

A global charter for animals? (page 3)



Phuket temple chicken. (Kim Bartlett)

Study confirms chicken cognition

SILSOE, U.K.—Hens pecking buttons to earn food rewards may have a better awareness of passing time and be better able to assess the prospects of future gain than human slot machine gamblers, a new British study suggests.

Silsoe Research Institute Biophysics Group animal welfare scientist Siobhan Abeyesinghe varied the “payout” for pecking so that her hens would get only a small amount of food if they pecked quickly, but would receive a large amount if they delayed their pecks for 22 seconds, long enough to demonstrate the ability to mentally clock their own behavior and show deliberate self-restraint.

Researching poultry welfare since 1996, Abeyesinghe emphasized the welfare implications of her findings in describing them for the journal *Animal Behavior*.

“An animal with no awareness of ‘later’ may not be able to predict the end of an unpleasant experience, such as pain, rendering the pain all-encompassing,” Abeyesinghe wrote.

“On the other hand, an animal who can anticipate an event might benefit from cues to aid prediction, but may also be capable of expectations rendering her vulnerable to thwarting, frustration, and preemptive anxiety,” Abeyesinghe added.

“In their natural environment it (continued on page 9)

Transforming Phuket animal conditions post-tsunami

PHUKET, Thailand—Urbanization is hitting Phuket much harder than the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

What that may mean for animals on the 400-square-mile resort island near the extreme south of Thailand is anyone’s guess.

The Soi Dog Foundation and Gibbon Rehabilitation Project, among Phuket’s most prominent pro-animal organizations, are guardedly optimistic.

More development may mean more homes for dogs and cats, and more donors to support animal charities.

Paradoxically, more development could even mean more protected wildlife habitat. Tourism employs one Phuket adult in four. The August-to-November bird migration season drives tourism from midsummer until the winter holidays. That makes safeguarding bird habitat, at least, a high priority for planners.

Yet more people might mean more traffic and less tolerance of street dogs, already considered a nuisance by much of the Buddhist majority, and mostly abhorred by Muslims.

Development may also restrict land-



Phuket temple dog. (Kim Bartlett)

dwelling native wildlife to increasingly isolated “islands” of mountainous forest.

ANIMAL PEOPLE observed in the villages behind Patong Beach and Surin Beach (continued on page 12)

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care

About Animals

July/August 2005
Volume XIV, #6



PETA staffers face 62 felony cruelty counts in North Carolina

WINTON, N.C.—The scheduled first court appearance of PETA staffers Adria Joy Hinkle and Andrew Benjamin Cook on multiple cruelty charges was on July 19, 2005 postponed until August 16.

Hinkle, 27, and Cook, 24, are charged with a combined 62 counts of felony cruelty to animals and 16 counts of illegal disposal of animal remains.

Police sources have indicated that other persons associated with PETA may be charged as result of ongoing investigation.

The court date was delayed, reported Darren Freeman of the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot*, because the prosecution was “waiting for lab results on chemicals found in a van the two suspects were using when they were arrested, and the results to determine the cause of death of one of the animals.”

Ahoskie, North Carolina police detective Jeremy Roberts told Freeman that the van was registered to PETA.

Roberts announced the next day that the tests had confirmed that the chemicals were ketamine and pentobarbital. Ketamine is commonly used to immobilize animals before surgical procedures or lethal injection. Pentobarbital is the standard drug used for lethal injection. Both drugs are regulated by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, and in North Carolina may only be purchased and used by a licensed veterinarian.

Ketamine is also known as “the date-rape drug,” while pentobarbital is a barbituate derivative with street value to addicts.

Hinkle and Cook were arrested on

June 15, 2005. Ahoskie police and Bertie County sheriff’s deputies investigating the discovery of 60 to 70 animal carcasses in dumpsters during the preceding four weeks said they saw Hinkle and Cook dump 18 dead dogs and found the remains of 13 more in their van.

PETA staff had been taking animals from pounds in Bertie County since 2001 and nearby Northampton County since 2004.

Freeman and Seth Seymour of the *Virginian-Pilot* reported that PETA president Ingrid Newkirk called Hinkle “The Mother Teresa of animals,” but suspended her for 90 days. PETA said Cook was not suspended.

Newkirk and domestic animal rescue chief Daphna Nachminovitch told news media and concerned animal advocates in a flurry of statements during the next several days that dumping the dead animals in garbage bins violated PETA policy and was done without their knowledge, but insisted that PETA had never concealed that most of the animals it took from the North Carolina shelters would be killed.

Newkirk and Nachminovitch claimed that PETA killed North Carolina animals by lethal injection so that they would not be “drowned in floods,” shot, or gassed, detailing in one statement a decade-long dispute with Yadkin County over use of a locally made carbon monoxide chamber.

But the animals involved in the case against Hinkle and Cook came from other counties—and were not all from pounds.

Wrote Freeman and Seymour, “Among the dead animals authorities found a (continued on page 14)



Singapore Zoo white tiger. (Kim Bartlett)

White tigers, green polar bears, & maintaining a world-class zoo

SINGAPORE—When the tigers are white and the polar bears are a blotchy dark green, a zoo has problems.

Opened in June 1973, the Singapore Zoo and adjacent Night Safari are together reputedly the best zoo complex within half a global orbit, together setting the Asian zoo design and management standard.

More than 1.2 million visitors per year view about 3,200 animals of 330 mostly tropical species at the Singapore Zoo and Night Safari.

The animals are chiefly housed in semi-natural surroundings. The equatorial Singapore climate is good for reptiles year-round, including some of the largest tortoises, most active monitors, and largest gharials and salt water crocodiles on exhibit anywhere.

Pygmy hippos thrive. Both Old World and New World monkeys and big cats are uncommonly lively.

But there are jarring notes.

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore banned traveling wild animal shows in 2002, yet the Singapore Zoo and Night Safari still feature circus-like orang-

utan and marine mammal acts, opportunities to hold and be photographed with young animals, and elephant rides.

Much of the educational signage is decades obsolete.

The tiger exhibit, among the most popular at the zoo, features intensively inbred white tigers. Only a few white tigers have ever been seen in the wild. Those in zoos are virtually all close relatives of specimens bred for show business.

And then, almost at the center of the Singapore Zoo, stands the polar bear exhibit. The exhibit looks much too small for such large animals, but more is wrong.

Both bears, a mother and son, are green from algae growing in their translucent hair shafts. Some experts believe the algae grows when the salinity of the bears’ habitat varies from Arctic norms. Others hold that the long Arctic night suppresses algae growth.

The Singapore Zoo in February 2005 washed the mama bear, Sheba, with hydrogen peroxide. As of June 2005 she was lime green. Her 13-year-old son, Inuka, was

(continued on page 19)

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July/August 2005

Dear Partner,

I was returning from a meeting of the Desert Management Group . . . where representatives of the Government and Military listened to my presentation on rescuing abandoned dogs in the desert . . . when I saw the most frightening thing.

Across the highway, on the edge of the first lane, was this young white dog so intent upon eating something that he didn't see the huge truck bearing down on him.

At the last second the truck let out a bone-chilling blast of its horn and the dog sprung off the road in the nick of time.

My heart was in my mouth as I watched Petie almost get killed. So I whipped around and came upon him myself, detouring the other traffic around my car . . . herding Petie off the road and into the brush.

I tried to get him to come to me, but he ran off. Because of the many hours on the road, I didn't have the rescue van with me . . . I left it at our shelter in case of emergency. There was nothing I could do for Petie except to push him off the road.

If I chased him, he could run back onto the highway and I'd be hearing the horrible sound of his bones snapping under the wheels of a speeding vehicle. But before I drove off, I had to see what tasted so good that Petie almost died eating it . . .

. . . it was a small piece of rubber from a truck tire! Petie was so hungry he was trying to chew a piece of rubber to fill his painfully empty belly.

On the way home I worried about Petie. I knew he was on the run deep in the desert . . . and there was no way I could be back before dark to even try to rescue him. All night long I tossed and turned, thinking of how sad it was that Petie, and the other dogs I was talking about at the meeting, had nothing to eat but occasional trash and fast food wrappers thrown from a car window . . .

. . . but Petie's chewing on a piece of rubber took this suffering to a new low.

Being obsessed with saving the lives of any animal in need, and feeling Petie's pain, I headed out early the next morning with our rescue van hoping to find Petie still alive and not dead by the side of the road.

