



Dalmatian left homeless in Beijing. (Animal Rescue Beijing)

Chinese president Hu Jintao halts canine confiscations

BEIJING—Chinese President Hu Jintao in late November 2006 personally “intervened to end a national crackdown on dogs,” reported Jane Cai of the *South China Morning Post*, who made the action known to the world on December 13.

“One petitioner said Mr. Hu’s chief secretary told her that the president had read her two petitions, signed by more than 60,000 people, calling for an end to the campaign,” Cai wrote. “She said Mr. Hu was unhappy about the complaints and international media coverage of the campaign, and had put a stop to the program late last month,” about four weeks after it started. “A government official confirmed Mr Hu had ordered a halt after reading the letters,” Cai continued.

Hu’s order most directly affected a round-up of unlicensed and large dogs underway in Beijing since the end of October, but followed almost a year of global petitioning and e-mailing in response to dog massacres undertaken earlier in

response to rabies outbreaks in the southern and coastal regions of China—mostly in the areas where dogs are often eaten.

Word of Hu’s intervention trickled out after the Beijing Public Security Bureau “took several dozen Chinese and (continued on page 10)

Livestock gift charities do not help poor nations, say global critics

LONDON—Sixty years after Heifer International founder Dan West pioneered the idea of soliciting donations to give livestock to poor families in disadvantaged parts of the world, criticism of the practice at last cracked major mainstream news media during the pre-Christmas 2006 peak giving season.

At least three major British newspapers and news syndicates amplified critiques of livestock donation programs, quoting most extensively from a prepared statement distributed by Animal Aid director Andrew Tyler.

“This year about a dozen agencies are using your money to punt goats, chickens, sheep, camels, donkeys, pigs and cows to the world’s starving,” Tyler warned donors. “Prices vary: £70 will get you a cow from Help The Aged. Send A Cow demands £750 per animal. Farm Friends wants £30 for a goat, whereas World Vision will settle for £91 for a whole herd.

“Farming animals is an inefficient, expensive and environmentally destructive way



Calf. (Kim Bartlett)

of producing food,” Tyler continued. “Sceptical readers might accuse me of dressing up a concern about animal welfare as a concern for the world’s poor. There are major animal welfare issues involved in sending animals to, for instance, the Horn of Africa, where earlier this year up to 80% of the cattle perished in a drought. Many of the remainder were washed away in the floods that followed. But this is not about cows taking precedence over people. Reality is that animal gift schemes are, in the words of the World Land Trust, ‘environmentally unsound and economically disastrous.’”

“Oxfam, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, and others are wooing the ethical shopper with pictures of cute goats wearing Christmas hats and promises of helping the poor (continued on page 9)

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

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Are pit bulls the problem, or their people? Study raises the question

CINCINNATI—The view that pit bull terriers get into trouble chiefly because the wrong people have them was reinforced on November 16, 2006 when a peer-reviewed study published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* revealed that among a sampling of 355 people who keep pet dogs, all who keep pit bulls turned out to have had some sort of trouble with the law.

Thirty percent of the people in the sampling who had been cited at least once for failing to license a pit bull were found to have had at least five criminal convictions or traffic citations. Only 1% of the people who keep dogs with a low risk of being involved in an attack legally defined by Ohio municipal ordinances as “vicious” had five or more convictions or traffic citations, the researchers found.

“A ‘vicious dog’ means a dog that, without provocation, has killed or caused serious injury to any person, has killed another dog, or belongs to a breed that is commonly known as a pit bull dog,” the study authors explained.

Because the definition of “vicious” presumed that any attack by a pit bull is high risk, regardless of the actual level of damage done, the terms of the study were stacked against finding a link between keeping pit bulls and having a history of lawbreaking, if their keepers were little different from keepers of other kinds of dogs. Ordinary citizens who keep pit bulls would have balanced and neutralized the influence of the lawbreakers.

Instead, explained lead study author Jaclyn Barnes of the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, “Owners of vicious

dogs who have been cited for failing to register a dog (or) failing to keep a dog confined on the premises ... are more than nine times more likely to have been convicted for a crime involving children, three times more likely to have been convicted of domestic violence ... and nearly eight times more likely to be charged with drug (crimes) than owners of low-risk licensed dogs.”

Co-authors included Frank W. Putnam of the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center; Barbara Boat of the University of Cincinnati, an investigator of animal/human relationships who has often spoken at humane conferences; and Harold Dates and Andrew Mahlman of the Cincinnati SPCA.

Whether violence involving pit bull terriers results chiefly from their own characteristics or the characteristics of people who are inclined to keep them, four parallel trends have perplexed the animal care and control community for more than a decade:

- Pit bull popularity has exploded. From 1900 until the late 1980s, pit bull terriers—combining mentions by all of their common names—made up less than 1% of the U.S. dog population, as indicated by newspaper classified advertising and appearances in news coverage. In recent years, however, pit bulls have proliferated fivefold, increasing in number approximately 10 times as fast as the dog population as a whole.

Electronic searches by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** of classified advertisements in periodicals serving demographically representative cross-sections of the U.S., spot-checking at (continued on page 18)



European wild boars. (Kim Bartlett)

Feral pigs become scapegoats—in the U.S. & around the world

SANTA BARBARA, California—Pigs were blamed for people killing turkeys in the name of defending foxes against eagles.

The Nature Conservancy ended 2006 by hiring professional hunters to kill about 250 of the estimated 300 wild turkeys on Santa Cruz Island, within Channel Islands National Park. Nature Conservancy spokesperson Julie Benson told Associated Press that the killing was needed to protect endangered Channel Islands foxes, after an 18-month, \$5 million pig purge, also touted as essential to protect the foxes, ended earlier in the year.

“Scientists said the kills are necessary because turkeys and pigs provide prey for golden eagles,” summarized Associated Press. “The eagles are attracted to the island, where they also kill the endangered foxes. The island pigs kept the turkeys in check by eating their eggs and competing with them for food. With nearly all of the pigs gone, the turkey population boomed.”

The problem actually started, retired Channel Islands National Park superintendent Tim J. Setnicka admitted in a March 2005 denunciation of “systematic biologic genocide” published by the *Santa Barbara*

News Press, when The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service decided in 1972 to try to exterminate all non-native species who inhabited the islands. The turkeys had just been introduced that year.

“In the late 1980s,” Setnicka wrote, “seeing an island fox was a daily occurrence, easier than seeing a pig on Santa Rosa Island.”

Feasting on the carcasses of pigs, sheep, goats, horses, burros, deer, and bison, shot by the thousands over more than 25 years in the name of protecting biodiversity, the fox population soared to a probable all-time high.

“But their numbers mysteriously declined,” Setnicka recounted. “In the mid-1990s it was learned their decline was due to an influx of golden eagles.”

The golden eagles were almost certainly drawn to the islands by the stench of the carrion that fed the foxes. When the carrion ran out, they attacked the pigs and foxes.

“To help sell fox restoration, for which we had no money, we came up with the media spin that one of the main reasons golden eagles reside on park islands was (continued on page 13)

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Editorial feature

Developing compassion for feral pigs

Here come the pigs! See page one and the constellation of related sidebars beginning on page 12 for particulars.

Nobody expected feral pigs and street pigs to become a ubiquitous humane concern in the early 21st century—but not because of indifference toward pigs. Most people just didn’t think of pigs as a free-roaming species who might turn up almost anywhere, capable of thriving without human help. But the timing is right for feral pigs and street pigs to claim humane attention. More pigs may be at large today, worldwide, than ever before. Certainly more pigs are at large in North America.

Pig hunters are all but exempt from most of the laws that govern other forms of hunting, since pigs are considered a non-native invasive nuisance. So-called hog/dog rodeo, in which packs of pit bull terriers are set upon captive feral pigs, has only been illegal in many Southern states for under two years, and—like dogfighting and cockfighting—still has a substantial following.

The technology exists to control and perhaps eliminate unwanted feral pig populations without bloodshed. The leading immunocontraceptive approach to animal birth control is based on porcine *zona pellucida*, PZP for short, a slaughterhouse byproduct. Though PZP proved ineffective and impractical for use with dogs and cats, it is now widely used to control wild horse herds, zoo animal fecundity, and—experimentally—urban deer. *Zona pellucida* cells from another species would be needed to achieve immunocontraception among pigs, but at this point there are few animals, including humans, whose reproductive biochemistry is better understood than that of pigs.

Most important, while pigs are institutionally mistreated by the pork industry at the rate of 60 million per year in the U.S. alone, almost entirely out of public view, the climate of public opinion has never been more favorable to individual pigs, with names and familiar faces, like many of the “problem pigs” now patrolling semi-rural suburbs.

The classic children’s story *Charlotte’s Web*, by E.B. White, has raised compassion for pigs since 1952—first as a book, then as a 1973 animated film, now in 2006 as a computer-generated live action film, endorsed and promoted by the Humane Society of the U.S.

Increasing humane awareness of pigs was already an integral if indirect aspect of producing the newest version of *Charlotte’s Web*, after Paramount Pictures donated a substantial but undisclosed sum to Animals Australia in exchange for help in adopting out the 40 trained pigs used to make the film. In early November 2006, Animals Australia and allied organizations reportedly invested \$500,000 Australian dollars in billboard and women’s magazine advertising against factory pig farming. Eight magazines and one billboard company rejected the ads, which were then published in newspapers instead—and the fracas attracted newspaper coverage.

Three other films featuring pigs who evade slaughter have become recent hits: *Babe* (1995), *Gordy* (1995), and *Babe: Pig In The City* (1998). Actor James Cromwell, who starred in the *Babe* films as Farmer Hoggett, became a vegetarian and animal advocate.

Such pro-pig popular literature has a long pedigree. Twenty-five years before E.B. White produced *Charlotte’s Web*, Walter R. Brooks from 1927 to 1958 raised consciousness about pigs in his 28-volume series about the adventures of Freddy the Pig and his upstate New York farmyard friends, who evaded slaughter time and again by acting as human-like as possible. Meat-eaters in the early stories, Freddy and the farm owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bean, eventually became somewhat reluctant and inconsistent quasi-vegetarians. Soon afterward, the Freddy books lapsed from favor as longtime staples of school libraries.

Humane literature evolved into addressing how real-life pigs are raised and slaughtered after the 1964 publication of *Animal Factories*, by Ruth Harrison, and the 1967 formation of Compassion In World Farming by the late Peter Roberts. Banning gestation crates, in which pregnant and nursing sows are imprisoned, was for Roberts an enduring focus.

Pet pigs splashed into humane awareness after the Vietnam War, when the pampered potbellied pigs carried to safety by some of the Vietnamese “boat people” fleeing the Communist regime attracted media coverage, caught the fancy of pet breeders, and became a heavily promoted fad animal. A network of mostly overwhelmed and underfunded pig sanctuaries formed in response to frequent pig abandonment.

The sanctuaries that survived the inevitable shakeout are now “finding an increased number of rescued farm pigs needing sanctuary space,” explained Pig Preserve founders Richard and Laura Hoyle in an October 2006 letter to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “As the public becomes more attuned to the plight of the factory farmed pigs,” the Hoyles wrote, “many more are being rescued by animal rights groups and private citizens. So now, in addition to rescuing and caring for the thousands of “dumped” miniature pigs, we are asked to take in a

steadily increasing number of full-sized farm pigs.”

Feral pigs emerged as an early concern of the Fund for Animals, during the 25-year effort of the U.S. Navy, Nature Conservancy, and National Park Service to extirpate pigs from San Clemente Island and the Channel Islands, off the southern California coast. Some rescued pigs from the California coastal islands were transported to the Black Beauty Ranch in northeastern Texas during the 1970s and 1980s, but their rescues attracted far less attention than the Fund’s earlier rescues of burros from San Clemente and the Grand Canyon.

Later, in 1991-1993, PETA cofounder Alex Pacheco tried to drum up opposition to Nature Conservancy tactics against feral pigs in Hawaii, including aerial shooting and setting snares in which caught pigs died slowly, over many days. In Defense of Animals protested against cruel methods of pig extermination in the hills surrounding San Francisco Bay. The Suwanna Ranch sanctuary operated by the Humane Farming Association took in several pigs who went feral after escaping from human custody or being abandoned.

Yet feral pigs as a nationally spreading ecological issue and animal welfare problem largely eluded the humane community—and largely eluded wildlife managers, as well, whose first recognition of the presence of feral pigs has usually come several pig generations after they became established, when they emerge as a widely distributed public nuisance.

No set of institutions enthusiastically claims responsibility for feral pigs in the U.S., as in most of the world. While licensed pig hunting may generate some revenue, feral pig activities tend to be more problematic than lucrative. Agricultural agencies see feral pigs as an uncontrolled and unpredictable disease vector. Public health and safety agencies want someone to respond to pig complaints, as to dog and cat complaints, but even when animal control is under their umbrella, animal control agencies mostly lack experienced pig catchers and handlers, holding facilities suitable for pigs, and vehicles that can haul them.

The advent of central garbage collection and enclosed sewage systems eliminated free-roaming pigs from most U.S. and European cities many decades ago. Until recently, feral pigs were found only in remote rural regions, like the hills of Arkansas, whose wild razorbacks were considered a quaint artifact.

But that was before long-haul pig trucking and frequent highway accidents gave thousands of pigs the opportunity to bolt from ruptured trailers in habitat of every sort, before raising European boars for confined hunting operations became commonplace, and before hints emerged that some ardent pig-hunters might be deliberately translocating feral pigs to try to expand pig hunting opportunities.

That was also before free-roaming dogs declined from 30% of the U.S. dog population circa 1950 to about 25% in the mid-1970s, to under 5% today.

Dogs, rats, & pigs

Nature abhors a void, so when dogs no longer roam at large, their habitat niches are claimed by other species.

Usually the first replacements are cats, already present and relatively abundant. Where free-roaming dogs dominate the habitat by day, consuming most of the edible refuse, catching many of the rats and mice, cats tend to be nocturnal, inclined to live on roofs and balconies, rarely descending to risk canine pursuit. As soon as the dogs disappear, however, many cats become diurnal, replacing dogs at a typical ratio of three cats for each dog who is no longer there—about the body mass ratio of average cats to typical street dogs.

Communities that never before noticed cats may suddenly discover that they have enough feral cats to be problematic. Examples include Hong Kong, the developed parts of Costa Rica, much of the U.S. during the past 20 years, and the many Indian cities where Animal Birth Control programs have sharply reduced the abundance of street dogs.

But cats are not quite a perfect replacement for dogs. The very attributes that enable cats to coexist among street dogs tend to leave significant habitat niches vacant. For example, as pure predators, cats rarely scavenge. When dogs are removed from urban habitat, most of the scavenging role may be left to mice and rats, who formerly were among the dogs’ prey.

Mice and rats quickly breed up to the newly expanded carrying capacity of any habitat from which dogs have been removed—especially if dogs are no longer eating them. However, even if humans refrained from poisoning mice and rats in response to any visible abundance, mice and rats are not well-adapted to holding habitat. Instead, they attract other predators such as jackals, coyotes, foxes, and birds of prey in place of dogs, while accessible refuse draws in larger or more evasive scavengers—such as pigs, monkeys, and gulls—who can fend off or escape the predators.

In effect, the previous role of dogs as scavengers and rodent predators is replaced by mice-plus-cats-plus-rats-plus whatever else comes. The simple scavenging habitat niche becomes a complex food chain, in which the especially complex role of rats tends to be overlooked because it mostly occurs beyond human view.

Like dogs, rats will eat almost anything. Also like dogs, rats can become predators if conditions favor predation. Where mice are abundant, rats tend to become voracious nest predators of “pinky” mice.

Further, the rat population may be virtually unchecked by cats, no matter how many cats there are, because while cats are probably the most efficient of all predators of adult mice, few cats will risk pouncing on a full-grown rat if other food is available.

Rats could in theory totally replace the roles of street dogs, and in cities with modern sanitation, where the scavenging niche is reduced and scattered to the point that roving dogs have a hard time making a living, this is what tends to happen. Where dogs once roamed the streets, rats patrol inside the walls of high-rise buildings. Though feral cats are more visible, rats outnumber them, thousands to one.

Until the scavenging niche is reduced and diminished, however, removing dogs from the habitat has a different outcome.

In Asian, African, and Latin American cities, especially those without closed sewage systems and frequent trash collection, where refuse remains sufficiently accessible to support street dogs, pigs and monkeys tend to be the ultimate beneficiaries of reducing the dog population. Though both pigs and monkeys can kill dogs in fights which could go either way, pigs and monkeys tend to run from dogs rather than take chances. Otherwise, the major threats to pigs and monkeys in most urban habitat are motor vehicles. Neither pigs nor monkeys have anything to fear from cats, or rats.

Neither do pigs and monkeys tend to be very afraid of people, unless the people are armed. Then, both pigs and monkeys tend to learn how to distinguish armed people from unarmed people, just as they learn to distinguish vulnerable humans carrying groceries from those who have nothing edible to drop, who may fight back if menaced.

In U.S. cities, where closed sewage systems and frequent refuse collection prevail, the food sources most accessible to urban wildlife tend to be yard vegetation. While dogs do not eat yard plants, they do chase other animals out of yards and out of the neighborhood, if they can. Removing free-roaming dogs from the habitat typically allows urban wildlife to exploit the vegetation undisturbed, if they just stay out of the fenced yards where dogs remain.

Raccoons, occupying approximately the same habitat niche in North America that monkeys hold in India, are among the most ubiquitous beneficiaries. Nowhere in the wild are raccoons as abundant as they have become in U.S. suburbs, at population densities as great as 300 per square mile in parts of New England.

Other species who are now more abundant in U.S. suburbs than in the wild include

(continued on page 4)

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Developing compassion for feral pigs *(from page 3)*

both whitetailed and blacktailed deer, and opossums, whose expansion of range into the northern half of the U.S. closely followed the construction of the interstate highway system in the 1950s and 1960s. Occupying a relatively limited habitat niche at first, opossums have proliferated during the past several decades in approximate inverse to the frequency with which dogs are picked up for running at large.

The conditions conducive to pig proliferation in the U.S., Britain, and other developed nations where fast-expanding feral pig populations have become troublesome are not quite the same as the conditions that enable pigs to take over vacated dog habitat in much of Asia. Yet there are similarities.

To a pig, a marketplace full of discarded fruits and vegetables differs little from a yard full of windfallen fruit from ornamental trees and hedges. Muddy roadside ditches are wonderful travel corridors.

Pigs make themselves equally at home among cornfields, orchards, refuse piles, and forests full of fallen acorns and fungi. Almost anywhere suits a pig, if the pig has food, mud, and companions. A combination of high intelligence, easy satisfaction, and litter sizes

averaging more than twice the average dog litter size make pigs at least as potentially ubiquitous as dogs.

If tolerated, pigs will sleep in the sunshine, in full view of all. If responded to with humane consideration, pigs can become good neighbors, occupying their present limited ecological niche, potentially controlled by immunocontraceptive baits.

If pigs are hunted, on the other hand, they will spend daytime in deep dens, foraging and traveling only at night. The cleverness and reproductive potential that enabled pigs to evade extermination on small rocky islands for 25 years will ensure that even the most aggressive and ruthless efforts to kill them all will fail—indeed, pigs have never been lastingly extirpated from any habitat other than small islands—and will ensure, as well, that the plight of feral pigs will attract increasing humane attention in coming decades.

Beyond practical considerations, demonstrating concern for feral pigs could help to set a persuasive example to the public and to agribusiness of how pigs ought to be treated—and perhaps hasten the day when pig-eating is looked upon with the same revulsion that most of the world now feels toward dog and cat eating.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Alternatives to animal experiments

Animal experiments have long been the subject of controversy. Although many claims have been made either way about their value, until recently large-scale scientific studies of their efficacy in advancing human health have been rare. Since 2004, however, several such studies have been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and presented at international scientific conferences, at which some have received awards.

The results have been remarkably consistent: the stress that laboratory animals experience is greater than commonly understood, and experiments on them contribute far less to advancing human medical progress than advocates often claim. The abstracts, and usually complete texts of these studies, are freely downloadable from <www.Animal-ExperimentFacts.info>, along with published reviews of non-animal experimental models, and relevant government reports.

We have also just launched <www.HumaneLearning.info>. This provides over 250 published studies describing humane teaching methods, sorted by academic discipline, including a review of 28 studies conclusively demonstrating that students using well-designed humane alternatives achieve learning outcomes at least as good as those achieved via traditional harmful animal use; detailed submissions describing the alternatives available

in certain academic disciplines, that have resulted in their introduction at some universities; a large photo gallery of humane alternatives and harmful animal use in education; links to free on-line alternatives; links to alternatives databases; links to alternatives libraries; links to humane education email lists; links to other humane education web sites; and resources to guide and assist students who wish to conscientiously object to harmful animal use in their education.

It is my hope that these resources may assist others to introduce humane alternatives to harmful animal use in their own universities and schools, as my colleagues and I have done at several universities worldwide. They complement my older web site <www.Learning-WithoutKilling.info>, which provides encouragement and guidance for students who are unwilling to harm animals during their education.

—Andrew Knight
Veterinarian &
Animal Advocate

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<www.AnimalConsultants.org>

Kindness House

I endorse Dennis Erdman's suggestion that subscribers leave past copies of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in public reading areas.

At Kindness House in Melbourne we have 150 young people, including environmentalists, human and animal rights activists, refugee groups, social program initiators, elite sportsmen, and newspaper publishers. We also have web designers, graphic designers, music promoters and architects in the building.

We leave past copies of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in our foyer, kitchen, boardroom, meeting room and hot desk areas. I am always surprised when copies "go missing" and notice they emerge miraculously in the private office suites. I am ecstatic when I see big macho meat-eating elite athletes suddenly take an interest in vegetarianism, sneaking into the *Vegetarian Network Victoria* office to acquire a copy of the "Go Vegan" brochure.

We now have a clause in all our leases that reads "As a courtesy to Phil and Trix Wollen, please do not consume animals in this building." We have received no objections from the tenants to the insertion of this clause.

