Portland, is also charged with involvement in firebombing the Childers Meat Company in Eugene on Mother's Day, 1999, and in the Jefferson Poplar Farm arson.

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Engdahl alleged at Gerlach's arraignment that Thurston was living with her as an illegal alien. Held on immigration charges in Tacoma, Thurston is a prime suspect in five U.S. arsons. Engdahl reportedly cited an October 11, 1998 fire at the Bureau of Land Management wild horse corrals in Rock Springs, Wyoming; the firebombing of a ski resort at Vail, Colorado, eight days later, which did \$12 million in damage; a Christmas 1999 fire at the Boise Cascade office in Monmouth, Oregon; the Jefferson Poplar Farm arson; and the May 21, 2001 firebombing of a University of Washington horticultural research center, doing \$1.5 million in damage.

Gerlach was named but not charged as a suspect in the Vail arson.

Thurston carried a Social Security card identifying himself as "Kevin Gregory Barske." An individual by that name, who had no connection to Thurston, was valedictorian of the Manitoba Association of Radiologists graduating class in Winnipeg on September 24, 2005.

Thurston was the only one of the December 7, 2005 arrestees who could be described as "well-known to police."

Reputedly nicknamed "The Mad Bomber" in high school, Thurston was convicted in 1992 of firebombing three trucks belonging to an Edmonton fish dealer, and of a June 1992 break-in at the University of Alberta, with David Barbarash, now 41. His criminal record began with vandalism at the University of Toronto veterinary school in 1986.

Thurston and Barbarash were jointly charged in March 1998 with allegedly mailing razor blade devices to furrriers, hunting guides, and hunting columnists.

Thurston and Barbarash were also accused of sending pipe bombs to Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel, of Toronto, and white supremacist Charles Scott, of British Columbia. Both escaped injury. The day before Scott received a bomb, however, a mail bomb severely injured animal researcher Terry Mitenko, of Cochrane, Alberta, in a case authorities and media believed was related. Thurston and Barbarash were not charged with that offense.

The March 1998 charges against Thurston and Barbarash were dropped, said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to avoid jeopardizing another international investigation. More than seven years later, the specifics of that investigation are still unclear—but it predated all but one of the incidents involved in the ELF/ALF arrests.

Also named but not charged in connection with the Vail arson was William Courtney "Avalon" Rodgers, 40, a bookstore owner in Prescott, Arizona. Law enforcement sources said Rodgers had recently separated from his longtime partner Katie Rose Nelson, but Nelson quickly emerged as a character witness for him.

Rodgers was charged with three other arsons, beginning with the November 1997 burning of a Bureau of Land Management horse corral at Burns, Oregon, that did \$450,000 in damage. That was the fourth action ever claimed by the ELF. No one has been accused yet of the first three.

"In the first physical evidence disclosed in the case, the inventory of a six-hour search of Rodgers' residence and bookstore listed boxes of suspected bomb-making materials such as timers, re-lighting birthday candles, and three guns. Police also found two digital photos of nude prepubescent girls stored on a compact disc," wrote Nicole Frey of the *Vail Daily*.

Either very late on December 21 or early the next morning, Rodgers used a clear plastic bag from the Flagstaff jail commissary to suffocate himself. Gerlach was immediately

placed on suicide watch.

Kevin M. "Bob" Tubbs, 36, was arrested in Springfield, Oregon. He faces 30 years in prison for allegedly firebombing 35 sport utility vehicles at Joe Romania Chevrolet in Eugene on March 30, 2001, and for burning a USDA research station in Olympia, Washington, on June 21, 1998.

Two other individuals, Jeffrey Luers and Craig Marshall, were convicted in 2001 of a separate firebombing at Joe Romania Chevrolet in June 2000 that destroyed three pickup trucks. Luers was sentenced to 22 years, eight months; Marshall drew five and a half years on a plea bargain. He is reportedly now free on parole.

Sarah Kendall Harvey, 28, also known as Kendall Tankersley, was arrested in Flagstaff, Arizona, where she was an administrative assistant at Northern Arizona University. Harvey/Tankersley lived in Eugene from 1996 to 2000. She was charged with arson and attempted arson in connection with a fire that did \$500,000 worth of damage to a U.S. Forest Industries office in Medford, Oregon, on December 28, 1998.

"A graduate of Humboldt State University in California with a degree in molecular biology, Harvey pleaded guilty in 1997 to three misdemeanors," Associated Press reported, "after being arrested at a nonviolent anti-logging protest." Harvey/Tankersley also had a 1999 conviction for trespassing on railroad property.

The arrests brought top-of-the-news coverage both in the five cities where suspects were caught, and in the nearest cities to the crime scenes. The number of cities involved practically guaranteed that the story would go national. Additional publicity boosts came from two unrelated cases that also involved alleged ideological terrorism.

Self-described ELF activist Christopher McIntosh, 23, on December 15, 2005 drew eight years in prison for setting a January 20, 2003 predawn fire at a McDonald's restaurant near the Seattle Space Needle.

Peter Daniel Young, 28, was charged on December *(continued on page 6)*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scoring system

This letter is to address reviewer Kim Bartlett's concerns about the numerical scoring system for slaughterhouse evaluation that I described in my book *Animals In Translation*. She was concerned that many animals would suffer because a plant can pass even when it makes some mistakes. Audits by restaurants that hold a plant to a numerical standard have resulted in great improvements. The audit criteria allow a plant to pass if 1% of the cattle fall down. In 2005, the 20 largest beef plants that were audited by more than one restaurant company had 0% of the cattle falling. Cattle slipped in only three plants. These plants have been in the audit system for five years. This is a big improvement compared to my 1996 pre-restaurant audit data in 11 beef and veal plants. In two plants (18%) a total of 8% and 12% of the animals fell down.

Reducing vocalization (moos and bellows) from distressed cattle has also been greatly reduced. In 1996, the worst plant had 35% of the cattle vocalizing and in 2005 the worst vocalization score out of 43 plants was 6%. In the 20 most heavily audited beef plants the worst vocalization score was only 3%.

In 2005 the average scores for the heavily audited beef plants were:



Insensibility	100%
Stunned with 1st shot	98.5%
Falling	0%
Vocalization	1%
Electric prod use	6%

There are still serious problems and outright animal abuse in some plants outside the audit system. A plant with a horrible 19% stunning score was removed from the approved supplier list. Another plant that slaughtered emaciated half-dead cows was also delisted.

Before the audits started some of the big plants did really atrocious things such as dragging downer animals and cutting live animals. In the 1980s I saw a man drag a live pig by plunging a meat hook into its shoulder. Today, I no longer see these terrible things in audited plants. More data and reports can be viewed at <www.grandin.com>. Click on the survey section.

—Temple Grandin



Dept. of Animal Sciences
Colorado State University
Animal Sciences Dept.
Fort Collins, CO 80523

Cruel culling

I am very disturbed by the images that we are seeing on TV in connection with bird flu outbreaks: poultry and other birds being buried and/or burned alive. While I understand the potential disastrous consequences of avian flu for humanity, and while I accept that protecting humans has to be the first priority, these animals are sentient beings. (Yes, one solution may be for all of us to become vegetarians, but I don't think that's necessary here.)

Therefore I believe that humane methods of killing these poor animals must be found and used. I also understand that this may be more expensive and require resources. I would be willing to pledge money to help with this, if I knew someone who would work on making this possible.

If anyone knows any group that is working on more humane methods for these cullings, please contact me.

—Markus Finkemeier
Brooklyn, N.Y.

<markusfinkemeier@aol.com>



Year of the Dog

2006 is the Chinese Year of the Dog. I hope the year will bring a better life for the animals in China. Your support in much appreciated.

—Irene Zhang



Animal Rescue Beijing
Beijing, China
<irenez@yahoo.com>



"A gift to bile farm bears"

Thanks a million for your December 2005 cover feature "British readers send a gift to bile farm bears."

We got the number of signatures required from members of the European Parliament to win a declaration calling for China to end the horrific practice of bear bile farming. The declaration will now become official European Parliament policy.

This is only the fourth time in the current Parliament that a written declaration has gained enough signatures and cross-party support to be adopted. This was all



due to our U.K. director Dave Neale and his team.

Also, our figures on bear bile farming in Vietnam have been updated. Today, according to official statistics, there are 3,410 farmed bears in Vietnam, 90% of them moon bears. Another 602 captive bears are on exhibit.



—Jill Robinson
Founder & CEO
Animals Asia Foundation
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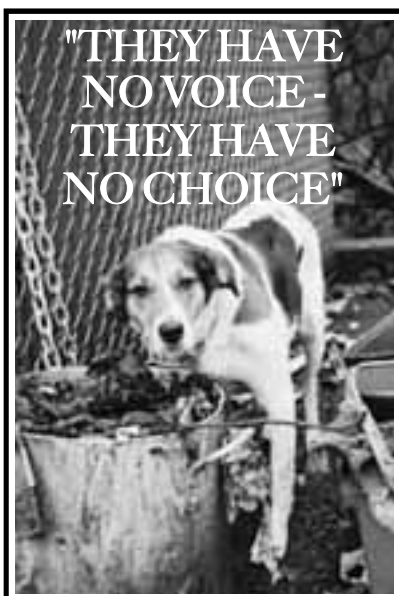
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It's the only 2-by-4 to use in the battle for public opinion.

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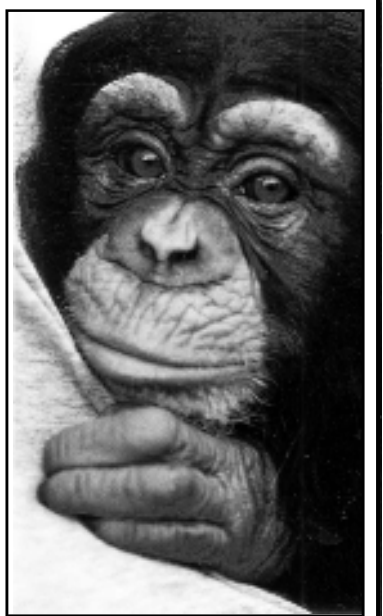
Isolation is the worst cruelty to a dog. Thousands of dogs endure lives not worth living, on the ends of chains, in pens, in sheds, garages and basements. Who is doing something about this? **Animal Advocates** is!

See how at www.animaladvocates.com.

Sign the petition. Join our cause. Read our "Happy Endings" stories of dogs rescued from lives of misery, and the laws we've had passed. Copy and use our ground-breaking report into the harm that isolation does to dogs and society.

This little one will never face laboratory research or isolation or the beatings and stress of training to perform as "entertainment." She has found safe haven at Primarily Primates, among nearly 600 other rescued primates and 400 birds. We give them sanctuary for the rest of their lives.

Please help us to help them!

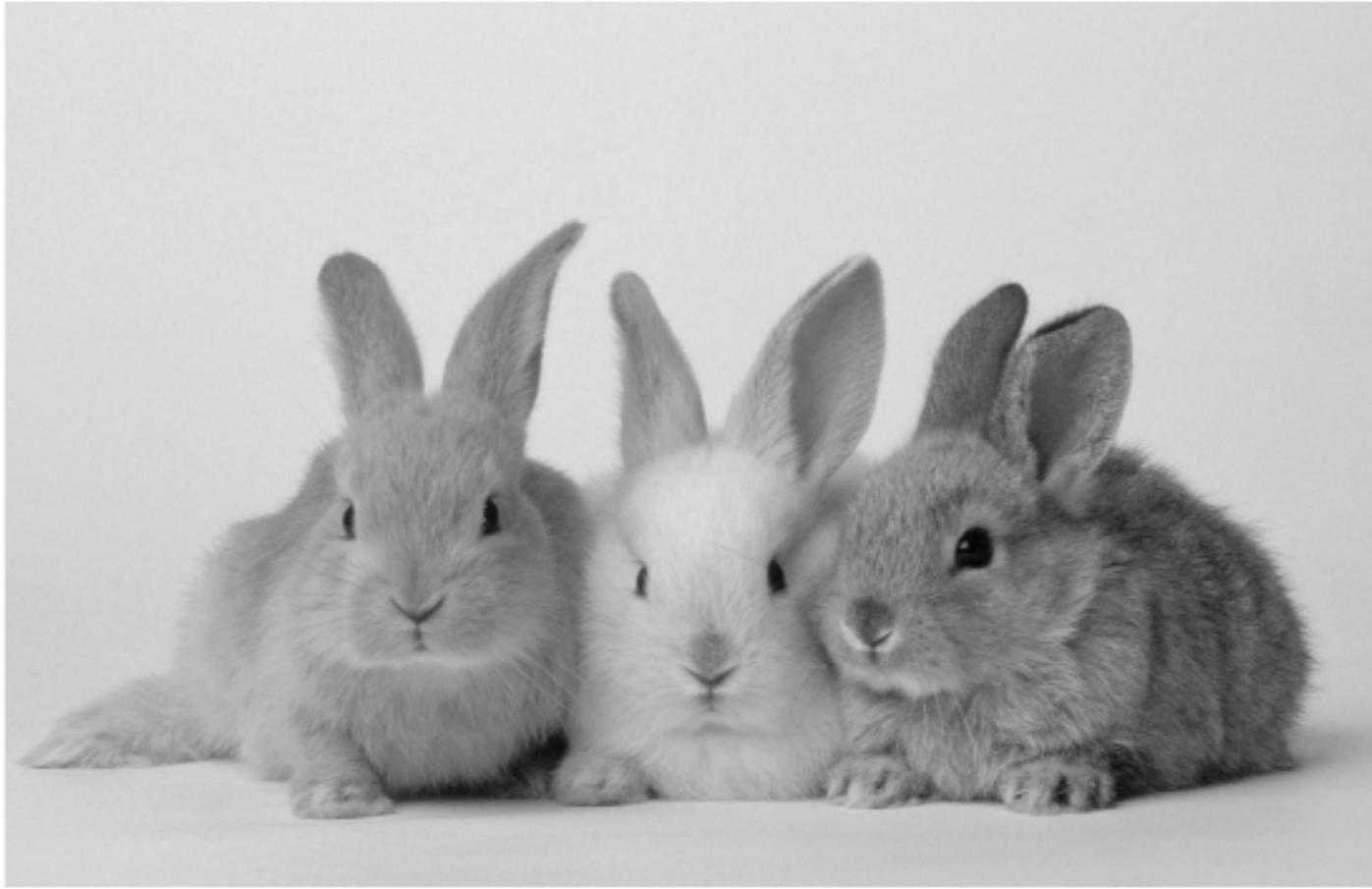


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Please help these chickens

You may think you're looking at rabbits. But according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), you're looking at chickens. And chickens, says the USDA, are not really animals.

This isn't the first time the USDA has changed the meaning of commonly understood words. Perhaps you remember when the agency declared that ketchup was a vegetable.

USDA officials have a well-established pattern of playing word games to avoid compliance with federal laws. And they're at it again. This time, they're doing it to avoid enforcing the federal Humane Slaughter Act—the law requiring animals to be rendered unconscious before they're butchered.

Fifty years ago, the USDA lobbied *against* passage of the Humane Slaughter Act. Today, USDA officials continue to do everything in their power *not* to enforce that law. As a result, farm animals—from cattle to pigs to horses—are often subjected to the pain and terror of being brutally skinned, immersed in scalding water, and dismembered while still fully conscious.

And when it comes to smaller animals, the USDA doesn't even pretend to protect them from cruelty. Species that the USDA deems to be "poultry"—including the 9 billion chickens and turkeys slaughtered each year—are excluded from the Humane Slaughter Act.

Amazingly, the USDA has arbitrarily decided to classify rabbits as "poultry." This has resulted in nothing short of torture at the slaughterhouse. For some rabbits, this means having their throats sliced open while they're fully conscious and struggling. For others, it means having their necks broken or being struck in the head with a metal pipe or a piece of wood.

"The animals are completely aware of what's happening and are fighting for their lives."

According to the USDA's own meat inspectors, some rabbits are fully conscious as they have meat hooks jabbed through their legs. Workers hang them up by "running a meat hook through the rabbit's leg muscle and sometimes into the bone."

Hung upside down, the rabbits then have their heads sawed off as they struggle and cry in pain. According to inspectors, workers "use a dull knife and have to keep using it over and over to decapitate the rabbit. The workers were having to try three or four times to remove the rabbit's head. There were occasions where the knife slipped and the rabbit's ears were cut off.

"A worker had numerous scratches and bite marks from the rabbits struggling to survive as he was killing them," the inspectors continued. "The rabbits will cry almost like an infant with loud shrieking noises."

Outraged by what they saw, some USDA inspectors contacted their supervisors. They were told that no action would be taken to stop these atrocities "because rabbits are classified as poultry by USDA and are therefore excluded from Humane Slaughter Act enforcement."

STOP THE TORTURE NOW

Please contact the Secretary of Agriculture. Tell him that no farm animals should be slaughtered while still fully conscious. Ask that the USDA adopt regulations to include rabbits as well as chickens under the Humane Slaughter Act. Urge the Secretary to take immediate action to stop the kind of brutality that his own inspectors are witnessing.

Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
Room 200-A
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: (202) 720-3631
Fax: (202) 720-2166
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Ghosts of 9/11 & December 7 haunt animal advocacy (from page 4)

23, 2005 with third degree burglary, intentional damage to property and "animal enterprise trespass" in Watertown, South Dakota, for releasing mink from the now defunct Turbak Mink Ranch near Kransburg in 1997. Young pleaded guilty to federal charges based on the same incident in August 2005, and drew a two-year prison sentence. Accomplice Justin Samuel, captured in Belgium in 1999, already served a two-year term.

Domestic spying

Firebombings committed in the name of a cause are terrorism, by any reasonable definition. Arresting terrorists, even if they have not directly or intentionally threatened either human or animal lives, is clearly necessary.

Probably no one will ever prove definitively that the Bush administration manipulated the timing of the ALF/ELF busts to help push the Patriot Act renewal through to passage.

But among the revelations during an ongoing series of investigations, hearings, and panel reports about unauthorized Bush administration spying on U.S. citizens were that activist groups including PETA and Greenpeace were among the targets—and certainly the Bush administration knew that this information would come out.

"After the attacks of September 11, 2001," explained Eric Lichtblau of *The New York Times*, "John Ashcroft, who was then attorney general, loosened restrictions on the FBI's investigative power. The FBI used that authority to investigate not only groups with suspected ties to foreign terrorists, but also protest groups suspected of having links to violent or disruptive activities."

"One FBI document," Lichtblau continued, citing materials obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union, "indicates that agents in Indianapolis planned to conduct surveillance as part of a 'Vegan Community Project.' Another document indicates the bureau's interest in determining the location of a PETA protest over llama fur."

"The documents indicate," Lichtblau added, "that in some cases the FBI has used employees, interns, and other confidential informants within groups like PETA and Greenpeace to develop leads on potential criminal activity."