But when I got there, he was nowhere in sight. I drove all over for an hour . . . no Petie. I hiked into the brush, scanning the terrain with my binoculars . . . still not a trace of him.

I had lots of things to get done that day, but I decided to stay as long as it was light out . . . in the hope of at least spotting Petie. I even set up a feeding station for him in case he was still there but hiding.

Then I set up three traps in the area where I saw Petie run to the day before. And I searched the brush again for tracks.

After a while, I headed back to the van to get a drink of water. On the way back, I stopped for a moment to look through the binoculars to check the traps, fantasizing that I'd see Petie sitting there, smiling, waiting for me.

And guess what?! Dreams do come true! Petie was just sitting there, inside the cage trap, waiting . . . for whatever would happen next.

A couple of hours later at our hospital, taking him out of the trap, Petie wagged the tiny tip of his tucked-up tail at me. And I knew he'd be fine, thanks to people like you, who support our mission to save these precious beings . . . that so few other people seem to care about!

For the animals,

Leo Grillo, founder

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

+ Attention: Rescuers and Shelters +

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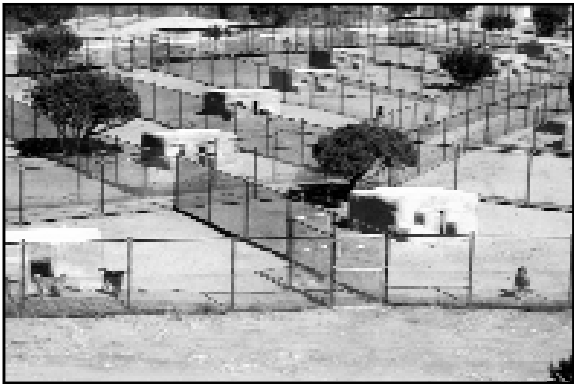
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Editorial feature

Compromise & the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare

Editorially favoring hunting, trapping, fishing, ranching, logging, rodeo, and animal use in biomedical research, the *Spokesman-Review* has probably never in recent decades been mistaken for an exponent of animal rights.

Yet on September 15, 1952 the *Spokesman-Review* became perhaps the first and only daily newspaper in the U.S. to editorially endorse “A Charter of Rights for Animals,” drafted by the World Federation for the Protection of Animals.

The oldest of the three organizations whose mergers eventually produced today’s World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), the Dutch-based World Federation then represented “humane societies in 25 countries,” the *Spokesman-Review* editors noted.

“Most civilized countries already have laws to cover most of the protection for animals that the federation asks,” the *Spokesman-Review* continued. “Beating animals, forcing them to do work beyond their strength, transporting them in a manner to cause pain or without adequate food, all are punishable now in the U.S., for example.”

The humane laws in effect in 1952, mostly passed during the first 25 years of the 20th century, were weak by current standards. Yet humane opposition had in 1923 closed the last legal dogfighting stadium in the U.S. at Langley, Washington, a landmark victory, and the *Spokesman-Review* was justly proud of the progress that humane laws represented.

“Some others of the articles [sought by the World Federation] would prove rather difficult to enforce,” the *Spokesman-Review* continued. “They ask, for instance, that offenders be deprived of the right to own animals, and ask laws against forcible feeding for monetary gain and against using dogs, sheep, or goats for draft purposes.

“Although the ‘animal rights’ charter provides no ban on vivisection or cropping of ears or tails, it suggests limitation of these practices by requiring that they be performed only with government permission, by licensed veterinarians and for medical reasons,” the *Spokesman-Review* added.

“On the other hand, the charter goes beyond what most friends of the animal world would consider necessary, with an article protecting the feelings, if any, of fishes,” the *Spokesman-Review* said. “It would ban the ‘carrying of live fish with hooks and displaying live fish or crustacea in restaurant show windows.’”

Most of these issues are still controversial.

While some state humane laws have provided for seizure of abused animals since the mid-19th century, sentencing that strips the offender of the right to keep any animals has only become commonplace since the introduction of felony penalties for cruelty and neglect, beginning in the early 1990s.

Though most court rulings have upheld penalties for cruelty and neglect that terminate property rights, defendants in cruelty and neglect cases often contend that such sentences are unconstitutional. On July 11, 2005, for instance, the Missouri Supreme Court rejected the claim of horse rancher William Zobel that the Humane Society of Missouri and Carthage Humane Society violated his rights by seizing 120 starving horses in January 2005, because—according to Zobel—the law does not adequately define “neglect” and “abuse.”

Wrote Judge Richard Teitelman, for the unanimous majority, “The need for basic food, water and shelter are concepts that are almost universally contemplated and are understandable by persons of ordinary intelligence.”

Yet the Missouri verdict is unlikely to end the issue.

The World Federation attempt to prohibit “forcible feeding for monetary gain” referred to the practice of force-feeding ducks and geese to produce *foie gras*. A purported anti-*foie gras* bill passed in California in 2004 promised a ban on force-feeding in 2012, but meanwhile explicitly exempted *foie gras* producers from either civil or criminal prosecution. A similar bill is now before the New York legislature.

Dogs, sheep, and goats are now rarely used to pull carts, having been replaced throughout the world by motor vehicles, but only a few nations have significantly restrained vivisection, ear-cropping, and tail-docking, and any attempt to address the suffering of fish and crustaceans still draws ridicule, despite the increasing weight of evidence that fish in particular suffer pain much as we do.

“Perhaps by the time some of these reforms are enforced as law, man’s cruelty to man may also have diminished,” the *Spokesman-Review* editors concluded, with ambiguity that could be interpreted as either optimism or pessimism.

The “Charter of Rights for Animals” that attracted the interest of the *Spokesman-Review* was scarcely the first such effect. Henry Salt, in *Animals’ Rights* (1905), traced efforts to define and enumerate the natural rights of animals back to *The Rights of Beasts*, a 1796 essay by John Lawrence.

Before the League of Nations was chartered in 1920, there was no international body to codify such exercises and present them as “law,” even without enforcement. Lawrence, Salt, and many others who tried to define animals’ rights before 1920 therefore recognized that their efforts had value chiefly in awakening conscience and provoking thought. They did not try to produce quasi-legal boilerplate that would satisfy politicians. Instead, they sought to draft succinct moral statements which readers might easily internalize.

This approach culminated in a two-sentence effort presented in 1896 by the Humanitarian League:

- 1) *The recognition of the actual kinship of man with the lower races implies the extension of the sphere of moral duties consequent on this sense of relationship.*
- 2) *It is, therefore, iniquitous to inflict suffering, directly or indirectly, on any sentient being, except when self-defense or absolute necessity can be justly pleaded.*

Seeking international law

Attempts to create a declaration of animals’ rights in English that might be endorsed by the League of Nations apparently began with a 9-point “Animals’ Charter” authored at an unknown date by Stephen Coleridge (1854-1936), the longtime president of the British National Anti-Vivisection Society.

The Coleridge edition was then expanded into “An Animals’ Bill of Rights” by Geoffrey Hodson (1886-1983), who was president of the Council of Combined Animal Welfare Organizations of New Zealand. Hodson’s version was amplified by the American Anti-Vivisection Society.

The French author Andre Géraud meanwhile produced “A Declaration of Animal Rights” in 1924, which in 1926 inspired an “International Animals Charter” drafted by Florence Barkers.

Animal advocates were unfortunately no more successful in persuading the League of Nations to support rights for animals than the League of Nations was in preventing the smouldering grievances left by World War I from rekindling as World War II.

But when World War II ended, and the United Nations military alliance formed to fight the Nazis and other Axis powers was reorganized as the United Nations world assembly, efforts soon resumed to translate a theory of animal rights into global law.

The early participants included 13 organizations based in Britain, all long since merged into others or defunct; nine from India, mostly still existing; and two each, mostly vanished, from Sri Lanka, Germany, Austria, and Japan. The U.S. was represented by the multinational World University Roundtable and the Western Federation of Animal Crusaders. The latter has at least two small regional descendants.

The high rate of attrition among the groups that pushed the “Charter of Rights for Animals” may reflect the esoteric nature of the enterprise. As always since the very beginnings of the humane movement, hands-on animal rescue won the most donor enthusiasm during the next decades, distantly followed by campaigns seeking specific legal reforms.