—Philip Wollen
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—Wolf Clifton

Going veg helps more than driving fuel-efficient hybrid car

Kudos on your excellent longtime efforts to improve conditions for animals.

With the recent increased interest in global warming and other environmental threats, I believe that the animal rights movement can increase our effectiveness by making people aware of the very harmful effects of animal-based agriculture on most, if not all current environmental problems.

We were just given a very valuable tool for accomplishing this objective: a November 2006 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization report which indicates that animal-based agriculture has an even greater effect on global climate change and other environmental problems than motor vehicles. Hence, one can do more to reduce global climate change by switching to a plant-based diet than by switch-

ing to a fuel-efficient hybrid car.

The 400-page FAO report is summarized at <www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000448/index.html>, and is downloadable at <www.virtualcentre.org/en/library/key_pub/longshad/A0701E00.pdf>. It follows warnings from renowned climate scientists, such as James Hansen of NASA, that global climate change may spiral out of control within a decade, with disastrous consequences.

It is scandalous that at a time when the world faces so many environmental problems, over 50 billion animals are reared and slaughtered each year, 70% of the grain produced in the United States (and over a third produced worldwide) is inefficiently diverted to feed farmed animals, and we are using up to 14 times as much water than is required to produce vegan diets.

Even more frightening is that the FAO report projects that rising demand for meat and dairy products in the developing world will result in more than doubling global meat and dairy production by 2050 (using 1999-2001 as a baseline). The FAO report does not even address the impact of rising poultry, egg, fish and seafood consumption.

In view of the above and the very negative consequences that the widespread production and consumption of animal products are having on animals and on human health, we should increase our efforts to make people aware that it is essential that there be a major shift toward plant-based diets, in order to shift our imperiled planet to a sustainable path.

—Richard H. Schwartz
Staten Island, N.Y.

<RSchw12345@aol.com>

Pledges allegiance to higher law; mourns loss of INRA

I am responding to the letters printed in the November 2006 issue of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** regarding Tammy Grimes and her rescue of Doogie. I could not agree more with her actions. She is right in refusing to return Doogie to his "home," and in being willing to take whatever consequence this act

results in for her.

Demonstrations which call attention to the issue are fine for other animals, but not for Doogie. Tammy did the only merciful thing that could be done for him: she rescued him and gave him sanctuary. To return him to his former situation would be a travesty. Imagine the terror and sense of abandonment this animal would feel. Nothing is worth allowing that.

Our country has not yet reached the point where our laws about animals reflect mercy and justice. In those cases, I always feel there is a higher law, and it is that law to which I pledge my allegiance.

On a separate topic, I am glad you and Joanna Harkin researched the disappearance of the *International Network for Religion and Animals*. I was a member of that organization for many years. Ginny Bee was right! This organization had the potential to help reli-

gious people see what tenets of their own faith foster compassion and kindness toward animals.

Because INRA meant so much to me personally, and I did so much within my own religious community as a result of its suggestions and celebrations, I am appalled, livid, and deeply saddened to know exactly what happened to it.

Shame! Shame! Shame!

—Caryl McIntire Edwards
South Paris, Maine

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QuickSpay in Poland

We would like to thank you cordially for sending us your October 2005 edition with the CD QuickSpay: Early-Age & Adult Surgical Sterilization Techniques for Dogs & Cats, by Marvin Mackie, DVM, which shows the details of how to master this type of surgery. Please thank Dr. Mackie for us. We appreciate his kindness and that he shares his experience with other vets.

As you know, our foundation finances sterilizing pets in the villages of Poland. To encourage vets to cooperate with us, we would like to further distribute this excellent CD.

We would also like to thank you for publishing information about our foundation. Our actions were appreciated even in the U.S. We received \$100 from your readers. We sterilized pets for this money.

—Jurek Duszynski
& Alina Kasprowicz
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CORRECTION

Nicole Paquette, Gil Lamont, and Camilla Fox of the **Animal Protection Institute** were mistakenly listed as employees of the **Animal Welfare Institute** in the Individual Compensation tables published in the December 2006 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Michelle Thew, listed as executive director of API, returned to Britain at the end of the 2006 API fiscal year, where she again heads the **British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection**, her position before joining API in 2004.

Resident Intern for Wildlife Rehabilitation Program Wildlife in Crisis (WIC) is seeking a Resident Intern.

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To learn more about Wildlife in Crisis visit our website at www.wildlifeincrisis.org.



Injured and helpless. Her problems have only just begun.

At Wiles pig farm in Creston, Ohio, this sow is in grave danger. Some of her penmates have been dragged from their sick pens and had a chain placed around their necks. A front-end loader was used to lift the chain, slowly strangling them to death.

An investigation by the Humane Farming Association (HFA) found that for many of the 1,600 breeding sows and thousands of piglets at Wiles Farm, life is a nightmare. Some sows are confined in narrow steel crates that chafe their bodies. According to workers, the majority get sores on their faces, heads, shoulders, backs, legs or hindquarters. They are seldom provided treatment for such wounds. In fact, workers were told not to treat pigs with penicillin "because it's not cost effective."



Injured and sick sows being strangled to death. They struggle for several minutes before dying.

Sows are almost constantly kept pregnant. Once they give birth to ten to fourteen piglets, they are re-impregnated. The sow is quickly "burnt out" after three to five years of incessant breeding. Many of these sows are unable to walk so they are of little to no commercial value. It is animals such as these who may be strangled to death. Their bodies are then dumped in a massive pit adjacent to the barn.

At Wiles Farm, sows suffer from lameness, inflamed joints, infected abscesses, uterine or rectal prolapses, emaciation, dehydration, and fractured limbs—to name some of the problems described by workers.

Much of this debilitation is caused by substandard living conditions. Injuries result from jagged wire and rusty metal sticking into the pens and buildup of animal waste throughout the facility. But instead of prompt veterinary care, pigs are left to languish until they are beyond help.

Disabled pigs left to die from thirst and starvation

Not all of Wiles pigs are strangled or shot. According to a worker, "The pigs just lay there and die. If they are hurt or sick or whatever, they just leave them. And they starve to death. No food. No water. Because they can't get up and nobody's going to take it to them." The worker continued, "I kept saying there's dead pigs out there. I was shocked. And they would lay there until they just decayed—fell apart and the other pigs were eating them."

Wiles piglets are sold to other companies to be raised or "finished." Even the short period before they are shipped is a dangerous time. Workers describe the facility manager beating a piglet to death with a claw hammer. Others are killed by grasping their hind legs, swinging them and striking their heads on the concrete floor. Small piglets, "runts," are sometimes thrown alive into buckets and eventually into the pit dug outside the barn. Dead pigs are thrown on top of them.

Even removing newborn piglets from their mothers is abusive. The piglets are grabbed by their ears and hurled through the air into bins for loading onto transport vehicles.



A piglet is thrown through the air into a transport bin. The facility manager claims that "pigs don't feel pain."

On November 8, law enforcement officials executed a search warrant at Wiles Farm. This was based on evidence provided by HFA and some of Wiles Farm's former employees. Formal charges, however, have yet to be filed and the case has now been moved to the City of Canton.

Action requested:

Please write to Canton City Prosecutor Frank Forchione. Respectfully urge him to file charges and ensure that those responsible for the abuse of animals at Wiles Farm are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Mr. Frank Forchione
Prosecutor
City of Canton
Canton City Hall
218 Cleveland Avenue South
Canton, OH 44702
Email: fgforchio@ci.canton.oh.us
Fax: (330) 489-3374

IDA wins copies of primate records

PORTLAND, Ore.—Matt Rossell, Portland representative for In Defense of Animals, on December 21, 2006 confirmed that he had at last received 113,000 pages of Oregon National Primate Research Center monkey care records, eight years after he first applied to obtain them in 1998, during a two-year stint as a center employee.

The center is operated by Oregon Health & Science University. After the university refused to provide the records, Rossell and IDA sued to get them in 2001. The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled in April 2005 that Rossell and IDA had a right to obtain copies, and that a copying charge of more than \$150,000 proposed by the university was excessive. However, the court allowed the university to black out the names of individual researchers and animal caretakers.

“OHSU chose paper over plastic—dozens of boxes of documents instead of a small pile of CD disks—at a much greater cost to taxpayers and OHSU’s donors,” said an In Defense of Animals prepared statement. “According to estimates from OHSU’s own computer applications manager during depositions, it would have only cost OHSU around \$2,000 to produce the documents in an electronic format. This is a fraction of the amount OHSU estimated for producing the paper copies—approximately \$22,500—which means more than \$20,000 in extra costs were incurred by OHSU supporters and taxpayers.

“We just purchased a high quality scanner and need volunteers to help transfer these documents into electronic files that will

CDC spends \$3 million on animal care upgrade

ATLANTA—“The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has spent \$3 million on animal care improvements since last year,” Associated Press medical writer Mike Stobbe reported on November 16, 2006, after the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Care International “threatened to revoke its approval for the way the CDC treats lab animals.”

Among other violations of AALAC standards, Stobbe wrote, “Faulty sipper tubes left some monkeys with no access to water, leading to the dehydration death of an owl monkey and a rhesus monkey in 2004. A rhesus monkey was mistakenly killed in 2005

be much easier to review.” In Defense of Animals said.

Independent reviews of laboratory records have in recent years repeatedly resulted in penalties against research institutions and agreements to improve procedures. The University of California at San Francisco, for instance, in September 2005 agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$92,500 to the USDA in settlement of 61 alleged Animal Welfare Act violations, allegedly committed in 2001-2003.

“We did not want them to settle because [in a settlement] they don’t have to admit guilt,” said In Defense of Animals founder Elliot Katz, asserting that “UCSF feared a public airing of the evidence.”

In November 2005, then-University of Connecticut Animal Rights Collective president Justin Goodman, a graduate student, discovered and reported to the USDA numerous alleged Animal Welfare Act violations by faculty neuroscientist David Waitzman. Funded by the National Institute of Health, the Waitzman studies involve “drilling holes into the heads of otherwise healthy monkeys, implanting steel springs in their eyes, intentionally inflicting brain damage, and measuring the effects on eye movements. The monkeys are killed at the end of the study,” according to a UCARC media release.

In July 2006, the release stated, “documents released by the USDA through the Freedom of Information Act” showed that a March 2006 inspection “resulted in five citations for non-compliance that contributed to the tragic death of a rhesus monkey.”

because of record-keeping and communications problems. Three rhesus monkeys were given a deadly combination of anesthetic and analgesic medications. The doses were consistent with published guidelines, but killed the monkeys, leading to the CDC adopting new standards.

“The AAALAC report prompted the CDC to transfer oversight of its lab animal care to director Julie Gerberding’s office and add nearly 20 animal care staffers,” Stobbe continued. “The agency has about 6,000 rodents and several hundred other animals, including bats, rabbits, and monkeys, at three Atlanta campuses.”

Closing stray kennels to the general public reduces adoptions, increases killing

by Bill Meade, founder, Shelter Planners of America

It is common for some shelters to maintain stray kennels which the public are not allowed to enter, unless they say they have lost a specific type of animal.

This is done because of concern that people may claim animals who are not theirs; because the staff may be burdened with having to explain that certain animals are not ready for adoption; because explaining why an animal must be euthanized may be awkward; to protect the public from bites; and to reduce the spread of disease by keeping people from touching animals.

However, when an animal shelter prevents stray animals from being seen—and touched—by the public, the shelter reduces the number of interactions that may lead to the animals being adopted. Failing to give each animal maximum exposure to the adopting public can lead to avoidable killing.

Often, when members of the public look at stray animals, they identify the missing pets of neighbors or friends, and are able to effect a reunion. Eliminating that possibility also may lead to avoidable killing.

Sometimes a person seeking a lost animal will enter a shelter and, without stopping at the front desk, walk through the accessible kennels, unaware that the strays are isolated out of view. These people leave, mistakenly thinking their animals are not in the shelter. Again, animals may be killed as a result.

What shelter animals need most, and the public wants most, is the opportunity to interact, so that visitors can fall in love with a new pet. The animals benefit from receiving attention, kind words, and a caring touch.

Pet stores that isolate dogs and cats behind glass often have depressed animals who lie in a cage corner, not even responding to taps on the glass. Shelters that isolate animals behind glass may see the same response, or worse, the animals may become aggressive and bark viciously at those walking by.

Of course no animal should be returned to a claimant without proof of posses-

sion being provided in the form of a license, veterinary confirmation or treatment records, photographs, or a bill of sale. In addition, shelter staff can observe how the animal responds to the claimant. Usually a dog will go ballistic upon finally seeing the dog’s family. Cats will purr.

If necessary, a shelter can require a claimant to obtain a notarized statement, signed by two witnesses, stating that they have knowledge that the animal belongs to the claimant.

If an animal must be euthanized for health or behavioral reasons, instead of being made available for adoption, the public should be told the truth.

Animals who are frightened or aggressive should be placed in isolation kennels, where the public can see and identify them through windows, but where the animals cannot harm anyone. Friendly animals rarely bite shelter visitors. Competent staff can usually tell as soon as an animal arrives if the animal is friendly, frightened, or aggressive. This does not require immediate temperament testing to assess.

The major causes of disease in shelters are poor air quality, lack of daily sanitation, and poor animal health care, including lack of daily observation. Keeping the public from touching an animal does not solve the problem of disease transfer, because the staff is constantly handling animals during cleaning and feeding.

Editor’s note:

Dogs housed behind glass usually bark and lunge at visitors far less than those who are conventionally caged. Glass kennel fronts are rapidly supplanting conventional caging largely because they help to reduce noise, helping to lower stress for dogs, visitors, and shelter staff. However, no form of housing substitutes for proper socialization and exercise. Bored and isolated dogs tend to be unhappy dogs, in any environment.

Sid Yost performing chimps to be retired

PETALUMA, Calif.—The Animal Legal Defense Fund on December 7, 2006 announced that three performing chimpanzees formerly kept by Hollywood trainer Sid Yost would be retired to the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care facilities in New Mexico

ALDF/AWI case reinstated

SAN FRANCISCO—The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on November 22, 2006 reinstated a lawsuit seeking to compel the USDA to adopt guidelines governing primate care in zoos and laboratories.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund, Animal Welfare Institute, and three individuals filed the case in 2003, after the USDA refused to implement regulations which would have required non-human primates to be housed in social groups, and be given toys to provide mental stimulation.

The lawsuit alleges that the USDA violated the intent of Congress in passing 1985 amendments to the federal Animal Welfare Act that recognized the social nature and intelligence of dogs and nonhuman primates. The case was dismissed by a federal district court, but the Court of Appeals sent it back for further review.

Primate Freedom Project wins museum building verdict

MADISON, Wisc.—Dane County Judge Sarah O’Bean ruled on November 28, 2006 that the Primate Freedom Project holds a legal contract to buy a building located between the National Primate Research Center and the Harry Harlow Primate Psychology Laboratory. Both labs are operated by the University of Wisconsin.

O’Bean ordered owner Roger Charly to complete the sale to retired California physician Richard McLellan, for the specified price of \$675,000. Charly is expected to appeal.

Primate Freedom Project founder Rick Bogle moved to Madison in 2004 to renovate the building into a planned National Primate Research Center Exhibition Hall, expected to become a rallying point for opposition to primate experiments.

After the project was announced,

and Florida, where they will be reunited with members of their biological families.

“A fourth chimpanzee, Apollo, allegedly received a fatal rattlesnake bite in July while in his cage at the San Bernardino facility,” the ALDF announcement said.

The ALDF sued on the chimps’ behalf, the ALDF recounted, after “Co-plaintiffs, including primatologist Sarah Baeckler, who worked alongside Yost, witnessed him beating the animals with sticks, punching them, and inflicting pain in order to force them to perform. Yost has been fined and placed on probation repeatedly in the past for animal-related offenses,” the ALDF said, “including a \$2,000 fine from the USDA in 2002 when one chimpanzee bit a boy attending his show in Ventura County, and a \$1,000 fine from the California Department of Fish and Game for illegal possession of a lion cub.

“After being notified about the ALDF’s suit against Yost when a film starring one of his chimpanzees won the Coca-Cola Refreshing Filmmaker’s Award last year,” ALDF added, “Coca-Cola amended their contest rules to ban the use of primates in future film submissions. Yost continues to deny the allegations against him.”

but before money actually changed hands, the University of Wisconsin reportedly offered Charly more than \$1 million for the building.

The Harlow building, on one side of the site, is where Harlow from 1930 to 1970 drove generations of baby macaques mad, plunging them into stainless steel “pits of despair,” subjecting them to deliberately cruel robotic “mothers,” and allowing mothers driven insane by his experiments to abuse and kill them. When Harlow semi-retired to a part-time post at the University of Arizona, other faculty dismantled his equipment, but the building continued to house primate studies.

Harlow died in 1981, at age 76, a reputed drunk whose chief contribution to mainstream laboratory primatology was inventing the “rape rack,” a device for artificially inseminating primates.



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New European Parliament chemical policy will increase animal testing

BRUSSELS—The Environment Council of the European Parliament on December 19, 2006 unanimously ratified REACH, a consolidated chemical safety regulation approved by the Plenary of the European Parliament on December 13.

The REACH acronym is short for “registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals.” Three years in negotiation between the Environment Council and the main body of the European Parliament, REACH replaces more than 40 older regulations. Applying to “all substances manufactured or imported in quantities over 1 metric ton per year,” according to a summary description released to news media, REACH “is expected to be applied to approximately 30,000” chemical products.

But it will result in increased animal testing, at least in the near future.

“Current estimates of the number of animals to be affected range from the 16 million predicted by the chemical industry to 45 million over 15 years, calculated by Germany’s Federal Institute for Risk Assessment,” wrote London *Times* correspondent Nicola Smith.

“The aim of REACH is to ensure that health and the environment, including animals, are protected from adverse effects due to dangerous chemical substances,” the

media briefing stated, acknowledging that “Acquiring the necessary knowledge on the properties of substances will entail some animal testing. However,” the briefing paper asserted, “REACH has been designed to reduce animal testing to the absolute minimum,” incorporating an “obligation to share all data generated through testing on vertebrate animals, and by the provision that for large volume substances, testing proposals must be approved by the [REACH] agency before new tests on animals will be performed.

“An increase of 3% of animal testing is expected for the first eleven years after adoption of REACH,” the briefing admitted. “After 11 years, the burden of lack of knowledge about substances in use today should be adequately addressed, and the numbers should then go down steeply because only a few new substances per year will have to be tested.”

European Union Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik on December 18 told the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing conference in Brussels that REACH may require more animal testing than was initially estimated, but said “This just makes me even more determined to speed up our work in this area [developing non-animal tests], so that we can reduce these numbers by as much as half.”

Potocnik noted that the EU agreed in

2003 to ban testing cosmetics on animals after 2009, and that the European Commission in June 2006 began a review of laboratory animal welfare, with findings due in early 2007.

Potocnik pledged continuing support for the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods. “I can assure you,” Potocnik concluded, “of my firm commitment, and that of the European Commission, to research that will develop reliable alternatives so we can refine, replace, and reduce animal testing in the future.”

Conflicting reports

Midway between the European Parliament approval of REACH and the Environment Council ratification, the *British Medical Journal* published a review of recent studies in six areas of medicine by a team from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, who found that animal testing matched human results in only three of the six.

Lead author Ian Roberts told BBC News that his investigations found some animal studies were poorly carried out, involving too few animals, and that they could be influenced by “design or publication bias.” Roberts suggested that animal experiments could be designed to better reflect human experience, and that there may be some areas of drug research where animal testing is relevant, but others where it is not.

But one day before the European Parliament approved REACH, a review of the scientific validity of non-human primate research commissioned by the Royal Society, the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust, and the Academy of Medical Sciences concluded in the words of lead author Sir David Weatherall, a retired Oxford University geneticist, that “There is a scientific case for careful, meticulously regulated non-human primate research, at least in the foreseeable future, provided it is the only way of solving important scientific or medical questions and high standards of welfare are maintained.”

The Weatherall report recommended that Britain should consolidate the 13 university primate labs and six primate labs operated

by private enterprise into four new facilities.

“As we had feared,” said British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection chief executive Michelle Thew, “this report turned out to be yet another whitewash of the important scientific and ethical issues involved in experimenting on non-human primates.”

“Despite a ringing endorsement for the work being done to reduce primate use, the Weatherall report did not go far enough in trying to map out the priorities for development and adoption of new alternatives,” commented National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research chief executive Vicky Robinson.

“Regardless of the scientific validity of primate experiments,” added Royal SPCA Research Animals Department chief Maggy Jennings, “that these animals are confined and used in research is incredibly sad.”

“Last year 4,652 medical procedures were carried out on monkeys,” wrote Guardian science correspondent Ian Sample, “representing 0.16% of all animal tests. The research involved 3,115 monkeys, 12% up from 2004. Three-quarters of the monkeys were used for toxicology tests on new drugs. The remainder were used in studies of basic neuroscience and debilitating conditions. Experiments on great apes, such as chimpanzees and gorillas, are expressly forbidden in Britain,” Sample noted, “but experiments with smaller primates are permitted.”

The percentage of British studies done on non-human primates declined in 2005, even though more primate research was done, because the total number of animal experiments rose to 2.9 million, the most in 13 years, the Home Office reported in July 2006.

“Genetically modified animals accounted for nearly one million procedures, but two-thirds are those involved in breeding genetically modified offspring who are used in experiments,” wrote Guardian science correspondent James Randerson. “Without these breeding animals, there would have been a slight decrease in the overall figure. The number of unmodified animals used was down 1%, to 1.65 million.”

Thailand re-examines tiger sale

BANGKOK—The Thai National Counter Corruption Commission is reportedly re-investigating the long controversial export in 2002 of 100 tigers from the Sri Racha Tiger Zoo in Chon Buri to a privately owned zoo or tiger farm, depending on definitions, in Hainan, China.

“Ex-forest department chief Plodprasop Suraswadi allegedly delivered those tigers to China without approval from the National Wildlife Protection Committee,” wrote Apinya Wipatayotin of the *Bangkok Post*. “The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment once set up a probe panel to look into the case. The committee later concluded

Plodprasop did not commit any offence,” but observers were less convinced.