If such infiltration had actually demonstrably contributed to capturing ALF/ELF suspects, or other people who have actually been charged with terrorism, the tactics might have been warranted.

"But the documents, coming after the Bush administration's confirmation that President Bush had authorized some spying without warrants, prompted charges from civil rights advocates that the government had improperly blurred the line between terrorism and acts of civil disobedience and lawful protest," Lichtblau summarized.

In short, the espionage was literally unwarranted.

And, when persons who do not actually support a

cause are inserted into the cause as spies, there is the constant risk that they will act as saboteurs and *agents provocateur*.

Agents provocateur

Infiltrators have at times in the past proved to be among the hardest-working and most reliable members of activist groups, as part of their cover. Such paradoxes make *agents provocateur* especially difficult to detect and expose, and especially dangerous to a cause.

Agents provocateur tend to be mistaken for super-activists: those who do the most, take the greatest risks, donate the most money, and espouse the most radical positions. They often are among the protesters who are most often arrested, yet time and again win release on technicalities, sometimes after spending time in jail with someone else who gets a long sentence based on tips from confidential informants.

Some *agents provocateur* are in fact super-activists, who never realize that the admirers slipping them funding for disruptive activities are not sympathizers but handlers, counting on the unwitting *agents provocateur* to do things that backfire—like many of the major actions claimed by the ELF.

The ELF name surfaced in 1996, John H. Cushman Jr. and Evelyn Nieves of *The New York Times* reported in 1998, when it "was spray-painted at the scene when someone damaged trucks at a Forest Service ranger station; a few days later another ranger station in the area was set afire."

Those arsons contributed to the pretext for increased law enforcement against opponents of old-growth logging.

The ELF apparently first linked itself to the ALF in claiming a mink release at Mount Angel, Oregon, on May 31, 1997. The remains of many mink allegedly trampled by the perpetrators were displayed on TV.

The ELF and ALF next claimed to have jointly set a July 21, 1997 fire at the Cavel West horse killing plant in Redmond, Oregon.

During 1997-1998 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** learned—and reported in November 1998—that a person using the same Social Security number as individuals known as Bill Wewer and Rick Spill had rented premises near Mount Angel, and near highways to the sites of other early ELF actions.

ANIMAL PEOPLE has long suspected that Wewer and Spill were the same man.

Wewer, an attorney and direct mail fundraiser, drafted the incorporation of the Doris Day Animal League in 1986. In 1989-1990, Wewer simultaneously represented both the "March for the Animals" and the anti-animal rights group Putting People First, founded by his wife Kathleen Marquardt.

PPF, now defunct, defended whalers, sealers, furriers, and the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus.

PPF also received donor lists and other materials stolen from PETA and the Performing Animal Welfare Society

by covert operators working for a private security firm called Richlin Consultants, according to information disclosed to PETA and PAWS by former Richlin operative Steven Kendall.

Richlin Consultants was directed by Clair George, CIA deputy director of operations from July 1984 to December 1997. Further particulars about it may emerge in February 2006, when a PETA lawsuit against Ringling for funding the infiltration is due to go to trial.

Wewer later represented the Ventura County Humane Society, until his reported death in San Francisco on April 1, 1999. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** learned that the San Francisco coroner's office never actually saw a body.

Rick Spill in 1993-1997 handled marine mammal issues for the Animal Welfare Institute, and was instrumental in the 1994-1995 breakup of the Sugarloaf Dolphin Sanctuary, the largest-ever attempt in the U.S. to rehabilitate captive dolphins for return to the wild. Spill was apparently last seen within the animal cause at the November 1999 anti-World Trade Organization protests in Seattle.

ANIMAL PEOPLE continues to monitor the activities of an individual of similar features, build, and habits who emerged as an outspoken anti-animal rights activist in 1999.

Despite our suspicions, there is as yet no direct indication of wise-use manipulation of the ELF, and no trace of wise-use background among the arrested suspects, but many later ELF actions contributed to wise-use political success.

Most notably, as a bill to slash funding for the USDA Wildlife Services government extermination agency was before the House of Representatives in June 1998, arsons allegedly committed by the arrested suspects razed two Wildlife Services buildings. The House approved the funding cut on the first vote, two days later, but well-hyped backlash helped to reverse the cut the day after that.

The Vail ski lift arson, ostensibly set to protect lynx habitat, came eight months after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on February 12, 1998 agreed to consider the lynx for Endangered Species Act protection throughout the Lower 48 states. Protecting lynx is bitterly opposed by loggers, hunters, trappers, and land developers. The Vail fire helped to rally backlash that delayed the first U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service critical habitat designation for lynx until November 9, 2005.

At that, the designation is unlikely to take effect.

"Lori Nordstrom, a Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife biologist in Helena, said the agency doubts the effectiveness of the designation, but seeks to implement it to satisfy legal requirements," wrote Susan Gallagher of Associated Press.

Whether or not *agents provocateur* turn out to have been directly behind anything the ELF did, at least two of the alleged arsonists helped to set up the arrests of the others.

The case broke "with the cooperation of one key (continued on page 8)

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Breed-specific

Thanks for the editorial feature on breed-specific legislation in the December 2005 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Often I find that you are the only source for information on what is happening pertaining to dangerous dogs and related legislation. It is greatly appreciated!

Here in Portland/Multnomah County we are also experiencing a rising number of pit bull-type dogs entering the shelter. Pit bull-type dogs represented approximately 33% of all live dog intakes in fiscal year 2005, and approximately 50% of all dog euthanasia. This trend is holding through the first half of fiscal year 2006. This population demographic is impacting our ability to successfully place

dogs who do not have behavioral or temperamental characteristics that pose a health or safety risk to the community. We are also seeing increases in pitbull-type dogs represented in abandoned dog calls, bite investigations, abuse/neglect investigations, and loose aggressive dog calls.

An Oregon law in effect since January 1, 2006 defines and regulates the ownership of potentially dangerous dogs (breed neutral), and imposes criminal sanctions on the owner/keeper of a dog who inflicts serious injury to a person (Class A misdemeanor, carrying a penalty of up to one year in prison and a \$6,250 fine) or kills a person (Class C Felony, with a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$125,000 fine).

In addition, anyone

found to own or keep a potentially dangerous dog—where there is a repeat incident, or a failure to comply with conditions and restrictions—is committing a Class A misdemeanor (with a penalty of up to one year in prison and a \$6,250 fine).

The new law makes the owner/keeper strictly liable for economic damages incurred by a person who is injured by a dog. We are working directly with our District Attorney's office on developing investigation and prosecution procedures.

—Mike Oswald
Multnomah County
Animal Services
P.O. Box 698
Troutdale, OR 97060
503-988-7387
<michael.l.oswald@co.multnomah.or.us>



Dog I.D.

Great editorial—thank you for clarifying **ANIMAL PEOPLE**'s stance on breed-specific legislation.

Does anyone have any other suggestions about how to make pit bulls identifiable to law enforcement without handling the dog?



—Desiree Bender
Where Angels Run
P.O. Box 534
Conway, AR
72033

<angelsrun97@earthlink.net>
<www.whereangelsrun.net>

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—Jeff Lydon
Executive Director
Tompkins County SPCA
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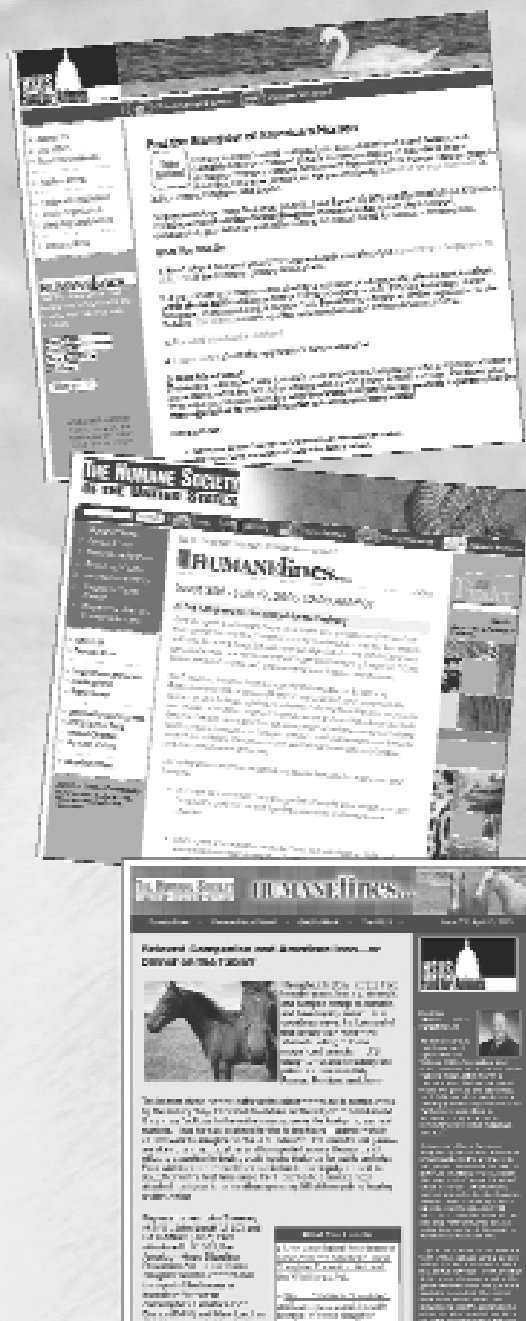
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Ghosts of 9/11 & December 7 haunt animal advocacy (from page 4)

informant," reported *Denver Post* staff writers Alicia Caldwell, Joey Bunch, and Steve Lipsher.

"Dubbed 'cooperating witness' by federal investigators, the alleged Earth Liberation Front insider knew names and dates, and was willing to wear a wire to record conversations with other members," Caldwell, Bunch, and Lipsher continued. "According to those familiar with such investigations, prosecutors typically cultivate an informant who will surreptitiously record conversations with co-conspirators and then charge who they can. Federal prosecutors also look for defendants, facing potentially long federal prison terms, to begin flipping, or offering cooperation in exchange for leniency. That opens the door for additional charges.

"One witness the government is relying on is Jacob Ferguson, according to Gerlach's lawyer, Craig Weinerman," Caldwell, Bunch, and Lipsher wrote. "Ferguson, Weinerman contends, took part in the arsons but has not been charged. Another witness is Meyerhoff, a high school classmate of Gerlach's who has been charged but not for every crime he admitted to participating in, according to court pleadings."

Predicted & predictable

None of this is any surprise at all to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Our September 2001 edition predicted on pages 12-13 that the 9/11 terrorist attacks would provide animal use industries with the security-conscious political climate they needed to obtain escalated federal surveillance of animal advocacy. We mentioned the Joe Romania Chevrolet arsons, the Vail ski lift fire, the Ringling-funded infiltrations of PETA and PAWS, and many other instances of espionage and *agents provocateur* disrupting animal advocacy, all by way of warning.

We knew what would happen because throughout recorded history the major animal use industries have repeatedly seized upon poorly understood external threats to society as a pretext for persecuting animal advocates.

Two thousand years ago, for example, the Jerusalem Temple defended their control over the slaughter-and-sacrifice industry by exploiting Roman fear of a Jewish revolt to perse-

cute opponents of the Temple's sacrifice-based economic system. Victims included John the Baptist and Jesus.

Circa 700 years ago the Roman Catholic Church controlled most of the farmland in Europe, and taxed the proceeds heavily to finance the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Crusades, all waged within a 30-year span to repel Islamic influence on the far side of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Church simultaneously waged the Albigensian Crusade to exterminate a vegan sect called the Cathari, who would not bear arms even in their own defense. Mixing antecedents of Protestantism with possible traces of Brahmin, Jain, or Buddhist teachings, the Cathari emerged in eastern Europe, but developed enduring popular support in southern France. The Cathari influenced the pro-animal teachings of St. Francis of Assisi and Richard of Wyche, Bishop of Chichester, who was an early British critic of the morality of slaughter.

About 650 years ago, and again 340 years ago, fear of bubonic plague enabled agribusiness, as it existed then, to condemn widowed cat ladies as witches and seize their land. Some may have been animal hoarders (see "*U.S. Supreme Court endorses seizure of hoarded animals*," page 1), but others were authentic animal lovers.

Civilization itself is widely depicted as having been enabled by the advent of animal husbandry, though archaeological evidence increasingly suggests that soil erosion resulting from the domestication of goats actually brought the collapse of the first agrarian city-states.

Nothing threatens the economic and cultural established order more than the prospect of people turning away *en masse* from the use of animals for meat, fur, and leather.

Accordingly, animal advocates can expect more paranoia and persecution any time progress makes animal use industry leaders nervous and something big scares the public.

Post-9/11 panic has subsided. Political opinion is at last swinging away from allowing government agencies to commit excesses against activists in the name of security. But history suggests that it is in the interludes between intensive government surveillance that infiltrators and *agents provocateur*

directly sponsored by industry are most active and dangerous.

A now 20-year-old Canadian government strategy paper called *Defence of the Fur Trade* and a similar strategy outline produced a year later by the American Medical Association both described the tactic of neutralizing animal advocacy by associating it with violence.

Simply answering that far more violence is done by trappers, vivisectionists, *et al* misses the point.

Accepting terrorism of any sort invites infiltration and disruption, and ultimately retards the cause, no matter how much of a vicarious feel-good frustrated activists may get from a transiently successful "direct action."

Critical to remember, as both *Defence of the Fur Trade* and the AMA strategy pointed out, is that most of the public does not approve of cruelty to animals, when they recognize it. Therefore, if animal advocates do not commit self-discrediting acts of terrorism, animal use industry covert operatives often will distract the public by committing such acts in the name of animal advocacy.

Animal advocates should be aware that seven years before any ALF or ELF suspect used a pipe bomb, a covert operator named Mary Lou Sappone, hired by former U.S. Surgical Corporation owner Leon Hirsch, in November 1988 set up a fringe activist to be caught in the act of planting a pipe bomb in the U.S. Surgical parking lot.

Why?

Because when the public sees purported animal advocates involved in violence, *that* violence becomes the story—not the violence going on out in the woods, inside the labs, and inside the slaughterhouses.

The best defense animal advocates have against such duplicitous tactics is to avoid any association with violence, so that *agents provocateur* become conspicuous.

Convincing the world to treat animals with moral consideration requires activists to keep the high ground, not from fear of arrest, but from the likelihood that appearing to be irrational or dangerous will obscure the message and lead to failure.

Coming events

February 7-14: Have A Heart For Chained Dogs Week. Info: Dogs Deserve Better, 814-941-7447; <tammy@dogsdeservebetter.org>; <www.dogsdeservebetter.com>.

February 8, 9, 13, 14, 16: ASPCA & PetSmart Charities Virtual Fundraising Conf. Info: Robin Mason, 623-587-2487; <RMason@ssg.petsmart.com>; <www.petsmartcharities.org.webex.com>.

February 11: "Meet Big Cats of the Animal Kingdom & the Big Cats of the Political Arena" benefit for Humane USA PAC. Info: 813-493-4564; <makeadifference@bigcatrescue.org>; <www.humaneusa.org/humanusafl.htm>.

Feb. 11-14: Animal Care Conf., Pasadena, Calif., co-sponsored by Calif. Animal Control Directors Assn., State Humane Assn. of Calif., & Calif. Vet. Medical Assn. Info: <www.animalcareconference.org>.

February 26: "Party Animals" fundraisers for the Humane Society Legislative Fund, lobbying arm of the Humane Society of the U.S., many locations. Info: <www.fund.org>.

March 18: Wild About Wildlife dinner & auction for the Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation & Educational Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona. Info: 480-951-3082.

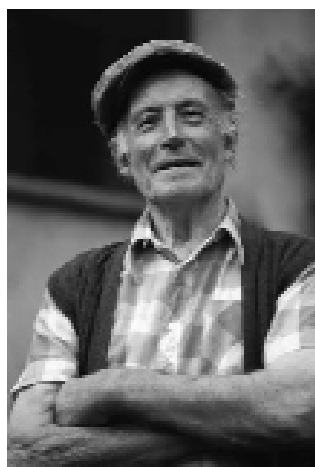
March 8-11: HSUS Animal Care Expo, Anaheim. Info: 301-548-7739; <www.hsi-hsus.org>.

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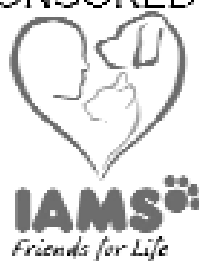
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Kites vs. kite-birds & other species in the skies of India & Pakistan

AHMEDABAD—As many as a million kites soared aloft over Indian cities on January 15, 2006 as Hindus celebrated Makar Sankranti, the Day of the Sun.

Festivals throughout India featured kite-fighting contests, in which flyers tried to saw through each other's strings.

Celebrity kite-fighters included Sonia Gandhi, president of the ruling Congress Party, and recently retired former prime minister and Bharatiya Janata Party president Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who met in Jaipur.

Everywhere kites rose through the air space occupied by sidewalk and garden bird species such as sparrows and bulbuls, up past ringnecked parakeets and house crows patrolling at treetop height, on to baffle the kite-birds and vultures whose congregations, circling on thermal currents, are often the first sign that Indian airline pilots see of their destination cities, while the cities themselves are still beyond the horizon.

Tens of thousands of temple-goers meanwhile sought to "make merit" by purchasing wild-caught caged birds for ceremonial release, or by throwing out seeds and crumbs for birds in temple squares.

Capturing wild birds for sale and release has been illegal in India since the 1972 passage of the Wildlife Protection Act, but local police rarely make enforcement a priority. The federal and state forest departments do what they can, helped by activist groups with limited powers to make citizens' arrests.

A hint of the size of the bird release problem came on December 22, 2005 when forest officers raided the Nakhas bird market in Lucknow, rescuing 739 birds of 15 species, including endangered black-necked cranes, hill mynas, and Lord Derby's parakeets.

Bird release was practiced at sun festivals by the ancient Egyptians, from whom some Brahmin Hindus believe they are descended. The custom has also been followed by Jains from the beginning of Indian written history, by Buddhists since the time of the Buddha himself some 2,300 years ago, and by Muslims who obey Mohammed's injunction against keeping caged birds.

When a million kites fly just as hundreds of thousands of dazed, dehydrated, frightened birds are let go, the result is a bird rehabilitator's worst nightmare.

But the timing is not the worst of it.

Fighter-kites are traditionally flown with cotton threads that have been coated with a paste of glue and powdered glass. Modernists may use nylon monofilament, equally dangerous to birds, but only the traditional recipes are accepted in formal competition.

Historically, Indian and Pakistani kite-flyers made their equipment. In recent years, however, as Indians and Pakistanis

have become more affluent and busier, sales of ready-made kites have reportedly risen at the rate of 20% per year. Mass-produced glass-coated threads are available.