The *Spokesman-Review* endorsement appears to have been as far as the charter got toward gaining public acceptance, but the campaign continued.

A retired Presbyterian minister, the Reverend W.J. Piggott, marked “World Day for Animals” in 1953—yes, there was one—by publishing in India an “Appeal for the International Animals’ Charter,” apparently based on the Barkers charter. Piggott incorporated the 1896 Humanitarian League statements as the opening lines.

Remembering that *The Origin of Species* author Charles Darwin was both a fellow minister and a fellow animal advocate, Piggott introduced his proposed charter of animals’ rights with an argument accepting evolution as a fact.

Piggott in 1954 presented his appeal and a revised “International Animals’ Charter” to a “World Congress of Animal Welfare Societies” held in London. Though the structure and wording of the charter has subsequently been amended many times, enough phrases survive here and there, almost intact, to identify the Piggott version as an early draft of the most recent editions promoted by WSPA.

Wrote Piggott, “The full application of the following points can only be attained gradually, as man spiritualizes his mind, realizes the oneness of life in its essential process, and ascends to a truly higher civilization.

“When it is necessary to take the life of an animal (after considering possible alternatives), it must be done in the most humane way known to science and by licensed persons who have been fully trained in humane techniques. This to apply also to so-called pests...

“Transport of animals should be made as humane as possible and in occupations where the use of animals involves suffering, unnatural conditions, and incarceration below ground [a reference to the use of ponies to pull mining carts], they should be replaced by mechanical devices.

“Cruel sports; the use of animals upon the stage, screen (except for educational purposes, the object of which is to benefit the animals) and in circuses; the cruel trapping of animals for zoos, menageries and other purposes, should be outlawed.

“Animals should not be made to participate in warfare,” Piggott stipulated, having witnessed the horrors of two world wars, “nor in those practices which set one animal to make war upon another [such as dogfighting and cockfighting]; nor should they be killed in religious sacrifices.

“Vivisection and all cruel experiments, whether atomic, pharmaceutical, psychological or other should be prohibited; pain only to be inflicted for the benefit of the animal concerned, with the maximum use of anesthetics and methods of natural healing.

“Hospitals and traveling dispensaries, free for animals of the poor, should be provided in all areas, with arrangements for strays,” Piggott wrote, anticipating by decades the recent extensions of humane outreach to vaccinate and sterilize street dogs and feral cats.

“All animals should be given the decent necessities of life” Piggott continued, “namely, good food to maintain them in health, good living quarters and companionship, and the maximum amount of freedom practicable...Animals suffering from incurable diseases and crippling old age to be humanely destroyed.

“In healthy old age,” Piggott suggested, echoing the Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain teachings he had learned in India, “homes of rest could be provided, as a gesture of prepayment of the debt to the animals for their part in building up our civilization.”

“The public should be instructed in the advantages to health and evolution of a more humane diet,” Piggott said, stopping just short of endorsing vegetarianism.

“Study of the life of animals and of their proper treatment should be included in the curriculum of all schools and youth organizations,” Piggott recommended. “Religious and cultural bodies should realize their responsibility for the humane education of adults and children alike.

“A Ministry of State for Animal Welfare,” Piggott continued, “including persons of known humanitarian sympathies and carrying a record of service, should be set up in every country and kept fully alive to all matters relating to animals.”

The Animal Welfare Board of India was created in 1960 in partial acceptance of this proposal, which had been earlier voiced by Mohandas Gandhi and first Indian prime minister Jawarhalal Nehru, but the only national minister for animal welfare to hold cabinet rank in any nation was Maneka Gandhi of India in 1998-2003.

Piggott saved his most radical proposal for last:

“For the purposes of this Charter the term ‘animals’ shall include all birds, mammals, fishes, and reptiles.”

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ANIMAL PEOPLE

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Publisher: Kim Bartlett
Editor: Merritt Clifton
Web producer: Patrice Greanville
Associate web producer: Tammy Sneath Grimes
News wire monitor: Cathy Young Czapla
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Clinton, WA 98236-0960
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Compromise & the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (from page 3)

“Between 1953 and 1956 a number of other preliminary charters were drawn up by the World Federation for Animal Protection Associations,” recalled Jean-Claude Nouette in a 1998 volume entitled *The Universal Declaration of Animal Rights: Comments and Intentions*, published by the *Ligue Francaise des Droits de l’Animal*.

The most noteworthy outcome of the flurry of “Animals’ Charter” activity in the 1950s was that a brief acknowledgement of improving animal welfare as a goal was eventually included in the “declarations” supporting the 1957 Treaty of Rome, which formed the first legal framework for the European Community.

Activity to further the charter resurfaced, Nouette recalled, when “In 1972 a declaration comprised of 10 clauses was published in Norway. In the same year Georges Heuses drew up a Universal Declaration of Animal Rights and submitted it to UNESCO. The following year the text was adopted by the National Council for the Protection of Animals [in France] which, after making a number of changes, adopted the text, distributed it, and collected two million signatures from supporters.

“Contributions by different associations and changes proposed by a number of leading figures, in particular by scientists,” Nouette continued, “ultimately produced the text that was adopted at an international meeting held in London in 1977. In 1978 it was made public and presented to a packed audience in the main hall of the UNESCO House in Paris.”

The full title of this document was “A Universal Declaration of Animal Rights, adopted from the International League of Animal Rights & Affiliated National Leagues in the course of an International Meeting on Animal Rights in London, September 1977.”

Recently reprinted by the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends, this “Universal Declaration” mingled legalistic structure with sweeping claims which either did not translate well or simply had not been thought through.

The two-sentence Humanitarian League declaration became a five-sentence formal preamble:

“Considering that Life is one, all living beings having a common origin and having diversified in the course of the evolution of the species; considering that all living beings possess natural rights, and that any animal with a nervous system has specific rights; considering that the contempt for, and even the simple ignorance of these natural rights causes serious damage to nature and leads man to commit crimes

against animals; considering that the coexistence of species implies a recognition by the human species of the right of other animal species to live; [and] considering that the respect of humans for animals is inseparable from the respect of man for another man...”

The 1977 Universal Declaration asserted that: “All animals are born equal and they have the same rights to existence...Every animal has the right to be respected. Man, like the animal species, cannot assume the right to exterminate other animals or to exploit them...”

“Every action that causes the death of a lot of wild animals is genocide, that is a crime against the species. Destruction leads to the extinction of the species.

“Dead animals must be treated with respect. “Violent scenes, where animals are the victims, must be forbidden at the cinema and on TV, unless they are for the demonstration of animal rights.”

Wrote Nouette, “As the years went by, a number of shortcomings became apparent and modifications were made.”

The International League of Animal Rights & Affiliated National Leagues in October 1989 at last ratified a draft for submission in 1990 to UNESCO.

Nouette proudly noted that the 1989 “Universal Declaration was “not written in a solely protectionist perspective, but endeavors to offer man a new moral stance based on respect for life as a cosmic phenomenon.”

As such, it went well beyond the scope of existing international regulation, and went nowhere, despite the efforts of the *Ligue Francaise des Droits de l’Animal* to incorporate it—or at least some of it—into the Treaty of Rome.

The E.U. Protocol

The Treaty of Rome member nations ratified an updated version of the treaty in October 1997, which took effect in May 1999. Through the efforts of the Eurogroup Committee on Animal Welfare, a consortium representing European animal welfare organizations, the updated treaty did include an official “Protocol on Animal Welfare.” It states:

“The High Contracting Parties, desiring to ensure improved protection and respect for the welfare of animals as sentient beings, have agreed upon the following provision, which shall be annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community:

“In formulating and implementing the Community’s agricultural, transport, internal market and research policies,

the Community and the Member States shall pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.”

Commented Eurogroup, “In contrast to the (Treaty of Rome) Declaration, the Protocol creates clear legal obligations to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals and, for the first time, refers to them as sentient beings. Unfortunately, the Treaty still provides no legal basis for the introduction of legislation specifically intended to improve the welfare of animals. Therefore, animal welfare-related legislation by the European Union must be based on other specific objectives of EU policy, such as the common agricultural policy, the internal market, and the environment.”

The World Society for the Protection of Animals thereupon dusted off the Universal Declaration, retitled it to dispose of any association with animal rights activism, and in June 2000 presented an extensive redraft to the membership.