Plodprasop had previously been fisheries minister, but lost the job amid allegations of corruption. He eventually lost the forest ministry under similar circumstances. He now heads the Chiang Mai Night Safari zoo.

Damrong Phidet, director general of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, on November 6, 2006 halted an exchange of elephants from the Night Safari Zoo for white tigers from the Chime-Long Night Zoo in Guangzhou, China, because the origins of the elephants was insufficiently documented.

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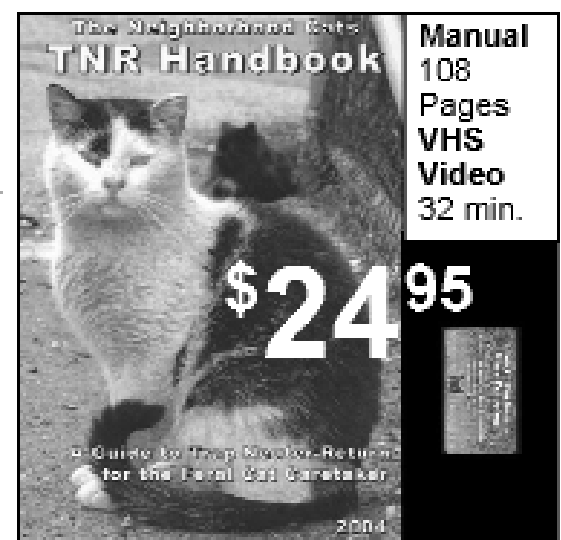
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Mercury poisoning may save whales

TAIJI—Three days after Christmas 2006, a long-anticipated confrontation between the two-ship fleet of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and the Japanese whaling fleet inside the International Whaling Commission-designated Southern Oceans Whale Sanctuary had yet to develop—but Ric O’Barry took the fight against Japanese whaling right into Japanese supermarkets, and on Boxing Day 2006 scored a second round knockout against the Taiji coastal whalers.

Taiji coastal whaling little resembles high seas whaling. Instead of shooting great whales with harpoon guns and butchering them aboard the factory ship *Nisshin Maru* in the name of scientific research, the coastal whalers drive small whales into shallow water where a few are selected for sale to marine mammal parks.

The rest are hacked, stabbed, hanged, and even butchered alive with chainsaws, in a frenzied massacre of marine mammals rivaling the violence of seal-clubbing in Atlantic Canada and Namibia, and the comparable whale killing conducted in the Faroe Islands, a Danish protectorate.

The mayhem in each instance vents the frustration of fishers who blame marine mammals for poor catches in polluted and long heavily overfished waters, and lack the education to pursue more lucrative work. While high seas whalers pretend to be scientists, coastal whalers and sealers have small chance of ever passing for anything other than chronically underemployed.

Despite the outward differences between so-called “research whaling” and Taiji, the slaughters both produce meat for Japanese tables. Both are politically defended as part of the Japanese food tradition, even though the weight of evidence suggests few Japanese ate much whale meat before post-World War II food shortages.

Minimata precedent

During that same era, politicians looked away as fishers marketed catches collected from Minimata Bay, contaminated by mercury and other toxins discharged for decades from a nearby chemical processing plant. More than 3,000 people eventually suffered from symptoms of mercury poisoning that came to be known as “Minimata Syndrome.” Forty years of lawsuits followed, as the survivors sought compensation. Mercury pollution has been politically hot in Japan ever since.

O’Barry happened upon information indicating that the mercury levels in small whales caught in Japanese waters tend to be abnormally high. That gave him an idea.

“During our last campaign in Taiji,” O’Barry e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “we visited several supermarkets owned by the Okuwa Supermarket Corporation. We asked if they would sell imported American or Australian beef if they knew the mercury levels were at the same dangerous levels as in the dolphin meat caught in Taiji.

“We also informed the supermarkets that Dr. Tetsuya Endo of the Hokkaido Health Science University, the Dai Ichi Health Science University and New Zealand Health Science University conducted a three-year joint study on mercury levels of dolphin meat from dolphins caught off Japan—including Taiji,” O’Barry said. “They found very high levels of mercury in every sample of dolphin meat that they tested. Their conclusion: nobody should consume dolphin meat.

“That the Japanese Minister of Health and Welfare has known about the danger yet chose not to warn the public defies logic,” O’Barry remarked.

“On December 12th,” O’Barry continued, “we bought a package of striped dolphin meat from the Shingu

Okuwa Supermarket and delivered it to *The Japan Times* in Tokyo to be independently tested. The second random sample tested at 14 times above the advisory level. The first sample tested was over 4 times the advisory level.

“On December 26, 2006,” O’Barry said, “the Okuwa Supermarket Corporation, banned the sale of all dolphin meat in all of their stores. They will decide if the ban is to be permanent after they test their own samples. The testing will be done in Tokyo by an independent laboratory. Based on the science we have seen, we expect the ban on dolphin meat in this supermarket chain to be permanent.”

Through the end of 2006, only *Japan Times* reporter Boyd Harnell had made the mercury testing data accessible to the Japanese public—in English. O’Barry said he was unaware of any exposure in Japanese.

But O’Barry anticipated that, “Now that the largest supermarket chain in Japan has banned the sale of dolphin meat, it will be very difficult for other markets in Japan to continue selling it.”

There is some question as to whether much dolphin meat is actually sold in Japan. Ocean Project director Paul Boyle and Emery University biologist Lori Marino recently told reporters that they believe dolphin meat is extensively used for pet food and fertilizer.

“Approximately 23,000 dolphins, porpoises, and other small whales are slaughtered in Japan every year,” O’Barry said. “Where is all of this poisoned dolphin meat going? Nobody knows for sure. Some have speculated that it might be exported to North Korea and China.

“These countries have a protein shortage and welcome any help that they can get. But do they know that they are importing mercury-contaminated dolphin meat? Probably not,” O’Barry speculated. “We know that a lot of the meat from Japan’s so-called ‘scientific whaling’ is stored in freezers because there is not enough demand to sell the stuff. We are not sure where the dolphin meat is going,” O’Barry admitted, “but are encouraged that the demand side is drying up.

“It’s about genocide”

“If the Japanese dolphin hunters continue the annual dolphin slaughter despite the mercury poisoning of the meat, they will be forced to tell the world the truth—that it is not about culture or tradition,” O’Barry said. “It’s about genocide. The dolphin hunters are killing the competition while playing the culture and tradition cards.”

Boyle, a past director of the New York Aquarium, told Associated Press that there is no scientific support for the belief that dolphins compete to catch fish of the species that the coastal fishers want.

“Now,” O’Barry said, “if we could only get the dolphin trainers and dolphin dealers out of Taiji. Especially the westerners!”

The Taiji slaughter has been formally opposed by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums and the American Zoo & Aquarium Association since March 2004, and by the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums since June 2006, but many trainers from western nations work for marine mammal exhibition and “swim-with” facilities that do not belong to the professional associations.

Noted Mark Palmer of Earth Island Institute, “Scientists calling a [recently caught] dolphin with four fins, instead of the usual two, a throwback to the evolutionary past. What they are not saying is that this dolphin was captured in a brutal ‘drive fishery’ at Taiji. The dolphin in question is



housed in the Taiji Whale Museum, where visitors can see trained dolphins perform and then go to the souvenir shop and buy whale and dolphin meat.”

Said O’Barry, “I was there when the 4-finned dolphin was captured. Aquarium representatives actively helped the fishermen catch the dolphins to be butchered.”

Campaigning against the Taiji killing are the Elsa Nature Conservancy of Japan, the International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, and the French organization One Voice.

Meanwhile off Antarctica...

The five-vessel Japanese “research” whaling fleet departed for Antarctic waters on November 15, 2006, planning to kill 945 minke whales and 10 fin whales within the designated but unguarded Southern Oceans Whale Sanctuary. This will be almost as many as the 1,253 minke whales and more than the nine fin whales that the Japanese fleet has killed within the sanctuary since 2001.

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson told *Guardian* environment writer John Vidal on December 11, 2006 that the newly purchased and renamed former U.S. Coast Guard vessel *Leviathan* “is at sea and on the way south to the coast of Antarctica. It looks as if we will be in a position to confront the Japanese whaling fleet in the Antarctic during the last week of December,” Watson said.

“This time, with the new ship,” Watson continued, “they can’t lose us. If they can’t shake us off, I am pretty confident we can stop them. If they get violent toward us, I suppose it could get very physical. We are quite willing to instigate an international incident over this,” Watson declared.

Watson said earlier that the Sea Shepherds would also have the *Farley Mowat* in Antarctic waters, the vessel that was shadowing the *Nisshin Maru* on January 8, 2006 when the Japanese factory ship collided with the Greenpeace vessel *Arctic Sunrise*.

Greenpeace spokesperson Sara Holden, in Amsterdam, indicated that Greenpeace would again deploy the *Arctic Sunrise* and the *Esperanza*, the same two ships that it used to follow the Japanese whalers in 2005-2006. As of mid-December, however, the *Arctic Sunrise* was in the Baltic Sea, at almost the opposite end of the globe, and the *Esperanza* was off Baja California.

—Merritt Clifton

HSUS catches major retailers selling dog fur

NEW YORK CITY—The Macy’s fashion store chain on December 22, 2006 withdrew from sale two styles of Sean John brand hooded jackets, after mass spectrometry testing commissioned by the Humane Society of the U.S. revealed that “imitation rabbit fur” and “faux fur” collars were made from the fur of tanuki dogs, members of the domestic dog family with raccoon-like markings, native to China and Korea.

“A Sean John snorkel jacket on sale for \$237.99 at

Rabbit fur farming exposed

The Portuguese animal rights group ANIMAL on December 9, 2006 unveiled a nine-minute video showing conditions in the Portuguese rabbit fur farming industry.

“The film finishes showing the rabbits in the skinning factory, tied upside down in a line before being skinned alive,” said ANIMAL president Miguel Moutinho. Live skinning, Moutinho said, follows “slaughter without proper stunning, with the rabbits still conscious when having their throats slit.

“In late October,” Moutinho elaborated, “investigators went inside the Portuguese rabbit fur trade,” visiting “various rabbit farms and slaughterhouses in different regions,” where they learned “how profitable the rabbit fur business really is, and how it is disguised as the rabbit meat trade. Scared rabbits caged in miserable conditions are sent to slaughter at only six weeks old,” if raised for meat, “or three to five months old, if bred just for their fur,” Moutinho said, mentioning “huge mortality of rabbits due to the extremely poor conditions in which they are kept.”

“Rabbits are bred and killed in Portugal,” Moutinho charged, “then sent to Spain to be more cheaply sent from there to China, where the pelts are very cheaply treated, and then sent back to Europe.”

Moutinho said the ANIMAL investigation “also reveals how so-called ‘chinchilla Rex’ rabbits bred in Portugal many times are sold as genuine chinchilla fur, as only experts could distinguish” their pelts after treatment.

Macys.com specifically identified the materials used as ‘Nylon/faux fur/goose down,’ HSUS said. “When investigators purchased the coat, they found that the labels read ‘Made in China’ and ‘genuine raccoon fur.’”

“I was completely unaware of the nature of this material. As soon as we were alerted, the garments were pulled,” designer Sean “Diddy” Combs said through publicist Hampton Carney. “I have instructed our outerwear licensee to cease the production of any garments using this material immediately.”

Macy’s “has a long-standing policy against selling any dog or cat fur,” spokesperson Orlando Veras told Associated Press business writer Anne D’Innocenzio.

“Other mass spectrometry tests on a range of fur-trimmed jackets revealed that most of the jackets labeled as ‘raccoon’ or ‘coyote’ from China in fact contain fur from” tanuki, said an HSUS media release. “Of ten garments tested, nine tested positive” as mislabeled tanuki fur, a violation of the federal Fur Products Labeling Act.

Retailers selling mislabeled tanuki included, besides Macy’s, Burlington Coat Factory, Bloomingdale’s, J.C. Penney, and Saks Fifth Avenue. Among the designers and clothing lines found to be using mislabeled tanuki were Baby Phat, Andrew Marc, MaxMara, and Calvin Klein.

Burlington Coat Factory on December 11, 2006 agreed to pull misleading signage from stores nationwide, and make refunds to customers who inadvertently bought “faux” fur jackets with internal labels that identified them as “Raccoon Fur of China Origin,” not possible since raccoons do not live in China, or “Genuine Coyote Fur of China Origin,” not possible because coyotes do not live in China. Jackals, close kin to coyotes, do inhabit the Chinese western desert.

“This is an industry-wide problem,” said HSUS president Wayne Pacelle. “Our investigation demonstrates that



Tanuki rescued by the Korean Animal Protection Society. (Kim Bartlett)

retailers and designers are not paying close enough attention to composition of the fur trim they are selling. It’s especially problematic when the fur is sourced from China, where domestic dogs and cats and raccoon dogs are killed in gruesome ways, even skinned alive. The safest course of action is for Sean Combs and other designers and retailers to stop using fur trim. That single act would solve the problem.”

Because tanuki occur in the wild, though the overwhelming majority are raised in captivity for fur and dog meat, they are considered wild animals under U.S. law.

“HSUS is also calling on Congress to amend the Dog and Cat Protection Act—which bans the sale of dog or cat fur in the U.S.—to include” tanuki, said HSUS spokesperson Karen L. Allanach, “since the animals are so inhumanely killed and the species is similar to domesticated dogs.

“It would be jarring to the public to shop in a marketplace where dog and cat fur is banned, but coats labeled as ‘raccoon dog’ are still legally sold,” Pacelle said.

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Livestock gift charities do not help poor, say critics (from page 1)

in developing countries,” summarized Sean O’Neill of *The Times* of London, “but the World Land Trust and Animal Aid say that it is ‘madness’ to send goats, cows and chickens to areas where they will add to the problems of drought and desertification.”

Said World Land Trust director John Burton, “The goat campaign may be a pleasing gift and a short-term fix for milk and meat for a few individuals, but in the long term the quality of life for these people will slowly be reduced with devastating effect.”

Added Andrew Tyler, “All farmed animals require proper nourishment, large quantities of water, shelter from extremes, and veterinary care. Such resources are in critically short supply in much of Africa,” the major recipient of help from the British livestock-donating charities.

Wrote O’Neill, “Christian Aid said that its critics misunderstood its program. The purchase of a goat, the charity said, did not necessarily mean that a goat was bought. The money would go into a farming and livestock fund distributed by local project managers.”

Added Kevin McCandless of CNSNews.com, “In addition to providing the animals, which are usually bought locally, the charities say they provide the support needed to care for them, including fencing and free veterinary care. Send a Cow said it worked closely with local farmers in Africa, providing them with support and using their knowledge to deal with issues such as soil erosion. It said it does not provide cows to areas where they would compete with humans for water, and insisted on a zero-grazing policy. The donated animals are kept in spacious shelters and have fodder brought to them.”

Few of the poorest parts of Africa and Asia can afford to raise animals that way.

Objection from India

Commented former Indian minister for social welfare and animal protection Maneka Gandhi, “Nothing irritates me more than charities abroad that collect money and purport to give it to women or children or for animals in Asia or Africa. Very little reaches the country or the cause for which it is meant. Most of it goes toward their own ‘infrastructure,’ which means rent, staff, travel and ‘investigation,’” Mrs. Gandhi charged.

“If people have paid money for 5,000 animals, fewer than 200 will actually get there—I can bet on it. This is cynical exploitation of animals and poor people,” Mrs. Gandhi alleged. “Basically [livestock gift schemes] are a fundraising mechanism.

“These charities woo the ethical shopper with pictures of goats wearing Christmas hats and promises of helping the

poor in developing countries [but] it is madness to send goats, cows and chickens to areas where they will add to the problems of drought and desertification,” Mrs. Gandhi continued. “Each goat eats all the grass and shrubbery on two hectares of land a year. A goat destroys the fertility of land and [the value of] any milk or dung it may give is very little compared to the havoc it wreaks. “Within two years,” Mrs. Gandhi asserted, “the people who get goats have an even poorer lifestyle. There are village quarrels about community grazing; children are taken out of school to graze the goats; water becomes even scarcer. Two goats can reduce the amount of farmland available to local people and result in villages becoming deserted, while a cow will drink up to 90 liters of water every single day.”

Objection from Nepal

“I have been sending letters to Dutch agencies to stop this kind of program for yet another reason,” commented Animal Nepal founder Lucia DeVries. “The animals are generally slaughtered in an inhumane manner,” DeVries alleged. “In Nepal, for instance, there is only one slaughterhouse, in the capital (Katmandu). This means that virtually all livestock is killed with the often-not-too-sharp knives” of rural butchers, “causing much suffering to the animal and possibly to the butcher. I’ve met quite a few people who lost fingers while trying to kill a goat,” DeVries said.

“Ultimately,” said Tyler, “my objection is to the commercial forces that seek to persuade people of the poor world that their best nutritional interests are served by buying into modern, high-throughput farmed animal production processes. With that comes an addiction to high capital input systems, additional stresses on precious water supplies, environmental destruction, a loss of control over the means of production, bad health, a nightmare animal welfare scenario and more human poverty and malnourishment.”

Tyler urged donors to “boycott the donate-an-animal schemes and instead support projects that help people, animals, and the environment. Animal Aid,” Tyler said, is “seeking support for a scheme to plant 2,000 trees in Kenya’s Rift Valley. They will bear oranges, avocados, mangos, pawpaws, kei apples, and macadamia nuts. Such efforts won’t erase the blight of poverty in Africa,” Tyler said, “but neither will they add to it.”

Protest to Oprah

Massachusetts Animal Rights Coalition cofounders Steve and Helen Rayshick asked animal advocates to join them in complaining to television show host Oprah Winfrey about her “supporting and promoting

Heifer International,” the Rayshicks wrote.

“The Heifer International training farm, called Overlook Farms, is near us in Rutland, Massachusetts,” the Rayshicks said. “They raise lambs and other animals for slaughter. It is no different from any other animal farm. We consider the ‘donation’ of animals to other countries to be a thinly viewed attempt to spread dairy and meat consumption to new parts of the world,” the Rayshicks continued. “Note that Heifer International first sent dairy cows to Japan, after World War II, instead of sending them healthy food that was a natural part of the Japanese diet.”

Japanese activist Lydia Tanabe affirmed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that the Heifer International work in Japan is widely viewed as the start of the modern Japanese factory-style dairy industry, which is seen as having elevated Japanese animal fat consumption, with detrimental influence on adult health.

“Heifer International is bringing a cruel, unhealthy, environmentally destructive diet to cultures that are primarily vegetarian,” the Rayshicks objected. “Plus, one of the cruelest aspects of animal agriculture is animal transport, a mainstay of this organization. We wonder how many of these poor animals just get eaten on the spot upon arrival.

Islamic charities

The activist criticisms of animal donation schemes came just as leading Islamic charities introduced similar programs that enable Muslims to “get the animal of their choice sacrificed online for festivities like Eid Al Adha,” according to syndicated reports originating from the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan. The charities reportedly included the Alamgir Welfare Trust International, of Karachi; the Sahara for Life Trust formed by singer Abrarul Haq; and the U.S. charities



Goat. (Kim Bartlett)

Islamicity and Life for Relief & Development.

Vegetarian organizations and some animal advocates have criticized livestock donations as often being inappropriate, ineffective in fighting poverty, and inhumane almost since Heifer International started in 1948, then called the Heifer Project. Some agricultural economists began pointing out flaws in the strategy during the 1970s, notably that many recipients of gift animals were unable to feed them to maturity, let alone able to feed and raise offspring. Environmentalists later added questions about the wisdom of introducing non-native livestock to often fragile habitats, where animals with larger or different appetites from the indigenous strains might overtax the vegetation or simply starve.

ANIMAL PEOPLE summarized the arguments against livestock donations in a May 2003 review of the Compassion In World Farming and Humane Education Trust video *Saving Baby Ubuntu*, headlined “A video that never mentions Heifer Project International shows why their premise is wrong.”

The review may be accessed at www.AnimalPeopleNews.org. —M.C.

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International adoption pioneer in trouble in California

SAN MARCOS, Calif.—Mina Sharpe, 25, who founded the Taiwan Abandoned Animal Rescue Foundation in Taipei at age 12, may be charged with violating probation, after San Marcos animal control officer Tunis VanBerkum on December 9, 2006 found her keeping 16 dogs and two rabbits in allegedly filthy conditions in a 700-square-foot home.

The animals were surrendered to the Escondido Humane Society.

Earlier in 2006 Sharpe was convicted of keeping 18 dogs in unsanitary conditions at her former home in Carlsbad, and was ordered to find other homes for all but two of them.

The Taiwan Abandoned Animal Rescue Foundation was among the first organizations to arrange international adoptions through the Internet, and among the first to send animals to the U.S. by finding travelers who were willing to transport animals as part of their baggage.

While PETA, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, and the Humane Society of the U.S. urged Taiwanese pounds to kill animals with sodium pentobarbital instead of leaving them to die of starvation and neglect, as was common because of the Buddhist prohibition on killing, Sharpe argued in a March 2000 guest column for **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that international humane organiza-

tions working in Taiwan should instead build on the no-kill ethic. Sharpe asked the global humane community to help establish high volume, low-cost pet sterilization in Taiwan, and to promote shelter adoptions.

Sharpe also had a catalytic effect on humane work in Thailand, where her rescue of an injured dog in 1998 won extensive media attention and helped to stimulate public discussion about how Thai neglect of strays was falling short of the Buddhist cultural ethic.

Sharpe and her family relocated from Taiwan to Carlsbad in June 2000, bringing along 30 dogs for U.S. adoption, at cost of \$10,000. The dogs were placed with the aid of U.S. organizations including the Arlington Humane Society, near Seattle, and Pets Alive, of Westchester, New York.

Sharpe continued to import dogs from Taiwan for U.S. placement, but never registered TAARF as a U.S. nonprofit organization, and gradually fell out of contact with her allies and supporters. Pets Alive founder Sara Whalen told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that her understanding was that Sharpe had retired from rescue several years before her arrest.