More kites are flying, handled by less experienced people, with surprisingly frequent deadly consequences to humans as well as birds. In November 2005, for instance, in Lahore, Pakistan, a 10-year-old girl named Noor died from a slashed throat after a glass-coated kite string dipped into the path of the motorbike she was riding with her uncle.

A five-member panel of the Pakistan Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhary reported in early December 2005 that more than 450 Pakistanis were killed in kite-related accidents during the year, mostly by falling from rooftops, and that most than 1,500 people had been killed, with 10,000 more injured, since 2000. The panel called for restrictive laws.

Kite-flying peaks in Pakistan at Basant, celebrated in early February. Basant festivals are prominent in the Punjab region, divided between Pakistan and India, and in Multan, whose name means "Land of Birds."

The military government of Pakistan has since 1999 encouraged Basant kite-flying, despite objections from Islamists who contend that the holiday marks the birthday of a Hindu saint named Basanti Lal.

The Pakistan Supreme Court findings may be seen with skepticism because of the political context, and because thousands of human deaths have not been reported in India.

However, spot-checks of single-day bird tolls could project to tens of thousands. The Jain Bird Hospital in Old Delhi handled 31 kite-injured birds just on Indian Independence Day, for instance, in August 2005.

In Vadodara, to the south, an organization called VCARE on Makar Sankranti 2005 received 23 birds, but could save just four. The Vadodara SPCA saved eight, director Shradda Nar told *The Times of India*. The Gujarat SPCA in Vadodara, serving the oldest part of the city, received about 20 birds, with possibly no survivors.

The Surat Nature Club took 61 bird distress calls on Makar Sankranti 2005, spokesperson Darshan Desai told Bindu Shajan Perappadan of *The Hindu*. Eight birds died; more than 30 required wing amputations, and will end their lives in sanctuaries.

Help In Suffering, of Jaipur, fielded 10 mobile units who rescued 117 birds during Makar Sankranti 2006, spokesperson Namrata Tiwari told the Indo-Asian News Service.

"At least 25 birds died on the way while 92 were brought to the centre," Tiwari said. "After the initial treatment, 59 birds were released while the remaining 33 were still in bad shape, with amputated wings."



A kite-injured barn owl rescued by Animal Help Ahmedabad after Makar Sankranti 2005.

Two other Jaipur animal rescue projects handled 87 birds between them, of whom four died, Indo-Asia News reported.

The biggest program rescuing birds after kite holidays appears to be that of the Animal Help Foundation of Ahmedabad, begun in mid-2000 by then-recent university graduate Rahul Sehgal.

Animal Help also operates an ambitious Animal Birth Control program. A subsidiary, Animal Help in Emergencies And Disasters, is the first dedicated animal disaster relief organization in India.

From founding, Animal Help has answered animal emergency calls—which soon made kite-flying a focal concern. After Makar Sankranti 2005, Animal Help received reports of at least 600 injured birds, recounts Sehgal. Seven vehicles outfitted as bird ambulances brought 450 avian victims to the newly expanded and renovated Animal Help bird hospital. Among the hurt birds were black and white ibis, combed ducks, crow-pheasants, peacocks, pigeons, kite-birds, and vultures.

About 80 birds died in Ahmedabad, despite the best efforts of Animal Help veteri-

narians and 20 volunteers to save them.

"Our telephone lines were jammed during the peak flying hours," Sehgal told *The Times of India*. He hoped to be better prepared for Makar Sankranti 2006, making use of the increasing Animal Help stock of experience.

Over time, Sehgal hopes to amend the customs that cause so many bird deaths and injuries. Preventive measures might include a crack-down on bird sales for temple release, restrictions on bird-feeding to avoid conflicts with kite festivals, and restrictions on kite flying to avoid sites that especially attract birds.

Most important, Sehgal says, "People need to stop using glass-coated manja, and learn to fly kites on open grounds."

—Merritt Clifton

Contact Help In Suffering c/o Mahar-ani Farm, Durgapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302018, India; 91-141-760803; fax 91-141-761544; <hisjpr@datainfosys.net>.

Contact the Animal Help Foundation c/o #5 Retreat, Opposite Underbridge, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380 004;

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MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tsunami anniversary

As I look back on 2005 and reflect on the first anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami here in Sri Lanka, I would like to give special thanks to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for your help and support. Your immediate financial help allowed the Tsunami People Animal Welfare Coalition to hit the ground with initial response assistance, vaccination (ultimately vaccinating 14,000 animals) and assessment even before the full extent of the tsunami was realized. Your follow-up assistance to the Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust has helped provide the longer-term response of sterilizing animals in the tsunami zone and refugee camps to reduce rabies and dog bites, while improving the welfare of the animals and protecting them from mass killings.

Even more, thank you for moral support. Knowing that we had your backing gave us the strength to push on during some dark early days. Your candid observations about resources helped us to chart our course.

I have been very pleased to see the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** name continue to pop up giving a helping hand, especially assisting groups in developing countries, where that small helping hand can make a huge difference in very difficult animal welfare environments.

—Robert Blumberg

Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust

45-B Skelton Road

Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

<rblumberg@attglobal.net>

<www.tsunami-animal.org>



Orangutans

Three years have passed since Safariworld here in Thailand was found to be illegally importing baby orangutans from Indonesia. Courts found the owner of Safariworld guilty of illegally possessing the orangutans over eight months ago.

The zoo confessed to the offense, yet the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants returned the orangutans to the zoo without any explanation.

Since then, at least 17 orangutans have died, over a span of 25 months. Of the 115 orangutans found at Safariworld, only 44 were believed to be there legally. The other 71 were "donated" by various people, according to the Safariworld management. All of the dead orangutans were from the illegal lot.

How can 17 orangutans out of 71 die within two years, while the zoo claims to be very successful at breeding and raising orangutans? How many more babies need to die before the authorities do something?

Send them back home!

—Edwin Wiek

Wildlife Friends of Thailand

& Borneo Orangutan

Survival Foundation

108, Moo 6

Tambon Thamairuak

Amphoe Thayang

76130 Petchaburi

Thailand

Phone: +6690600906

<edwin.wiek@wftf.org>

<www.savetheorangutans.info>



United Egg Producers' logo is a loser

PHILADELPHIA—Cruelty charges brought against Esbenshade Farms in January 2006 "are part of campaigns by Compassion Over Killing and HSUS against the egg industry practice of confining hens in wire cages without nests or room to stretch their wings," *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter Harold Brubaker noted.

"Under pressure from Compassion Over Killing, the Better Business Bureau, and the Federal Trade Commission," Brubaker recalled, "United Egg Producers agreed last fall to change the name of its animal husbandry guidelines—along with the label that goes on certified egg cartons—from 'Animal-Care Certified' to 'United Egg Producers Certified.'"

United Egg Producers was allowed six months to phase in the change.

Said Compassion Over Killing, "According to the FTC, by March 31, 2006, the 'Animal Care Certified' logo will be gone from grocery store shelves."

Compassion Over Killing challenged the logo in June 2003, pointing out to the Better Business Bureau and the FTC that "under the 'Animal Care Certified' guidelines, egg producers are permitted to intensively confine hens in battery cages so small they can't even spread their wings, among other abuses.

"In 2003, and again upon appeal in 2004, the BBB deemed the 'Animal Care Certified' logo misleading," a Compassion Over Killing press release summarized, "because it implied a greater level of humane care than is actually the case."

Said Compassion Over Killing executive director Erica Meier, "While the egg industry guidelines still permit routine cruelty, at least the new logo will no longer convey a false message. The industry's next step should be to prohibit battery cages."

About 95% to 98% of U.S. egg production comes from battery-caged hens, but consumer demand for eggs from cage-free hens is reportedly rising at 20% to 30% per year, despite often steep differences in price. The difference in the Philadelphia area is up to \$2.00 per dozen, Brubaker found by surveying supermarkets.

The growing trend toward favoring cage-free egg production gathered momentum in January 2006 when the University of Iowa introduced eggs from cage-free farms at several campus eating facilities, including the student union restaurant and two dormitories.

Esbenshade Farms is not a member of United Egg Producers and is not certified by the UEP, UEP senior vice president Gene Gregory told Brubaker.



1958 slaughter act protects all species, say lawsuits (from page 1)

to protect rats, mice, and birds in an out-of-court settlement. The USDA then delayed implementing the settlement. In May 2002 a rider to a USDA budget bill made the exclusion of rats, mice, and birds from the Animal Welfare Act enforcement regulations an actual part of the law.

The HSUS and HFA lawsuits may have similar results, in that a courtroom victory might swiftly be followed by Congressional action to protect agribusiness instead of animals. However, this would force Congress to take a specific collective position which individual members might find difficult to defend.

Exempting rats, mice, and birds from the Animal Welfare Act had the rationale of practical necessity to avoid disrupting experiments that might extend or improve human lives. Exempting animals from the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act may be more difficult to defend, since—if the HSUS and HFA positions are validated by the courts—Congress did agree 48 years ago that cruelty could be avoided in slaughter, even with the relatively primitive pre-stunning and slaughtering technology of that time.

"Congress enacted the Humane

Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 to explicitly require that 'cattle, calves, horses, mules, sheep, swine, and other livestock' be slaughtered in accordance with humane methods," explains the HSUS web site. "The law deemed only two slaughter methods humane: ritualistic or religious slaughter, such as the Jewish Kosher method, or one in which all livestock are rendered insensible to pain before shackling and slaughtering."

"In the legislation, Congress explicitly recognized that certain slaughter practices—for example, hanging conscious animals by their legs from metal shackles and slaughtering animals while still fully conscious—cause 'needless suffering.'"

The latter is the standard method by which poultry are slaughtered.

"In 1978," continues the HSUS explanation, "Congress amended the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1906...The 1978 amendments added a provision that gave the USDA the authority to refuse inspection of meat, if 'the Secretary finds that any cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules or other equines have been slaughtered or handled...by any method not in accordance with' the Humane

Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958.

"Confusion arose," HSUS contends, "because Congress called this amendment the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978. What Congress *didn't* do in 1978, however, was replace the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958, or remove the original language requiring that 'other livestock' be slaughtered in accordance with humane methods...The all-important term 'other livestock' is still included in the definition of animals."

"In most plants, live birds are hung upside down on an overhead conveyor," *Washington Post* staff writer Elizabeth Williamson summarized, "and their heads are run through electrified water to stun them before a machine slits their throats, the suit states. The suit contends that birds are injured by the conveyor's metal shackles, and that they often are not knocked out by the stun bath. Further, the suit contends, live poultry who enter the stun bath or a scalding tank later in the process defecate and inhale feces suspended in the water, potentially contaminating the meat. The Humane Society advocates gassing birds, either killing or stunning them, before they go on the processing line."

"Consumers may be at increased risk for contracting poten-

tially life-threatening foodborne illness," contended HSUS director of public health and animal agriculture Michael Greger, M.D., to Libby Quaid of Associated Press.

USDA spokesperson Steven Cohen told Quaid that the 1968 Poultry Products Inspection Act ensures "birds are slaughtered in a manner consistent with good commercial practices, and are handled in a way that minimizes discomfort and accidental injury."

However, "The suit cites 2004 reports of a Pilgrim's Pride processing plant in Moorefield, West Virginia," wrote Williamson, "in which an animal advocate videotaped workers stomping on, kicking, and throwing live chickens against a wall. Several workers were fired, but none were prosecuted."

"In a news release about the lawsuit," Williamson continued, HSUS "also mentions a Perdue Farms chicken plant in Showell, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, at which animal rights workers documented instances of birds who should have been dead, flapping their wings on processing lines."

Perdue Farms contended that the wing-flapping, captured on video, was "an involuntary muscle reaction that normally occurs after death."

(continued on page 11)

Buck Starbucks!

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Industry rejects poultry killing by gas

Industry arguments against extending Humane Methods of Slaughter Act coverage to poultry tend to center on a claimed lack of acceptable alternatives to the present system of shackling birds upside down, then dragging them headlong through an electrified "stunning bath."

An alternative, controlled atmosphere stunning, is already widely used in Europe. Slaughterhouses using controlled atmosphere stunning gas newly arrived birds in their transportation cages, using either carbon dioxide or a mixture of nitrogen and argon.

McDonald's Corporation in November 2004 agreed to study the feasibility of requiring suppliers to shift to controlled atmosphere stunning, in exchange for PETA withdrawing a shareholder resolution that sought to require McDonald's to do the study.

In June 2005 McDonalds concluded that "current standards for animal welfare are appropriate for the company's global supply chain at this time."

PETA pursued a similar resolution at the May 2005 Applebee's International Inc. shareholders meeting, but it drew less than 6% support.

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Youngstown, Ohio
Bruce Friedrich, Dir. of Vegan Campaigns, PETA
Debra Probert, Exec. Dir., Vancouver Humane Soc.

Nathan Runkle, Founder-Dir., Mercy for Animals
Paul Shapiro, Factory Farming

1958 slaughter act protects all species, say lawsuits *(from page 10)*

The HSUS suit, filed on November 21, 2005, was followed by the HFA case on December 22, 2005. "In this action," HFA opened, "Plaintiffs seek review of the decision of Defendant Secretary of Agriculture not to apply the provisions of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act to the commercial slaughtering of a variety of animals that the Act was intended to benefit, including American bison, reindeer, North American elk, American antelope, rabbits, ostrich, and poultry (chicken, turkey, and duck).

"Unprotected animals are commonly slaughtered in a manner which is intensely painful and otherwise inhumane," HFA argued. "This is a clear and direct violation of the Act, which provides in part, 'No method of slaughtering or handling in connection with slaughtering shall be deemed to comply with the public policy of the U.S. unless it is humane.' Reindeer, American bison, North American elk, antelope, rabbit, and ostrich all constitute 'livestock' within the plain meaning of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and the intent of Congress," HFA contends, leaving the argument on behalf of poultry to HSUS, while taking up the case for commonly slaughtered species that are not focal to the HSUS lawsuit.

"There are about 900 federally inspected meat and poultry slaughter plants nationwide," the HFA case notes. "According to the Government Accountability Office, USDA enforcement of anti-contamination rules in these plants has been 'inconsistent.' The Center for Disease Control & Prevention estimates that food contamination annually causes 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations, 5,000 deaths, and costs the nation \$37 billion."

Charges

The Washington D.C. farm animal advocacy group Compassion Over Killing on January 9, 2006 renewed efforts to prosecute poultry producers for cruelty, pursuing 35 counts of animal cruelty as defined by Pennsylvania state law against Esbenshade Farms chief executive, H. Glenn Esbenshade and farm manager Jay Musser.

"Video shot by an animal activist employed at Esbenshade Farms in Mount Joy showed hens impaled on loose wires, hens unable to eat or drink because they

were entangled in the wire cages, and hens left to die in aisles without food and water," summarized *Philadelphia Inquirer* staff writer Harold Brubaker.

"Johnna Seeton, the Pennsylvania Humane Society officer who filed the citations with a district justice in Elizabethtown, described the conditions for the estimated 600,000 hens on the farm as "very, very bad."

Esbenshade Farms, with multiple sites and about 2.3 million birds at any one time, is among the leading egg producers in Pennsylvania, which ranks third behind Iowa and Ohio among the U.S. states in egg production, selling about 7% of the U.S. supply.

The Compassion Over Killing undercover investigator documented the conditions at the Mount Joy farm from December 3 to December 8, 2005.

Pennsylvania law exempts "normal agricultural operations" from cruelty prosecution, but "We're seeing something much more egregious than standard conditions," Compassion Over Killing executive director Erica Meier told Marc Levy of Associated Press.

PennAg Industries Association vice president Christian Herr hinted that the Esbenshade defense might contend that the allegedly cruel conditions were caused by the Compassion Over Killing investigator. "The person who obtained the video did so while he

was supposed to be performing his job, which would include addressing the needs of the birds within this facility," Herr told Levy.

Tyson Foods used a similar strategy to rebut PETA claims in May 2005 about a slaughterhouse in Heflin, Alabama, that kills as many as 100,000 chickens per day. An undercover investigator collected video from December 2004 through February 2005, which according to PETA "revealed that workers were ripping conscious chickens' heads off, that slaughter machinery was systematically mutilating chickens, and that thousands of birds were entering the scalding tank completely conscious and being scalded to death."

PETA claimed that the investigator was told that it is acceptable for up to 40 birds per shift to be scalded alive. Tyson Foods responded by accusing the investigator of "allowing some conscious birds to go into the scald tank for the sole purpose of videotaping what he should have been preventing."

MOARK settlement

Activists have recently pursued state-level cruelty cases against several other leading poultry producers, seeking to establish that agricultural exemptions do not extend to common practices which fall short of what the industry itself considers good practice.

In July 2005, for example, HSUS

asked Newton County, Missouri prosecutor Scott Watson to file misdemeanor cruelty charges against MOARK Industries, after Neosho farmer Rick Bussey videotaped MOARK employees tossing live chickens into a dumpster at Hathaway Farm, a MOARK facility near Neosho.

"This was cruelty," Bussey told the *Joplin Globe*. "I can't go for that, and I don't even consider myself an animal person."

Hathaway Farm neighbor Mark Adams, fighting a MOARK application to expand, told HSUS about the video.

"From my research, what MOARK does is an industry-accepted practice," Watson told the *Neosho Daily News*. "From what I understand, they were 'euthanizing' birds in 55-gallon drums, cramming 45 or 50 into a drum at a time. It's no wonder that the carbon dioxide," used to gas so-called spent hens, "didn't get down to the bottom."

Watson filed the case "to show that MOARK's euthanasia procedures were negligently inhumane, and therefore should not be exempt from cruelty laws, no matter how common they are among egg producers," HSUS summarized in a media release.

The case ended with an October 2005 out-of-court settlement.

"Watson agreed to drop the charges *(continued on page 12)*

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More events *(from page 8)*

can Meatout. Info: Farm Animal Reform Movement, 1-800-MEAT-OUT, <www.Meat-Out.org>.

March 24-26: IPPL-2006, at Intl. Primate Protection League, Summerville, North Carolina. Info: 843-871-2280 or <Info@ippl.org>.

(continued on page 11)
March 25: Burlesque for Bucharest fundraiser in Hollywood, Calif., for Schnuffie Productions documentary on dog/cat overpopulation in Romania. Info: <eva@schnuffie.com>.

April 8-9: United Poultry Concerns Forum on

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

1958 act protects all species (from p. 11)

against MOARK after the company reportedly deposited a \$100,000 check to the New-Mac Regional Humane Society, which has been fundraising to construct a new shelter," HSUS said. "As part of the deal, MOARK agreed to purchase 'state of the art machines' to euthanize spent hens.

"HSUS had no involvement with this settlement," HSUS stipulated. "Nor is HSUS affiliated with the New-Mac Regional Humane Society, which covers Newton and McDonald counties in the southwest corner of Missouri."