Wrote then-WSPA director general Andrew Dickson, “At the start of the new Millennium, WSPA believes that...a key goal for the animal welfare movement [should] be to secure a Universal Declaration for the Welfare of Animals at the United Nations,” a reach beyond the European Union to the older goal of establishing a global animal welfare law.

“A Universal Declaration for the Welfare of Animals would not provide for any powers to enforce changes at national level, or sanction countries that did not conform to its principles,” Dickson acknowledged. “However, it would lay the foundations for a Convention on Animal Welfare, which could assess problems in detail and pass legally binding resolutions in the same way as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.”

The new preamble replaced direct reference to evolution with an indirect reference to the “Gaia” concept that earth itself functions as one living entity.

“Recognizing that animals are living, sentient beings and therefore deserve special consideration and respect,” the new Universal Declaration opened, “recognizing that humans share this planet with other species and other forms of life and that all forms of life co-exist within an inter-dependent ecosystem; recognizing that, although there are significant social, economic and cultural differences between human societies, each should develop in a humane and sus-

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LETTERS

Kindest fate

The April 2005 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE included the subheading “Dog Meat Farms Spread Rabies.”

Perhaps the kindest fate for dogs who are raised for consumption is to be killed to prevent the spread of disease, rather than being put through the horrors of the dog meat markets.

Some years ago, I watched a local TV program regarding cats bred and sold for human consumption, probably in southern China. What shook and haunted me more than anything else was the picture of cats being skinned alive at the market and being carried away alive for the pot.

As a Christian I believe that animals have souls, and I believe that regardless of personal beliefs, we will each be accountable to God for the cruelty we perpetrate upon His glorious creation.

—Dave Thorpe
Cape Town, South Africa
<davidbthorpe@yahoo.com>



—Wolf Clifton

Karachi

Thank you for your efforts to save animals in Karachi, Pakistan (“Madness in Karachi,” June 2005). You have done a great job.

I will be meeting with the President of Pakistan in Islamabad during the second week of August.

Multiple free rabies clinics and free sterilization surgeries will also be performed during this visit.

—I.H. Kathio, DVM
Pittston, Pennsylvania
<IHKSINDH@aol.com>

Dr. Kathio spends his vacations in Karachi, teaching sterilization surgery technique at the Richmond-Crawford Veterinary Hospital and doing vaccinations and sterilization surgery at the Tando Jam Charity Animal Hospital.



Scheduled Tribes Bill vs. Indian wildlife habitat

The Indian Ministry of Tribal Affairs has drafted a bill called the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill 2005, which aims to confer greater rights on forest-dwelling indigenous people.

The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation has been working with tribals for over 20 years, and we are happy that their existence is being finally recognized.

However, the bill in its present form is disastrous for the forests of India and the fast-disappearing wildlife. It contravenes and debars key provisions of the Indian Forest Act of 1927, Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and Forest Conservation Act of 1980.

The bill proposes to distribute forest land at the rate of 2.5 hectares per nuclear family, to be used for habitation or self-cultivation for livelihood needs. But, there is no nuclear family concept among the tribes.

Only 20% of India is forested. Less than 17% has thick forest. India needs to save the remaining forest and try to increase it to 33%. This bill will do the opposite. More than 8% of India’s population is tribal. Awarding 2.5 hectares to each family means giving away 50 million hectares, or 74% of India’s remaining forests.

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

is!
See how at

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

This will be the end of Indian forests and wildlife, and will give free access to timber and land mafias.

The rivers of India start in the forest. Razing the forests will deepen India’s water crisis.

The bill also gives tribals access to biodiversity, contrary to the provisions of the Bio-diversity Act of 2002; grants rights in perpetuity; and promises the conversion of leases of forest land into titles.

Tribals must be helped to improve their lives. They can be employed as watchers, forest

guards, etc., and must have equitable access to the benefits accruing from the forests. If they want to pursue agriculture, give them productive land. Tribals need livelihoods, not a licence to be exploited by land and timber mafias and the corrupt officials who alone will benefit by this bill.

The bill may be read at the Ministry of Tribal Affairs’ web site, <www.tribal.nic.in>.

Comments may be sent to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, South Block, Raisina Hill, New Delhi 110011; fax 91-11-2301-9545 or 2301-6857; or by visiting his web site, <http://pmindia.nic.in>.

—Dr. Nanditha Krishna
Honorary Director
C.P. Ramaswami
Aiyar Foundation
Chennai, India
<nankrishna@vsnl.com>



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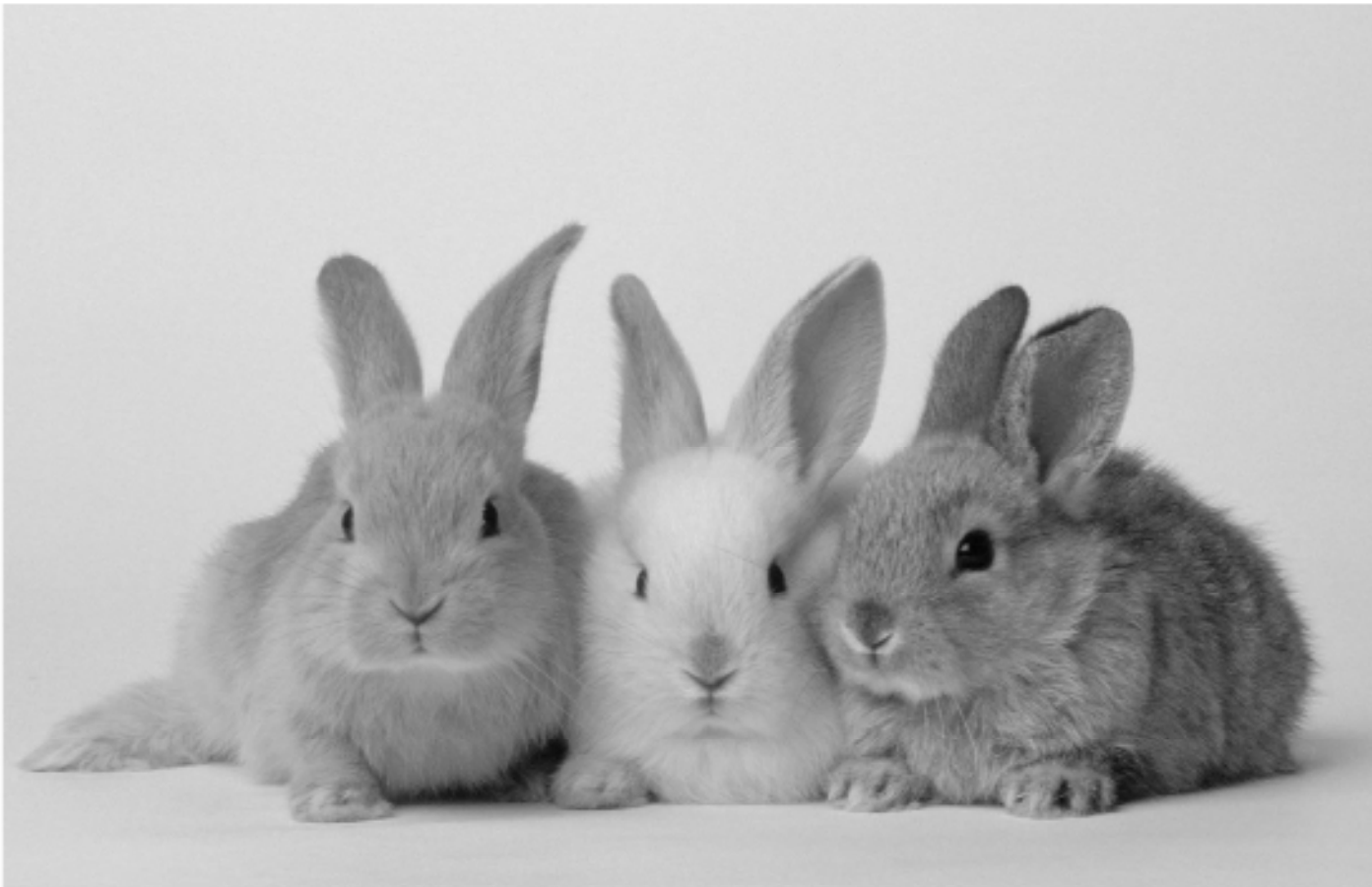


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Please help these chickens

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STOP THE TORTURE NOW

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

Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
Room 200-A
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: (202) 720-3631
Fax: (202) 720-2166
Email: agsec@usda.gov

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As seen this month in The New York Times

Compromise & the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (from page 4)

tainable manner; acknowledging that many states already have a system of legal protection for animals both domestic and wild; seeking to ensure the continued effectiveness of these systems and the development of better and more comprehensive animal welfare provisions...