Sharpe remained in occasional contact with **ANIMAL PEOPLE** until April 2005, when she was sent yet another of many personal reminders about the necessity of obtaining nonprofit status and not taking in more animals than she could place.

Hu Jintao halts dog seizures (from page 1)

foreign journalists to inspect a dog pound on the outskirts of the city where some 600 abandoned, oversized, and confiscated dogs are housed," reported Alexa Olesen of Associated Press. "The tour was an apparent attempt to ease public anger over the campaign," observed Olesen.

Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson and Grace Gabriel, Asia director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, acknowledged on December 20 that the dog confiscations had officially stopped.

Gabriel said IFAW learned that the confiscations were suspended from the Beijing Police Department on December 7.

"Four days later," Gabriel added, "on December 11th, animal welfare groups and the international and local media were invited to tour the police pound. Although IFAW has obtained pictures of impounded animals in the past, access has been restricted for the past eight years," Gabriel alleged, contradicting reports **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has received from the Beijing Small Animal Protection Association, which started a volunteer program at the pound in October 2003, and has sent several photos of volunteers grooming dogs.

"It was apparent that the pound had recently been renovated," Gabriel said. "The facility was barren, but comparable to shelters elsewhere. Many dogs wore collars and tags,

indicating that they had been owned.

"IFAW urged the police to return the owned dogs to their rightful homes," Gabriel said. "We fully accept they would want to impose conditions on registration and vaccination, and that those who don't comply with spaying and neutering may be fined. However, the return of many of these dogs is not possible under the current regulations because they represent breeds banned by the Beijing Dog Regulation, or because they exceed the size limit [of 35 millimeters in height] set by the authorities."

Robinson agreed that the Beijing pound was "of acceptable standards. However, obviously this is not an acceptable solution following such a reactive confiscation," Robinson said, "and we continue to ask for an amnesty in order that these dogs are returned to their owners, to be muzzled in public areas, with humane muzzles we are donating, whilst new regulations are implemented. The regulations as they stand are seriously flawed by limiting the size of dogs rather than the breed," although some large breeds are completely prohibited, "and this too needs to be addressed," Robinson said.

To Lindsay Beck of Reuters, Robinson added, "The regulations have been in place since 2003, and the government has to take some responsibility for the fact that they've been ignored. There are pet shops and



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pet markets everywhere selling large dogs, and no one has cracked down [before]," Robinson claimed.

Vaccination

The Beijing dog law enforcement drive began after more than six months of dog massacres amid rabies panics in the regions afflicted with rabies. So-called "meat dogs" are not vaccinated, and relatively few pets are vaccinated outside of Beijing, which claims a vaccination compliance rate of about 50%. But killing as many as 50,000 dogs in the vicinity of some rabies outbreaks has not stopped the spread of the disease.

Reports that up to 17% of vaccinated dogs in China may still be susceptible to rabies have caused officials to re-examine the manufacture and sale of fake and ineffective vaccines, a recurring problem. Police in 2005 found 40,000 boxes of fake rabies vaccine in

Guang-dong, for example, after two boys died of rabies despite receiving prompt post-exposure inoculations.

The State Food & Drug Administration on December 14, 2006 announced a renewed effort to stop the makers and distributors of fake vaccines.

"The official Xinhua news agency said that sub-standard rabies vaccines had been responsible for several deaths recently. It did not elaborate," summarized Reuters.

The Ministry of Health announced earlier that "Rabies killed more people in China than any other infectious disease for the 6th consecutive month in November 2006," Reuters said. "There were 270 deaths caused by rabies in November 2006, out of 743 deaths due to infectious disease on the Chinese mainland, according to the Ministry of Health. In all, 354 people were reportedly bitten by rabid animals, the Ministry said."

Hauler is banned for life in alleged racing greyhound adoption scam

The Arizona Department of Racing on December 19, 2006 issued a lifetime ban from involvement in the Arizona greyhound industry against Richard Favreau of Calhan, Colorado, for failing to account for more than 140 greyhounds he took from the Tucson Greyhound Park between November 2005 and July 2006.

Owners of retired racing dogs paid Favreau \$150 apiece to find adoptive homes for them. Greyhound Protection League president Susan Netboy believes at least 177 dogs are missing. Only six of Favreau's purported adoptions have been verified.

"The animals may have been killed for profit," wrote Arizona Department of Racing director Geoffrey Gonsler.

The Department of Racing also ordered Favreau to donate \$140,000 to a legitimate greyhound adoption agency and do 700 hours of community service with a pro-animal organization. "Collecting will be difficult," noted Josh Brodesky of the *Arizona Daily Star*, as "the department has limited powers, particularly since Favreau is in Colorado. Favreau has yet to pay a \$1,000 fine levied several months ago by the Phoenix Greyhound Park Board of Stewards."

However, opined Anslee Willett of the *Colorado Springs Gazette*, "The decision to revoke Favreau's license in Arizona is likely to be recognized by other states, meaning his Colorado license also will be revoked. The Arizona license allowed him to transport greyhounds as a licensed trainer, access the tracks, and train dogs."

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Pacific rim anti-dog & cat meat activism gains momentum

HONG KONG, BANGKOK, MANILA—Tuen Mun magistrate Kwok Wai-kin on December 22, 2006 sentenced four men to serve 30 days in jail apiece for killing and butchering two dogs just 40 days earlier, on November 12.

Kwok Wai-kin “rejected the defendants’ argument that eating dog was simply a matter of culture, saying society could not accept or condone such an act,” reported Jonathan Cheng of the the Hong Kong *Standard*.

The four men—Lau Lap-kei, 49; Wong Yung-hung, 44; Liu Wai-hong, 40; and Wong Chun-hung, 49—immediately appealed

their sentences, and were released on bail.

Slaughtering dogs and cats has long been illegal in Hong Kong, but they are believed to be the first offenders who have received jail sentences.

The prompt convictions and judicial response encouraged opponents of the clandestine dog and cat meat traffic in Thailand, the Philippines, and Nagaland, part of an arm of India that lies between China and Burma.

Selling dogs for meat is nominally illegal in Thailand, the Philippines, and India, except among the Igorot tribal people of the Philippines, but the authorities of all three nations tend to find pretexts to avoid enforcing the weak existing legislation, chiefly based on claims that dog-eating is a traditional practice of ethnic minorities.

Hope in Thailand

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand “on his birthday, December 5, opened a photo exhibition of his beloved street dogs,” reported Marianne Willemse of the Bangkok charity Love Animal House, “and asked that mercy and compassion be shown to all animals. Next year he will be 80. We want to push the interim government, who loves the royal family, to make a law in Thailand that consumption of cat and dog meat is illegal. This would be a great gift for His Majesty.”

“Yesterday animal rights lawyer Sanya Sukrasorn went to San Patong market to

investigate the situation,” Willemse posted to the Asian Animal Protection Network on December 23. “He found dog meat readily available. Five restaurants served dog meat in every way.”

A day earlier, Willemse said, Sanya Sukrasorn asked the Ministry of Culture “to change the law to protect our companion animals. He went alone, as we respect the martial law order of no gatherings to protest,” but “brought along his guitar and a long banner which he stretched out in front of the Ministry of Culture.”

“The General Secretary accepted the letter with gratitude,” Willemse continued. “The week before, ministry officials visited Sakon Nakhon and witnessed themselves a dog slaughter house where 600,000 dogs [per year] get killed and shipped to Vietnam frozen. The officials were horrified about it. They had been given orders from above to inspect the situation and to stop it. A law will be made, they said.”

The prospect of Thai action against dog meat followed a November 24, 2006 *Bangkok Post* report that “Dog meat is gaining in popularity in Chiang Mai, with an increasing number of roadside food stalls serving dog meat dishes over the past few years.”

Dog-eating was rare in Thailand until after the U.S. war in Vietnam, when thousands of ethnic Chinese refugees from Vietnam and some from Laos and Cambodia

were resettled in the Chiang Mai region, with U.S. economic aid. Alleged dog thefts for slaughter subsequently became a frequent source of ethnic tension between native Thais and the immigrants.

The existing law was enforced on November 6, 2006, the Bangkok *Nation* reported, as Mekong Patrol Police “rescued 350 dogs before they were smuggled to Laos. Police captain Sommai Duangkam said his unit heard dogs barking and howling from a river bank at 5 a.m.,” the *Nation* elaborated. “Sommai said that when he checked, he found that villagers were transporting 39 cages with 350 dogs on two boats. He said the villagers fled on foot upon seeing his patrol boat. The dogs were sent to the Nakhon Phanom animals quarantine center for further action.”

The Philippines

Melchor Alipio of the Network for Animals on December 12, 2006 urged the Philippine government to “go after the dog traders.”

Wrote Jane Cadalig of the Manila *Sun Star*, “Most of the dogs bought by restaurant owners in Baguio, Benguet, and other North Luzon provinces come from the southern provinces, including Laguna, Bicol, Lucena, Quezon, and Batangas. Alipio said only one trader has been penalized with six months in jail,” as others “pay cash for their liberty.”

Watson acquittal reversed

Prince Edward Island Supreme Court Justice Wayne Cheverie on November 29, 2006 overturned the April 2005 acquittal of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson for allegedly too closely approaching a seal kill.

Eleven other Sea Shepherd crew members were convicted of the charge, filed after seven of them were beaten on April 1, 2005 by members of the crew of the sealing vessel *Brady Mariner*. Watson escaped conviction under an exemption for people who witness seal kills from their homes, by contending that the Sea Shepherd flagship *Farley Mowat* was his permanent home.

Cane toads are champion skeeter eaters

SYDNEY—The 1935 introduction of African cane toads to Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji was not quite the ecological disaster that cane toad foes claim, Sydney University biologists Rick Shine and Mattias Hagman have discovered.

While cane toads did not control the sugar cane-eating insects that they were supposed to devour, and have voraciously consumed some small Australian wildlife, especially goanna lizards, Shine and Hagman discovered through a series of controlled experiments that cane toad tadpoles are exceptionally capable predators of mosquito larvae.

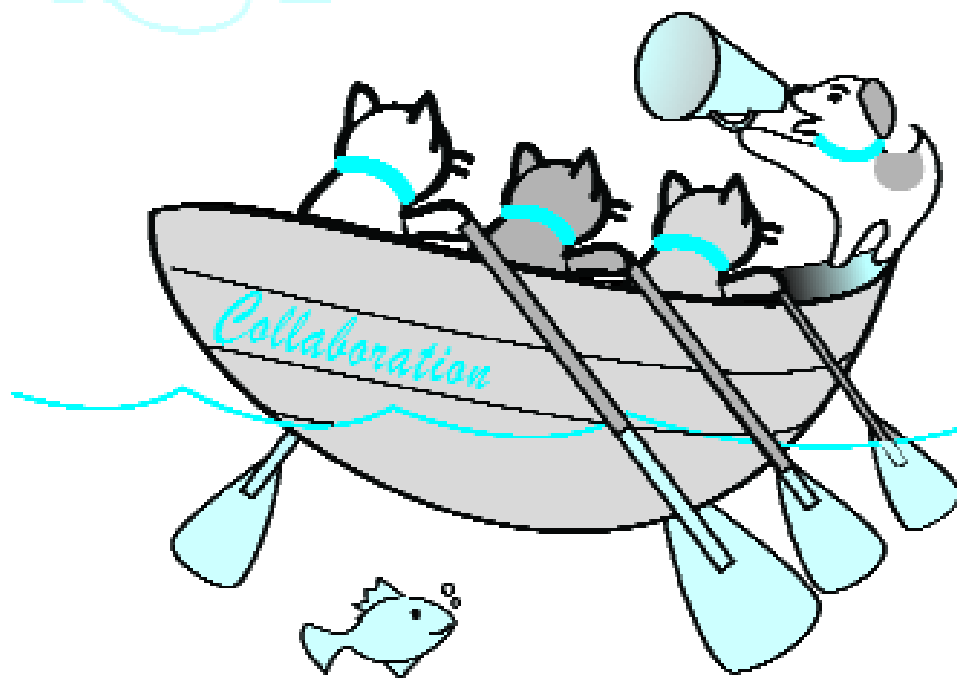
“This is very different from the ecosystem catastrophe stories we hear about cane toads,” Shine told the *Townsville Bulletin*. “We found that the presence of toad tadpoles significantly reduced the size of adult mosquitoes at emergence and reduced the survival rates of the larvae of one mosquito species. Mosquitoes did not want to lay eggs in water where there were cane toads.”

Concluded Shine, “To truly understand the impact of invasive species, we need to look as broadly as possible, and incorporate studies on a diversity of variables.”

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Maddie's Fund[®], The Pet Rescue Foundation (www.maddiesfund.org), is a family foundation funded by PeopleSoft Founder Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl, to help create a no-kill nation. The initial step is to help build programs that guarantee loving homes for all healthy shelter dogs and cats throughout the country. The next step is to save the sick, injured and poorly behaved pets in animal shelters nationwide. Maddie's Fund is named after the family's beloved Miniature Schnauzer who passed away in 1997.



The Pet Rescue Foundation

Javelinas claim a U.S. desert home

TUCSON—Encountering a dozen peccaries during a dawn walk with her three Chihuahuas on December 7, 2006, Tracy Gordon, 34, of Tucson, was bitten, knocked down, and trampled. One Chihuahua was critically injured. Another suffered a large bite on the neck.

Arizona Game & Fish Department information and education program manager Tom Whetten suggested that the javelinas were protecting younger members of the herd.

Gordon “did exactly what she was supposed to do by getting those dogs under control,” Whetten told Enric Volante and Jeff Commings of the *Arizona Daily Star*.

Whetten attributed the presence of the javelinas in Gordon’s suburban neighborhood to people who leave food out for them.

“If we can get people to stop feeding, we can stop having large herds in the metropolitan area,” Whetten said.

The attack on Gordon and her dogs was the most serious human conflict yet with javelinas in the Tucson area, but hardly the first. “Pima County Animal Care Center data released last month show 17 incidents since November 2001 in which one or more javelinas bit a person, including six bitings this year—more than in any year since 2002,” wrote Commings.

“All bites except one were serious

enough for the victim to seek medical treatment, rather than treat the wound at home. Many of those injured were adults in their 40s or 50s, although one man bitten last January was 76,” Commings continued.

That middle-aged and older adults were most often bitten may chiefly reflect the composition of the human population where the incidents occurred, in recently developed upscale neighborhoods with relatively few young children—or may hint that peccaries are less inclined to live where children are often outside making noise.

Commonly considered “pigs,” javelinas are actually peccaries, the most pig-like animals who are not pigs.

“Though pigs and peccaries are classified within the same order of mammals, they’re in different families,” explains nature writer Lauray Yule in her 2004 book *Javelinas*. “The two families diverged about 38 million years ago: pigs evolved in the Old World, peccaries in the New World.”

Like elephants, camels, lions, and horses, peccaries actually evolved in North America, but vanished during the Ice Ages. Twenty-five-million-year-old fossil peccaries found in Nebraska had skulls three feet long, longer than the entire bodies of modern peccaries. Their descendants apparently downsized as they retreated south, away from the advanc-



Javelina. (Kim Bartlett)

ing glaciers.

Old World pigs and modern javelinas, migrating from Central America, appear to have reached the U.S. Southwest at almost the same time. Spanish missionaries had been exploring and establishing settlements in what is now the U.S. Southwest, often bringing pigs with them, for nearly 200 years before two Jesuits mentioned javelinas between 1756 and 1767. Beaver trappers recorded the presence of javelinas in 1826, wrote Yule, but the Smithsonian Institution did not identify javelinas as a U.S. species until naturalist E.A. Mearns discovered them near the Mexican

border in 1907. The U.S. Geological Survey confirmed their existence in 1931.

Since then, javelinas are often seen in much of their range. Increased visibility roughly coincided with predator control campaigns that in the mid-20th century extirpated Mexican gray wolves, substantially diminished the puma population, and killed millions of coyotes.

The human tendency to kill rattlesnakes might also have helped javelinas to establish themselves on the edges of fast-growing cities, since rattlesnakes can be a deadly rival for burrow space.

Events

Jan. 26-28: Compassion for Animals Action Symposium, Davenport, Fla. Info: 386-454-4341; <chasmoe@earthlink.net>.

March 15-16: Thinking About Animals: Domination, Captivity, Liberation conf., Brock U., St. Catharines, Ontario. Info: <animalconference@brocku.ca>.

March 22-25: The Mind of the Chimp conference, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago. Info: <chimp-mind@ipzoo.org>; <www.chimpmindconference.org>.

March 24-25: Inadmissible Comparisons conf., New York City. Info: United Poultry Concerns, 757-678-7875; <www.upc-online.org>.

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

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

May 18: Friends of Animals’ 50th anniversary gala. Info: 203-656-1522; <www.friendsofanimals.org>.

May 25-27: All-Africa Humane Conf., Cape Town, South Africa. Info: <avoice@yebo.co.za>.

June 11-12: Searching for the Animal of Animal Ethics conference, Sandham, Sweden. Info: 46-18 611-22-96; <bioethics@bioethics.uu.se>.

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Pigs become scapegoats (from page 1)

because of pigs," Setnicka admitted. "This would help vilify the pigs and help support the pig removal project."

With both pigs and turkeys now almost hunted out, the Channel Islands fox population should explode, if The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service analysis holds up. On the other hand, they may find that the golden eagles now hunt foxes more than ever, while the foxes have less food than ever, without the pig and turkey carrion.

Pigs vs. spinach

On the California mainland, feral pigs meanwhile took the rap for allegedly causing an outbreak of E. coli bacterial poisoning that spread from a single contaminated spinach field to 26 states and one Canadian province in August and September 2006. At least 204 people fell ill, three of whom died, Kevin Reilly, M.D. of the California Department of Health Services told Juliana Barbassa of Associated Press.

"Boar trampled fences that hemmed in the spinach field," Barbassa wrote. "Samples taken from a wild pig, as well as from stream water and cattle on the ranch, tested positive for the same strain of E. coli implicated in the outbreak. The pigs could have tracked the bacteria into the field or spread it through their droppings, Reilly said."

The E. coli outbreak "may hurt farm programs aimed at restoring wildlife habitat and cutting water pollution," *San Francisco Chronicle* environment writer Glen Martin warned. "Such environmental programs could be at odds with 'clean farming techniques'

promoted by food processors. Those techniques encourage growers to remove grassy areas that are planted to reduce erosion and trap pesticides before they reach waterways. The practices also discourage habitat zones that might attract animals who carry bacteria like E. coli or salmonella."

Added Martin, "A Salinas Valley grower who requested anonymity because of contract negotiations with processors said that even if processors allow some wildlife habitat near cropland, they now require farmers to put out large quantities of poisoned bait to kill rodents. 'When we plant hedgerows now, we have to use the bait stations or we lose our contracts,' he said. 'Later, you see birds of prey perched over the bait. They eat mice sluggish from the poison and get poisoned themselves. It kind of defeats the whole purpose of putting in the habitat.'"

But, Martin noted, "Preliminary research indicates concerns about wildlife as vectors for pathogens may be misdirected. An analysis from U.C. Santa Cruz concludes that the strain of bacterium associated with the spinach poisonings—E. coli 0157:H7—is rare in wild birds and mammals," including feral pigs, "and resides most abundantly in the digestive tracts of grain-fed cattle."

Whether or not feral pigs really are to blame for everything they are accused of, they are increasingly abundant and widely distributed—and their rooting makes messes.

Pigs dig the forest

"Hogs are devastating to habitat, devastating to groundnesting birds," recently



Feral pigs. (Kim Bartlett)

fumed Ohio Wildlife Division program administrator of wildlife management and research Carolyn Caldwell, to Dave Golowenski of the *Columbus Dispatch*. "They eat amphibians, from frogs to salamanders. They do lots of rooting, and they eat everything they root up."

This is not necessarily problematic at all, from an ecological perspective. Pigs and other pig-like mammals have evolved together with forests since before the time of the dinosaurs. Feral pigs in North America today may compete for food and habitat with species as different as skunks, raccoons, opossums, javelinas, black bears, deer, and badgers, but despite some overlapping tastes and traits, pigs are no threat to displace any of them. Feral pigs are also part of the prey base for bears, pumas, wolves, and alligators.

Overall, feral pigs fit easily into the North American wildlife ecology. But they do

not fit neatly into management schemes that never took them into account. Yet they may now be seen as bonus targets to help keep dwindling numbers of hunters in the field, and perhaps to attract new hunters from among immigrants whose old-country cultures included pig hunting.

Many states actively pushed pig hunting in fall 2006, usually for the first time.

"Boars have been subject to hunting for years, but they have now become such a problem that the state is encouraging hunters to shoot them," Golowenski of the *Dispatch* noted. "Ohio Division of Wildlife officials want them gone."

"The Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have given permission to licensed hunters to fire at will at feral pigs in 23 Michigan counties where the swine have been spotted," wrote Tom Greenwood of the *Detroit News*. "While the pigs are not a serious threat in Michigan," Greenwood admitted, "they have caused huge damage to crops, wildlife and the ecosystems in a number of states, especially Florida and Texas."

Or so Jacqui Goddard reported on November 26 for the London *Sunday Telegraph*.

"Wild pigs are tearing up Texas in unprecedented numbers," wrote Goddard, "menacing its residents, killing livestock, and gorging on crops. At least 20 other states have also reported problems," Goddard said, "because of the creatures' big appetites and bad manners. Across the country, damage to agriculture is estimated to be as high as \$800 million a year."

That might sound like a lot—until compared to the environmental costs of, for example, the \$80 billion a year cattle and hog feedlot industry.

de Soto

In truth, proliferating feral pigs are for the most part themselves an environmental consequence of pork production.

"Scientists say that the (continued on page 14)

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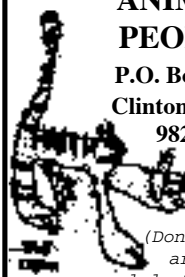
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Scapegoat feral pigs are byproducts of the pork industry (from page 13)

blame lies partly with the 16th-century Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, who landed in Florida in 1539 with 600 troops and a herd of swine. The animals, which were bred as food, have spread across the Southeastern states," Goddard asserted.