Bussey told *Joplin Globe* staff writer Melissa DeLoach that he did not approve of MOARK escaping a trial and avoiding any admission of guilt.

Activists prosecuted

Following a failed attempt to prosecute Wegmans Food Markets Inc. for alleged cruelty at a company-owned egg farm, Adam Durand, Melanie Ippolito, and Megan Cosgrove of the Rochester, New York vegetarian group Compassionate Consumers were indicted in October 2005 by a Wayne County grand jury on a total of 23 counts of burglary, petty larceny, and criminal trespass.

Durand, 25, and Ippolito, 21, reportedly face up to seven years in prison.

"Durand, Ippolito, and Cosgrove are accused of breaking into Wegmans' 750,000-hen egg production facility on three occasions in July 2004 in hopes of capturing video of the hens' living conditions," Rochester *Democrat & Chronicle* staff writer Misty Edgcombe reported. "Wegmans was targeted in part because the Wolcott facility is the largest in New York state. Durand videotaped the visits, eventually producing a short film called *Wegmans Cruelty*, released in 2005. The activists also took nine injured hens from the facility, two of whom later died."

"In November 2004, Durand and others sent raw video footage from the three raids to Wayne County District Attorney

Richard Healy," recounted fellow Rochester *Democrat & Chronicle* staff writer Corydon Ireland. "Healy had the state police visit the facility, but no charges were brought."

Said Healy, "It's unfortunate these things happen, but this didn't rise to the level that Wegmans is running a bad operation or is cruel to animals."

The video, wrote M. Tye Wolfe of the *Ithaca Times*, depicts "hens packed, sometimes nine at a time, in small cages, unable to spread their wings. Many look sickly. Some are covered with excrement from hens in the cages above. Hens are shown in cages that contain petrified chicken corpses. The activists are shown prying the calcified bodies from the cages with gloved hands. Underneath, there is footage of a hen corpse covered with beetles. Another hen apparently fell into the manure pit, and was shown gasping for breath. Most of her body was submerged in liquid excrement. That hen later died, according to the activists.

"Several hens appear to have malformed beaks," Wolf continued. "Activists claim this comes from burning off the tips of beaks when hens are chicks. This keeps the hens from killing one another."

East Bay Animal Advocates, listed as a co-plaintiff in the HSUS lawsuit against the USDA, in a similar attempt to initiate a cruelty prosecution in mid-2005, took 39 sick and injured chickens from a Foster Farms broiler operation in Merced County, California. "EBAA filed an animal cruelty complaint with Merced County Animal Control," spokesperson Christine Morrissey said. The case was apparently not prosecuted.

On December 13, 2005, Morrissey announced that "EBAA, along with a poultry consumer, has filed a complaint with the California State Attorney General's office," alleging that Foster Farms' advertising misleads consumers into believing that it raises poultry "in a humane manner and in natural,



Rescued factory-farmed chickens at Pasado's Safe Haven sanctuary. (Kim Bartlett)

clean environments."

A similar case pursued by PETA against the California dairy industry was dismissed in May 2003.

Mercy for Animals founder Nathan Runkle, of Columbus, Ohio, in February 2005 told *Toledo Blade* Columbus bureau chief James Drew that in November 2004 four members of his group "walked into four sheds at Ohio Fresh Eggs in Licking County," a facility formerly notorious for environmental violations under the names Buckeye Farms and AgriGeneral. There, "they videotaped hens with eye and sinus infections, hens caught by the wire of their cages and under feeding trays, dead hens in cages, and one hen found alive in a trash can," Drew wrote.

The Mercy for Animals video was used in support of Compassion Over Killing's eventually successful effort to force United Egg Producers to change the name of its "Animal Care Certified" program to "United Egg Producers certified." The program began in 2001 to counter humane labeling initiatives

such as that of Humane Farm Animal Care.

Similar tactics were recently tested in Canada. "After breaking into an egg farm he was denied permission to tour, a student at one of Canada's premier agricultural research facilities wrote an anonymous account of what he called a nightmarish situation involving dead birds in aisles and filthy, defeathered hens in cramped wire cages," reported Colin Perkel of Canadian Press in October 2005.

"The 22-year-old biology student at Ontario's University of Guelph said he broke into a nearby egg barn on three occasions to document conditions, after his request to visit was turned down. An anonymous account of the break-ins at LEL Farms, along with disturbing photographs, was published in *The Peak*, an independent student newspaper."

Video taken during the break-ins was released two days later by the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals, in connection with a campaign to get the Loblaw's, No Frills, and Zehrs grocery chains to stock eggs from free-range hens. —Merritt Clifton

Greenpeace, Sea Sheperds chase whalers (from page 1)

the ship's propellers. Next, Greenpeace posted edited video showing the *Nisshin Maru* alongside the *Oriental Bluebird*, then moving at speed across the *Arctic Sunrise*'s bow before the collision. Sea Shepherd first released details and pictures of its attacks on the *Nisshin Maru*, claimed to have just occurred," on January 9," Darby said.

On January 10, "Sea Shepherd posted on its website an account of its attack on the *Oriental Bluebird* the day before, using a metal spike to rip along the side of the re-supply ship. A weblog revealed that the Sea Shepherds were attempting to entangle the propellers of the *Nisshin Maru* before the collision with the *Arctic Sunrise*.

"On January 11," Darby said, "the whalers released edited video from the *Nisshin Maru*, showing the last minutes before the collision. The *Arctic Sunrise* maintained course at

slow speed until seconds before the collision, when it clearly powered full astern," trying to reduce or avoid the impact.

The Japanese Institute for Cetacean Research used the Sea Shepherd photos on January 12 to argue that the *Farley Mowat* and *Arctic Sunrise* attacked the *Nisshin Maru* together before the collision—a dubious theory, in view of 28 years of bitterness between Greenpeace and *Farley Mowat* captain Paul Watson. Watson, an early Greenpeace leader, broke away to form the Sea Shepherds in 1978, after the Greenpeace board reprimanded him for seizing a seal hunter's club.

There was further drama on January 14, when *Arctic Sunrise* second mate Joe Constantine was knocked into the freezing water by the line on a harpoon shot over a Greenpeace inflatable boat by the catcher vessel *Yushin Maru* #2. His survival suit saved him. "Greenpeace was doing what we have been doing for three weeks—putting our inflatables between whales and harpoons," Greenpeace Australia Pacific chief executive Steve Shallhorn told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. "The harpoon impacted on the whale, but the towing rope got caught on our boat. As the whale began to sink, our boat was in jeopardy."

"The Greenpeace campaign was into its 25th day of direct contact with the fleet," reported Darby. "In six previous campaigns, the Japanese ships have been able to outrun protesters after a few days."

This year the Greenpeace vessels proved able to keep the whalers close, but the *Farley Mowat* had to rely on stealth.

"The *Farley Mowat* has been forced to leave the Southern Oceans," e-mailed Watson on January 16. "We are disappointed to have to leave, but have over stretched our fuel and have just



Sea Shepherd Conservation Society inflatable charges the Japanese whaling fleet. (Sea Shepherd)

enough to reach the nearest port. Sea Shepherd had arranged to refuel from a tanker near the French Kerguelen Islands," Watson added, "but the delivery was cancelled. The Japanese whaling fleet illegally—and with impunity—refueled from a tanker inside the Antarctic Treaty Zone.

"We have spent 40 days at sea," Watson continued, "and have chased the Japanese over 4,000 kilometers. We cannot match their speed, so it has been a case of catching up and forcing them to run, then catching up again. We have been able to keep them from killing whales," Watson said, "for over 15 days in total."

Shallhorn said the Greenpeace ships would be able to stay close to the Japanese for at least two more weeks.

Greenpeace communications director Mike Townsley put the Greenpeace campaign budget at about \$1.6 million. Sea Shepherd operated on about \$750,000, Watson said.



One of the inflatable boats deployed by the Greenpeace ships *Esperanza* and *Arctic Sunrise* tries to hinder a Japanese catcher ship as it transfers dead minke whales to the *Nisshin Maru* factory ship. (©Greenpeace/Kate Davison)

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—Wolf Clifton

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End of E.U. live cattle export subsidies may change *Eid al-Adha*

BEIRUT, BRUSSELS—*Eid al-Adha* slaughters on January 10, 2006 marked both the end of the *hajj*, the season of pilgrimage to Mecca for the Islamic devout, and the end of nearly \$80 million per year in European Union live cattle export subsidies.

Much of the money underwrote the sale of cattle killed during the annual *Eid al-Adha* ritual bloodbath.

Most of the cattle killed for *Eid al-Adha* this year were shipped before the European Union cancelled the subsidies on December 23, 2005.

European Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mariann Fischer Boel emphasized the importance of animal welfare considerations in persuading the electorate.

"This is tremendous news for the welfare of cattle," added United Kingdom Member of the European Parliament Neil Parish. "British taxpayers have been unwittingly sponsoring this abhorrent trade for too long. The subsidy is not necessary," Parish asserted, "as cattle can be slaughtered under humane conditions in the E.U. and shipped abroad on the hook, rather than on the hoof."

"The decision removes incentives for farmers to send their cattle to the Middle East for slaughter, a trade repeatedly exposed for immense cruelty," said Compassion in World Farming chief executive Philip Lymbery. Quick to claim victory, after 12 years of CIWF campaigning against the subsidies, Lymbery predicted that the E.U. action "should reduce the number of animals being exported. Live exports are inherently cruel," Lymbery emphasized, "and all too often expose animals to long, stressful journeys and appalling slaughter methods."

Agreed Animals' Angels founder Christa Blanke, "For years we have been documenting offences and violations in connection with these live animal transports."

Blanke cited as an example a recent investigation of the traffic in bulls shipped from Europe to Lebanon.

"One of the last incidents that brought about the E.U. decision," said Blanke, "was a report by the German TV station ZDF. Cordial thanks also go to the Deutscher Tierschutzbund," whose videography ZDF used. "The video once again showed injured animals with chains around their feet, being unloaded by crane; animals with broken legs dragging themselves along; live animals being thrown into containers; and animals being killed without stunning," Blanke summarized.

"For E.U. cattle this torture is over," Blanke said. "However, for the animals from other exporting nations the ordeal continues."

Blanke predicted that "the stop of subsidies for cattle exports will not improve the situation of the animals in the long term. It will only result in the trade shifting to new markets. Even today," Blanke said, "Lebanon is importing 10,000 to 15,000 live cattle from Brazil."

"The ship's journey took 21 days," Blanke continued. "Unloading cattle from the ship to the trucks has improved, due to the introduction of a mobile unloading platform. Nevertheless, cattle who are unable to walk are still unloaded by crane, which under Lebanese law is not permitted."

CIWF has similar concerns, Lymbery said, and is now "focusing on the trades from Australia and Brazil to the Middle East."

Further, even without the subsidies, "The threat still looms that cattle exports may

resume from the U.K.," Lymbery warned, "so we are gearing up for yet another battle. We'll appeal to British farmers not to send their cattle overseas for slaughter, and will lead our supporters in peaceful protest against this latest threat."

While animal welfare concerns were the issue most often cited in public debate over the subsidies, a second factor of note was pressure from organized labor, which has long sought to keep slaughtering jobs in Europe.

The *Eid al-Adha* tradition of amateur slaughter and individually commissioned custom slaughter have been invoked by some Middle Eastern governments as a pretext for permitting only imports of live animals.

This functions as an indirect subsidy in support of western-style slaughterhouses recently built in many Middle Eastern port cities. The year-round cattle import industry has gradually grown larger, at some ports, than the import of cattle for *Eid al-Adha*.

This in turn has produced an awkward alliance of animal advocates with European slaughter workers, in agreement that live exports should be replaced by the sale of frozen carcasses.

The anti-subsidy campaign was also supported by the Taxpayers' Alliance and the Taxpayers' Association of Europe.

Sheep & goats

The end of the European Union live cattle export subsidies will not affect the majority of animals shipped to the Middle East each year for *Eid al-Adha* slaughter. Sheep or goats are the most frequent victims, and are usually killed by the celebrants themselves.

Any animal considered edible may be killed for *Eid al-Adha*, however. The poorest participants kill poultry. Cattle are most often selected by people wealthy enough to job out the killing to professional butchers.

(continued on page 14)

Eid al-Adha is bad for camels

CHENNAI—While the clandestine Indian cattle export industry chiefly feeds the slaughter industry of nearby Muslim nations, the Indian Muslim minority mostly kills sheep, goats, and poultry at *Eid al-Adha*.

Few Indian Muslims dare to harm cattle. Many have been killed in sectarian violence erupting sporadically in response to mere rumors about cattle-killing.

Especially wealthy Muslim Indians may kill camels, however, like those who massacred 30 camels at 14 locations around Chennai this year, under police protection.

The camels reportedly took up to two hours apiece to die, to the horror of Blue Cross of India chair Chinny Krishna and thousands of other witnesses.

"Islam—as preached originally—is a most compassionate religion," Krishna commented, as a longtime leading opponent of Hindu hypocrisy toward animals. Among the major issues addressed by the Blue Cross of India during his 40 years of active leadership have been the covert cattle export trade and the routine practice of sacrifice by Shiva cultists and so-called 'scheduled castes.'

"The way Islam is practiced, by many followers, is another matter," Krishna continued. "Amongst practitioners of most



This camel escaped slaughter in 2004 when rescued by Fizzah Shah of Mumbai.

religions, it can be said that usually 'The nearer the temple, the further from God.'

"The only way this can be stopped," Krishna added, speaking of the camel slaughter, "is by devout Muslims making sure that the teachings of the Prophet are practiced. There are strict injunctions that no sick or injured animal can be slaughtered; that no animal can be slaughtered in view of another; that the knife must be sharp; that the animal must be rested and well fed; that

the animal must not be made to suffer in any way in the preparations for slaughter; and that even mental agony or torture is against the teachings.

"When the Prophet once saw a man sharpening his knife in front of an animal, he scolded the butcher," Krishna reminded, "asking 'Do you want the animal to be killed twice? Once mentally when it sees you sharpening the knife and the second time when you cut its throat?'"

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End of E.U. live cattle export subsidies may change *Eid al-Adha* (from page 13)

The *Eid al-Adha* slaughter is supposed to commemorate the incident common to Jewish, Christian, and Islamic scripture in which God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, but as Abraham started to comply, sent a ram to be sacrificed instead.

Ritually killing animals for the *Eid al-Adha* feast, and similar occasions by different names, long precedes Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and any other religion with documented sacrificial practices. Historically, such slaughters coincided with a need to thin herds and flocks to get through winter.

Of concern even in the Prophet Mohammed's time were the economic impacts of excessive *Eid al-Adha* slaughter, the effects on sanitation, and the cruelty to animals—and mention was made of the emotional influ-

ence on small children who saw it, with attempts introduced to restrict participation in the killing to men who had come of age.

Mohammed taught that any surplus meat from animals killed at *Eid al-Adha* should be given promptly to the poor. This was already common practice—and so were excesses of killing ordered by people trying to show off wealth or win public favor.

Mohammed deplored observing *Eid al-Adha* as either an opportunity for ostentatiousness or as an orgy of public mayhem.

Quoting Mohammed, Islamic scholars and public officials in Muslim nations have warned for centuries that animals should not be killed if their meat will be wasted, and have reminded the faithful that monetary donations to help the poor are just as acceptable to

God as distributing raw meat.

Countering the warnings of imams and civil servants and even the Prophet himself, however, are cultural habit and the interest of the livestock industry in selling as many animals as possible.

Over the centuries, *Eid al-Adha* has become very profitable not only for animal brokers within the Islamic world, but also for exporters of cattle, sheep, and goats from predominantly Christian parts of Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, and from India, which is more than 90% Hindu.

Having few other profitable ways to dispose of surplus cattle and calves, Indian dairy farmers long ago developed an elaborate system of subterfuges through which surplus cattle and calves are conveyed to slaughter across the Arabian Sea, either through ports in Kerala state or by longer and more circuitous routes leading through Bangladesh.

The European Union export subsidies chiefly helped European cattle producers to compete with India.

In recent years, after repeated interruptions of live exports from Australia and New Zealand, for reasons involving animal welfare, disease control, and Middle Eastern trade protectionism, China has emerged as a growing source of *Eid al-Adha* livestock.

This in turn has stimulated efforts by exporters in Australia and New Zealand to keep their markets, while government agencies move to both placate and quell opposition.

Western Australia state in November 2005 initiated prosecution of a firm called Emanuel Exports and two individual company directors, after Animals Australia produced

video, still photographs, and witness reports documenting the suffering of dead, dying, and blind sheep aboard the livestock carrier *MV Al Kuwait* between November 10 and November 14, 2003.

Activist opposition, however, could not prevent Roberts Ltd. of Tasmania from exporting 45,000 sheep to Kuwait aboard the *Merino Express*, formerly named the *Cormo Express*. The cargo sailed from Devonshire on January 14, 2006.

About 5,500 sheep died during 12 weeks at sea aboard the *Cormo Express* in 2003, after Kuwait and Saudi Arabia refused to allow the ship to unload, on the claim that the sheep were diseased. The surviving sheep were eventually donated to Eritrea.

As the *Merino Express* departed, Australian agriculture minister Peter McGuinness announced that the government would introduce new legislation to penalize activists who obstruct live animal exports.

Activist Ralph Hahnheuser admitted adding shredded pork to the water and feed given to sheep at a feedlot in Portland, South Australia, in November 2003, one day before the sheep were to be shipped to Kuwait.

Since Islamic dietary law forbids eating pork or having contact with it, Hahnheuser hoped that the sheep would not be exported if they were known to have possibly consumed pork. The shipment of about 70,000 sheep was delayed for two weeks. Representatives of two sheep exporting firms estimated that the action cost them \$1.3 million (Australian funds). Hahnheuser was acquitted of any wrongdoing at a May 2005 jury trial.

—Merritt Clifton



Irish sheep. (Kim Bartlett)

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Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land wins Brooke aid

LONDON—The Brooke Hospital for Animals on December 14 pledged to invest £281,000 over the next three years to assist Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land.

Founded in 2000 by former British Airways flight attendant and Jerusalem SPCA volunteer Lucy Fensom, Safe Haven has about 90 donkeys rescued from Israel and Palestine in sanctuary care, and in August 2005 added a clinic site at the village of Tayibe, near the Palestinian border, which provides basic care to donkeys from either side.

Safe Haven won start-up help from the World Society for the Protection of Animals, but had struggled ever since, fundraising manager Wendy Ahl told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Contact: Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land, Unit F1, Ote Hall Farm Business Centre, Janes Lane, Burgess Hill, R H15 0SR, U.K.; phone: 01444 870890; <wendy@safehaven4donkeys.org>; <www.safehaven4donkeys.org>.



Lucy Fensom with donkeys Heather (left) & Bob (right).