Despite that exercise in diplomacy, WSPA did not include the EU disclaimer about “respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage,” which has already been invoked as cover by proponents of every practice from animal sacrifice to zoophily [better known as bestiality].

WSPA also expanded the definition of animal to include “any non-human mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or invertebrate capable of feeling pain or distress.”

“The Five Freedoms”

The June 2000 WSPA declaration was the first to pay explicit attention to factory farming, which had barely begun before World War II, was just beginning to take over animal husbandry in the developed world during the 1950s, and in 1977 had yet to become a focal point of activism despite a burst of concern in Britain after Ruth Harrison published *Animal Machines* in 1964.

“Animals raised under the control of humans or taken into captivity by humans should be afforded the provisions of the basic Five Freedoms,” the WSPA Universal Declaration stated, incorporating a concept first voiced in 1967 by the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, formed by the British government in response to *Animal Machines*.

The Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Committee became the present Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1979. It outlined the “Five Freedoms” in present form, as WSPA stated them, in 1993:

Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

Freedom from pain, injury and disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Freedom to express normal behavior: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of animals’ own kind.

The Five Freedoms have become by default the closest approach yet to a working charter of animal rights (including as part of the ANIMAL PEOPLE shelter scoring system).

Though not codified into international law as such, the Five Freedoms are the foundation concept behind the Council of Europe’s Convention for the Protection of Animals During International Transport (1968), Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes (1976), and Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter (1979). Portions of these conventions have now been enacted in binding form by the European Union.

Also reinforced by EU legislation is the Council of Europe’s Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimentation and other Scientific Purposes (1986).

Yet to be fully ratified and reinforced by law, either nationally or internationally, is the Council of Europe’s Convention on the Protection of Pet Animals (1987).

Unlike the 25-nation European Union, the 45-nation Council of Europe does not have the authority to adopt binding legislation, but it does represent the agreement in principle of the members that the topics addressed by the conventions it adopts should be internationally regulated.

Clearly inspired indirectly by Piggott and his predecessors, the Convention on the Protection of Pet Animals opens by stating that, “Man has a moral obligation to respect all living creatures.” It continues with provisions pertaining to breeding, boarding, age of pets at acquisition, training, trading, advertising with animals, entertainment, exhibitions, population control, killing methods, vivisection, and sheltering.

Unlike Piggott’s succinct draft, unfortunately, the Convention on the Protection of Pet Animals omits any explicit extension of the right to life to street dogs and feral cats.

The June 2000 WSPA declaration included some provisions similar to those of the Convention on the Protection of Pet Animals:

a. Owners of companion animals shall be obliged to take responsibility for their care and welfare for the duration of the animals’ lives or to make arrangements to pass them on to a responsible person if they can no longer care for them.

b. Appropriate steps should be taken to promote and introduce the neutering of companion animals.

c. Appropriate steps should be taken to implement registration and identification of companion animals.

d. The commercial trade in companion animals should be subject to strict regulation, licensing and inspection to prevent cruelty and the breeding of unwanted animals.

e. Veterinary surgeons and other qualified persons should be authorised to humanely destroy companion animals that are abandoned and cannot be re-homed or provided with adequate care to ensure their welfare.

f. Destruction of companion animals by inhumane and indiscriminate methods, including poisoning, shooting,

beating, drowning and strangulation should be prohibited.

The June 2000 WSPA Universal Declaration omitted any mention of either animal sacrifice or the use and abuse of animals in quasi-religious festivals, which usually have no direct relationship to the teachings of the religions being celebrated, but have typically become enshrined in tradition.

But the June 2000 WSPA declaration did provide that, “Where animals are used in legitimate sport and entertainment, all appropriate steps shall be taken to prevent them being exposed to cruelty. Exhibitions and spectacles using animals which are deleterious to their health and welfare should be prohibited.”

Inclusion of the undefined term “legitimate” significantly weakened the statement, but that was only the beginning of the weakening that would follow.

Manila redraft

At a March 2003 “Manila Conference on Animal Welfare,” WSPA presented a redraft that harmonized the “Universal Declaration” with the Treaty of Rome language. Among the major changes, instead of stating that captive animals “should be afforded the provisions of the basic Five Freedoms,” the Manila declaration suggested that the Five Freedoms, along with the “Three R’s” (reduction in numbers of animals, refinement of experimental methods and replacement of animals with non-animal techniques) “provide valuable guidance for the use of animals.”

The “three R’s” principle to govern scientific use of animals was first articulated in 1959 by British authors William Russell and Rex Burch.

The “Animals’ Charter” authored by Stephen Coleridge of the British National Anti-Vivisection Society and the “Animals’ Bill of Rights” by Geoffrey Hodson, promoted by the American Anti-Vivisection Society, had attempted to halt invasive experiments on animals. When subsequent charter authors accepted that such provisions would not be endorsed by international treaty within a foreseeable time, the vivisection societies backed away from involvement.

Russell and Burch offered a compromise framework to which both scientists and anti-vivisectionists could agree in principle—and mostly have. More animals are used in laboratories now than ever before, reflecting a manifold increase in the numbers of working scientists and ongoing studies, but the numbers of mammals used other than mice and rats have never been lower, according to data from the nations that track use by species, and the ratio of animals used to experiments performed and scientific papers published also appears to be very low compared to the ratios of earlier decades.

(continued on page 8)

MORE LETTERS

Honduras dogs

Once again during the two-week spring vacation the janitors and cleaning ladies at the Honduran National University left rat poison out and killed a dozen or so cats plus at least six dogs.

Last year they killed more than 30 cats and 20 dogs. I talked to the rector, to the two local newspapers, to one of the radio stations, and to the two other animal protection groups in Honduras, but nothing was ever done.

I will talk to the politicians next. What else can be done?



—Sherry (Pilar) Thorn
Helping Hands for
Hounds of Honduras
ADDO 30289 Toncontin
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
<pilar_birds@yahoo.com>

Cyprus bears

Following successful lobbying campaigns that saw the Cyprus authorities close the dolphinarium at the Ayia Napa tourist resort and ban cetacean imports, we began a similar campaign regarding zoos, seeking enforcement of the European Union Zoo Directive.

We gained the release of two brown bears, Midas and Noah, who had spent their entire 14 years sliding around in a cage slippery with urine at the Limassol Zoo.

The World Society for Protection of Animals kindly agreed to foot the expense of airlifting the bears to a sanctuary in Hungary, where they will learn what grass and trees are, and will be able to splash in a pool and play with other bears.

We achieved these victories without funding and with no paid staff.

—Patricia Radnor Kyriacou
Animal Responsibility Cyprus
P.O. Box 6986
3311 Limassol
Cyprus
<Arc.kivotos@cytanet.com.cy>



Macchu Picchu

I recently returned from a trip to Lima, Cuzco, and Machu Picchu, Peru. While I enjoyed the magnificent beauty of the area, my heart felt heavy at the sight of many starving and diseased animals, particularly dogs.

Many people visit Machu Picchu, hoping for spiritual transformations in their lives. Yet some of the most spiritual beings on the planet are extremely ignored and neglected.