De Soto probably was the first pig farmer whose escaped stock contributed to the present population, but more than 450 years of pig farming elsewhere in North America contributed to the gene pool.

Pigs wandered alongside wagons wherever European settlers went. Though most were slaughtered, and most who escaped were quickly hunted down, enough got away that by the mid-20th century there were feral pigs in most states south of the snow belt.

Yet feral pigs did not proliferate at anything like the recent pace until the advent of factory farming and long-haul trucking to move pigs to market. Even when pig predators and food rivals including acorn-eating deer had been hunted into extreme scarcity in the mid-20th century, feral pigs did not approach their present abundance.

Scavenging competition from much

larger numbers of free-roaming dogs helped to control urban pig numbers. But what kept pigs from going "hog-wild" in the boondocks?

Pig economics

The answer may be simple economics. But the economic factors require more than just a quick look.

USDA data shows that the numbers of pigs on U.S. farms at any given time now is not significantly different from the numbers on farms in 1900: 50-odd million then, 50-odd million now.

There were actually more pigs on farms in 1940: just over 61 million. However, since 1940 the total number of farms has dropped by two-thirds, the farm labor force has dropped by more than 80%, and total number of pigs slaughtered has almost doubled, because the average time taken to raise a pig to slaughter weight has been cut in half.

In addition, in inflation-adjusted dollars, a pig now sells for a third less than in 1940. As the value of each pig has fallen, the number of workers available to try to recover each escaped pig has plummeted, and the num-

ber of pigs in transit at any given time has soared.

With more pigs on the road at all times, hauled in much larger trailers than a generation ago, the opportunities for pigs to get loose and introduce themselves to new habitat have never been greater.

Pig trucking

Trucking accidents from which pigs might escape occur at a reported rate of about 60 per year, involving as many as 10,000 pigs altogether, according to data included in *U.S. Highway Accidents Involving Farm Animals*, a compilation taken from news reports, published by Farm Sanctuary in June 2006.

But most pig-hauling accidents don't make news, Richmond *Times-Dispatch* staff writer Bill Geroux discovered in April 2005, while investigating an incident in which about 180 pigs spilled from a toppled trailer.

"The confused animals rooted in the grass or scrambled into nearby woods," Giroux reported. "Some of them lay squealing in the wreck. One hog set off down the narrow two-lane blacktop, where morning commuter traffic came to a halt. About 30 hogs lay down for a nap in the sunshine between two houses."

"Every day," Giroux continued, "dozens of trucks packed with 150 or more hogs converge on Smithfield's two large slaughterhouses from hog farms in Southside Virginia and North Carolina. And every year, a few of those trucks plunge off the rural highways near the plants."

Said Smithfield spokesperson Jerry Hostetter, "I hate to admit it, but it happens all the time."

"As Smithfield's production has grown," Giroux recounted, "the company has established a rapid-response team to recapture hogs."

Most pigs who escape from wrecked trucks are soon caught. Most of the pigs aboard the trucks have little or no experience of freedom, and no idea how to feed themselves as wild animals.

Still, if even 3.5% of all the pigs involved in documented transport accidents get away and survive long enough to raise litters, their net contribution to the feral population would be the equivalent of de Soto's pigs escaping to breed each and every year.

More important than the number, however, is the breadth of distribution. De Soto's pigs could only expand into habitat adjacent to the habitat they already occupied. Until the advent of transporting pigs by railway, in the late 19th century, there was no faster way than walking for a pig to colonize

new territory. Natural boundaries such as waterways and high mountains were rarely breached.

Even in the railway era, large numbers of pigs were moved only along a handful of routes. Pigs were raised mainly in the South and the grainbelt states, close to food sources.

Today, pigs by the tens of thousands are raised in confinement barns in the Dakota badlands and the Rocky Mountains. Pigs are trucked throughout most of the continental U.S., across all former barriers to pig travel.

As accidents occur more or less randomly, the result is a continent-wide experiment in releasing a few pigs here and a few there. The optimum feral pig habitats are being found and populated, if only by chance. Instead of feral pig populations marching predictably from one regional stronghold to the next, they are capturing territory like paratroopers who secure wherever they land.

Adaptation

But if feral pigs are all descended from factory-farmed pigs, why do they look like European wild boars? And how are they reproducing, when most factory-farmed males are castrated?

Indeed, most factory-farmed male pigs could not contribute to a growing feral population—but domestic pigs readily hybridize with European boars, now abundant on hunting ranches and also inclined to escape occasionally. Common domestic pigs also hybridize with Arkansas razorbacks, existing feral pig populations, and even with dumped or escaped ex-pet Vietnamese potbellied pigs.

Among the many different pig strains at large now, feral pigs are also conducting a vast uncontrolled experiment in adaptation to North American habitat. Over time, the result may be regionally distinct feral pig varieties.

For the moment, European boar characteristics seem to be dominant. This is no surprise. Hunting ranch operators learned more than 30 years ago that hybridizing imported European boar stock with common domestic pigs would produce animals of European boar appearance but domestic pig temperament.

Further, most common domestic pigs are slaughtered so young that people who are not pig experts seldom realize how much they will resemble their European boar ancestors if allowed to reach maturity.

The combination of the appearance of a traditional trophy species with the familiar

(continued on page 15)

Boar panic grips Great Britain

LONDON—"Police in Fife have issued a warning after a wild boar escaped from the abattoir in St Andrews," BBC News reported on November 28, 2006. "The public has been urged not to approach the animal, which has large tusks and teeth and may attack if it is cornered or threatened."

In truth, any pig can deliver a bone-crunching bite, and any frightened boar or sow can become deadly.

But the BBC warning was relatively understated compared to much recent Fleet Street hyperbole about feral European boars.

Anonymous activists claiming affiliation with the Animal Liberation Front in December 2005 released more than 100 European boars from a farm at Exmoor, then released 45 of the boars again after they were recaptured. British news media have tracked the boars' movements ever since as if reporting about an invading army, and have amplified—and perhaps sensationalized—reports of feral pig activity abroad.

For example, *Guardian* Berlin correspondent Jess Smee reported on November 29, 2006 that "A pack of wild boars, trying to escape from hunters, stormed two small towns in Bavaria, biting people, knocking down a cyclist and running amok in a boutique. Fifteen boars caused damage worth several thousand euros in Veitshöchheim and

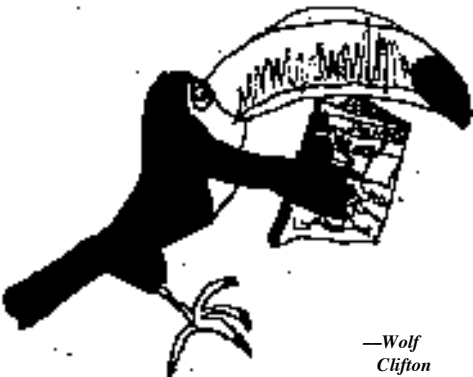
Margetshöchheim. Three of the pack were shot by police. Two others were run over."

Alleged fellow *Guardian* writer Harry Pearson a few days later, "At Changi golf course in Singapore they have had to post warning signs after a pair of 400-pound wild boar took up residence in the rough. In Malaysia, jungle pigs are considered a bigger menace to golfers than poisonous snakes or crocodiles. The porcine onslaught is also reported in Sweden, Canada and France. But it is in the U.S. that feral pigs have carried out their greatest terror campaign against the creeping menace of golf."

Doug Moe of the *Capital Times*, in Madison, Wisconsin, traced Pearson's claim about a "porcine onslaught" against golf back to a hypothetical remark by a rural Wisconsin legislator whose antipathy toward feral pigs is actually rooted in his experience of pigs doing crop damage to farms.

Elizabeth Nash, Madrid correspondent for *The Independent*, was a bit more restrained in reporting on November 26, 2006 that "The boar has come down from haunts in the mountains northwest of the Spanish capital to roam the leafy avenues and walled mansions of Madrid's high-end suburbs. Despite their fearsome tusks and grumpy character," Nash stipulated, "boars are not aggressive unless wounded or provoked."

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Feral pigs are scapegoats (from 14)

flavor of pork has created a growing commercial pig hunting industry in Texas, whose feral pig population officially exceeds two million.

"In Texas, most land is privately owned," explained Goddard of the *Daily Telegraph*, "so there are no state eradication programs, and farmers are free to take matters into their own hands. This allows them to run hunts and sell the meat, to make back some of the profits the animals have cost them."

"Hogs are putting farmers out of business," Texas pig trapper Kevin Ryer told Goddard, "but at the same time hog hunting has turned into a big business."

There is not actually much sign of feral pigs putting farmers out of business, in Texas or anywhere else, but *New York Times* reporter Tim Eaton a month earlier observed that pig hunting has "become lucrative, as Europeans and an increasing number of Americans clamor for wild boar."

Eaton followed a hunter who "said he made \$28,000 last year selling live feral hogs." Eaton described how the hunter released four scent hounds who located and cornered a feral pig. The hunter then released a pit bull terrier, who captured the pig with a face bite. The hunter "pounced on the snorting beast and tied his feet together." The hunter then tossed the pig into the back of his vehicle.

"It is ironic that the wild hog market is growing with the organic market, as many people turn toward organic meat to avoid supporting the cruelty of factory farming," commented Karen Dawn of *DawnWatch*. "Indeed

wild hunted animals, at least those few lucky enough to die from a clean shot, suffer incomparably less than those raised in tiny cages and trucked in unconscionable conditions to under-regulated slaughterhouses. But hunted hogs suffer horribly for hunters' fun."

Alien invaders

Elsewhere, even in Hawaii, where pigs have traditionally been hunted, they continue to be demonized by officials who would like more hunters to kill them, and some journalists who uncritically report what they hear.

"Stealthy and sometimes nearly invisible, unwelcome species such as hybrid Polynesian pigs" are "pillaging native forests, screeching through the night in suburban neighborhoods and rooting around in rural taro patches," recently asserted Associated Press writer Tara Godvin.

"I think semantics plays a big role in this. The term 'invasive species' makes one think that the hordes are at our gates and threatening to destroy life as we know it," responded Animal Rights Hawaii director Cathy Goeggel.

In Florida, where de Soto released the first pigs to reach North America, an off-duty state Fish & Wildlife officer and several of his hunting buddies in October 2006 apparently fancied themselves to be holding off an alien menace when they reportedly massacred several dozen Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs.

According to Richard Hoyle of the Coalition of Pig Sanctuaries, about 70 pot-bellied pigs were either released or escaped from the Barberville property of David Mowerly, whose wife bred pot-bellied pigs. Mowerly and his wife were in the process of divorce.

"The domesticated pets had been in the area for months," reported Channel 9 Eyewitness News. "Recently four pigs were found dead with their throats cut along a local road, and that's when some residents had enough."

Members of the Fort Myers-based Pigs as Pets Association, led by founder Lana Hollenbeck, captured 39 pigs and piglets, but the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission authorized hunters to kill the remainder.

At dusk on October 20, 2006,

Indian street pigs are mostly not feral

DELHI, MYSORE, BANGALORE—India easily leads the world in numbers of street pigs, but relatively few are completely feral. Much of the Indian domestic pig population roams the streets to forage, loosely attended by herders who may be blocks away. Relatively few pigs are raised in confinement, in a nation whose upper caste Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Muslims have traditionally shunned pork.

Historically, only what are now called the "scheduled" castes, "tribals," and the Christian minority ate pork. For millennia, pig-herding was accordingly a minor and not very profitable branch of animal husbandry. This has recently abruptly changed. A high birth rate among "scheduled" castes, increasing affluence among "scheduled" caste members who have pursued subsidized education, enabling them to buy more meat, and weakening caste barriers throughout Indian society have enabled pig herders to rapidly expand their markets.

"Breeding pigs is big business," *The Hindu* newspaper recently explained. "Assuming that per capita consumption of pork is one half kilogram (about one pound) per week, and that less than 5% of the population eat pork, a city the size of Mysore would consume 26,000 pigs per year."

Just one confinement barn may hold that many pigs in the U.S., China, and other pork-eating nations. The pigs' effluent

might be noticed, but the pigs themselves are not. Usually the barns are far from any city.

Few as pigs are in India, relatively speaking, they are increasingly visible, especially in cities where Animal Birth Control programs encouraged by national law and subsidized by the Animal Welfare Board of India have reduced street dog populations, making more refuse available to pigs.

Street dogs have long been feared by many Indians because of the risk of rabies. Dogs are still the chief vectors for rabies in India, which still has more reported human and animal cases than the rest of the world combined—but pigs can also carry rabies, they deliver a stronger bite, and though street dogs continue to far outnumber street pigs, suspicion is growing that the pigs may be far more dangerous.

Delhi, the Indian capital, is among the cities where ABC programs have been underway the longest. Delhi also is among the cities where street-dwelling pig production has most conspicuously expanded. There is as yet no Indian national policy on street pigs, but that could change soon as result of two attacks on children within three days in the northwest Delhi suburb of Samaipur Badly.

On November 28, 2006, three-year-old Ajay Yadeav wandered outdoors with his lunch, and within minutes was killed

(continued on page 16)

Hong Kong kills feral pigs

"The solution to the increasing havoc caused by marauding bands of wild pigs in the New Territories is relatively simple: kill them," reported the *South China Morning Post* on December 21, 2006.

Sarah Liao Sau-tung, Hong Kong Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works, confirmed a day earlier that members of hunting clubs in Tai Po and Sai Kung had been officially encouraged to hunt pigs more often. "We believe a lot of people will volunteer because they enjoy it as a hobby," Sau-tung said.

Hoyle said, "hunters with bows and guns began arriving and the slaughter began. Many terrified little pigs were killed on the roadside. Others were baited with corn and shot when they came to eat. The hunters even attempted to shoot pigs who had been captured and penned while awaiting rescue," Hoyle alleged.

"At least 15-20 pigs have been killed so far and at least 10 are thought to be wounded but still alive in the area," Hoyle said on October 22. "Many of these wounded pigs have been savaged by local dogs or have had their throats cut and were left on the side of the road to die," Hoyle added.

Following the Channel 9 coverage, "There has been a lot of back-peddling on the part of animal control and the Florida Fish &

Wildlife Commission," Rooterville pig sanctuary founder Elaine West told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "They had maintained that these semi-tame little pigs were feral. Anyone who has ever seen a feral pig would realize that these were not ferals," West contended.

Now that they have been taught to fear humans, however, any who were not either killed or rescued may augment the Florida feral pig population. Smaller feral pigs may be able to compete with armadillos for more limited habitat niches than the purported descendants of de Soto's pigs require.

"We will probably end up with about 4-5 times as many animals to deal with than they started out with," West predicted.

—Merritt Clifton

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ASPCA honors

Humane Farm Animal Care founder Adele Douglass, 60, has received the **American SPCA** Lifetime Achievement Award. Douglass handled animal welfare issues as a longtime aide to former New York City member of the House of Representatives **Bill Green**, then for 13 years represented **American Humane** in Washington D.C. Starting American Humane Farm Animal Services in 2000, Douglass left to found HFAC at the end of 2002. HFAC is now the largest U.S. program certifying humane livestock production.

The ASPCA also honored Oklahoma pet sterilization advocate **Ruth Steinberger** and *Marley & Me* author **John Grogan**, and recognized firefighters **Richard LaPiedra**, **Thomas Piambino**, **Thomas Sullivan**, and **John Cashman** for several daring dog rescues.

Twin Cities societies merge

ST. PAUL—The three largest humane societies serving the Minneapolis-St. Paul area merged, effective on January 1, 2007, becoming a single entity with five shelters, more than 200 workers, a combined annual budget of about \$8.5 million, net assets of \$23.1 million, and as yet no unified name. Former Animal Humane Society of Golden Valley president Martha McPhee heads the new organization. Former Humane Society for Companion Animals director Janelle Dixon will direct operations. The third partner in the merger is the Greater West Humane Society.

“We all worked together after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,” said McPhee. “We realized that with collaboration we could do much more. This merger is driven by our mission.”

Exterminator called to Primarily Primates

SAN ANTONIO—The messy plight of the Primarily Primates sanctuary reportedly became messier still in early December 2006, to the point that PETA-backed, state-appointed receiver Lee Theisen-Watt called in ABC Pest & Lawn Services on December 13 to kill rats, mice, and cockroaches.

“ABC is proud to be able to take on this project for free as our holiday gift to the community,” said ABC general manager Mark Ambrose.

“It was probably the worst roach infestation I’ve ever seen,” Ambrose later told *Chicago Tribune* correspondent Howard Witt.

“Cockroaches carpeted the floors and walls of some animals’ sleeping houses,” wrote Witt, “Rats had colonized others.”

Responded Friends of Animals pres-

ident Priscilla Feral, whose organization agreed to absorb Primarily Primates as a subsidiary just days before the Texas Office of the Attorney General seized the sanctuary and put Theisen-Watt in charge, “I’m not freaked out by mice. If you have lots of food, rodents are attracted. And the roaches—it’s not odd that they are there. They are part of nature.”

During the 28 years that founder Wally Swett headed Primarily Primates, pest control was done mainly by domestic fowl, cats, and dogs who had the run of the sanctuary. Within two weeks of Theisen-Watt’s arrival, however, the Houston SPCA removed the dogs, plus 78 chickens, 22 turkeys, and 20 peacocks who had been what Swett called his “insect control staff.”

(continued on page 17)

Indian street pigs not ferals (from 15)

and partially eaten by pigs. The pigs’ owner, a man named Jachche, was reportedly held for causing death due to negligence, but the pigs remained at large.

On November 30, 2006, a pig bit the head and shoulder of a six-year-old, who survived.

The Hindu has been reporting similar incidents in growing numbers, from all parts of India. For example, Pedapati Manikyam, 65, of Pedaboddepalli village, about 100 kilometres north of Visakhapatnam, was asleep in her home on October 27, 2005, *The Hindu* recounted, when two pigs belonging to local herders approached her, and bit her right hand off when she tried to slap them away.

“The woman died due to profuse loss of blood,” *The Hindu* said.

Disease threat

But overt attacks, horrifying as they are, are much less a threat to humans than diseases transmitted by pig parasites, insects who breed in pig wallows, and influenza viruses for whom pigs are an intermediary between wild waterfowl and humans.

The influenza epidemic of 1918, which killed more people in India than anywhere else, was only the deadliest of many outbreaks which are believed to have mutated among pigs before hitting humans.

Typically a flu strain does not become epidemic among humans until it develops the ability to spread from human to human. A flu strain evolving to spread from pig to pig, and then from pig to human, is the typical precursor of a serious outbreak.

Accordingly, while the avian flu H5N1 has killed more than 150 people since 1996 who had close contact with infected poultry, most of whom have been stricken since 2003, epidemiologists have been most concerned about the risk of crossover to pigs, which might occur most readily in India. Large populations of both free-roaming pigs and humans living almost together, with poor sanitation and inadequate health care, together form the nexus that could turn H5N1 from a scourge of poultry and occasional threat to humans into a possible repetition of 1918, whose spread might be expedited by jet travel.

A more immediate threat is Japanese encephalitis, carried by mosquitoes who reproduce in liquefied pig excrement.

“Mosquitoes are held responsible for an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis that has claimed the lives of more than 480 children in Uttar Pradesh,” reported *South China Morning Post* Delhi correspondent Amrit Dhillon in September 2005, “but pigs must share the blame. Half a kilometre from the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur, where most of the victims died, low-caste Hindu families rear pigs and live in unimaginably filthy conditions.

“The pigs are never given food or drink by their impoverished owners,” Dhillon wrote. “Instead, the animals root among rotten vegetable peels, mutton bones and decaying fruit on rubbish dumps, and snort through open gutters in search of food. The pigs can

be sold for around \$110 U.S., so they are both an important source of income, and a source of the killer disease. Japanese encephalitis has struck northern India every year since 1978,” Dhillon said.

Federal health minister Anbumani Ramdoss ordered the Uttar Pradesh government state to move pigs out of residential areas and away from hospitals, but the order had small chance of being enforced.

The death toll eventually rose to more than 1,000, including about 800 in India and 200-plus in neighboring Nepal.

Uttar Pradesh director general of health O.P. Singh told Marjorie Mason of Associated Press that vaccinating the seven million children at risk of contracting Japanese encephalitis would cost about \$58 million. The state’s entire health budget for the year was just \$25 million.

Sanitation

The conditions producing the Uttar Pradesh outbreak appeared to be more typical for India than exceptional.

At Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, “inside the government hospital has become an important habitat for pigs,” *The Hindu* reported in March 2006. “At least 50 to 75 pigs can be seen inside and outside the hospital,” *The Hindu* asserted. “Similarly, open places at the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Colony are attracting pigs, because drain water flowing in the colony has created six ponds in the complex. According to a rough estimate,” the anonymous *Hindu* reporter assessed, “the current pig population is around 1,500 to 2,000.”

The Ramanathapuram Municipal Council authorized shooting the pigs, but there was no immediate follow-up.

In Ongole, *The Hindu* reported in May 2006, “70-80 persons belonging to scheduled castes and tribes are rearing about 10,000 pigs. The trade has become so lucrative,” *The Hindu* alleged, “that other castes have taken up the profession.”

After the Andhra Pradesh High Court in March 2006 ordered Ongole to control street pigs within six months, city officials two months later “engaged the services of 20 persons belonging to the Nakkala community in Nellore, who have expertise to kill stray pigs and dogs,” *The Hindu* said. “Carrying country-made (homemade) guns, they went around the town killing pigs.”

No other mention of dogs was made. “The pig rearers, who have been violating High Court orders to confine the animals, came around and sought the mercy of the health officials,” promising to sell the surviving pigs in Bangalore “in the next couple of days,” *The Hindu* continued.