Marsden wins OBE

Stella Brewer Marsden, who founded the **Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Association** in Gambia in 1969, was on New Year's Day 2006 awarded the Order of the British Empire by **Queen Elizabeth II**. The CRA now looks after 78 formerly captive chimps in Gambia National Park. Brewer Marsden's sister **Heather Armstrong** founded the Horse & Donkey Association of Gambia in 2002. Their father, conservationist **Edward Brewer**, also was awarded the OBE.

Gretchen Wyler to retire

Gretchen Wyler, 73, on December 20, 2005 announced that she will retire after hosting the 20th annual **Genesis Awards** ceremony in June 2006. The awards honor film and TV recognition of animal issues. Involved in animal causes since 1966, Wyler founded the Genesis Awards in 1986 as a program of the **Fund for Animals**, continued the program through her own organization, the **Ark Trust**, 1990-2002, and then merged the Ark Trust into the **Humane Society of the U.S.**



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Animal Defense League & L.A. clash over right to protest vs. right to privacy

LOS ANGELES—Animal Defense League attorney John J. Uribe and City of Los Angeles prosecutor Spencer Hart clashed in municipal court on January 12 in the first 2006 round of a multi-year struggle between the ADL and the city over the rights of privacy and the right to protest.

ADL activists Pamela Ferdin and Jerry Vlasak, M.D., both longtime opponents of the leadership of the Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation, are charged with criminal trespass for allegedly violating a Los Angeles ordinance in June 2004 that requires demonstrators to stay 100 feet from the doors of protest targets' homes.

Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo on December 16, 2005 reinforced those charges by filing another 14 misdemeanor counts against the ADL and individual members, resulting from 62 alleged criminal acts. The case alleges that members of the ADL chanted "We know where you sleep at night" outside Los Angeles animal control director of field operations David Diliberto's home, placed the names of his four children on the ADL web site, left a message on his home answering machine saying "Resign or we go after your wife," typed a "666" text message purportedly symbolic of the devil on his cell telephone, and posed as mortuary workers in a 3 a.m. visit to his home, claiming they had come to collect a corpse.

"The ADL faces fines of up to \$120,000 if convicted," summarized David Zahniser of Copley News Service. "Delgadillo said he may use the case to

strip the league of its nonprofit status and dissolve it as a corporation."

However, "Delgadillo has had a mixed track record of prosecutions against ADL activists," Zahniser observed. "Ferdin and volunteer Natalie Norcross were acquitted last year of charges that they illegally protested within 100 feet of the San Pedro home of then-Mayor James Hahn."

Ferdin and Vlasak meanwhile have sued the City of Los Angeles for \$3 million in damages.

Vlasak spoke to reporters about the recent arrests of seven suspected eco-terrorists (page 3) as a representative of the "North American Animal Liberation Press

Office." In 2004 Vlasak was barred from visiting England to address an animal rights conference over remarks he made in 2003 that seemed to endorse killing vivisectionists. In April 2005, while a member of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society board of directors, Vlasak allegedly said similar about sealers in an interview with CBC radio, and was removed from the Sea Shepherd board after allegedly posting personal information about a sealer and his wife on the Sea Shepherd web site that according to the CBC brought their family "a torrent of death threats."

Sea Shepherd captain Paul Watson deleted the material.

Atlanta

Another long-running battle between activists and animal control may be near an end, with the scheduled February 27 retirement of 32-year Atlanta Humane Society president Bill Garrett. Recently promoted to Colonel in the Georgia State Militia by Governor Sonny Perdue, Garrett will be succeeded at Atlanta Humane by Rick Collard, 57, who formerly headed Broward County Animal Control in Florida and the Clark County Humane Society in Vancouver, Washington.

Atlanta Humane operated the Fulton County Animal Control shelter as well as its own facilities

for the first 29 years of Garrett's tenure. After WSB-TV and the *Atlanta Journal & Constitution* became critical of Garrett's management of both the humane society and animal control, the Atlanta Humane board sued former employee Barbara Harkins and activist Kathi Mills for allegedly making libelous comments—Harkins as a source interviewed by WSB-TV, Mills as an online commentator.

The case against Mills was dismissed in June 2005, as was the case against Harkins in September 2005, after the Georgia Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of a November 2003 verdict by the Georgia Court of Appeals.

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More events (from page 11)

Using the Media, Columbus, OH. Info: 757-678-7875; <www.upc-online.org>.
May 6: Petfest 2006 Spring Adoption Day, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis. Info: Hoosiers Helping Homeless Pets, 317-767-0660; <petfest@hoosierpets.org>; <www.hoosierpets.org>.

(continued on page 15)
May 15-17: Caribbean Animal Welfare Conference, Antigua. Info:

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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.

So why doesn't the Belgrade Zoo cage the war criminals & leave the elephant in India?

BELGRADE, Serbia—Belgrade Zoo director Vukosav Bojovic sought publicity in mid-January 2006 for his intended acquisition of an elephant named Djanom from an unnamed zoo in Punjab, India.

The Belgrade Zoo got publicity on January 11, 2006 as scene of Associated Press file photos showing former Croatian Serb paramilitary commander Dragan Vasiljkovic kissing a brown bear named Kninja and her two cubs. Vasiljkovic visited the zoo on September 19, 2005 to visit Kninja, formerly mascot of his militia unit.

Croatia on January 11 issued an international warrant seeking Vasiljkovic's arrest for alleged 1991 war crimes including torturing, killing, and expelling Croatian civilians as well as soldiers from their homes, plus arranging the assassination of Egon Scotland, 43, who documented some of Vasiljkovic's actions for the Munich daily newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

Believed to be living in Perth, Australia, Vasiljkovic, 51, "had petty convictions against him and was involved in Melbourne's brothel industry in the 1970s," reported Natasha Robinson of *The Australian*.

The Belgrade Zoo link to a fugitive war criminal upstaged Belgrade animal advocate Jelena Zaric's discovery that the elephant in question either does not exist or is coming through some connection circumventing the Central Zoo Authority and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species management authority in India.

According to Bojovic and the other principals in the Belgrade Zoo version of the elephant story, Serbian karate champion Tanja Petrovic is to receive Djanom, a young bull, as a gift from Maharaja Raja Randhir Singh, head of the Indian Olympic Association.

Djanom would become companion to Twiggy, a female elephant sent to Serbia from the Netherlands on a "breeding loan" nearly 15 years ago, after killing her keeper. The Netherlands tried to recall Twiggy in 1994

in protest against the Serbian invasions of Bosnia and Croatia, but could not find a way to retrieve her short of sending troops. By the time the United Nations sent Dutch peacekeepers, the issue was history.

Petrovic claimed to have personally talked to the zoo director in Punjab who is to send Djanom, adding that he agreed to send some langur monkeys as well.

Retired Serbian professional basketball star Vlade Divac, reportedly now living in Sacramento, California, was to pay for the transportation.

Introduced by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Zaric contacted relevant sources in India.

Former Indian minister of state for animal welfare Maneka Gandhi reminded Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh that in 2004, as chair of the National Wildlife Board, he wrote that "No elephants should be sent outside India, as they often die and are always badly looked after."

The Central Zoo Authority of India had only three days earlier cancelled a proposed transfer of an elephant to the Avalon Zoo in the Philippines, cancelled a proposed

transfer of an elephant to Armenia in April 2005, and is expected to cancel a proposed transfer of an elephant to a zoo in Korea.

But no one knew anything about the alleged Belgrade transaction.

"The Central Zoo Authority is in no knowledge of gifting of any elephant from Punjab to Belgrade," CZA secretary B.R. Sharma wrote to Diana Ratnagar of Beauty Without Cruelty-India, who was apparently first to reach him. "The Government of India has already banned gifting wild animals by heads of state," Sharma reminded Ratnagar. "International movement of wild animals cannot be done without permission from both CITES and the CZA, if it is related to any zoological park."

"I hope nothing is in the pipeline," Sharma added in a similar message to CZA board member Nanditha Krishna.

Wondered Compassion Unlimited Plus Action cofounder Suparna Ganguly "Could the Belgrade Zoo and the Punjab government have reached an informal agreement, which has not yet reached the CZA?"

Sandeep Jain of People for Animals-Ludiana explored that possibility.

"I have talked to the zoo directors at the Chattbir Zoo," Jain reported. "They have told me that there is no such plan."

No other Punjab zoo was known to have elephants.

"Rajah Randhir Singh is also brother of the chief minister of Punjab," Jain mentioned, but even so, the only way Jain saw for the Belgrade Zoo to get an Indian elephant would be through an illegal private transaction.

Troubled history

Concerned about conditions at the Belgrade Zoo for some time, Zaric sought help in an open letter to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** published in March 2005. "Built in 1936, on six hectares of rocky fortress, this privately operated zoo has approximately 2,000 animals of about 200 species," Zaric explained.

"Many big animals are in very small cages. Many animals look distressed."

Yet Bojovic, despite a questionable record in many respects, is credited with improving the Belgrade Zoo during his 20 years in charge.

"In 1986 the zoo was a ruin," wrote *New York Times*

correspondent Roger Cohen in June 1994. "Years of Com-munist management left it with more staff than animals."

Bojovic fired the staff he inherited, and rebuilt the collection despite the United Nations embargo that was in effect against Serbia from 1992 to 1996. Among the animals Bojovic acquired during the embargo were the bear Kninja; a tiger cub who was mascot of Arkan's Tigers, a paramilitary unit notorious for "ethic cleansing" in Bosnia; and a wolf hybrid, exhibited as a "Serbian Defense Dog."

Two camels came as gifts from Libyan dictator Colonel Moammar Khadafy.

Other animals apparently arrived through brokerage arrangements.

Even before the U.N. embargo, Bojovic was widely seen as suspect, due to his role as an intended middle man in the "Bangkok Six" case, exposed by the International Primate Protection League. The case broke when six baby orangutans were seized from smugglers in March 1990 at the Bangkok airport. Packed in a crate marked "Birds," the orangutans were *en route* from Indonesia to Moscow by way of Serbia, in a deal arranged by Worldwide Primates owner Matthew Block.

Then based in Miami, Florida, Block eventually drew 13 months in prison for related offenses. Block later moved to Israel.

Bojovic was indicted in the U.S., but did not visit the U.S. to be arrested or tried. His involvement came to light through then-Belgrade Zoo volunteer Milka Knezevic-Ivaskovic, who was surrogate mother to a baby orangutan.

"She hadn't proper shipping documents, and I started to realize that her arrival was for some reason being kept a secret," Knezevic-Ivaskovic recalled in 2003. "I learned about IPPL and contacted [founder] Shirley McGreal. Then I started to write articles for various newspapers, to inform people about the terrible ways of killing orangutan mothers to get babies, how babies were smuggled, and about Bojovic's role in the Bangkok Six affair. Unfortunately, at that time, there was no freedom of the press in my country and I was accused by Bojovic of libel and slander. I was tried and found guilty, despite many witnesses testifying on my behalf."

McGreal helped Knezevic-Ivaskovic through five years of appeals. Eventually Knezevic-Ivaskovic was cleared of the allegations against her. She is now a volunteer IPPL representative.

—Merritt Clifton



Milka Knezevic-Ivaskovic (IPPL)

NEW LEGISLATION: AUSTRIA, NEW JERSEY, OHIO

Austria no longer allows biomedical research on chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, orangutans, and gibbons, effective on January 1, 2006, unless the studies are in the animals' own interest. The last apes actually used in experiments in Austria were retired by Baxter Laboratories in 2002.

Less popular with animal advocates is a new Viennese ordinance requiring that dogs born after January 1, 2006 must be insured to a minimum liability of \$864,000.

New Jersey Acting Governor Richard J. Codey in early January endorsed into law a bill that allows public school students to "choose an alternative to dissecting, vivisectioning, incubating, capturing or otherwise harming or destroying animals as part of

their course of instruction." The bill cleared the state assembly 74-3 and cleared the state senate 36-0. A parallel bill cleared the Massachusetts legislature with unanimous house support and 35-3 support in the senate in 2004, but was vetoed by **Governor Mitt Romney**, lest it inhibit the receipt of funding for biomedical research. Twelve states now have similar laws, including California since 1988 and New York since 1993. Massachusetts ranks second in the U.S. in National Institutes of Health research grant money received, but California is first, New York third.

Ohio Governor Robert Taft on January 4, 2006 signed into law a bill that bars the state Dept. of Natural Resources from using hunting and fishing license fees to fund non-wildlife programs.

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Non-enforcement erodes U.K. pack hunting

LONDON—Almost a year after the Hunting Act banned most forms of hunting with dogs in England and Wales, effective on February 19, 2005, pack hunting participation on Boxing Day was reportedly undiminished.

As many as 250,000 people either rode to hounds or followed the dogs on foot on December 26, 2005, the traditional peak of the British pack hunting season.

“Far from consigning hunting to history,” *Times of London* countryside editor Valerie Elliot claimed, “thousands more are in the saddle or on foot in pursuit of a fox scent, sometimes accidentally hunting real foxes.”

Entering 2006, there were still 317 active hunt clubs in Britain, including 184 that hunt foxes and 100 that hunt hares. The Aldenham Harriers, of South Hertfordshire, disbanded in mid-January, but hunting participation overall is up an average of 33%, asserted Elliot.

“Police have been told not to foil illegal fox hunts because of health and safety regulations,” *Daily Telegraph* political editor Melissa Kite disclosed in June 2005, after obtaining a 30-page set of enforcement instructions under the Freedom of Information Act.

“Guidance drawn up by police chiefs instructs officers to take the most cautious approach when investigating reports of illegal hunts for fear that they might injure themselves. They have been told not to go near hounds or horses and not to confiscate dead animals as evidence in case of injury or infection,” Kite continued.

“Officers are told to carry out risk assessments before embarking on an investigation; to ask farmers for permission to go on their land; and not to use helicopters in case they ‘cause alarm to horses,’” Kite added.

Through October 2005, according to the League Against Cruel Sports, volunteer hunt monitors documented 157 violations of the hunting ban by 79 hunt clubs, without obtaining any police prosecutions.

International Fund for Animal Welfare volunteer Kevin Hill, 55, a hunt monitor for 15 years who trains others to safely and legally document hunts, was allegedly beaten by stag hunters at Exmoor on October 27, 2005 while videotaping their activities. No suspects were charged.

The incident occurred nine days after Essex Union huntmaster Simon Upton, 40, was fined £1,555 for whipping protesters Tim Burn, 39, and Melissa Marr, 24, along with an unidentified man, while riding at one of the last legal fox hunts on February 9, 2005.

Discovering that the Hunting Act is not being enforced and that activist efforts to document violations are not being supported has encouraged open defiance, charged the League Against Cruel Sports.

“In February, hunts pretended to be drag hunting. Then they went out with two dogs, pretending to be flushing to guns. Now they have the full pack and look as though they are fox hunting,” League Against Cruel Sports representative Paul Tillsley told Owen Bowcott of *The Guardian* in November 2005. Stag hunting with dogs is also up, Tillsley said.

Fox hunting continues through exemptions in the pack hunting ban that allow hunters to use up to two dogs to flush a fox or other quarry toward a gunner. Hunts may also

unleash a full pack of hounds in pursuit of a scent trail, or just for exercise.

“Other oddities include that rabbits and squirrels can be hunted by packs, but hares cannot,” explained Terry Kirby, chief reporter for *The Independent*. “The sole prosecution,” Kirby said, “has been against a man in Merseyside, Lancashire, who was accused of poaching rabbits.”

The Vine & Craven Hunt in October 2005 encouraged Freddy Tett, 12, Archie Rutland, 13, and Tom Small, 12, to form the Wormstall Rabbit Hounds Hunt. “Twenty children aged between 4 and 14 used six dogs and killed four rabbits” at their first meet, said *The Times* of London.

“Some hunts have been advised that several pairs of hounds can be used in different parts of the same field in the process of flushing a mammal toward a gun,” wrote Bowcott. “A number of hunts admit they have had ‘accidents’ when hounds out exercising or trail hunting came across a fox.”

Hunters are also allowed to use up to two dogs at a time to flush out prey for falconry. About 50 hunt clubs have reportedly acquired falcons as a pretext for pack hunting.

Moretonhampstead residents Paula McAlindon and Michael Mosforth alleged that members of the South Devon Hunt allowed hounds to kill a fox on their property on Christmas Eve. “We were flushing with a pack of hounds to a bird of prey and trail hunting,” responded South Devon huntmaster Ian Pease to the BBC.

A bird of prey does not actually have to be a skilled hunter to provide a pretext for pack hunting: the pack hunters can claim to be training the bird.

Enforcement of the pack hunting ban is further complicated, Bowcott explained, because while “The act permits the police to enter private land to seize items connected with illegal hunting, officers do not have an automatic right to access merely to watch or monitor a hunt.

“There have been no convictions of [fox] hunt officials or followers since the law came into force,” Bowcott continued. “A private prosecution brought by the League Against Cruel Sports against Exmoor Foxhounds huntmaster Tony Wright is to be heard in Barnstaple, Devon,” in early 2006. The original trial date was set for January 16. Wright allegedly illegally hunted with hounds on April 29, 2005. The private prosecution was initiated after police failed to lay charges, based on videotaped evidence.

Scotland banned pack hunting three years earlier, under the Protection of Wild Mammals Act of 2002, but enforcement of the Scottish law has also been weak. The first person charged with violating the act, Buccleuch Foxhounds master Trevor Adams, was acquitted in December 2004, but faces new charges, according to the BBC, “in relation to an incident on October 10 at a farm near Kelso. The Buccleuch hounds are alleged to have been seen pursuing a fox across a field before he was killed.”

Hare coursing

The British and Scottish pack hunting bans also apply to hare coursing, which was already somewhat more restricted than fox hunting. British and Scottish police in spring 2005 cracked down somewhat on illegal coursing with investigations called Operation Dornier and Operation Hartley, respectively.

Claiming success, Cambridgeshire police inspector Richard Lowings told the BBC that reports of illegal coursing fell from 150 in March 2004 to just 9 in March 2005.

Scottish police and the Scottish SPCA in April 2005 arrested five coursers at the Fasque shooting estate in Fettercairn.

Irish hunt clubs have made an effort to attract British participation—and money—but so far appear to have drawn relatively few fox hunters, at least partly because the British ban is so weakly enforced. Sixteen British coursers, however, made up half the field at the January 14, 2006 Seamus Hughes Inter-



Red fox. (Todd Lawton/Quagga)

national hare-coursing meet in Sevenhouses, Kilkenny, after the organizers made a point of inviting former competitors for the Waterloo Cup. The Waterloo Cup coursing competition, held annually at Alcar near Liverpool since 1836, was considered the top coursing event in the world.

British hare-coursing was usually done with unmuzzled dogs in open country. Ireland currently has 53 coursing clubs whose dogs chase hares in open country, and 76 who chase hares in enclosures, among 236 total pack hunts.