—Yvonne Dufrene
Luling, Louisiana



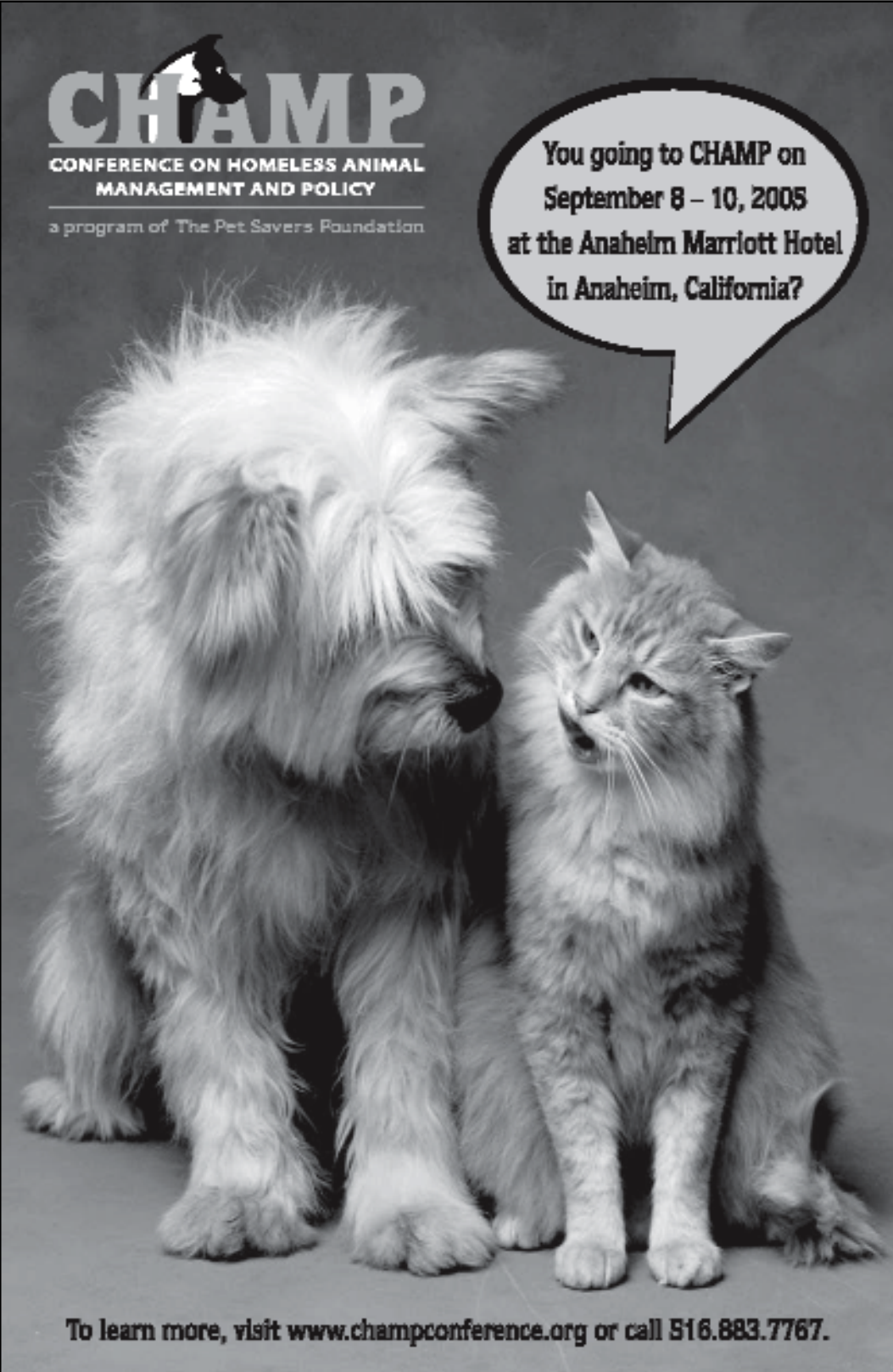
The Editor replies:

Machu Picchu draws 250,000-plus visitors per year. Virtually all of them pass through the Cuzco airport and the Machu Picchu railway station.

As ANIMAL PEOPLE suggested in early 1999, and has continued to suggest at every opportunity since, kiosks at the airport and railway station should be able to solicit sufficient donations and sell enough animal-related souvenirs to sustain the best-funded humane program south of the U.S. border.

The program should consist of a fixed-site no-kill animal shelter and hospital in Cuzco, providing free sterilization, vaccination, and basic veterinary care, plus a mobile clinic, which would traverse the Sacred Valley of the Incas weekly, with stops at the Pisac marketplace (the major center of commerce between Cuzco and Machu Picchu), Urubamba (the major tourist stopover for meals and accommodation), Ollantaytambo (known as “the city of the cats” because of the ancient role of small wild cats in guarding the Andean royal granaries there), and Aguas Calientes, the departure point for the bus service up the mountain to the Machu Picchu ruin.

ANIMAL PEOPLE estimated that such a project would need one full-time vet, two vet techs (one to manage the Cuzco clinic and one to travel with the mobile clinic), a business manager, and a pair of fundraisers, one to handle each kiosk (Cuzco and Machu Picchu).



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BE PROACTIVE! CALL OR WRITE YOUR legislators to let them know you care about protecting animals from cruelty and abuse. Make sure to reference these bills and make a difference for animals today.

Ridding America of Animal Fighting

The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act (H.R. 817 and S. 382) creates felony-level penalties for illegal dogfighting and cockfighting activities.

Protecting Horses from Slaughter for Foreign Markets

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503) stops the slaughter of horses for export for human consumption, and the Wild Horse Act (H.R. 297 and S. 576) reinstates federal protections for wild mustangs.

Protecting Our Pets

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute or "PAWS" (H.R. 2669 and S. 1139) provides oversight and better care for animals at mass dog-breeding "puppy mills." The Engine Coolant and Antifreeze Bittering Agent Act (H.R. 2567 and S. 1110) makes antifreeze unpalatable to prevent children and pets from being poisoned.

Keeping Wildlife in the Wild —Not as Pets

The Captive Primate Safety Act (H.R. 1329) prohibits the pet trade in apes and monkeys, protecting the public from attacks and disease threats and stopping inhumane treatment of highly intelligent, complex creatures.

Ensuring the Humane Treatment of Farm Animals

Poultry, which make up 95% of animals slaughtered for food, need coverage by the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, and "downed animals" too sick or injured to walk should not enter the food supply.

Ending Unethical Trophy Hunting Abuses

The Sportsmanship in Hunting Act (H.R. 1668 and S. 304) stops the trade in captive exotic animals for fenced "canned hunts," and the Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting Act (H.R. 1558) stops Internet users from clicking a computer mouse to bag a trophy. Efforts are also underway to end a tax scam involving hunting trophy donations to pseudo-museums.

For more information visit
www.hsus.org/legislation_laws

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Compromise & the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (from page 6)

Incorporating the “three R’s” therefore strengthened the “Universal Declaration,” codifying a useful tool. Unfortunately, replacing the idea that the Five Freedoms “should be afforded” to captive animals with the notion that the Five Freedoms merely “provide valuable guidance” amounted to replacing the concept of law with unenforceable suggestion. The same would be true of the inclusion of the “three R’s” as mere “guidance” rather than as regulatory framework.

The Manila declaration concluded with four statements of principle:

- 1. *The welfare of animals shall be a common objective for all nations;*
- 2. *The standards of animal welfare attained by each nation shall be promoted, recognized and observed by improved measures, nationally and internationally, respecting social and economic considerations and religious and cultural traditions;*
- 3. *All appropriate steps shall be taken by nations to prevent cruelty to animals and to reduce their suffering;*
- 4. *Appropriate standards on the welfare of animals [should] be further developed and elaborated such as, but not limited to, those governing the use and management of farm animals, companion animals, animals in scientific research, draught animals, wildlife, and animals in recreation.*

Dutch activists object

Hardly anyone other than those involved in drafting the many versions of charters and declarations seemed to care much about the Manila charter language, at the time. It became controversial after 28 animal advocacy groups in the Netherlands and several in France successfully urged fellow citizens to reject a proposed new European Constitution at national referendums during the first week in June 2005.

“Religious, cultural and regional traditions in which animals are abused, such as slaughter without stunning, bullfighting, *pate de foie-gras* production and circuses would have been granted constitutional protection under the proposed text,” objected Ton Dekker, chair of the Dutch anti-fur group Bont Voor Dieren.

Supporters of the proposed new EU Constitution defended it by pointing to the WSPA inclusion of almost identical words in the Manila charter.

Dekker, Marius Donker of Action Against Poisoning, and others responded, after the EU constitutional revisions were voted down, by calling on WSPA to scrap Article 2 of the Manila declaration.

“To have any chance of success,” responded WSPA director general Peter Davies, “a proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare would need to gather support

from as many countries and from as many continents as possible. Whilst we entirely recognize and share your reservations regarding the wording of one of the principles relating to the acknowledgement of ‘religious and cultural traditions’, we believe, albeit reluctantly, that to achieve such a groundbreaking agreement at global inter-governmental level, we have to take a somewhat pragmatic and incremental view of what can be achieved at each stage of negotiation...This wording is drafted by governments, not by WSPA...WSPA will do all it can to ensure that any Declaration is as strong as possible.”