The story was similar in Shimoga, Karnataka. Shimoga city employees began sporadic pig purges in mid-February 2005. Predictably failing to clear the streets of pigs for long, the Shimoga poisoning in July 2006 ran into political trouble when seven cows were poisoned along with 450 pigs.

Meanwhile, in Hiriya, east of Shimoga and north of Bangalore, city officials



Indian dump pigs. (Kim Bartlett)

announced a campaign against pigs, but suspended it after the pig herders complained to a justice of the Karnataka Lokayukta, or anti-corruption agency.

“The swine menace had reached unbearable proportions,” fumed the *Deccan Herald*. “Tiny tots carrying lunch boxes to school and housewives returning from shopping with bags of groceries were the main targets of the pigs. There have been instances where these animals have bitten children after chasing them for some distance.”

Poisoning

The Davangere municipal council in February 2005 poisoned more than 2,000 street pigs, after three schoolchildren were bitten by pigs in a single day.

The council, after poisoning 1,000 pigs in late 2004, “had given a month’s deadline for the owners of the animals to take the pigs outside the city. The deadline expired 14 days ago,” *The Hindu* said.

By March 2005, Davangere had poisoned 5,000 pigs, and had become the model for poisoning campaigns planned in Mysore, Hubli-Dharwad, and Raichur.

“They used zinc phosphate mixed with flour, and making it into rolls, placed it all over the city,” Mysore administrative task force member H.R. Bapu Satyanarayana told *The Hindu*. “In four days they found 5,000 pigs lying dead.”

Other Mysore officials were much less enthusiastic. After more than a year of repeatedly warning pig herders that free-roaming pigs might be poisoned or shot on sight, city workers in June 2005 trucked about 25 pigs to the municipal sewage treatment plant. The Mysore pig population meanwhile rose from about 18,000 in April 2005 to about 20,000 going into 2006.

“Nearly 200 families depend on pig rearing in the city,” reported the *Deccan Herald*. “The pig owners are refusing to move their pigs beyond the city limits, demanding basic amenities in compensation.”

Confrontations over pigs commenced in Hubli-Dharwad in 2004, when then-mayor Anilkumar Patil ordered the police to shoot free-roaming pigs. The pig herders rallied against the shooting, then removed their herds, temporarily. In 2006, after discussion of shooting or poisoning pigs subsided, the pigs returned in force.

In September 2006, Hubli-Dharwad health officer A.C. Swamy “warned

that criminal cases would be registered against those engaged in rearing pigs who fail to prevent the animals from straying on roads,” *The Hindu* reported. “He said all pigs straying on roads would either be shot dead or poisoned.”

Policy

Indian national policy since December 1997 has been to avoid killing street dogs, but street pigs tend to be killed by any means available, with little or no recognition that pigs who survive and escape will then breed back up to the carrying capacity of the habitat.

But in at least one community, officials have reportedly interpreted the national dog policy as pertaining to pigs as well.

“Hundreds of families who live on the river banks” now rear pigs near the Budhan Sandhai marketplace, in Pallipalayam, on the River Cauvery, reported *The Hindu* in August 2006. “Absence of toilets has forced the residents to depend on the river banks. This is an ideal situation for the pigs to grow,” *The Hindu* explained. “Municipal officials say they have warned the residents many times not to rear pigs,” *The Hindu* continued. “On many occasions they have also captured the pigs. However, they released them a few days later. Officials say they are not able to kill the pigs. They cite a law that prevents killing animals, and they don’t have the facilities to sterilize the captured pigs.”

An October 2006 update downsized the human population in the primary pig habitat to 80 families, most of whom are not pig herders. Along with others in the vicinity, *The Hindu* said, “they want the civic body to construct public convenience facilities, want bathrooms, want the municipality to clear garbage on a regular basis and go in for solid waste management, and want the civic body to deal with the pig menace.”

Recognizing that the street pig problem results ultimately from deficient refuse disposal, Hyderabad municipal commissioner Sanjay Jagu in October 2006 coupled an order to staff to remove pigs from the streets with orders to “clear debris on a priority basis,” and “construct public toilets to maintain hygiene,” *The Hindu* reported.

“The health wing was asked to carry out door-to-door collection of garbage by arranging tricycles, and to bring commercial establishments under a bulk garbage removal system,” *The Hindu* continued. “Jagu also requested residents to cooperate by not dumping garbage on the roads.” —Merritt Clifton

Receiver ousts birds, calls exterminator to Primarily Primates to kill bugs & rodents (from page 16)

As the separate species did not mingle, Swett explained to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on several different occasions, keeping multiple flocks ensured that multiple areas were being patrolled and pecked clean at all times.

"The state charges that Primarily Primates was chronically understaffed, leading to deplorably filthy conditions," such as "raw sewage collecting in a cesspool near several chimp enclosures," reported Jordan Smith of the *Austin Chronicle*.

Responded Stephen Tello, Swett's longtime assistant, and successor for the few weeks between Swett's retirement in September 2006 and the state takeover, "Texas environmental officials visited and, after making a few changes, found our method of waste disposal complied with state and local regulations."

Tello and Feral were found in contempt of court in early December for allegedly withholding Primarily Primates' mailing list from Theisen-Watt.

"As part of the court order," wrote Brian J. Foster of the *Darien News-Review*, "Feral must return all money received from Primarily Primates' donors in response to her fund-raising letter dated October 30, 2006 to the Travis County Probate Court in Austin, Texas." The money will be turned over to Theisen-Watt.

"Feral was also ordered by the court to turn over all Primarily Primates donor lists, passwords or computer records to Theisen-Watt," Foster added. "However, Feral is still allowed to raise money on behalf of Friends of Animals to aid Primarily Primates."

"Friends of Animals stepped in to enable us to legally defend our sanctuary," said Tello. "While we'll abide by the orders of the court, we note that these proceedings were carried out simply because we did what under normal circumstances would be our proper work: asking Primarily Primates' donors to help us survive as a true sanctuary."

"We haven't been able to take in all animals," Tello acknowledged, "but once in our refuge, animals have been safe from being used further or killed—the very point of a sanctuary. Yet one of the first official acts of the temporary receiver was to petition for permission to start killing."

"When an operation like PETA rolls into town with its well-funded public relations machine, it's hard to fight back," Tello noted.

For example, PETA spokespersons were quoted in many news accounts of the rodent and cockroach infestation, but **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was the only periodical to mention the roles of the chickens, turkeys, and peacocks, removed six weeks before ABC was called.

PETA spokespersons also have made much of the deaths of two of nine chimpanzees in early 2006, soon after their arrival at

Primarily Primates from Ohio State University, but Feral and FoA legal director Lee Hall on December 8 listed the unpublicized deaths of a squirrel monkey, a white-handed gibbon, and a spider monkey during the seven weeks since Theisen-Watt's arrival, along with injuries and illnesses afflicting a chimpanzee, a ring-tailed lemur, and a howler monkey, and two alleged instances of small monkeys being stolen, one of whom was later returned.

Chimp Haven sued by founding executive director

SHREVEPORT—Chimp Haven founding executive director Linda Koebner and eight co-plaintiffs in early December 2006 sued founding president Linda Brent and board chair Tom Butler for allegedly mismanaging the chimpanzee retirement colony "in violation of that corporation's purpose, to the detriment of the animals residing at Chimp Haven, and to the detriment of fundraising and additional grant opportunities on which Chimp Haven must rely to survive."

Opened in 2003, Chimp Haven currently houses 89 former laboratory chimps under contract with the National Institutes of Health. The chimps belong to the NIH and technically could be recalled to research use, but there has been little lab demand for chimpanzees for more than 20 years.

The best-known chimps at Chimp Haven are the survivors of the nine-member colony formerly kept by Ohio State University researcher Sally Boysen, who were retired to Primarily Primates in February 2006. One chimp died on arrival at Primarily Primates. Another died two months later. Necropsies found that both deaths were caused by pre-existing heart ailments.

The seven remaining chimps were relocated from temporary holding facilities at Primarily Primates to Chimp Haven on November 16, 2006, ostensibly for temporary caretaking until the legal issues currently sur-

rounding Primarily Primates are resolved.

Koebner's lawsuit accuses Brent and Butler "of making poor decisions about personnel and maintaining the chimps in social groups," wrote Janelle Rucker of the *Shreveport Times*. "One such instance, the plaintiffs claim, led to the death of a chimp named Woodruff. Placed with three aggressive male chimps, he was later found dead from a heart attack," allegedly from stress resulting from being attacked by the others.

"The suit lists how the defendants 'improperly and illegally' suspended Koebner from the board of directors," Rucker said. "To remedy the situation, the group is asking for injunctions, including the removal and replacement of Brent and Butler, restoration of Koebner to the board, and an independent third-party review of the conditions of the facility, its accounts, and its records."

Responded Chimp Haven spokesperson Rick DelaHaya, to Rucker, "We are confident that when all the facts are presented, all the allegations will be proved false, and we can continue the business of taking care of the chimpanzees."

The plaintiffs include, besides Koebner, Virginia Shehee, Sharon Wright, Mary Jansen, Tim and Sarah Goeders, and Jan and Frank Landon, all of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and Cathie Neukum, of New York.

Chimp Haven became controversial, even before it was built, because of the chance that the resident chimps might be reclaimed by the NIH for further experimentation.

The House of Representatives late in the 109th Congress passed a bill which would have cancelled the recall possibility, but the bill was stalled in the U.S. Senate by the opposition of Michael B. Enzi (R-Wyoming), who argued that the NIH might eventually need the Chimp Haven chimps to study an urgent threat such as bioterrorism.

"The U.S. government has so many chimps available for experimentation that it plans to retire scores of them in the next few months," wrote *Boston Globe* staff reporter John Donnelly. Brent told Donnelly that "At least 200 of the roughly 1,200 chimpanzees in federal labs currently are not being used because of a lack of projects."

"The federal Chimpanzee Management Program recently found that the abundance of chimpanzees in laboratories was so great that it recently extended a moratorium on chimpanzee breeding until the end of next year," Donnelly added.

Said New England Anti-Vivisection Society president Theo Capaldo, "The chimpanzees who have finally made their way to retirement are so battered and worn, so used up by science, that we don't call Chimp Haven a sanctuary. We call it a hospice."

Which wild pigs are running amok in Malaysia? And why now?

KUALA LUMPUR—Rampaging wild pigs are a problem in Malaysia, practically all sources agree. Less clear is which wild pigs are the culprits.

Malaysia has native warty pigs and bearded pigs, as well as abundant feral domestic pigs—and they can hybridize.

The warty pigs and bearded pigs are subjects of conservation concern, albeit perhaps more as prey for highly endangered tigers than for their own sake. Malaysia now has as few as 500 tigers, down from more than 3,000 circa 1950.

Feral and hybrid pigs are also prey for tigers, but conservationists tend to view feral and hybrid pigs as unwelcome competitors for warty and bearded pig habitat.

Both conservationists and ordinary rural Malaysians also worry that because pigs of domestic ancestry tend to live closer to human habitation, they might draw tigers closer too, into greater likelihood of attacking humans. Unlike in India, where much of the human population is uniquely tolerant of occasional fatal attacks by wildlife, any

attack in Malaysia tends to result in the animal's demise. If wildlife officials fail to hunt the suspected animal(s) down, vigilantes intervene.

Reports of miscreant pig behavior seldom distinguish among the species. Perhaps all Malaysian wild pigs are now behaving badly.

On the other hand, perhaps the pig incidents of today are a delayed consequence of the Nipah virus outbreak of 1999, when efforts to eradicate much of the domestic pig population sent any pig who could escape the killing into the hills on the run.

Seven years later, the descendants of refugee pigs and any other pigs the refugees met in flight may be trying to reclaim their ancestral habitat in muddy village streets and dumps.

Pigs have not been well thought of by most Malaysians in many centuries, if ever. Neither the Muslim majority (58%) nor most of the Hindu minority (7%) eat pork. The Muslims, especially, tend to consider pigs unclean. The ethnic Chinese minority (28%) do eat and raise pigs—and that has been a frequent flashpoint for racial and sectarian conflict, when entrepreneurs have tried to raise pigs in the wrong villages or wrong neighborhoods,

At least 108 Malaysians died of the mysterious Nipah virus during the first half of 1999. Almost all of them worked at pig farms, or

lived near pig farms. The native reservoir for Nipah virus turned out to be wild fruit bats, also known as flying foxes.

Historically, the bats lived in deep forest and kept to themselves. In early 1999, however, deforestation associated with log poaching and forest fires set to clear land for slash-and-burn agriculture drove thousands of hungry bats away from their mountain homes, into agricultural districts, where rotting produce collected for pigs provided an alternative food source.

Sick and weak, many bats died. Pigs ate them, incubated the Nipah virus, and passed it to their caretakers.

The Malaysia government sought to contain Nipah virus by sending soldiers to kill more than a million pigs between mid-March and mid-May 1999. About 1,800 pig farms were closed, impoverishing an estimated 300,000 Malaysians, mostly ethnic Chinese, whose livelihoods had depended on the pork industry.

Despite the discontent of the former pig farmers, pig-related problems seemed for a time to cease being a public issue. Complaints voiced in the *Malaysia Star* in early 2005 concerned wild pigs making noise at night, uprooting banana trees, smashing flower pots, and biting a dog who tried to chase marauding pigs back to the jungle.



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2006 saw biggest fighting dog seizure ever

HOUSTON—Among the grimmest jobs in the 71 years that the Houston Humane Society has operated an animal shelter was euthanizing 258 pit bull terriers in August 2006, seized from the property of murder victim and fighting dog breeder Thomas F. Weigner, Jr.

Investigators impounded 285 pit bulls in all from the Liberty County site. Twenty-seven puppies were initially to have been auctioned, without being sterilized first, by order of Liberty County justice of the peace Phil Fitzgerald, but the Houston Humane Society pointed out that Texas state law requires impounded dogs to be sterilized prior to adoption or sale. Most of the pups were later found to be ill with either parvovirus or the tick-borne disease babesiosis.

Another seven puppies were believed to have been stolen from the crime scene during the initial investigation.

“Big” impoundments of alleged fighting dogs used to involve a few dozen. Three raids in December 1992 made page one of the January/February 1993 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** after impounding a combined and then almost unheard of total of 97 dogs among them.

The Weigner case did in fact bring the largest seizure of alleged fighting dogs on record. The previous high total in Texas was 88, in January 2005. The previous U.S. record was 225, in a 2004 Oklahoma case that brought nearly 20 convictions, including five years on probation for former National Football League player LeShon Johnson, who has now been convicted twice of offenses related to dogfighting.

“Weigner Jr., 27, bled to death after being shot in the leg by three masked intruders,” recounted Cindy Horswell of the *Houston Chronicle*. “His wife Julie Laban, their three children, and her parents witnessed the shooting while bound with tape.”

Liberty County Sheriff’s Sergeant Kenny Daigle told Horswell that the intruders were apparently searching for \$100,000 in cash that Weigner had recently won at a dogfight in Brazoria County.

“Neither Weigner nor his wife had a job, other than the dogs,” Daigle said. “But they had paid \$215,000 in cash for their home and property, and were making payments on three nice new cars,” he told Horswell.

In addition to the dogs, several thousand dollars in loose cash, and alleged dogfighting paraphernalia, investigators reportedly discovered a pound of marijuana on the Weigner property.

At least 13 dogfighting rings were broken up in conjunction with arrests for alleged traffic in illegal drugs around the U.S. in 2006. All 13 involved possession of marijuana, 11 involved possession of methedrine, and six involved possession of cocaine. None involved possession of heroin, although one convicted dogfighter had previous convictions for possessing both heroin and marijuana.

Camille Gann, convicted of hosting dogfights to which LeShon Johnson brought dogs, in December 2005 drew seven years in prison plus eight years on probation. At the time, just a year ago, that was an unusually stiff sentence. Since then, association of dogfighting with drug crimes has combined with the introduction of “three strikes” laws that increase the penalties for multi-time offenders to markedly increase the sentences meted out to convicted dogfighters.

The longest sentence for dogfighting-related offenses, so far, may be 16 years, given to Christopher D. Simmons, 26, in March 2006 by Circuit Judge Lee S. Alford, of Dorchester County, South Carolina.

Alford is to serve five concurrent sentences on state charges after pleading guilty to four counts of selling crack cocaine and marijuana, including near a school, and to animal cruelty. The state sentences will also be concurrent with a 20-year sentence that Alford is serving for federal drug offenses.

“The cruelty charges surfaced when a deputy found five pit bulls chained behind Simmons’ residence. A sixth dog was found dead,” wrote Schuyler Kropf of the Charleston *Post & Courier*. “The animals had injuries consistent with dogfighting, authorities said.”

Cedric Tory Smith, 25, of Wedgefield, South Carolina, in September 2006 drew 13 years in prison after pleading guilty to 18 counts of dogfighting, plus charges of trafficking cocaine, manufacturing crack cocaine, and marijuana possession, the state attorney general’s office announced. Robert Lawrence Bostic, 23, of the same address, drew 10 years in prison on similar drug charges.

Traditionally the stiffer part of sentences for multiple convictions involving dogfighting and drug dealing or possession has been for the drug offenses. Judge Ben McLaughlin, of Dothan, Alabama, reversed tradition in November 2006, sending Timothy McLeod, of Ozark, Alabama, to prison for 11 years in November 2006 for possession of marijuana and another controlled substance, and criminally neglecting 14 pit bull terriers at an alleged dogfighting arena in his back yard.

McLaughlin stipulated that McLeod was getting one year for each of the drug crimes, and one year for each of the nine dogs who were euthanized in consequence of his actions.

“Eleven dogs were bound with thick logging chains to strengthen their chest muscles, and had little or no food or water in their bowls,” summarized Ebony Horton of the *Dothan Eagle*. “Three dog corpses with chains still wrapped around their necks were found behind the arena. Nine dogs were later euthanized, mostly because of behavioral problems. Two younger, less aggressive dogs were placed in homes.”

Ohio study asks, “Are pit bulls the problem, or their people?” (from page 1)

different times of year, found that in 2006 pit bull terriers made up about 5% of the dogs offered for sale by breeders on any given day, but with much regional variation. In parts of the South and some big cities, pit bulls sometimes constituted 15% of the dogs offered for sale. In affluent suburbs they were occasionally fewer than 1%.

Rottweilers, by contrast, barely even registered in popularity before the 1980s, and are still barely more than 1% of all dogs.

- Pit bulls have been consistently about five times more likely than other dogs to arrive at animal shelters. When pit bulls were about 1% of the U.S. dog population, they made up about 5% of shelter admissions; at about 5% of the U.S. dog population, they make up more than 25%. The trend is similar for Rottweilers.

- Pit bull terriers are about 10 times more likely to kill or maim a person than other dogs. Excluding attacks by trained fighting dogs, guard dogs, and police dogs, dogs killed 35 people in the U.S. and Canada during 2006, the highest annual total since the editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** began logging dog attack data in 1982. Pit bull terriers killed 14 people, Rottweilers killed seven, and Presa Canarios, bred by crossing pit bulls with mastiffs, killed three.

At least 194 people were permanently disfigured by pet dogs in 2006. Pit bulls disfigured 59; Rottweilers disfigured 20; Presa Canarios disfigured four.

- Dogfighting, almost eradicated from most of the U.S. during the early 20th century, began an explosive resurgence in the 1990s, showing no sign yet of abating.

Reported law enforcement seizures of suspected fighting dogs reached an all-time recorded high of 916 in 2006, up from 837 in 2005.

Fewer than 100 alleged fighting dogs were seized in most years before 1998, when the number of reported seizures nearly quadrupled to 365, then more than doubled to 791 in 1999. Seizures peaked at 896 in 2000 and 869 in 2001, trended sharply downward after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 diverted law enforcement attention to other issues, and have since rebounded to about 10 times the pre-1998 norm.

Pit bulls vs. gamecocks

A theory popular among pit bull advocates is that the rise of dogfighting is only part of a general increase in animal



Pit bull terrier. (Kim Bartlett)

Reported seizures of fighting dogs and gamecocks

Year	Dogs	Cocks
1997	95	725
1998	365	763
1999	791	1023
2000	896	876
2001	869	7995
2002	428	3390
2003	549	4113
2004	(no data)	
2005	837	2128
2006	916	2528

fighting, associated with drug trafficking. But the growth of dogfighting into an economically significant clandestine industry only loosely parallels the trend in cockfighting, which remains legal in most counties of Louisiana and New Mexico, whereas dogfighting has been illegal throughout the U.S. for more than 80 years.

Seizures of alleged fighting dogs and gamecocks showed a parallel rise in the years before 9/11, as law enforcement agencies became increasingly aware of the frequent association of animal fighting with traffic in illegal drugs and firearms. Post-9/11, cockfighting arrests fell off along with dogfighting arrests.

Since then, however, gamecock seizures appear to have leveled off at about triple the mid-to-late 1990s norm.

Press coverage

Pit bull advocates commonly argue that pit bulls are considered “vicious” because incidents involving them receive disproportionately heavy news coverage—but key word searches of the 1,216 newspapers archived at NewsLibrary.com found only one year in the past 30, 1987, in which coverage of pit bulls appeared to be more intense than was warranted by the frequency of either life-threatening and fatal attacks, or dogfighting arrests and alleged fighting dog seizures.

Pit bulls were not even mentioned in any of the 1,216 newspapers indexed at NewsLibrary.com from 1976 through 1979—but then the numbers of mentions leaped from two in 1981 to 98 in 1995, 162 in 1986, and 470 in 1987, coinciding with a series of sensational attacks.

From 1988 through 1998, the frequency of mentions was consistent at about the 1986 level, but then nearly doubled in 1999, parallel to the number of fighting dog seizures; remained at the new peak for about five years; and more than doubled again from 2003 to 2005, as the number of fighting dog seizures again climbed.

A record 626 articles mentioning pit bulls were published in 2005—but 625 articles had mentioned pit bulls through December 27, 2006.

—Merritt Clifton

Shooting dogs is a sensitive subject in the Canadian far north

WINNIPEG—“The solution,” to attacks by stray dogs on Native American reservations in northern Canada, “is to cull the dog population, and provide spay and neuter services to native communities at the same time,” Winnipeg Humane Society executive director Vicki Burns told Brookes Merritt of the *Edmonton Sun* on November 19, 2006.