Coursing is not outlawed in Northern Ireland, but has been suspended due to a decline in the hare population, causing the two active Northern Irish coursing clubs to relocate their meets to the Irish Republic.

“Irish authorities have reacted to protests by imposing conditions on coursing, such as the 1993 muzzling of dogs and a ban on the use of pregnant or sick hares. There is no sign, however, that Ireland will outlaw it,” wrote David McKittrick, Ireland correspondent for *The Independent*.

Muzzling does not save hares, Irish Council Against Blood Sports campaign director Aileen Yourell told McKittrick, as the hares still “are battered and mauled into the ground. Any hare who gets a battering is likely to die,” Yourell said. “They’re just dying in a different way.”

“Now we see a sort of blood sports tourism moving to the Republic. I think it’s a great shame for a civilized country to be the last bastion for a blood sport,” League Against Cruel Sports chief executive Doug Batchelor told the BBC.

The invasion of Ireland by even a token few British hunters has inflamed the small but fast-growing Irish anti-hunting movement.

Horse breeder Mick Farrell, of Pleberstown, Thomastown, fired two shotgun blasts into the air on St. Stephen’s Day 2006 to deter the approach of the Kilkenny Hunt. “They called off their dogs but over an hour later some of the hunting animals were still in the vicinity. I have no intention of hurting anyone,” Farrell told Jim Rhatigan of the *Kilkenny Voice*, “but I had no choice but to protect the horses that are my living.”

A tactical divide opened on January 8 at Jenkinstown Woods, Kilkenny, between British-influenced hunt saboteurs and rural residents who disapprove of both hunting and protest methods that likewise disturb the peace.

Jenkinstown horse keeper Jenny Matthews first organized and then tried unsuccessfully to halt a January 8 vigil against a killing contest held for more than 25 years by the Jenkinstown Gun Club. Claiming record participation in 2006, the contest targets foxes, squirrels, crows, and magpies.

Matthews was incensed in 2005, reported Mary Cody of the *Kilkenny People*, when gunfire spooked her five horses.

“I had planned to hold a peaceful and silent protest against the cruelty of the shoot, and to highlight the disruption and public safety hazard it causes,” Jennifer Matthews told Dara Defaoite of the *Kilkenny Voice*.

About 30 demonstrators turned out, but approximately half were contingents from Cork and Dublin who thwarted Matthews’ plan, alleged Jenkinstown Gun Club secretary Canice Brennan, when they “went into the woods in small groups and set off a huge siren. The noise frightened the birds and animals and upset sheep and cattle,” Brennan said. “They talk about looking after wildlife,” she added, “and yet they scared the living daylights out of the locals. It seems to defeat their purpose,” and in Jenkinstown worked to the hunters’



These dogs won’t hunt: lurchers rescued by the People’s Animal Welfare Society, of Sallins, County Kildare, Ireland. (Kim Bartlett)

U.S. Supreme Court may step into factory-farmed chicken poop

The U.S. Supreme Court, recently reconstituted with two new members including a new chief justice, may hear arguments on the right of states to regulate agricultural pollution.

Arkansas attorney general Mike Beebe in November 2005 asked the Supreme Court to throw out a U.S. District Court lawsuit filed in June 2005 by Oklahoma attorney general Drew Edmondson against eight poultry firms with Arkansas operations that allegedly pollute the Illinois River, upstream from Oklahoma. The eight, among them many poultry industry leaders, include Cargill, Cobb-Vantress, Simmons Foods, Peterson Farms, Tyson Foods, Willow Brook Foods, George’s, and Cal-Maine Foods.

Beebe claimed to be seeking Supreme Court intervention on behalf of Poultry Partners, an

organization purporting to represent 400 farm families in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Some of the same people are involved in the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, formed in December 2005 by a group including Poultry Partners spokesperson Bev Saunders and Simmons Foods Chairman Mark Simmons.

Simmons, named vice president of the new group, told Robert J. Smith of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* that he wants to make sure it doesn’t “look like a front for the poultry industry.”

Edmondson in a January 6, 2006 response to Beebe’s petition to the Supreme Court called it, “nothing more than an attempt by Arkansas to use its status as a state to shield private companies from being liable for their intentional pollution of Oklahoma’s natural resources.”

DNR seeks to keep wildlife rehab out of West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.V.—West Virginia is the only U.S. state that does not issue wildlife rehabilitation permits, and the state Department of Natural Resources means to keep it that way, says wildlife section chief Curtis Taylor.

The West Virginia 2006 legislative session convened on January 11. Humane Society of the U.S. director of urban wildlife programs John Hadidian and urban wildlife field director Laura Simon have indicated that obtaining wildlife

rehab authorization will be a state HSUS priority.

The issue surfaced in October 2005 when a state police officer investigating a complaint about shots fired on posted land found about 60 caged raccoons on land belonging to rehabilitator Patricia Hoffman-Butler, 47. The raccoons were seized, killed, and examined for disease by DNR officials. Hoffman pleaded no contest to illegal possession of wildlife on December 13, 2005, and paid \$173.50 in penalties.

West Virginia banned keeping raccoons after a coonhunting club trucked as many as 2,000 raccoons north from a rabies-endemic part of Florida in 1976, and released most of them before realizing that some were rabid.

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U.S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS SEIZING HOARDED ANIMALS *(from page 1)*

June 2005 upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit similar to the Janet Jones case, resulting from a May 2001 investigation by the Shelbyville-Bedford County Humane Society, of Shelbyville, Tennessee. Investigators seized more than 175 dogs, an unknown number of monkeys, a raccoon, a fox squirrel, six birds of native species, and a variety of livestock from Norbert, Regina, Elaine and Lorraine Roch. The four members of the Roch family were among them charged with more than 250 counts of cruelty, theft, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and illegally keeping wildlife.

"The federal complaint was filed by the Rochs after the state won orders to protect some of their animals," by placing them in the custody of court-appointed caretakers, "and orders for euthanasia of others deemed too debilitated to save," recalled Clint Confehr of the Shelbyville *Times-Gazette*.

"We agree with the district court's conclusion that the claims are entirely without merit," the 6th Circuit panel wrote.

Hoarding frequency

Hoarding cases have roughly tripled in frequency since **ANIMAL PEOPLE** analyzed the data from 688 cases in January/February 1999. While some of the cases were earlier, most surfaced in 1994-1998.

Seven years later, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found 423 active cases in 2005 alone: three times as many as were handled in any one year covered by the previous abstract.

The tripling case load is not necessarily bad news. Detailed analysis seems to indicate that it simply means more hoarders are being identified and dealt with, sooner.

If there was any actual increase in the numbers of hoarders in society, one might expect to see some other changes in the numbers, indicative of hoarding being more frequent among a particular growing category of people recognizable by gender, age, and reason for having animals. Instead, the gender, age, and motive distribution of hoarders appears to be virtually unchanged.

Among the live animals rescued from hoarders in 2005 were 7,244 dogs, 4,987 cats, 1,890 horses, 494 goats, and 1,253 other animals including rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles, and other livestock.

At least another 2,131 animals were found dead but intact enough to count at hoarders' premises.

The total of more than 18,000 animals involved in hoarding cases equals the typical annual shelter intake from a city of half a million people.

Because the animals seized in hoarding cases are usually victims of severe neglect, requiring extra care to rehabilitate, and because hoarding cases often result in protracted legal action, the drain on humane resources from hoarding cases may be the equivalent of the cost of providing animal care-and-control service to a city of two or three million people.

Indeed, hoarding cases cost the humane community about as much each year as the emergency evacuation of New Orleans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in August and September 2003, with comparable inputs of both volunteer and professional labor.

"Witches"

Animal hoarding appears to have attracted notice at least as far back as the Middle Ages. While many accounts of "witch" persecution were fairly obviously just pretexts for seizing widows' land, in at least some cases whole houses and the animals in

them were burned, along with the "witches," to rid communities of accumulations of excrement, carcasses, and vermin, which had become a noxious nuisance even by the standards of the notoriously unsanitary times.

The stereotypical witch was an aging widow or spinster who furtively kept many non-working animals in conditions of filth, mumbling "incantations" to herself and cursing neighbors. Her behavior might today be recognized as depressive or schizophrenic.

The "witch" stereotype persists as the stereotypical animal hoarder.

Superficially, there is truth in it.

Perdue University professor of animal ecology Alan Beck and colleague Dooley Worth found in a 1981 study of 31 cases handled by the American SPCA and the New York City Bureau of Animal Affairs that 23 of the 34 people involved were female, and 24 were unmarried.

Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium founder Gary Patronek has reported similar findings from studies of about 50 hoarding cases, mostly in the U.S. Northeast.

Randy Lockwood, who has investigated hoarding for both the Humane Society of the U.S. and the American SPCA, guesses that two-thirds of hoarders are female.

However, each of these investigators focused on neglect of dogs and cats, excluding mass neglect of animals kept for economic purposes, such as breeding, farming, and operating pet stores.

Looking only at mass neglect, without prejudice as to motive for having animals, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 1999 found that females were the alleged perpetrators of 450 incidents (59%), and males of 338 (41%). Responsibility was shared between genders in exactly 100 cases (15%). Nearly two-thirds of the alleged perpetrators lived alone.

Proportionately, the 2005 findings were almost identical. Among the 409 alleged hoarders who were identified by gender, 239 (58%) were female; 170 (42%) were male. Just over two-thirds—68%—lived alone.

Among 156 hoarders in the 1999 abstract who claimed to be animal rescuers, 77% were female. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** evaluated the 2005 data somewhat differently, but found that among 248 hoarders without a visible economic motive for keeping animals, 66% were female.

Among 158 hoarders in the 1999 abstract who were identified as pet breeders, 55% were female. This too changed little. Among 54 breeders in the 2005 abstract, 54% were female.

Among 125 hoarders in the 1999 abstract who claimed to be farmers or who kept horses other than as rescuers, 65% were male. Among 81 farmers or non-rescue horse keepers in the 2005 abstract, 54% were male, including 56% of the horse keepers.

The gender split among pet store owners charged with hoarding was even in both years.

Of 307 hoarders in the 1999 abstract who kept animals for an economic purpose, 173 (55%) were male. Of 161 hoarders in the 2005 abstract who kept animals for an economic purpose, 85 (53%) were male.

In short, there was no significant change in the gender patterns of hoarding from 1994-1999 to 2005.

Virtually all of the alleged hoarders included in both abstracts became responsible for large numbers of animals many years before running into trouble, typically soon after a death in their immediate family.



Lovey the dog, with cats George, Katie, & Sugar, all rescued by Eileen Crossman, of Cape May, New Jersey.

Hoarding thus appears to be associated with acute depression, afflicting someone who has intensive involvement with animals. Other people might merely neglect themselves and their physical surroundings. People with animals neglect them, too.

The proportions of rescuers, breeders, farmers, and pet store owners, their gender balance, and their age stratification all appear to reflect nothing more noteworthy than their relative proportions in society.

Male hoarders in both abstracts appeared to be more likely than women to get into trouble for mass neglect early in life:

Ages of alleged animal hoarders

	Female		Male	
	1999	2005	1999	2005
Under 30	8%	11%	15%	13%
30 to 39	12%	13%	14%	15%
40 to 49	27%	39%	27%	34%
50 to 59	26%	19%	16%	21%
60 to 69	15%	14%	16%	14%
70 and up	16%	11%	12%	3%

However, above age 59, the differing age skews by gender are chiefly suggestive of the earlier average male age of death, especially among single people and depressive personalities. Probably fewer men are caught hoarding animals after age 50 only because fewer of those who might hoard are still alive.

The most meaningful change in the age stratification of hoarders is that middle-aged female hoarders seem to be running into trouble sooner. This may reflect increased public recognition of hoarding behavior.

Convictions

Of the hoarding cases known to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that were before the courts in 2005, at least 22% brought a conviction. The actual conviction rate may be much higher because of non-reported plea bargains.

This is a big improvement from 1999 and earlier, when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found that people who were convicted of neglecting individual animals typically drew stiffer sentences than people who neglected many. The conviction rate then, in reported cases, appeared to be under 10%.

Conviction rates vary markedly with the reasons why hoarders have animals. Convicted in 2005 were 57% of the pet store owners, 41% of the breeders, 30% of the rescuers who had formed humane organizations, 25% of the horse keepers, 17% of the hoarders who "rescued" or otherwise kept dogs and cats without institutional arrangements, 16% of the hoarders whose victims included children, elderly people, or disabled people, and 16% of the hoarders who specifically hoarded pit bull terriers, an emerging phenomenon that was not even visible in 1999.

Of the 19 pit bull hoarders identified by gender, 13 were male; 11 were under age 40. Breeding, rescuing, and fighting were often all mentioned as motives by the suspects. Several appeared to be doing all three, by their own definitions, having "rescued" fighting dogs for stud use, with intent to use some of the offspring to fight.

A further indication that hoarding is now better recognized, bringing earlier intervention, is that the percentages of hoarders collecting dogs and cats are down, along with the numbers of animals found in their custody.

What this suggests is that people who start out with large numbers of dogs or cats seem to be getting less time to diversify into hoarding other species.

Hoarders caught with dogs were 54% of the 1999 sample, but only 50% of the 2005 sample. Hoarders who kept dogs had an average of 54 in 1994-1999, but only 35 in 2005, a 54% improvement.

Hoarders caught with cats were 33% of the 1999 sample, but only 30% of the 2005 sample. Hoarders who kept cats had an average of 48 in 1994-1999, but only 39 in 2005,

a 23% improvement.

Among the remaining hoarders in the 2005 abstract, 27% kept horses, averaging 18 apiece, virtually unchanged from the 1994-1999 average of 19 apiece.

Nine percent hoarded birds, averaging 31 each, while 14% hoarded other species, averaging 19 each.

Dead animals were found in 22% of hoarding situations, up from 17% in 1994-1999. This difference may also reflect earlier intervention, giving starving animals less time to consume each other's remains.

Human victims

ANIMAL PEOPLE found that in 1994-1999, 28 alleged hoarders, including about a third of the women under age 40, kept a total of 44 children in approximately the same conditions as the animals in their custody—often caged, starved, in filth, suffering from untreated illness and injury.

Eleven alleged hoarders kept a total of 12 senior citizens in such conditions. The human victim was in nine cases a parent.

In 2005, 24 alleged hoarders in 12 households kept 44 human victims.

The alleged people-hoarders included seven men and 17 women: 55% of the women under age 40. The victims were 41 minor children, two senior citizens, and one mentally handicapped 47-year-old man.

In two more cases teenagers were charged as accessory offenders even though they had barely reached the age of majority, to remove the teenagers from situations that they seemed to have had little to do with creating, but had been unable to escape.

The number of cases involving human victims surged fivefold over the 1994-1999 rate of discovery. This might indicate either a general decline in the state of U.S. social services, or the outcome of cross-training, which has enabled many more humane workers and animal control officers to respond effectively when they see neglected humans at a hoarding scene.

"Rescuers"

ANIMAL PEOPLE in 1994-1999 made no effort to distinguish individual self-defined "rescuers" who were caught hoarding from hoarders who had established nonprofit organizations, opened "shelters" and "sanctuaries," set up web sites, and/or took other measures to institutionally define themselves.

Yet many of the most prolific hoarders in the 1994-1999 abstract fit that definition.

Since **ANIMAL PEOPLE** did not separately count "institutional" hoarders then, we cannot say definitively whether there are more of them now, or whether they now hoard more animals.

Anecdotally, our impression is that there are more "institutional" hoarders.

Yet the total number of animals suffering at their hands appears to be down. All 37 "institutional" hoarders in the 2005 survey had fewer animals, combined, than just the most memorable half dozen had among those who were caught in 1994-1999.

However, puppy mill operators, caught with an average of 84 dogs apiece, were the only hoarder category to keep more dogs, cats, or horses than "institutional" rescuers turned hoarder.

Seventeen institutional dog-and-cat "rescue" hoarding situations, involving eight male and 19 female perpetrators, kept an average of 71 dogs and 56 cats (about half again as many as the average for individual dog and cat hoarders), plus one bird, with 32 dead animals found on their premises.

Ten institutional horse "rescue" hoarding situations kept an average of 39 horses—and surrendered 23% of all the horses who were rescued from mass neglect during 2005.

—Merritt Clifton



Horses rescued by the Irish SPCA. (Kim Bartlett)

Eastern Europe is back in dog & cat fur trade (from page 1)

Swain, Mills McCartney, actor Alec Baldwin, and Representatives Jim Moran (D-Virginia) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) as an expert panel commenting on video of dogs and cats being killed and roughly handled.

In Brussels, however, Swain showed an undercover video indicating that dog and cat fur may also be entering the EU from the Czech Republic. The video showed a worker in a Czech warehouse telling investigators that most of the cat and dog skins hanging on nearby rails were from local sources. Only a few, the worker said, were from China.

"Domestic cats are stolen off the streets [for fur], and we're talking about 2,000 to 3,000 just in the Czech Republic, not in the whole of Europe," Mills McCartney alleged.

A second expose of dog and cat fur originating from eastern Europe aired a few days later in Germany.

"An undercover investigation has revealed a booming trade in dog fur coats from eastern Europe, some of which are likely to be on sale in Britain," summarized Katy Duke and Elizabeth Day of the London *Telegraph*.

"The fur, which comes from both strays and captured pets, is often re-labelled to disguise its origins before being stitched into coats and re-dyed," Duke and Day continued. The investigation focused on Bulgaria."

"There is a massive industry based on the systematic killing of dogs," Bulgarian SPCA president Yordanka Zrcheva told the cameras. "There are dog fur factories all over Bulgaria, and they produce all sorts of items, like fur coats, leather shoes and bags made from dogs, and so on."

"Around 10,000 dogs are collected and killed in Sofia alone every year, often shipped straight to fur factories from the dog pounds," Doctors for Animals spokesperson Rumi Becker said. "The so-called fur lords

who run the factories are farming the dogs on the street. They don't have to feed or house them or do anything except round them up and then skin them. I bought a black and white coat labelled Korean wolf," Becker claimed, displaying the garment. "I asked if it was made with street dog fur, and the vendor said it was, but that I should keep my voice down. I was pretending to be a dealer, and asked if it would be possible to have more. She told me she had 750 in a storeroom."

Commented Sofia animal advocate Alina Lilova, "This is not the first report of its kind. Until recently, most of the allegations I'd heard didn't seem to be backed up by serious investigation, and I hoped they would be false. But these look credible."