Animal advocates are perennially divided in trying to pass animal protection legislation between seeking the ideal, which will advance the status of animals, and accepting the pragmatic, settling for whatever can be gained here and now. Animal rights conferences host heated discussions of reform vs. abolition philosophies and tactics, often expressed as “larger cages vs. no cages,” while in legislative and regulatory negotiations just getting larger cages is often an elusive goal.

The nature of legislation and regulation is that it almost always does no more than codify the status quo, because if it tried to achieve anything other than whatever is already usually done by the majority, it would overreach the general societal agreement that is necessary to enforce any prohibition of an offensive activity.

If more than a small minority of people choose to break any law, efforts to uphold the law tend to require more resources than society has the will to expend.

Henry Spira would have said...

The late Henry Spira (1927-1998) usefully confronted the abolition/reform issue more than 30 years ago, while hosting Peter Singer as his houseguest while Singer wrote *Animal Liberation* (1974). Spira responded to the question of how to convert the principles articulated by Singer into practical measures by developing a strategic blueprint for what he called “stepwise incremental action.”

According to the Spira blueprint, reducing the “universe of suffering” is the ultimate humane goal. Every other objective points toward that.

Therefore, any reform that contributes in a “stepwise, incremental manner” toward abolition of suffering is positive. Achieving moral perfection to the satisfaction of philosophers, Spira believed, is completely irrelevant in taking the long series of inevitably short steps that lead toward the goal.

Spira was well aware that politicians often promise long steps later, in exchange for doing nothing meaningful now, as in delaying the California ban on *foie gras* production until 2012 while protecting the industry until then. Spira was also well aware that activists focused on achieving long-term

goals instead of immediate gains often end up with nothing, as the laws passed today for the distant future tend to be amended tomorrow, before the future comes. A 1990 European Union ban on imports of trapped fur was dismantled in 1996, for example, before it ever took effect.

For Spira, anything worked if it reduced suffering in a tangible manner, and was hot air if it didn’t, especially if it allowed more suffering now in purported trade for less later.

At the same time, Spira insisted that the principle of stepwise incremental progress must never be sacrificed. He did not accept sidesteps that achieved an immediate reform at cost of foreclosing opportunities to seek additional reform or abolition later.

Although Spira early in life participated as an activist and journalist in the debate surrounding the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Rights and Freedoms, the Convention on Refugees, and other such foundations for international human rights law, he appears to have paid little attention to the endless discussions of a “Universal Declaration” on animal rights or animal welfare. Probably Spira realized the slim likelihood that any such declaration would advance far in his own time. Instead, Spira focused on the tools he could use.

Yet Spira probably also would have offered strategic advice for implementing a “Universal Declaration,” if anyone had asked.

Spira would most likely have suggested that in dealing with Caesar, animal advocates must render unto Caesar: a proposal to be enacted by politicians must necessarily address the concerns of politicians, which includes not reaching beyond what their constituency will accept. If it is necessary to accept compromising language in the European Constitution in order to enshrine gains for animal welfare, including the principle that animal welfare is a priority for international law, the compromise must be made—for now.

At the same time, Spira probably would have argued, the compromise should be left to the politicians. Animal advocates should not be willing to compromise their statements of principle.

Until and unless the “Universal Declaration” is translated into international law through political action, neither WSPA nor anyone else purporting to collectively represent the animal welfare community has a mandate to abandon the oft-expressed conviction of generations of animal advocates worldwide that the right of animals to not suffer should supersede human claims about culture and tradition.

This is no less inappropriate than when organizations claiming to protect children compromise their welfare by bowing to traditional rites that involve violence or to culturally accepted forms of oppression.



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82% of caged broilers are burned by urine

LONDON—Examining the carcasses of 384 broiler hens raised according to the British Farm Standard and offered for sale on supermarket shelves, an investigation commissioned by the Royal SPCA and directed by Cambridge University professor Donald Broom reported in July 2005 that 82% had been burned on their legs or bodies by prolonged contact with ammonia from feces.

“Lack of space and fast-growing bodies that can become too heavy to be supported by their legs increases the likelihood of birds receiving painful burns, as the birds spend more time in contact with floor litter,” said RSPCA scientific officer Marc Cooper.

Among 25 organically raised free range chickens whose carcasses were inspected, 42% had burns, the researchers found.

The RSPCA findings were released five weeks after the BBC Programme Complaints Unit upheld a British Poultry Council complaint that the BBC “Food Police Programme” showed bias against the poultry industry in a 2004 expose of ammonia burns.

“The use of surreptitiously filmed material and reference to Compassion In World Farming campaign efforts did not of themselves give rise to bias” the Complaints Unit said, “but, together with other features of the item, they implied criticisms of the poultry-rearing industry which there should have been an opportunity to address.

“One section described poultry sitting in their own urine,” the Complaints Unit continued. “However, as chickens do not urinate, but excrete urate crystals which are relatively dry, the suggestion of chickens sitting in

urine-soaked litter was somewhat misleading. The impression given by the use of surreptitiously filmed material and the associated commentary was also misleading, in the absence of a reply on behalf of the industry, as to the extent to which the issue of hock burn had been recognized and was being addressed.”

The RSPCA also reported in July 2005 that British battery caged egg market share has fallen from 86% to 66% over the past 10 years. Free range egg market share soared from 11% to 27% during the same decade.

Asda supermarket chain strategy manager Chris Brown in June 2005 told Farmer’s Weekly Interactive that free range egg sales in Britain are growing at 22% per year. Asda is the British Walmart subsidiary.

Free range eggs have only 2% of the U.S. egg market share, but got a boost on June 1 when the 75-store, 23-state Wild Oats Natural Marketplaces chain discontinued selling cage-produced eggs.

“This makes Wild Oats the first national retailer to officially commit exclusively to cage-free eggs for its approved national and regional product lists,” HSUS Fund for Animals president Mike Markarian said.

Based in Boulder, Colorado, Wild Oats is the second largest U.S. health food retailer. Whole Foods Inc. has 166 stores.

Whole Foods CEO John Mackey in January 2005 announced the formation of a new nonprofit called the Animal Compassion Foundation, to promote a set of “Animal Compassionate Standards” within the retail food industry, but has not yet committed Whole Foods to selling only free range eggs.

“They suffer and die 50 billion a year - one at a time”



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New study confirms chicken awareness of time—and capacity for mental suffering (from page 1)

may pay to get food while you can, before someone else does,” Abeyesinghe elaborated to Jennifer Viegas of *Discovery News*. “Counter to this, we found that when a much larger food reward was delivered for the jackpot, hens chose it over 90 percent of the time, ruling out that they have no aware-

ness of the near future.

“They probably show more cognitive ability than people would generally credit them with,” Abeyesinghe added.

“The finding suggests that domestic fowl, *Gallus gallus domesticus*, are intelligent creatures who might worry,” wrote Viegas.

Public response

Hampton Roads *Daily Press* columnist Tamara Dietrich on July 19, 2005 considered what the Abeyesinghe findings might mean to the chicken-eating public.

“This isn’t terribly persuasive,” Dietrich wrote, “considering that people wouldn’t generally credit chickens with enough cognitive ability to come in out of the rain... But it’s that tiny slice of doubt that has me downloading vegetarian recipes....At this point, the only meat or mammal I wouldn’t feel guilty about skinning and stewing in a pot is active members of al-Qaida ...If it would save the life of one cow, pig or chicken, pass the meat tenderizer and count me in.”

While Dietrich has yet to complete the transition to meatless eating, she has made the connection that “meat is murder,” as PETA puts it. Ahead is the question of whether Dietrich can continue to stomach a diet she now equates at the gut level with cannibalism.

Definitions

The Abeyesinghe results have considerable implications for lawmakers, regulators, and others whose work requires defining cruelty and suffering.

“The question is not, Can they reason? Nor Can they talk? But, Can they suffer?” the

British jurist Jeremy Bentham wrote in 1780, succinctly setting forth the philosophical foundation for animal welfare advocacy that has prevailed ever since.

In *Animal Liberation* (1974), utilitarian philosopher Peter Singer extended the Bentham principle, arguing that animals should not only be well-treated, but should be accorded moral status, since animals as well as humans may suffer psychologically and emotionally.