Though Burns apparently said nothing about shooting

dogs, her remark was summarized in the headline of the resulting article as “Annual dog shoot proposed,” and in the lead sentence as “An annual ‘dog shoot’ would help keep dog packs on native reserves from killing any more helpless children, says an animal welfare worker in Manitoba.”

Further distributed by the *National Post* and then posted to several British animal rights e-mail lists, the article hit raw nerves in both Europe and Native communities.

Brookes Merritt interviewed Burns, known for “lobbing the Manitoba government to bring better vet services to native communities,” he wrote, “after five-year-old Lance Ribbonleg was killed by a pack of stray dogs at the North Tallcree First Nation’s reserve near Fort Vermilion.”

In Manitoba, Brookes Merritt continued, “a two-year-old boy was mauled at the Hollow Water First Nation in July 2006, and a three-year-old boy met the same fate on the Sayisi First Nation in June. Some communities there have ‘dog shoot days,’ in which stray dogs are culled.”

The strays are typically non-working offspring of sled dogs, or retired sled dogs, left to fend for themselves around the edges of settlements. Historically, parish dogs patrolling the perimeters of encampments helped to protect the Inuit from polar bears—but that was when the threat from bears was far greater than in recent times.

The children were killed by dogs as a House of Commons committee completed a year-long investigation of longstanding Inuit allegations that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police massacred sled dogs between 1950 and

1970 to force the Inuit off their land, into tribal reserves.

Published on November 29, 2006, the House of Commons report “found that police officers did kill many as 20,000 sled dogs, but for health and safety reasons,” summarized Bob Weber of Canadian Press.

“What we found is not inconsistent with the Inuit oral history,” RCMP Chief Superintendent Mike Woods told Weber. “If we can work with the community and explain why the dogs were killed,” Woods said, “we’re hoping that there will be understanding on the part of the Inuit community and we can put the conflict to bed.”

“Members of the Nunavut legislature have spoken about the alleged plot as if it were fact,” Weber noted. “In 2005, the Makivik Corporation, which represents Quebec Inuit, funded the production of a movie called *The Last Howl*, which purports to tell the story. Makivik and the Qikiktani Inuit Association, which are conducting their own investigations into the charges, refused to supply information or cooperate with the RCMP review. An interim RCMP report released last year that reached a conclusion similar to the final version was declared a whitewash by many in Nunavut.

Woods told Weber that in every instance where specific facts were available from more than 40,000 relevant documents, the dogs were killed for humanitarian, security, safety and health reasons.

“Investigators also found cases where RCMP officers supplied distemper and rabies vaccines to communities, even supplying some of them with puppies to rebuild dog teams,” Weber wrote.



A Malamute sled dog in summer. (Kim Bartlett)

GREYHOUND RACING UPDATES

The Alabama Supreme Court on December 1, 2006 ruled unanimously that the **MegaSweeps** video sweepstakes gambling games at the **Birmingham Race Course** violate the state law against slot machine gambling. Track owner **Milton McGregor** asserted that losing the machines, installed in 2005, might put the track out of business, costing 250 jobs. Two lower court rulings favored video sweepstakes gambling. "Soon, small storefront [gambling] operations began popping up across the state," wrote Philip Rawls of Associated Press—and Christian Action Alabama began trying to close them.

The verdict came six weeks after Mobile County district attorney **John Tyson**

Jr. announced charges against 12 men and a woman in a scheme to fix races at the **Mobile Greyhound Park** by giving dogs an herbal male erectile supplement that caused their hearts to race while they were nominally resting in their kennels. Exhausted, the dogs then performed poorly in competition.

The **Cloverleaf Kennel Club** in Loveland, Colorado, announced on November 30 that it will not open for racing in 2007. "We just don't have the financial wherewithal to run another live season," Cloverleaf president **David J. Scherer** told Associated Press writer Catherine Tsai. The Cloverleaf track opened in 1955, six years after greyhound racing debuted in Colorado.

Dog attacks raise issues for lawmakers

At least 32 U.S. communities adopted or considered adopting breed-specific dog control legislation in 2006, responding to attacks involving pit bulls and Rottweilers.

The debate over whether possession and sale of pit bull terriers, Rottweilers, and possibly other dog breeds should be restricted to protect public safety is in essence a debate about possibly the oldest of all philosophical questions vexing lawmakers.

Since Biblical times opinions have conflicted as to whether laws should seek to prevent harm by forbidding potentially injurious behavior, or merely punish those whose behavior results in actual harm.

The argument that no one should be enjoined from behavior if it does not do harm tends to be politically attractive, but the counter-argument is that if harm comes to an innocent person and a guilty person is punished, at least two people suffer for an action which might have been prevented.

Further, in the case of a dog attack that kills or maims, the harm may be irreparable. As no amount of punishment can undo the damage, the argument for breed-specific legislation holds, preventing attacks of extreme consequence by prohibiting possession of dogs of high risk potential better protects public safety than relying on the uncertain deterrent effect of punishment.

Non-breed-specific dog control legislation typically relies on identifying dangerous dogs from their past behavior, which does not protect anyone from the consequences of a first incident. Usually it requires that all dogs be securely confined.

Even if pit bull terriers are uniquely dangerous, opponents of breed-specific legislation often assert, they can be kept safely if there are no children or other animals in the home. But the belief that dogs of any kind can both be house pets and be kept completely out of contact with strangers was refuted by the September 22, 2006 mauling of Judy McGruder, 74, in Rifle, Colorado.

McGruder was attacked by a three-year-old pit bull named Butterbean, after knocking on the wrong door while trying to pick up her grandson after a play date. The dog escaped the house to attack McGruder as she was leaving.

Julie Dawn Sullivan, 32, on December 6, 2006 pleaded no contest to possessing a dangerous dog who inflicted bodily harm, and pleaded guilty to not licensing Butterbean, whom she agreed to having euthanized soon after the attack. Sullivan was sentenced to do 40 hours of community service, to pay \$469 in fines and court costs, and received a year in jail, suspended.

"Sullivan maintained that the dog did not have any past history of being violent, and that she had owned him since he was a

puppy," wrote Heidi Rice of the *Aspen Times*.

The incident had further repercussions when on the same day in the same court, Garfield County animal control officer Aimee Chappelle pleaded guilty to possessing a vicious dog, identified as a pit bull by Sheriff Lou Vallario. Chappelle "paid a fine, was given a one-year deferred sentence, and was ordered to perform 16 hours of community service," wrote Dennis Webb of the Glenwood Springs *Post-Independent*.

"Chappelle's affinity for the breed has drawn some criticism from pit bull opponents," Webb continued. "Rob Snyder, who lives south of Glenwood Springs, is among those who say comments made by Chappelle after a September pit bull attack in the Silt area appear to put blame on the elderly victim, Judy McGruder. Snyder, whose dog suffered a pit bull attack this summer, said Chappelle made it sound like McGruder 'did something to provoke the dog who mauled her.'"

Chappelle "was sentenced by Judge Jason Jovanovich," Webb added. "While sentencing [Julie Dawn Sullivan], Jovanovich reportedly said that if he could, he would kill all pit bulls, and that they should be illegal."

Drugs & dog attacks

The November 6, 2006 fatal mauling of Luis Fernando Romero Jr., 2, by two Rottweilers at his family's home in Tucson meanwhile raised other common elements of the debate as to whether such incidents should be ascribed more to the nature of the dogs or to the characteristics of many of their keepers.

"The day of the attack," wrote Josh Brodesky and Dale Quinn of the *Arizona Daily Star*, "Pima County Sheriff's Department investigators searched the mobile home, finding ledgers, scales, a money counter, weapons and empty suitcases reeking of marijuana. But the grieving parents, identified as Luis Fernando Romero and Jessica Nunez, were never taken into custody. By the next day they were gone without a trace, having packed their belongings and fled, most likely to Mexico."

Pima County Child Protective Services turned out to have had two previous contacts with Romero and Nunez about broken bones suffered by their four-year-old daughter, whose whereabouts are also unknown.

Romero and Nunez immediately called 911 after their son was attacked, and drove the fatally injured boy two miles in search of help before finding sheriff's deputy Gilbert Hernandez, who called paramedics.

In other respects, the Arizona case paralleled the October 2005 fatal mauling of Jonathan Martin, 2, in Whaleyville, Virginia. Two pit bull terriers allegedly bit Martin more than 100 times, while his parents, Heather Frango, 26, and James Jonathan Martin, 30, used illegal drugs in another part of the house.

Bonney Brown to head Nevada Humane

RENO—The Nevada Humane Society on December 15, 2006 introduced as executive director Bonney Brown, 48, who directed Alley Cat Allies' relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

Brown founded the no-kill Neponset Valley Humane Society in Massachusetts in 1992, co-organized the annual No-Kill Conferences 1996-1999, was outreach director for the Best Friends Animal Society 1998-2005, coordinated the No More Homeless Pets conference series 1999-2005, and was with Alley Cat Allies for about 18 months.

Michelle Williams, DVM, who preceded Brown at Nevada Humane, was hired in September 2005 but resigned in May

2006 amid a dispute that originated when she had a Rottweiler euthanized as potentially dangerous, unaware that an employee had shown the dog to members of a rescue group who wanted to take him.

"The groups want seven days notice to rescue an animal. I wish people surrendering the animals would do the same for us," Williams told Frank X. Mullen of the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. "We have space one day and 20 animals come in and then we're full. Logistics make giving a week's notice impossible, but [rescuers] don't want to listen."

After Williams' departure the Nevada Humane board introduced new policies to improve relations with rescue groups.



Rottweilers at play. (Kim Bartlett)

Frango and Martin in May 2006 pleaded guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter and felony child abuse and neglect. Frango and Martin were in August 2006 sentenced to serve three years each in prison.

Not known is whether the victim received any warning signals from the dogs before they mauled him, whether he was killed or disabled early in the prolonged mauling, and whether both dogs were part of the initial attack.

Central to the argument that pit bulls are uniquely dangerous is that they tend to attack without the series of warnings that most other dogs provide first, and often inflict immediate severe injuries, as do Rottweilers, whereas most dogs inflict disabling, disfiguring, or fatal injuries only in sustained attacks or pack attacks.

"The prosecution told the court about Martin's long list of past offenses that included 11 charges of driving without a license and a drug charge," wrote Sabine C. Hirschauer of the Hampton Roads *Daily Press*. "The couple's history of drug abuse soon emerged as the center of the case. Police found a bong, a container used to smoke drugs, in their master bedroom. Frango confessed that both had smoked marijuana the night before the mauling. She also told investigators that Martin grew marijuana and kept the pit bulls to guard the drugs. An inmate testified that Martin told him he and Frango were both high on cocaine and marijuana the morning of the mauling."

"The old family home" where the attack occurred "was later condemned," wrote Linda McNatt of the *Virginian-Pilot*. "Code violations included a septic system rigged to pump raw sewage outside a window."

Not seeing risk

Virginia in May 2006 adopted legislation creating felony and misdemeanor penalties for keeping a dog who attacks a person, but Frango and Martin were sentenced under the older legislation used to convict Deanna H. Large, 37, of Spotsylvania, whose three pit bull terriers in March 2005 fatally mauled Dorothy Sullivan, 82, and her Shih Tzu, in Sullivan's own front yard. Large was on March 30, 2006 sentenced to serve three years in prison for manslaughter.

A central element in the Large case appeared to be that Large did not accept that her dogs were dangerous, despite many complaints from neighbors about their behavior.

However, San Francisco prosecutors failed to persuade a jury in July 2006 that denial of risk was sufficient evidence of criminal negligence to convict Maureen Faibish, 40, of felony child endangerment in the June 2005 pit bull mauling of her son Nicholas, 12. The jury of eight men and four women reportedly split 7-5 in favor of conviction, well short of the unanimous verdict required to convict.

A case involving similar issues appeared to be heading toward a swift conclu-

sion in Bossier City, Louisiana, when Mary and Christopher Hansche reportedly agreed on December 21, 2006 to plead guilty to misdemeanor charges of improper supervision of their child, perform community service, attend parenting classes, and surrender possession of a pit bull terrier and a ferret.

"The Hansches were arrested on December 7 after they woke up and saw that one of their pets had gnawed off four of their month-old daughter's toes," reported Associated Press. "Mary Hansche, 22, said the ferret did it; police said Christopher Hansche, 26, thought the dog was responsible."

Other cases of note

A case demonstrating that any dogs might be dangerous to a defenseless person came to an end on November 28, 2006, in Marion, Indiana, when Linda Kitchen, 58, drew four years in prison and three years on probation for criminal recklessness resulting in serious bodily injury, two counts of obstruction of justice, and one count of false reporting. Her husband Michael Kitchen received the same sentence, on the same charges, one week earlier. On May 1, 2005, the Kitchens reported that two stray dogs had entered their home through an open door and killed Linda Kitchen's mother, Julia Beck, 87, who was an invalid. A police investigation established four days later that the attackers were the Kitchens' own Labrador and Dachshund.

Among pending U.S. criminal cases involving dog attacks, Bentley Collins, 53, of Dillon, South Carolina, is facing involuntary manslaughter charges after six of his bull-dog/boxer mixes killed John Matthew Davis, 10, on the evening of November 3, 2006, as Davis walked home from a neighbor's house.

No suspects have been identified in the case of an undersized and underfed pit bull mix who fatally mauled Pedro Rios Jr., 4, on November 21, 2006 in an unincorporated suburb of Houston. The dog is believed to have been a stray.

However, Firas Beseisso, 22, of Willis, another Houston suburb, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor count of possessing a dangerous dog, after his pit bull killed David "Ted" McCurry, 41, on October 29, 2006. Recounted the *Houston Chronicle*, "McCurry and Kimberly Cunningham, 19, had gone to Beseisso's home to look at the pit bull because they wanted to buy a dog for home protection."

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Pit bull terrier at DELTA Rescue in southern California. (Kim Bartlett)

The Case Against Bullfighting

by Michael A. Ogorzaly

Author House (1663 Liberty Drive, Suite 200, Bloomington, IN 47403), 2006
248 pages, paperback. \$14.95.

Michael Ogorzaly, who died at age 58 on October 14, 2006, suffered a broken neck as a college student, when a car in which he was a passenger was involved in an accident. Confined to a wheelchair thereafter, Ogorzaly completed his education and went on to teach Spanish and Latin American history at Chicago State University. *When Bulls Cry* was his second book, addressing a topic which had become one of his focal concerns.

De-romanticising the bullfight spectacle with a dose of anguishing realism in chapter one, Ogorzaly goes into the history behind it. Chapter two discusses the geneology of bullfighting, revealing that the present day *corrida*, which originated in the 18th century, has very little connection with Spanish tradition.

Chapter three reveals the little-known counter-tradition of conscientious Spaniards seeking for centuries to abolish killing of bulls for sport—a movement which has recently gained force, bringing the passage of anti-bullfighting legislation in Catalan state and more than 20 individual cities. Polls have for more than 20 years shown that the majority of Spaniards favor banning bullfighting.

Chapter four describes how bullfights remain popular in Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, but are in decline in Peru. Portuguese bullfights, often mis-described as “bloodless,” are particularly brutal because while the bull is not killed in the ring, he does have banderillas (banner-festooned daggers) stuck in him, and the injured bull, destined for the slaughterhouse, sometimes suffers for days before being put to death. This makes a mockery of the 1928 law that forbade killing bulls in the ring to try to reduce the animals’ suffering.

In later chapters, Ogorzaly relates how artists, authors and the cinema have sanitized bullfighting and romanticized the matador. Ogorzaly is especially scornful of Ernest Hemingway, whose 1932 volume *Death in the Afternoon* is still widely believed to be the most authoritative book on Spanish bullfighting written in the English language.

“Hemingway found the sight of a horse tripping over its own entrails ‘comic,’” Ogorzaly writes. “It is too bad that the old reprobate could not have had an out-of-the-body experience and seen himself on that fateful day in 1961 after he had put a shotgun to his face and pulled the trigger. He might have laughed his head off, or at least what he had left of it.” But the evil that men do lives on. Running with the bulls *en route* to the ring in Pamplona, a little-known local tradition when

Hemingway wrote about it in *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), now attracts thousands of participants from around the world, and similar events are now held in many other nations.

The prevalence of bullfighting in the Spanish-speaking world, where most people are devout Catholics, is also an indictment of the failure of the Roman Catholic Church to enforce anti-bullfighting statements and edicts issued from the Vatican many times since 1567, when Pope Pious V in the bull *De salute gregis dominici* forbade bullfighting as an entertainment more proper of demons than humans. Pious V excommunicated emperors, kings and cardinals who would not ban bullfights, and clerics who attended bullfights, and excluded bullfighters from Christian burial. Vatican secretary of state Cardinal Gasparri in 1920 wrote that, “The Church maintains His Holiness Pious V’s condemnation of such bloody, shameful shows,” Monsignor Mario Canciani reiterated the Vatican position in 1989, and Vatican theologian Marie Hendrickx reiterated it yet again in 2000 in the semi-official Vatican newspaper *L’Osservatore Romano*.

Ogorzaly describes how churches, convents and other Catholic institutions continue to defy the Vatican by actually sponsoring bullfights as fundraising events.

Actively trying to stop bullfighting has been left to dedicated activists. Ogorzaly devotes an entire chapter to the work done by fellow Chicagoan Steve Hindi of SHARK, whose videography is the best documentation yet of the cruelty involved in both bullfighting and its close U.S. cousin, rodeo.

Ogorzaly describes how bullfighting is lucrative enough to buy survival in France, where over 80% of the population oppose bullfighting, and in Mexico, where a 1998 poll showed that 87% of Mexicans are opposed to bullfighting. France, Mexico, Portugal, and Colombia all have organizations working to stop bullfighting, but even with majority support, they still lack the clout to close the corridas.

Bullfighting is not uniquely a disease of the Spanish culture. Similar ritualistic bull-killing is practiced in parts of Asia and Africa, including at the Zulu “First Fruits” festival, where at the end of each year a bull is hideously tortured to death by young Zulu males.

Just as defenders of Spanish bullfighting dismiss criticism of the *corrida* as unpatriotic and an attack on Spanish culture, so any criticism of the Zulu ritual is denounced as racist and an attack on Zulu culture. Just as the Vatican fails to follow up the 1567 prohibition of bullfighting with actual excom-

Justice for Animals ires South African National SPCA over Zulu bullfight

KLOOF, KwaZulu-Natal—Justice for Animals founder Steve Smiths sought to support the National SPCA of South Africa in a December 4, 2006 e-mail to news media, protesting against the annual mob killing of a bull at the First Fruits Festival, a traditional Zulu celebration.

National SPCA executive director Marcelle Meredith’s December 5 response took Smiths and much of his lengthy cc. list much by surprise.

Wrote Smiths, “We are outraged that the National SPCA, which has been mandated by an act of parliament to uphold the animal protection laws of the land, is powerless to act against this atrocity simply because the authorities refuse to respond to their pleas for support and assistance. We therefore call upon both the provincial and national government to order the South African Police Services and the National Defense Force to provide the necessary support to enable the NSPCA to intervene and save this bull from the torture to which he will be subjected. The Zulu monarchy and the Zulu people do not exist in a political, social or legal vacuum and they are not entitled to special treatment just because they claim cultural and traditional immunity.”

Meredith objected first of all that Smiths’ e-mail “appears to be based on our media statement which, by nature of press releases, contains condensed information,” as if anyone outside the NSPCA could describe the NSPCA response based on anything other than the public record.

Meredith then stated that, “The NSPCA is offended that you had the temerity in this communication to dictate to us how you feel we should be doing our job. If you believe that a Court interdict was or is the route to take, we ask you the same question: why have you or the organization you represent not done this?”

Wrote back Smiths, “Justice for Animals has approached our legal counsel for guidance on the practicality of applying for an interdict to prevent the killing of this bull.”

munications, so the National Council of the SPCA in South Africa fails to press cruelty charges against the Zulus.

Rejecting cultural pretexts for such sadistic exercises, Ogorzaly condemns those who argue that bullfighting can be considered an art form. All the glittering sequined costumes and colourful pageantry cannot disguise the sleazy reality: if this is an art form, it can only be pornography.

—Chris Mercer
<www.cannedlion.co.za>
South Africa

The case for Ernest Hemingway

Michael Ogorzaly in *The Case Against Bullfighting* appears to have quoted Ernest Hemingway far out of context. The reference is from the opening chapter of *Death In The Afternoon*, in which—from the first sentence—Hemingway bluntly acknowledged the cruelty of bullfighting, with emphasis on the injuries done to horses.

Hemingway described his horror at how Greeks evacuating Smyrna in 1922 broke the legs of their pack donkeys and pushed them into the sea to drown, an episode he covered for the Toronto Telegram Syndicate as a young reporter and described again in his 1924 short story *On The Quai At Smyrna*. Hemingway recounted his intervention on many occasions (also described by others) to assist downed horses in the streets, and his fondness for dogs and cats—especially cats, who were his desk companions for most of his life.

Hemingway then analyzed why his response to horse injuries in the bullring was not what he had expected it would be, not what he had thought would be in character for him and in keeping with his values, and went on to explore why bullfighting audiences respond to the injuries suffered by the horses quite differently from their response to the suffering and death of the bulls, even laughing as horses are disemboweled.

Hemingway stated that he did not consider horses being disemboweled something to laugh at. Then he explained that in the classic definitions of Greek theatre, one of the venues in which modern bullfighting evolved (chiefly in Minoa), the horses in the bullring are cast in the “comic” role, while the bull’s role is “tragic.” This is a matter of the structure of the event. The bull bravely faces an unavoidable fate; the horses are agents in bringing it about, whose “failure” sets up the final confrontation.

“The tragedy is all centered in the bull and in the man,” observed Hemingway. “The tragic climax of the horse’s career has occurred off stage at an earlier time, when he was bought by the horse contractor for use in the bull ring.”