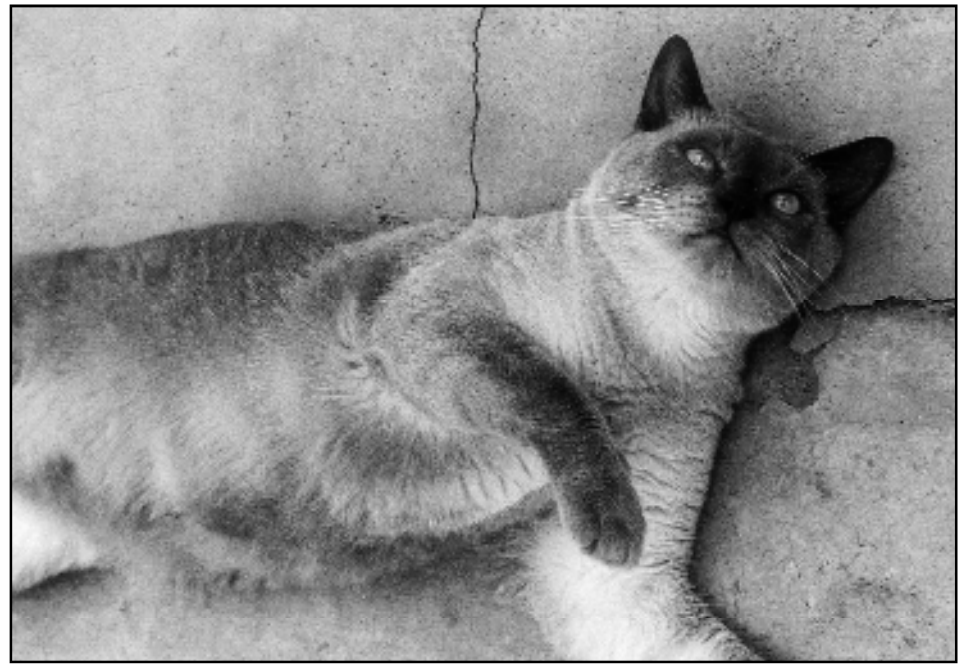
Lilova was aware of some dealing in dog and cat fur, but not on a commercial scale. "Earlier in 2005," Lilova recalled, "the media in Ruse, a city by the Danube, reported that the local German-Bulgarian animal protection society confiscated the dogs of a man accused by his neighbors of systematically killing his own dogs and selling their coats, based on actual sightings of gruesome things going on in his yard."

The solution to the problem, Lilova pointed out, will be to sterilize enough dogs and cats so that eastern Europe no longer has a surplus. "The Sofia humane organizations have miraculously achieved a small victory with the new mayor and are allowed to invite international teams to help sterilize outdoor dogs," Lilova added. "They also received an encouraging letter from the national veterinary service. The problem is that it is not clear who could be invited. We would need several clinics to cover the entire city in a relatively short period of time."

Lilova said she was studying the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** online how-to materials on fundraising in hopes of becoming better able to help.

Vier Pfoten, an Austrian group already sterilizing dogs in Sofia and many other parts of eastern Europe, issued yet another expose of the eastern European dog and cat fur traffic on December 22. "In Hungary we identified the fur trim on a winter coat as raccoon dog," also known as tanuki," e-mailed Helmut Dengler of Vier Pfoten. "The coat was bought in a Budapest discount shop in Budapest. The fur was tested by a method based on analysis and comparison of the protein structure."

As tanuki are raised for fur and meat in China and Korea, that coat was probably of Asian origin. But Vier Pfoten also found dog fur coats of less evident origin sold by a German online vendor. "PETA Germany identified dog fur trim on a coat at the fashion store Peek & Cloppenburg in Munich," Dengler added. "The Dutch animal protection organisation Bont voor Dieren has also found evidence of cat and dog fur trim."



Cat at Beijing Human & Animal Environmental Education Centre. (Kim Bartlett)

The budkas

European demand for dog and cat pelts fell off to nil in the early post-Communist years, coinciding with a global fur sales slump. Often listed among the low-bid lots at international fur auctions, dog and cat fur vanished from the sales reports by the mid-1990s.

As the *budkas* were no longer profitable, replacing them with western-style animal control agencies became politically popular. For about five years, beginning after French actress-turned-activist Brigitte Bardot began campaigning on behalf of Romanian dogs in 1996, western European donors poured tens of millions of euros into efforts to take eastern Europe directly from the *budkas* to no-kill animal control, whether or not the necessary high-volume dog and cat sterilization programs were up and running, and regardless of whether the public was adequately educated about the need to sterilize, vaccinate, and keep pets from roaming.

Many *budkas* were replaced by quasi-no-kill canine concentration camps, where dogs die of starvation, disease, exposure, and untreated wounds suffered in fighting to stay alive. Operated both by local governments and by nonprofit organizations, so-called "no-kill shelters" scattered through the former Communist nations continue to hold dogs and cats in crowded, often filthy conditions, with little chance of adoption.

Most of the money sent to help impounded animals during the 1996-2001 time frame appears to have been siphoned off through corruption. The most flagrant offender, Wolfgang Ullrich, in April 2003 drew a 12-year prison sentence in Germany for embezzling as much as \$45 million from funds donated in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland to assist shelters in Romania.

There were some successes in dismantling the *budkas*. The *budka* in Kiev, Ukraine, clubbed and skinned as many as 40,000-50,000 animals per year until former United Nations journalist Tamara Tarnawska exposed the brutality in 1996. A new mayor in March 1997 turned the *budka* site over to SOS Animals Ukraine, a charity Tarnawska formed to promote pet sterilization and adoption.

A new agency created to take over animal control, called Animals In The City, allegedly continued many of the *budka* abuses, including legal harassment and alleged violent intimidation of critics. But officially, Kiev

has stayed out of the dog and cat fur industry.

Galati, Romania, got out of the fur trade at about the same time by ceasing to operate the city pound as a *budka*, and by converting a defunct fox farm once staffed by jail inmates into a pound to help hold the resultant overflow of dogs. Both facilities are now assisted by groups whose work parallels that of the nonprofit shelter auxiliaries common in the U.S.: Help Labus at the former fox farm, ROLDA at the former *budka*, the latter aided by the U.S. group Romania Animal Rescue.

In eastern Europe, as in the U.S., where humane society involvement in pounds was long partly motivated by trying to prevent the sale of animals to laboratories, an institutional humane presence tends to reduce pound abuses. However, the economic trends that favored *budka* closure and humane involvement also favored privatization. Initially, that was not a big problem. With no profit left in pelts, bidders on animal control contracts tended to be either non-profit humane societies, or in a few cases, for-profit companies with western European pet store adoption connections. (Despite many rumors, no traffic in eastern European dogs to western European laboratories has ever been confirmed.)

A resurgent dog-and-cat fur market driven by Chinese exports appears to have changed the economics. Some municipal agencies may have quietly returned to the *budka* approach. Corrupt animal control employees are suspected in several cities of selling dog and cat pelts without official permission, and pocketing the proceeds—although the administrators may be looking the other way, to avoid having to pay higher salaries to attract a better class of worker.

Pelt brokers may also be seeking animal control contracts in places where dog and cat intakes are still high, with little done to promote sterilization and pet identification.

Cutting off the import of any dog or cat fur into the European Union would be one quick way to curtail any revival of the *budka* system, as this would end access to the most lucrative part of the market.

National bans on importing dog and cat fur are already in place in Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, and the U.S., but enforcement has been questionable, since most dog and cat fur items are too small and inexpensive to attract customs inspectors' attention.

—Merritt Clifton



Tamara Tarnawska closed the Kiev budka. (Kim Bartlett)

Wyeth begins shutting down first & biggest pregnant mare's urine drug manufacturing plant

ROUSES POINT, N.Y.—Breeding horses to collect pregnant mares' urine is far from done, but the Wyeth drug empire is soon to halt Premarin and Prempro manufacturing at Rouses Point, New York, hub of the PMU industry for 60 years. The staff has already been cut from more than 1,600 to barely 1,200. The plant is to close in 2008.

Sales of the PMU-based products have reportedly fallen by half, from more than \$2 billion a year, since the National Institutes of Health disclosed in July 2002 that among each 10,000 women who take Prempro for one year, there are eight more cases of invasive breast cancer, eight more strokes, eight more blood clots in the lungs, and

seven more heart attacks, than among women of the same age and state of health who do not take the drug. The NIH told 16,000 participants in a nine-year Women's Health Initiative study of Prempro that their health would be safer if they quit taking it.

Prempro combines estrogen with progesterone. Premarin contains only estrogen.

Wyeth set up at Rouses Point, near the northern end of Lake Champlain, to be near Quebec, then the major source of PMU, as the last part of North America where most farm work was done with horses.

Surplus foals bred so that their mothers would produce PMU went to a long-gone glue factory at

LaColle, just to the north, or to slaughterhouses near Trois Rivières.

As the PMU industry grew, and Quebec farms mechanized, horse breeding for PMU production shifted to Ontario. Humane concerns rising in Ontario about the treatment of the mares and their foals eventually drove the breeding end of the industry west again, to center in Alberta, but manufacturing remained at Rouses Point.

This work will now be done at other Wyeth plants, operating on a smaller scale.

The Wyeth decision to leave Rouses Point, announced in October 2005, came three months after the International Agency for Research on Cancer reclassified hor-

monal menopause therapy from "possibly carcinogenic to humans" to "carcinogenic to humans." This significantly limited the chances of Wyeth expanding Premarin and Prempro exports to compensate for the loss of U.S. sales. The International Agency for Research on Cancer is part of the United Nations.

Earlier in 2005, former University of Montreal, University of Vermont, and University of

Maryland professor Eric T. Poehlman agreed to plead guilty to civil, criminal and administrative charges for falsifying studies that promoted Premarin and Prempro use; to pay \$196,000 in fines and attorneys' fees; to accept a lifetime ban on seeking or receiving federal funding or participating in federal health programs, and to issue at least 10 retractions and corrections to papers he published in scientific journals.



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EXPLORING THE MYTHS & MYSTERIES OF BEARS

Bear by Robert E. Bieder

Reaktion Books Ltd. (79 Farringdon Rd., London, EC1M 3JU, U.K.), 2005. 192 pages, paperback. \$19.95.

The Grizzly Maze by Nick Jans

Dutton (375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014), 2005. 275 pages, hardcover. \$24.95.

Robert Bieder and Nick Jans explore the mythology of bears from opposite angles but to common purpose in *Bear*, a global overview, and *The Grizzly Maze*, an examination of the fatal maulings of bear advocate Timothy Treadwell, 46, and his friend Amie Huguenard, 37, by a brown bear on October 6, 2003, in Katmai National Park, Alaska.

Bieder, a career scholar, starts with the evolution and diversification of bears. Bear ancestors emerged in Europe and Asia as long as 25 million years ago, but the forebears of today's bears appeared at about the same time that great apes evolved in Africa.

Conflict emerged between modern bears and early humans as soon as population expansion brought them into overlapping habitat. Bears, as carnivores who had developed the ability to eat vegetation, and humans, as ancestral vegetarians who had learned to scavenge and hunt, were direct competitors. Each killed and ate the other, if able.

Bears had a slight head start, and established themselves in North Africa before

humans, but domesticating dogs and taming fire eventually gave humans a decisive edge. By Cro Magnon times, bears had already begun a long retreat to the rockiest, coldest, and most densely forested parts of the temperate latitudes. Humans dominate the rest.

Yet human competition with bears has never really ended. In one-to-one encounters, bears still have the advantage of size and strength. Wherever bears persist in the presence of humans, or have managed to re-establish themselves, as in rural New Jersey, humans tend to feel threatened, despite outnumbering the bears by ratios of hundreds or even thousands to one.

Intuitively, humans tend to perceive bears as human-like, whether benignly as in the example of Teddy-Bear toys, or menacingly, as bears are typically portrayed in folktales. Bears in turn tend to respond to humans as if we were just another bear species. They might eat us, as brown bears might eat black bears, or ignore us if we offer no threat.

Either way, bears usually expect

humans to understand bear gestures and etiquette, which has evolved to minimize trouble between bears who mind their own business. Fatal bear/human conflict, as in the case of Treadwell and Huguenard, typically occurs when humans do not do what other well-behaved bears would do, staying out of other bears' way unless specifically welcomed.

Humans, as Bieder discusses, have developed an extensive inventory of art, literature, and legend imagining bears as possible mates and ancestors. Bears, so far as is known, do not hold such perceptions of people. Among the hundreds of accounts of bear/human conflict on file here at **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, there are none in which a bear appeared to attempt to initiate sexual contact.

Yet bear behavior toward human children can indicate recognition of likeness. Thousands of bears have killed and injured human children, especially Asian brown bears, but a few bears of almost all kinds have occasionally fostered lost or abandoned children with their own cubs, sometimes for days, weeks, or even years.

The answer to the seeming paradox may be that unlike humans, who will mate any time, bears only mate during a short part of each year, when they rarely meet humans. Yet, like humans, bears nurture their young for an extended time. A female bear is thus more likely to be psychologically primed to parent a child who is close to the size of her own cubs, than any bear is likely to be primed to mate. For humans the odds are almost the opposite.

The Treadwell tragedy occurred, apparently, because he learned to exploit the bear tendency to accept humans as different kinds of bears, and for 13 years got away with often

approaching brown bears much more closely than most experts would without tranquilizing the bears first.

Treadwell imagined that he understood Alaskan brown bears much better than anyone else, and perhaps he did, yet he over-anthropomorphized in believing that the mutual understanding he may have developed with some bears would protect him.

Grizzly Maze author Nick Jans visited the site where Treadwell and Huguenard were killed and mostly eaten soon after the incident. Jans continued his investigation by interviewing most of Treadwell's close associates, viewing his videos, reading his writings, and soliciting much expert perspective.

Jans also paid more attention to Huguenard than most others investigating the case. Huguenard often seems to have been regarded as only another of Treadwell's many girlfriends. Despite their five years of involvement, she was not well-known to most of Treadwell's associates. Huguenard seems to have been much more fascinated with Treadwell than with either bears or outdoor living, but she appreciated his work, and visited him in the bush three summers in a row.

In addition, Jans discusses the December 2003 fatal mauling of Vitaly Nikolayenko, a Russian ethologist who for 33 years lived among brown bears on the Kamchatka peninsula. Unfortunately, the bears who became habituated to his presence also became easy pickings for poachers. At least 20 bears Nikolayenko knew were massacred about seven months before his own death.

Jans compares and contrasts the Treadwell story to his own changing perspective, as a former bear hunter who now favors leaving bears and their vital habitat alone, and was among the three sponsors of an unsuccessful petition drive that tried to put a ban on aerial predator control on the 2006 Alaska ballot.

Jans concludes that trying to show that humans and bears can co-exist does bears no favors: when humans and bears mingle, bears die. Jans advises admiring bears from a distance, and teaching bears to respect that distance, just as they respect their distance around others of their kind. —Merritt Clifton



HUNTERS, HERDERS, & HAMBURGERS:

The Past & Future of Human-Animal Relationships

by Richard W. Bulliet

Columbia University Press (61 West 62nd St., New York, NY 10023), 2005. 256 pages, hardcover. \$27.50.

"Let's start with sex and blood," opens Richard W. Bulliet, hypothesizing that sex and violence in screen entertainment today feeds a human fascination that earlier was satisfied by watching animal mating and barnyard slaughter.

"Carnal reality made fantasy unnecessary," Bulliet asserts. "Paradoxically, postdomestic societies with high levels of sex-and-blood pornography may exhibit a strong and generalized abhorrence for real-life maiming, killing, and sexual predation."

By "post-domestic," Bulliet means societies in which most people no longer directly participate in animal husbandry.

"Domestic society," Bulliet continues, "by exposing children to sex and bloodshed, hardens them early and causes them to think of sex and blood in terms of real-life carnality rather than fantasy."

Extending this argument to the logical conclusion suggests that people still living in "domestic" cultures might prefer bear-baiting, cockfighting, dogfighting, patronizing prostitutes and rape to attending movies. Indeed, violent entertainments and sexual exploitation persist in rural and backward areas. Yet where TV and movies exist, they long since won the competition for popularity.

Bulliet might suggest that this represents a step toward post-domesticity, since TV and movies tend to reach rural areas as part of the growth of an educated middle class, a step removed from hands-on animal care and slaughter. Yet the idlers who most avidly bet on animal fights, and the truck drivers who most notoriously exploit prostitutes, are also at least a step removed from animal husbandry as an occupation.

Probably more interested in stimulating thought than in clinching arguments, Bulliet misses few chances to raise a ruckus. He summarizes the role of donkeys in early Christianity, for example, in a sub-chapter entitled "Ass-Man: God of the Christians," and has me kicking myself for not having seen all that he saw when 30-odd years ago I struggled through the same writings by Tertulian, Apuleius, and others whom he cites. The term paper I could have written might have been far more interesting than the one I did write, had I known my ass from the Catacombs.

Yet even then I knew—and my religious studies professors knew—that Bulliet errs in stating flatly that "Jesus and his disciples were not vegetarians."

The prevailing professorial view was that Jesus might have been vegetarian, since he built upon the teachings of the vegetarian prophet Isaiah, and the vegetarian evangelist John the Baptist. The Jerusalem Church, founded by Jesus' brother James, taught and practiced vegetarianism, and may have been ancestral to the Sufi sect within Islam, whose teachings hold that Jesus was a vegetarian.

Recent scholarship, summarized by Keith Akers in *The Lost Religion of Jesus* (2001), has strengthened the view that Jesus' conflict with the Temple establishment was founded on his opposition to animal sacrifice.

"The future of human/animal relations in real-world terms will be determined by the worldwide expansion of exploitation in a late domestic mode, and the reaction to that expansion by increasingly angry post-domestic activists," Bulliet writes in conclusion.

"At the present time, neither camp has reason for optimism," Bulliet believes, since "There is no middle ground..." Yet credible efforts are underway to develop middle ground.

For instance, companies built on the sale of meat products now include meatless burgers on fast food menus and sell vegan frozen entrées in every supermarket. Many vegetarian activists, recognizing that the world is not going to give up meat overnight, encourage projects such as Humane Farm Animal Care, which seek to improve the lives of farm animals.

Procter & Gamble has spent more than \$200 million to develop and introduce alternatives to animal testing. Among the major goals of genetic engineering is finding ways to use fewer animals to get more precise experimental results.

Despite the vociferousness of absolutists, surveys indicate that most activists would feel their most serious objections to animal research were met if experiments were non-invasive and did not cause suffering—which leaves much opportunity for animal experimenters to seek an acceptable compromise.

"Philosophers, scientists, writers, and filmmakers have been drawn into the maelstrom," Bulliet goes on. "But in the imaginative realm, the heritage of the late domestic era, with its herds of symbolically degraded beasts being transformed into industrial commodities, has left the creative mind little to build upon."

Unfortunately, the 50 billion animals per year being transformed into industrial commodities worldwide are not just "symbolically degraded." They suffer short, miserable lives and actual traumatic deaths—and the creative minds behind such screen hits as *Chicken Run* and *Babe* have found plenty to build upon.