Hemingway concluded, “I suppose, from a modern moral point of view, that is, a Christian point of view, the whole bullfight is indefensible; there is certainly much cruelty,

there is always danger, either sought or unlooked for, and there is always death, and I should not try to defend it now, only to tell honestly the things I have found true about it. To do this I must be altogether frank, or try to be, and if those who read this decide with disgust that it is written by some one who lacks their, the readers’, fineness of feeling I can only plead that this may be true. But whoever reads this can only truly make such a judgment when he, or she, has seen the things that are spoken of and knows truly what their reactions to them would be.”

During this discussion, Hemingway also wrote, in one of his most often misrepresented passages, “From observation I would say that people may possibly be divided into two general groups: those who identify themselves with animals, and those who identify themselves with human beings. I believe, after experience and observation, that those people who identify themselves with animals, that is, the almost professional lovers of dogs and other beasts, are capable of greater cruelty to human beings than those who do not identify themselves readily with animals. It seems as though there were a fundamental cleavage between people on this basis, although people who do not identify themselves with animals may, while not loving animals in general, be capable of great affection for an individual animal, a dog, a cat, or a horse, for instance. But they will base this affection on some quality of, or some association with, this individual animal rather than on the fact that it is an animal and hence worthy of love.”

The context of the time is essential. Hemingway then, at age 32, had never had any evident direct association with anyone who was formally involved in humane work. However, as a journalist, Hemingway not only wrote somewhat critically about bullfighting and the Pamplona running of the bulls, three years before writing *The Sun Also Rises*, but also reported about and warned against the rise of fascism and Nazism.

Hemingway was aware that some of the Nazi leadership espoused anti-vivisectionism and

even vegetarianism, as a frequent cover for anti-Semitic activity, and to court foreign support. Hemingway never directly addressed the creeping influence of fascism and Nazism within organized humane work in the 1930s, which he may never have known about, but he recurrently mentioned the hypocrisy of people who purported to gentility, including in pampering pets, while glibly endorsing atrocious social and political policies. In unfavorably commenting about such people, Hemingway sometimes expressly exempted their pets from his judgement.

Death In The Afternoon appeared shortly before the Nazis banned kosher slaughter, in the first of 32 “humane laws” enacted by the Third Reich between 1933 and 1942. Typical were laws that banned cropping the ears of Alsatians, Dobermans, and other “Germanic” breeds, but did not protect other dogs, and which forbade pet-keeping by Jews and gypsies. Most of the Nazi “humane laws” were passed before 1938; many were uncritically lauded by leading humane societies in the U.S., France, Britain, and Switzerland. Several humane societies urged that the Nazis should be emulated, to their later chagrin.

Former Nazi sympathizers remained prominent in animal advocacy for decades—including the anti-vivisectionist Hans Reusch, now 91, who for more than 20 years has often bitterly attacked *Animal Liberation* author Peter Singer, born shortly after his parents fled Nazi Germany. Their conflicting backgrounds may either have little or much to do with their differing outlooks. Reusch drove for the Nazi-sponsored Auto Union racing team in 1938. He reputedly influenced the renowned Italian driver Tazio Nuvolari to also drive for Auto Union, which was the original

maker of the Volkswagen “beetle,” and may have annoyed Hemingway when his novel *The Racer* (1953) was favorably mentioned by critics alongside *The Old Man & The Sea* (1952).

Hemingway’s only real success written during his last 21 years, *The Old Man & The Sea* portrayed killing a large fish as a tragic event, that the killer lived to regret.

Hemingway’s concern about the Nazis and their U.S. and European backers, visible in most of his work during the 1930s and 1940s, is not to be confused with what he might have thought of the modern animal rights movement, which he did not live to see.

Hemingway did state several times his respect for opponents of bullfighting and hunting who practiced vegetarianism, in contrast to his contempt for hypocrisy.

Both *Death In The Afternoon* and *The Green Hills of Africa* (1935), about Hemingway’s first African safari, emphasize his view that a man killing an animal should exhibit the same virtues that he saw in animals who may charge their killers, defending themselves, their mates, and their young. In both books Hemingway addressed aspects of blood sports that he felt were open to moral question.

Certainly the young Hemingway acknowledged much more mixed feelings about harming animals than the middle-aged Hemingway, who after winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature, lapsed into alcoholic self-parody.

Of significance is that in *The Sun Also Rises*, about a man who lost his genitals to shrapnel in World War I, Hemingway used the Pamplona bull run as a thematic device to satirize the lengths men will go to in trying to demonstrate manly qualities which might be called into question.

—Merritt Clifton

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Altruistic Armadillos, Zenlike Zebras: A Menagerie of 100 Favorite Animals by Jeffrey Mousaieff Masson

Ballantine Books (1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019), 2006
429 pages, hardcover. \$ 27.95.

This is a collection of 100 short essays, each about a different animal. Beyond describing the appearance and habits of the subject animals, psychologist turned author Jeffrey Mousaieff Masson wants to know what kind of “person” each animal is.

Seeking personality in animals is a challenge, requiring much research, but Masson has proved equal to it.

For instance, Masson relates how Australian magpie researcher Gisela Kaplan has discovered that magpies play-fight with human friends just like a playful puppy, pretending to be angry. During these play-fights they roll over and expose their bellies to express submission, just as dogs do.

Badgers have shown human-like rituals around death. Masson describes how one badger sow who lost her mate made a mournful sound that brought a male out from another sett. Together they dragged the dead body to a warren, buried it, and then separated.

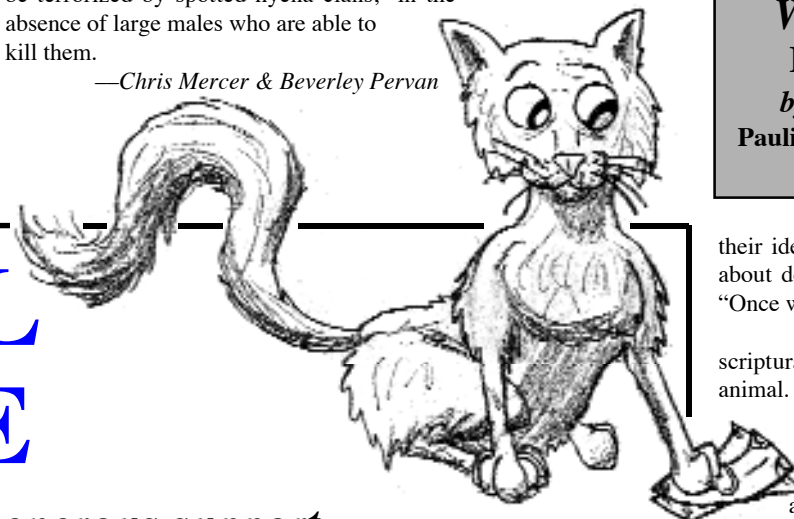
Masson also reveals surprising aspects of biology. Jellyfish, for example, like butterflies and caterpillars, go through two completely different stages of life: the free swimming bell-like shape that we all recognize, and a phase as a polyp attached to a stem. The venom of some species can be lethal to humans. And they are not all blind, as one might suppose. Six sets of four eyes provide the box jellyfish with superb vision.

These and other surprising scientific truths leap out of the pages at every turn, showing how little we really know about the other life forms who inhabit our planet (other than how to kill and eat them).

Anticipating from the title that we would be reading about fluffy animals such as the panda bear, we found, to our delight, that Masson covers an eclectic mix of creatures, from the charismatic—such as gorillas, lions, and elephants—to the common—including chickens, sheep, and cows—the obscure—including pearl oysters and glow worms—and even the mythical, represented by the yeti.

Since our experience is with African wildlife, we looked critically at the chapters on lions and meerkats. We found no glaring errors. Masson correctly describes male African lions as lazy, but he might be faulted for leaving the impression that they are useless except for reproduction. Masson might have noted how essential large males are to protecting lion prides from competition from other large predators. For instance, lionesses can be terrorized by spotted hyena clans, in the absence of large males who are able to kill them.

—Chris Mercer & Beverley Pervan



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Firehorse by Diane Lee Wilson

Margaret K. McElderry Books (c/o Simon & Schuster, 1230 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 2006. 325 pages, paperback. \$16.95.

Researching the Great Boston Fire of 1872, *Firehorse* author Diane Lee Wilson discovered the diary of a 14-year-old girl who had lived in Boston at the time. The book is woven around that girl's hopes and dreams.

The Great Fire broke out after a horse flu epidemic that spread across North America had immobilized Boston's fire horses. Firefighting equipment had to be pulled by volunteers on foot. This is often cited as the leading reason why the fire got out of control, but the city commission which later investigated the fire found that fire crews' response times were delayed by only minutes.

Wilson portrays the courage of the firemen, and their horses, as they battled the many fires that were a much more frequent part of life in the era of kerosene lamps, coal-burning stoves, and flammable wooden roofs which were common on most buildings.

The 1872 fire was by far the most disastrous of several great fires that Boston suffered. It destroyed more than 65 acres of the most valuable business property of the city, burning out at least a thousand businesses, including almost 300 in wholesale dry goods.

Against this incendiary background is the story of a headstrong young woman, Rachel, whose love of horses and need for emancipation brings on confrontation with her bigoted father. A local newspaper editor, he believes that a woman's place is in the home.

Wilson highlights a time when women could not vote, could not own property, and a retired Harvard medical professor even published a book warning that women who strived for higher levels of learning risked the atrophy of their reproductive organs.

—Beverley Pervan
<www.cannedlion.co.za>

We Thank You, God, For These: Blessings & Prayers for Family Pets

by Anthony F. Chiffolo & Rayner W. Hesse, Jr.
Paulist Press (997 Macarthur Blvd., Mahwah, NJ 07430),
2006. \$16.95, paperback. 204 pages.

When Anthony Chiffolo and Rayner Hesse first tried to market their idea of producing a book of prayers, stories, poems, and quotes about deceased pets, rejection was disheartening. One response began “Once we stopped laughing, we were able to send you this letter.”

Yet the book is a gold mine of useful material, including scriptural references and even a complete memorial service for a loved animal. Not overly maudlin and sentimental, it is uplifting in providing solace for humans who grieve for their animal companions. The number and variety of relevant quotations included reveals how normal it is to grieve for a favorite animal. Grieving is shown as an expression of faith: “For the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies so does the other. They all have the same breath, and humans have no advantage over the animals; for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows whether the human spirit goes upward and the spirit of animals goes downward into the earth?” (Ecclesiastes 3:19 to 22.)

This book is a must read for clergy who want to preach against violence to animals, and offers consolation to bereaved animal lovers.

—Chris Mercer

Please Don't Eat The Animals:

All the Reasons You Need to Be a Vegetarian
by Jennifer Horsman & Jaimie Flowers

Quill Driver Books (1254 Commerce Way, Sanger, CA 93657), 2006. 128 pages, paperback. \$12.95.

Jennnifer Horsman and Jaimie Flowers have combined to produce an excellent summary of the arguments in favour of vegetarianism. With well-researched statistics and up-to-date scientific information, Horsman and Flowers deal concisely with the four pillars of vegetarianism, namely health, environment, animal welfare and philosophy/religion. This would be the perfect booklet to hand to the ubiquitous sceptic who asks “Why are you a vegetarian?” No reasonable, open-minded reader could fail to discover hundreds of good reasons why he/she should become vegetarian. It is a pocket battleship of debating material to throw at those who assert that eating meat is an inalienable right.

It is pleasing to see the authors include a section on the religious aspects of meat-eating. The scriptures of all major religions teach that cruelty to animals should be avoided. That cruel methods of meat production are not merely unethical, but actually sinful, has resonance within Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

—Chris Mercer & Beverley Pervan

Just A Dog: Understanding Animal Cruelty & Ourselves by Arnold Arluke

Temple University Press (1601 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19122), 2006. 221 pages, paperback. \$22.95.

Arnold Arluke in *Brute Force: Policing Animal Cruelty* (2004) studied the sociology of humane investigators. *Just A Dog* summarizes that work, then comparably examines the sociology of juveniles who commit cruelty, animal hoarders, shelter workers, and the marketers who use cruelty cases to raise funds and reinforce the stature of humane societies. Veterans of humane work will find few if any surprises in Arluke's often plodding analysis, but the less experienced may find the 35 pages about marketing and fundraising an invaluable introduction to the art of balancing public expectations—and especially donor expectations—with reality.

Unfortunately, after painstakingly studying everything else he discusses, Arluke concludes with a chapter of broadly generalized fulminations about “the media” which include no survey data and no perspectives from within journalism, tends to blame reporters for the often muddled attitudes of sources and subjects, fails to distinguish reporters from opinion columnists (who often lack formal journalistic training), and gives no recognition to the widely differing roles, standards, and practices of print, broadcast, and electronic media.

—Merritt Clifton

Landmark verdict in Jaipur elephant case

JAIPUR—Eighteen years after a jeep killed an elephant used to give tourists rides up the narrow, winding road to the Amer Palace overlooking Jaipur, the Rajasthan High Court on December 20, 2006 upheld a 1993 ruling by the Motor Accident Tribunal of Jaipur that elephant owner Saddique Khan should be compensated the same amount as if the elephant had been a human being.

The sum, about \$12,500 U.S. plus interest, is to be paid by the New India Insurance Company. The company contended that it should only pay the standard rate for livestock of equivalent size, about \$41.50 as of 1988, when the accident happened.

The case was judged as controversy and attempted litigation continued over elephant polo, played in Jaipur since 1975, but only protested since September 2006, when British author Mark Shand began promoting a match to benefit his charity, The Elephant Family, and the Jaipur-based animal charity Help In Suffering. The November 18 match was played without the traditional use of the ankus, or “elephant hook,” to demonstrate that it could be done.

Shand is brother of Camilla Parker Bowles, wife of Prince Charles of Britain.

Activists Shubhobroto Ghosh, of Kolkata, and Azam Siddique, a television reporter in Assam state, orchestrated global Internet protest against the match. PETA organized a protest at the scene, by activists wearing elephant masks. The Haryana chapter of People for Animals sought an injunction to halt the match, further elephant polo games, and most film making use of elephants.

But the match was resolutely de-

fended by Help In Suffering head trustee Christine Townend, who with philosopher Peter Singer cofounded the Australian animal rights group Animal Liberation in 1978, and has conducted annual elephant care clinics for the working elephants of Jaipur since 2000.

Wrote Townend, “A number of groups objected to the practice of alternative elephant polo, a slow and ambling game in which elephants walk across a soft field in cool of evening, in the winter months, under command of bare feet and voice only.

“For example, PETA claimed that the match should not take place because the elephants in Jaipur live in terrible conditions. This is exactly why Help in Suffering believes that alternative elephant polo should be encouraged, so that these elephants have enrichment in their lives.

“In a photo circulated to the media, the caption read, ‘Elephant with marks from a steel hook showing on its trunk and belly (Photo courtesy PETA-India).’ We know this elephant well,” Townend said. “We twice saved her life, when she was suffering from a urinary tract infection. The marks on her belly are patches of depigmentation due to a skin disease she had long ago.

“Alternative elephant polo was endorsed by the Animal Welfare Board of India and the Forest Department of Rajasthan,” Townend continued. “We were honoured that the chair, Major General Kharb, and his wife, attended the event, along with many other dignitaries who deeply care about the miserable conditions under which the Jaipur elephants live at present, who want to see their lives improved and enriched.”

ANIMAL OBITS

Roadie, 14, a double-amputee Walker coonhound recalled by Greg Kocher of the Lexington *Herald-Leader* as “a symbol of perseverance to people with disabilities,” was euthanized on November 30, 2006 due to incurable painful conditions of age. “In 1992,” Kocher wrote, “at only nine months old, he spent two or three days and nights lying between the rails of railroad track,” near Nicholasville, Kentucky, “after a freight train mangled his right rear leg and left front leg. A railroad employee stopped to put him out of his misery. The gun jammed. So he went to a nearby farmhouse and asked if the dog belonged to anyone there. He didn’t, but the woman who lived there began making calls, including one to the Nicholasville Police. The police called Mike Griffith, DVM. Griffith checked the dog’s tags and contacted the owner. After he realized Roadie would never hunt again, the owner said he would take the dog home and dispose of him. When the pup was gingerly loaded into the truck, he wagged his tail. Griffith asked whether he could have him.” Roadie’s rescue and recovery was subsequently featured by radio broadcaster Paul Harvey, CNN television, *Reader’s Digest*, and *Dog World*. He spent the rest of his life at Griffith’s Bluegrass Veterinary Clinic.

Desert Orchid, 27, ridden to victory in 34 steeplechase races between 1983 and 1991, including four King George VI championships, died quietly in his stable near London, England, on November 13, 2006. Readers of *The Racing Post* voted his 1989 charge up Cheltenham Hill to beat rival Yahoo the greatest racing performance of all time.

OBITUARIES

Carol Chapman, 66, was killed along with 12 cats and her smallest dog, Zoey, on December 18, 2006 after falling and breaking her nose and neck while fighting a pre-dawn housefire at her home in San Jose, California. “Chapman loved cats,” recalled Scott Herhold of the *Mercury News*. “She sometimes had as many as 30 or 40 of them, not to mention Buddy, her German shepherd mix, or her two other beloved mutts, Lacy and Zoey. Before she became sick with cervical cancer, she rescued hundreds of cats,” placing them in adoptive homes. A retired Santa Clara social worker, Chapman reputedly screened adopters more thoroughly than the county screened foster parents. She “worked with a clutch of animal rescue groups, most recently with Furry Friends Rescue,” Herhold recalled, “often stood outside a local Petco to interest people in taking on an unloved animal,” and “Every other week on the Greg Kihn show on KFOX radio, gave a short blurb offering a cat or dog to a good home.”

Allison Haskell, 49, died of ovarian cancer on December 17, 2006, nine days short of her 50th birthday, at home in Ashfield, Massachusetts. After earning a masters degree in wildlife biology from the University of Massachusetts, where she studied the population ecology of the Plymouth redbelly turtle, Haskell studied at the Tufts University Veterinary School and spent five years as chief veterinary technician at the Tufts Wildlife Clinic. Haskell worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a research specialist in the Division of Federal Aid from 1993 to 2003, then was national coordinator for Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation. Haskell formed two nonprofit organizations herself, Northeast Wildlife Heritage, funded by sales of her own paintings and handicrafts, and Cures For Ovarian Cancer, incorporated—after she fell ill herself in 2002—to promote early detection screening.

John F. Kulikowski, 51, the first registered animal rights attorney in Connecticut, and a frequent visitor to the offices of the *Animals’ Agenda* magazine when it was based in Westport and Monroe, Connecticut, died on October 4, 2006, from cumulative effects of meningitis, which he had battled for 10 years.

—Wolf Clifton

Moose, a 5-month-old kitten adopted at six weeks of age by Amber Kelly and family, of Elbridge, New York, was allegedly tied up, doused with gasoline, and burned alive on December 20, 2006 by Dustin M. Gauger, 20, and Kyle D. Custer, 16. Both were charged by state police with felony aggravated cruelty to animals and petty larceny. Custer was further charged with unlawful possession of marijuana, said Syracuse *Post-Standard* writer Diana LaMattina.

Porky, 5, a 300-pound pet pig who lived with farm manager Aaron O’Brien and his girlfriend Camilla Skold on a 130-acre farm in Mililani, Hawaii, was chased into their carport by five hunting dogs and allegedly stabbed to death on October 22, 2006 by Joseph B. Calarruda V, 28, as two farm tenants screamed for him to stop. Calarruda was on probation after serving a year in prison for kidnapping his former girlfriend in the parking lot of the Wai’anae police station, and is facing a jury trial for illegal possession of firearms, reported Peter Boylan of the *Honolulu Advertiser*.

Virgil Butler, 41, died during the night of December 15, 2006 “in his car in front of his [Arkansas] home where he lived with his partner, Laura Alexander,” United Poultry Concerns founder Karen Davis announced. “Butler was a Tyson chicken slaughterhouse worker turned activist,” Davis recounted. “In testimony given through PETA in January 2003, Butler described the horrific treatment of chickens that he witnessed every night at the Tyson slaughterhouse in Grannis, Arkansas, from 1997 to 2002. He changed his life completely, speaking out boldly on behalf of chickens, and against the terrible abuse they suffer, at considerable risk to himself in a region dominated by Tyson. In 2002,” Davis added, “Butler was a keynote speaker” at the annual UPC Forum. An animal rights movement celebrity, Butler was less well received by mainstream news media after the *Los Angeles Times* distributed a nationally syndicated profile of him in December 2003, but within days retracted the lead paragraph. “It said that Butler took part in the U.S. invasion of Panama,” the *L.A. Times* corrected, “where he recalled killing enemy soldiers, but the Army has no record of his service. The article stated that Butler shot a man to death in the parking lot of a bar and went to prison for manslaughter. He was convicted of felony burglary. The shooting could not be confirmed.”

Qin Qin, 17, the world’s only panda bear who was brown-and-white instead of black-and-white, died unexpectedly on November 22, 2006 at the Qinling Safari Park in Xi’an, capital of Shaaxi province, China.

Osama Bin Laden, 45-50, a rogue tuskless Indian elephant, was reportedly shot on December 15, 2006 by hunter Dipen Ram Phukan and a team of forest rangers at the Behali tea plantation in Sonitpur district, Assam—but a post mortem indicated that they killed an innocent elephant. This was the second time an innocent elephant was mistaken for “Osama” and killed, said Assam journalist Azam Siddique. The real “Osama” elephant was declared a rogue in June 2003, after killing five people, had killed 13 through 2005 while eluding pursuit, is believed to have killed four members of one family on the night of November 19, and killed a woman in a forest reserve several nights later. The Assam Assembly on December 14 passed a resolution ordering his death by the end of 2006. Elephants have killed 248 Assamese since 2001, while Assamese have killed 268 elephants.

MEMORIALS

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—Elissa Blake Free

In memory of my little dog Que, my very very best friend and companion who was put to sleep 8/28/06 at age 17. I cannot put into words how I miss him.
—Hilde Wilson

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