"It will take true genius," he ends, "to rediscover the magic of the predomestic era, when animals communed with gods, half-animal beings commanded respect, and killing inspired awe and incurred guilt."

Bulliet underestimates the magic of the present era. Ethologists are learning to understand animals as never before. Real animals are beginning to receive moral consideration. Killing animals is increasingly often seen as wrong, not just an act which may incur guilt if expiation rites are not performed, meaningless though they are to the victims. —Merritt Clifton

Animals, Ethics & Christianity

by Matthew Priebe

14069 S. Lincoln Way, Galt, CA 95632, 2005. 73 pages, paperback. \$4.00.

This booklet consists of a 45-page essay—plus 28 pages of footnotes—on the relationship between humankind and other life forms, assessed not on the basis of rights, but from the perspective of the Bible.

Priebe questions how a true Christian should treat the animals over whom humans were given dominion. He argues, citing Biblical passages, that we should treat animals in the same way that God treats us. Priebe argues that kind and merciful dominion is God's dominion, whereas cruel exploitation, characterising current human use of animals, is Satan's dominion.

A Seventh Day Adventist, Priebe also promotes vegetarianism. Wisely, Priebe deals concisely with the horror of animal welfare issues. But the first part of the book, where Priebe quotes from

Biblical texts and draws conclusions therefrom, could with advantage have been both deeper and more extended. The same points made by Priebe are perhaps more eloquently addressed in Mathew Scully's book *Dominion*, where Scully refers to Biblical texts and then cites specific examples of institutionalized cruelty, to expose the contrast.

In a letter to the reviewer, Priebe stressed that *Animals, Ethics & Christianity* is aimed at U.S. Christian fundamentalists. Thus, to avoid alienating literal inspirationists, he wastes no effort to attack the ritual of animal sacrifice other than to show that it was abolished in New Testament times.

We see the main value in Priebe's book as stimulating debate within churches on issues which are usually devoutly avoided.

—Chris Mercer & Bev Pervan
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Baboons: *Tales, Traits & Troubles* by Attie Gerber

Lapa Publishers (380 Bosma St., Pretoria, South Africa), 2004.
360 pages, hard cover. 180.95 rand.

Attie Gerber, now a university instructor of video production and digital photography, cofounded the popular South African television program *50/50*, which has covered ecological matters for more than 20 years. *Baboons: Tales, Traits & Troubles* combines superb photographs with commentary mixing information about baboons with advice about wildlife photography.

Gerber explores the interaction of Afrikaans and British settlers with baboons through mentions of baboons in early South African literature. Hated by farmers for crop-raiding, but respected for their intelligence, baboons were at times even put to work. For example, the *Cape Argus* reported in 1884, a railway signalman named Jumper lost both legs in an accident, and procured a baboon he called Jack to assist him. Photographs show Jack operating the signal levers at Jumper's instruction.

Much of the book is devoted to baboon social life and behavior, informed by Gerber's work alongside Rita Miljo, 74, the leading South African baboon expert.

Miljo founded her Centre for Animal Rehabilitation in 1980. CARE now protects more than 300 baboons.

Gerber accompanied two troops of baboons whom Miljo released into the Vredefort Dome Conservancy, filming them for weeks. Their story should have had a happy ending, but didn't, because the South African government still classifies baboons as vermin, even though many farmers have amended their views.

The Vredefort Dome was created by the impact of an ancient meteor. Farmers in the region recently formed the Vredefort Dome Conservancy, intending to transform the area into a tourist attraction and to apply for World Heritage status.

In 1998 they asked Miljo to bring some of her rehabilitated baboons to that area to re-establish a natural baboon population. Miljo found the Vredefort Dome to be ideal baboon habitat and agreed to release two troops of fifteen members each.

North-West Province conservation department bureaucrats managed to delay the baboon release for four long years, requiring all sorts of veterinary tests on the baboons, and even medical tests on CARE staff.

In line with CARE's strict release procedures, every farmer at the release site was consulted, and all consented to the



(Kim Bartlett)

baboon reintroduction. Both releases went smoothly. CARE staff stayed with the troops for four and six months, respectively, until Miljo was quite satisfied that the baboons could cope on their own.

In October 2003 four females disappeared from the second troop, and on investigation were found to have been poisoned. A fifth baboon was poisoned later. Then the troop lost a baby whose mother had been poisoned. Four sick baboons survived. Complaints to the provincial conservation authorities elicited little interest and no results.

In August 2004 a farmer shot the alpha male. The farmer boasted that he would "kill the lot of the damned animals."

Miljo asked one of the Dome Conservancy members to recapture the

remaining baboons and keep them safe in an enclosure until she could be persuaded that the proposed world heritage site was safe for her baboons. She notified the provincial conservation authorities, who fined her 750 rand fine for keeping baboons without a permit.

In a separate but parallel case, with a uniquely promising outcome, Miljo was recently prosecuted for rescuing a baby baboon in Mpumalanga Province. She was acquitted on September 1, 2005, when the court recognized that she acted from necessity.

When asked by the prosecutor at her trial in Barberton Magistrates Court why she wasted her time saving the lives of vermin, Rita shot back, "Who are you to tell God that he should not have created baboons?"

—Chris Mercer

No One Loved Gorillas More: *Dian Fossey Letters from the Mist*

Camilla de la Bedoyere with photographs by Bob Campbell

National Geographic Society (1145 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036), 2005. 191 pages, illustrated. \$30.00 hard cover.

World Atlas of Great Apes & Their Conservation edited by Julian Caldecott & Lera Miles

University of California Press (2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94704), 94704. 424 pages, illustrated. \$45.00 hard cover.

A case could be made that if Dian Fossey had not authored *Gorillas In The Mist* (1983), the *World Atlas of Great Apes & Their Conservation* would not exist.

Even if Julian Caldecott and Lera Miles had managed to compile the *World Atlas of Great Apes*, it probably would not have been published in a volume with 150 color photos, 50 maps, and a preface by United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan. The heavily footnoted text would be buried in obscure scholarly journals, not piled on coffee tables.

Annan probably would never have written, "The great apes are our kin. Like us, they are self-aware and have cultures, tools, politics, and medicine."

Before Fossey, astute African politicians did not acknowledge kinship to the other apes. Even if they recognized evolution as a verity, unlike some U.S. counterparts, such a statement might have been seized upon by political foes as "racist." Great apes had neither political currency nor much cash currency going in their favor. More scientists were trying to establish laboratories in Africa to exploit access to wild chimps than were working to keep great apes in the wild.

Jane Goodall began studying chimpanzees at Gombe before Fossey began studying gorillas at Karisoke. Berute Galdikas, the third of anthropologist Louis Leakey's "Leakey's angels," began studying orangutans in Indonesia soon afterward. Galdikas has yet to write a popular book, but Goodall enjoyed some early success, starring in a 1963 documentary by *National Geographic*, the major sponsor of their work, and publishing four books in 1970-1972.

Of those books, however, only *In The Shadow of Man* (1971) was a commercial hit, and she didn't star in another documentary until 1984, or publish any new books from 1972 to 1986. Twelve of Goodall's 13 major film credits and 19 of her 23 books followed *Gorillas In The Mist*, as Goodall demonstrated the poise and charisma to build upon Fossey's breakthrough to recognition, while Fossey herself did not.

Fossey scored the hit that made conserving great apes a global cause, of the prominence of saving whales.

Yet a case could also be made that if Fossey had not been murdered in her cabin at Karisoke on December 26, 1985, Annan could not have argued that, "Saving the great apes is also about saving people...By conserving the great apes, we can also protect the livelihoods of the many people who rely on forests for food, clean water, and much else."

Educated as an occupational therapist, Fossey appears to have become disillusioned with people long before relocating to Rwanda. Life at Karisoke accentuated her reclusive tendencies. Though unable to work alone, and eventually barely able to do field work at all due to emphysema, Fossey tried as much as possible to isolate the Karisoke gorillas from other humans, discouraging eco-tourism and research that she considered useless or intrusive.

The poachers Fossey pursued apparently caught gorillas chiefly by accident, at first, while trying to snare small hooved animals. They avenged themselves deliberately on gorillas later. Whether a poacher murdered Fossey, or a disgruntled employee, has never been established, but she had so many enemies that there were a multitude of suspects, and she had no friends who were willing or able to identify the killer.

Fossey beyond doubt saved the gorillas, yet most of the sort of gorilla conservation celebrated by Annan and the *World Atlas of Great Apes* could not have been done without removing her from the scene—as her sponsors were trying to

do at her death.

Goodall, photographer Bob Campbell, and International Primate Protection League founder Shirley McGreal, among many others, now feel compelled to defend Fossey—along with scholars Camilla de la Bedoyere and Georgianne Nenaber, who never knew her, but have studied her correspondence.

Nenaber has several times written to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in objection to book reviews that mentioned the critical perspectives of close associates Bill Weber and Amy Vedder, and Robert Sapolsky, an acquaintance who has done comparable studies of baboons in Kenya. Nenaber contributed the longest of 11 appreciations of Fossey included in the December 2005 edition of *IPPL News*, along with a synopsis of remarks by primatologist Geza Teleki.

Science vs. literature

Together, Fossey's IPPL defenders make a formidable case for her. Clearly Fossey did much to encourage McGreal in building IPPL into a globally active, effective, and influential voice for all nonhuman primates—and for primate defenders who run afoul of corrupt governments.

But even Campbell and fellow primatologists Colin Groves and Ian Redmond mention in their IPPL appreciations Fossey's mood swings and other odd behavior.

No One Loved Gorillas More is de la Bedoyere's contribution to the defense. It includes some of Fossey's letters, but consists mainly of de la Bedoyere's contextual introduction to Fossey's life and legacy.

De la Bedoyere acknowledges that as Weber and Vedder observed in *The Kingdom of Gorillas*, Fossey "lacked the necessary personality traits to adapt and build on her own success."

Earlier, de la Bedoyere mentions how Weber, Vedder, and others "recognized that her mental health was deteriorating," but asserts that "few showed her any compassion, or knew how to help her escape from the black depths of her anguish."

Resisting the help that was offered, Fossey retreated into alcoholism, while those around her struggled to cope with a leader who could no longer lead.

In truth, *Gorillas In The Mist* was more a literary achievement than a work of science. The science in it lent weight to Fossey's plea for gorillas, but she caught public interest with her story. The film version of *Gorillas In The Mist* starred Sigourney Weaver to dramatize the plot, not the research.

There lies a paradox. Had Fossey been only an influential one-book author, no one would care much about her reputation.

Authors are allowed to be depressives, drunks, misanthropes, and on the losing side of political controversy, if they also spin a compelling tale. Fossey has supporters who perceive that her reputation needs defending chiefly because she was also a scientist.

Most and perhaps all of the army of

contributors to the *World Atlas of Great Apes* have more advanced degrees and more credits in scholarly journals. Thousands of footnotes testify to their diligence. A person who starts reading the *World Atlas of Great Apes* with little knowledge of apes could pass for an expert by the final page.

Yet few people will peruse the *World Atlas of Great Apes* cover-to-cover—possibly none. Despite the wealth of knowledge within it, it will be used chiefly as a library reference for term papers. None of the contributors have the individual creative flair of Dian Fossey, and even if one or two did, the collective format would bury it.

Term papers will be based on the *World Atlas of Great Apes* because of the enduring influence of *Gorillas In The Mist*. Many of the authors enjoy careers in primatology primarily because *Gorillas In The Mist* inspired them, and inspired foundation trustees to make grant money available to further great ape research.

Fossey is mentioned on only five pages, all in passing. Her reputation has passed from citations by scientists to analysis by literary biographers, whose interest hints that she will continue to be read and be influential long after all the present science becomes obsolete.

—Merritt Clifton

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MEMORIALS

In memory of my beloved pets.
You are missed so much: Pinto (2004),
Tuki (2004), Sooty (2005),
and Toto (2001).
—Hilde Wilson

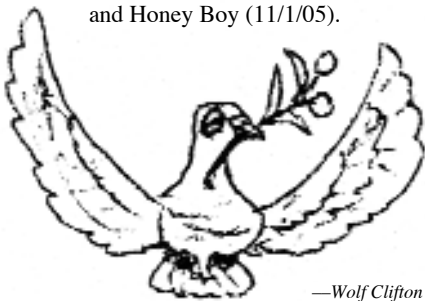
In memory of Tess, a 26-year-old horse.
—Carol Pilgion



Mothi.

In memory of Mothi,
sweetheart bird of Swathi Buddhiraju.

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



—Wolf Clifton

ANIMAL OBITUARIES

Angus, 27, believed to be the world's biggest captive elephant, was found dead on January 8 by his trainer, Michael Hackenberger, at the Bowmanville Zoo near Toronto. The star of the Bowmanville Zoo elephant ride concession for 20 years, Angus died about 30 hours after a sedative test given in preparation for retiring him to the Pumba private game reserve near Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Born in Kruger National Park, Angus was captured at age two. He toured with the Garden Brothers Circus and briefly resided at zoos in Quebec and Texas before arriving at Bowmanville with Hackenberger and his wife, zoo veterinarian Wendy Korver. A highlight of his life was swimming with beluga whales in the St. Lawrence River on one occasion while on tour.

Ragtime, 19, a miniature performing horse who was involved in a landmark 1989 zoning dispute in Thousand Oaks, California, died on January 2, four days after his trainers, Rich & Patty Fairchild, moved him and his mate Sassy to Colorado Springs.

OBITUARIES

Tony Banks, 62, died on January 7, 2006 from a stroke suffered on vacation at Sanibel Island, Florida. A Member of Parliament 1983-2004, sports minister 1997-1999, and named to the House of Lords in mid-2005, Banks was a vegetarian and "a staunch animal welfarist who played a key role in having hunting with dogs banned in Britain." World Society for the Protection of Animals director general Peter Davies recalled. "He was also a strong supporter of my separate charity which erected the Memorial to Animals in War in Park Lane, London," Davies said. Added League Against Cruel Sports chair John Cooper, "In his firm belief that people have a moral responsibility to animals, Banks was not just a figurehead for millions of animal welfare supporters across Britain, but a determined street fighter in the corridors of Westminster." At his death Banks was League Against Cruel Sports vice president.

Ethel Thurston, 94, died at home in New York City on January 4, 2006. A longtime professor at Hunter College, Bryn Mawr, New York University, and the Manhattan College of Music, Thurston was globally known as a musicologist who recreated the original sounds of compositions from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. But Thurston was legendary, friend Sara Sohn recalled, as "a pioneer of the animal rights movement, who devoted the last three decades of her life to running the two organizations she founded. The American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research," begun in 1974, "provided grants to scientists who were committed to developing, validating, and implementing non-animal alternatives. Beauty Without Cruelty USA," started in 1978, "informed the public on where to find cruelty-free cosmetics and household products, and also vegan clothing and footwear. I met Dr. Thurston when I was 15 and had the privilege and honor of working with her for ten years," Sohn said. Funded for seven years by AFAAR, cytotoxicologist Bjorn Ekwall of Sweden developed human cell culture tests which by 1998 could "predict human lethal concentrations with 71% precision," Thurston told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 1998. Ekwall died in 2000, but the Bjorn Ekwall Foundation has continued his work. Thurston started Beauty Without Cruelty USA as a branch of an organization begun in Britain in 1957 by Muriel, The Lady Dowding, who died in 1993. In 1963 the Lady Dowding spun off the cruelty-free product manufacturing firm Beauty Without Cruelty Inc. as an independent company. Thurston's first BWC-USA project was a week of anti-fur protest held in March 1979 to coincide with the American International Fur Fair. Featuring appearances by the Lady Dowding, Fund for Animals founder Cleveland Amory, and Broadway actress Gretchen Wyler, who later founded the Genesis Awards program (see page 15), the effort is remembered as the ignition of the U.S.



The Animals In War memorial, London. (Kim Bartlett)

anti-fur movement. Thurston also helped boost animal rights philosopher Tom Regan to prominence. Recalled Regan, "On behalf of the International Association against Painful Experiments on Animals, Ethel and IAPEA founder Colin Smith [deceased in 2001] invited me to organize and chair a 1984 conference on religion and animals. In 1986, I was privileged to publish the proceedings as *Animal Sacrifices: Religious Perspectives on the Use of Animals in Science*." The New England Anti-Vivisection Society in 2000 honored Thurston with the Cleveland Amory Humane Achievement Award.

Joan Wells Root, 69, was shot three times in her bed with an AK-47 automatic rifle on January 13 at her home in Naivasha, Kenya, 56 miles northwest of Nairobi. Naivasha police chief Simon Kiragu three days later announced the arrest of a welder and a schoolteacher, who were identified by tracking dogs. Twenty-one other people were held for questioning. A watchman saw the attackers approach with the gun and a machete, shining a spotlight into the house until they found Root, but was unable to intervene, Kiragu said. "There is speculation that Mrs. Root may have been targeted over efforts to stop illegal fishing," wrote *Independent* correspondent Anthony Gitonga. "Mrs. Root married Alan, a self-taught film-maker, in 1961," recalled *Guardian* correspondent Jeevan



Vasagar. "The Roots were the first people to fly over Mount Kilimanjaro in a hot-air balloon and set up the first balloon safaris over the Masai Mara." Together they made nature films including *Baobab: Portrait of a Tree* (1973); *Castles of Clay* (1978), featuring a termite hill and an aardvark; *Mzima: Portrait of a Spring* (1983), focusing on the life of a hippopotamus; *Year of the Wildebeest* (1984); *Kopjes: Islands in a Sea of Grass* (1985); *Legend of the Lightning Bird* (1989); *Season in the Sun* (1989); and *Heart of Brightness* (1990). Post-divorce, Root focused on operating her own small wildlife rehabilitation center. "Raised in Naivasha, Mrs. Root developed an early love for animals after helping to nurse an injured baby elephant back to health," wrote Xan Rice of *The Times*.

Mary Aiken Littauer, 93, died on December 7 at her home in Syosset, New York. Raised in Manhattan, she developed an interest in riding during family vacations in Nevada, then volunteered as a horseback courier for the Frontier Nursing Service in rural Kentucky. She married Vladimir S. Littauer, a former cavalry officer in the army of Czar Nicholas II of Russia, who authored eight books on riding and training horses, and founded the Boots & Saddles Club near their home on Long Island, where he taught riding until his death in 1989, at age 96. Restricted in his own riding during the last 20 years of his life, Littauer suggested to his wife, who did not wish to ride alone, that she might like to try her own hand at writing about horses. She published her first article about horses of ancient times in the British journal *Antiquity* in 1968. Soon thereafter she began a 30-year collaboration with University of Amsterdam professor of Aegean archaeology Joost Crouwel. Together they produced 65 scholarly articles and two books, *Wheeled Vehicles & Ridden Animals in the Ancient Near East* (1970) and *Chariots & Related Equipment from the Tomb of Tutankhamen* (1985).

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