Animal Liberation became the foundation of modern animal rights theory.

The late philosopher and libertarian philanthropist Tobias Grether in *Homochronos: Time-Conscious Man* (1977) endorsed Bentham but rejected Singer by arguing that human morality proceeds from awareness of longterm consequence.

Having “rights,” Grether argued, requires that the beings who possess them must understand that what they do now will influence tomorrow.

The Grether book was read chiefly by other libertarian the-

orists, but Grether’s case against Singer—often omitting Grether’s endorsement of Bentham—posthumously gained currency among defenders of animal use industries who claim that animals suffer only in the immediate sense, if at all, and do not experience anxiety or depression based on awareness of a future no better and often worse than the present.

As Grether’s ghostwriter, 1975-1977, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton argued that much animal activity shows awareness of longterm consequence. This was to little avail because scientific literature on animal behavior was then dominated by “operant conditioning” studies, in which animals learn to perform tasks in order to receive immediate rewards.

Even the first successful attempts to teach chimpanzees and gorillas American sign language were “debunked” as alleged results of operant conditioning.

The Abeyesinghe study showed that chickens can think their way past operant conditioning, if motivated to do so.

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Pound electrocutions stopped in Manila

MANILA—Seeking a cheaper, faster way to kill dogs than either lethal injection or use of an antiquated carbon monoxide chamber, Manila Veterinary Inspection Board members Manuel Socorro and Condenio Panogan reportedly electrocuted approximately 100 dogs from mid-May 2005 to mid-July before word of their work leaked out.

“Socorro “said they were given a one-year permit by the Bureau of Animal Industry to conduct a study of electrocution as a tool to put down dogs,” wrote Evelyn Macairan of *The Philippine Star*. “This involved conducting a series of tests wherein the voltage would be set starting at 100 volts and be slowly raised to 500 volts.”

Four days after Philippine Animal Welfare Society volunteer and veterinary student Emil Reban witnessed some of the electrocutions and described what he saw, the Bureau of Animal Industries’ Committee on Animal Welfare revoked the permit “immediately and indefinitely upon hearing PAWS president Nita Lichauco’s petition to cancel it,” e-mailed PAWS member Ramona Eliza T. Consunji on July 11.

“There was also the majority decision never to grant another permit for electrocution, whether as an experiment or as a solution to control overpopulation of any animal,” Consunji added. “The city mayor of Manila informed PAWS through his son, former coun-

cilor Kim Atienza, that they will now use lethal injection for euthanasia.”

Reban testified that dogs were pinned in varying positions by the steel roof of the electrocution cage, and were shocked with 300 volts for three seconds, but mostly survived in pain until shocked a second time. As many as 10 other dogs witnessed each electrocution while awaiting their own deaths.

Receiving Reban’s report on July 8 from PAWS volunteer Anna Nieves Hashim on July 8, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** immediately forwarded to her the American Veterinary Medical Association *Report on Euthanasia*, which lists electrocution as an unacceptable means of killing dogs and cats.

ANIMAL PEOPLE pointed out that the Royal SPCA of Great Britain experimented with electrocuting animals from approximately 1885 until about 1928, before concluding it could never be considered humane by British standards.

The RSPCA exported their six electrocution machines to India during a rabies panic circa 1930. Dogs were legally electrocuted in several cities of India until the last of the RSPCA machines known to remain there was dismantled in 1997. Some of the RSPCA machines may still be used in Pakistan, which was still part of India when they arrived.

Dogs continued to be electrocuted with a makeshift device in the city of



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Visakhapatnam until 1998, when Visakha SPCA founder Pradeep Kumar Nath and Help In Suffering trustee Christine Townsend stopped it.

“Electrocuting dogs is the cruelest way of killing them,” Nath e-mailed to PAWS, offering his help. We secretly videotaped the procedure to show to the world and got a court order stopping it. We have now shown that the proper alternative to dog over population is animal birth control.”

PAWS incorporated the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and Visakha SPCA statements into their own brief against the electrocutions.

Manila mayor Lito Atienza said he had not been aware that the city pound was using any method other than lethal injection to kill dogs.

The electrocutions started at approximately the same time that Manila hosted an event called “Dog Walk for a Cause,” trying

to beat the Guinness record for the most dogs ever assembled and to promote awareness about preventing cruelty to animals.

The event attracted 7,469 dogs to five-kilometre walks in Manila and 23 other designated areas, easily beating the British record of 5,017 dogs, set in 2004.

Dogs are still routinely electrocuted in several other nations, including in parts of Mexico, where encouraging a transition to lethal injection was part of Sean Hawkins’ work with the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program missions south of the border, and will continue through his new organization, Saving Animals Across Borders. (Page 16.)

Hawkins’ preferred alternative, like Nath’s, is high-volume sterilization to keep dog overpopulation from becoming a problem in the first place.

Manila presently has no high-volume low-cost sterilization program.

Events

Petfinder.com Adoption Options One-Day Animal Welfare Seminars, sponsored by PETCO Fndtn: Aug. 13, Chicago; Aug. 19, Dubuque; Superior; October 14, Richmond; Oct. 16, Baltimore; Nov. 11, Pittsfield; Nov. 13, Rochester. Info: <adoptionoptions@petfinder.com>.

August 21-25: 5th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in Life Science, Berlin, Germany. Info:

<www.ctw-congress.de/act2005>.

August 27: AnimalPlace & Viva!USA Activism & Campaign Training workshop, Santa Rosa, Calif.

Info: 707-448-4814; www.ACT-forfarmedanimals.com>.

September 8-10: Conference on Homeless Animal Management & Policy, Anaheim. Info: <www.champconference.org>.

Sept. 17-18: Critter Care Conf., Farm Sanctuary, Watkins Glen, N.Y. Info: 607-583-2225, x221; <office@farmsanctuary.org>.

Sept. 24: Animal Place fall tour, Vacaville, Calif. Also offered on Oct. 15. Info: 707-449-4814.

Sept. 29-Oct. 1: American Humane Assn. conf., Austin, Texas. Info: 303-792-9900; <www.americanhumane.org>.

October 1-4: Frontiers of Wolf Recovery, Colorado Springs. Info:

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

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Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust takes over in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—The Tsunami People/Animal Welfare Coalition on July 26, 2005 wrapped up emergency relief operations begun after the December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, rolling all remaining assets over into the Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust.

Coalition and Trust cofounder Robert Blumberg arranged that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** officially sponsored the last of a six-month series of vaccination missions by Pets V Care mobile clinics into refugee camps and tsunami-stricken coastal villages.

“**ANIMAL PEOPLE** recognized almost immediately after the tsunami that something of major consequence had taken place regarding animal welfare,” Blumberg wrote in the last Coalition update. “Within days after the tsunami hit, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** sent financial assistance to start the Tsunami People/Animal Welfare Coalition. This allowed us to get on the road, assessing, treating and vaccinating. So far the Coalition itself has vaccinated more than 14,000 animals in the tsunami zones,” Blumberg said. “**ANIMAL PEOPLE** sponsored our first trips and now our last vaccinating trip, and is now supporting the Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust as it sterilizes and vaccinates in the tsunami zones and refugee camps.”

Newly arrived in Sri Lanka when the December 26, 2005 tsunami hit, Blumberg brought with him animal welfare experience in Egypt and a background in the Peace Corps,

but had never before done disaster relief.

Asking **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to forward all relevant web addresses, Blumberg studied disaster relief during the first few days after the tsunami, while transportation and communications in the coastal communities were paralyzed. Blumberg also located animal welfare volunteer Anusha David, who provided introductions and translation help, created the Tsunami People-Animal Welfare Coalition as a disaster relief umbrella, and hired the Pets V Care mobile veterinary team.

They hit the road as soon as travel became possible, providing food, water, and emergency treatment to displaced and injured animals before the major international animal welfare organizations had even reopened their offices after the winter holidays.

Because a rabies panic swept Sri Lanka after thirsty dogs drank salt water and frothed at the mouth, the Tsunami People/Animal Welfare Coalition emphasized rabies vaccination. The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** contributions were followed by vaccination assistance from the Yudisthira/Bali Street Dog Foundation, Noah’s Wish, Best Friends, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, and—three weeks later—the International Fund for Animal Welfare. In all, more than 25,000 dogs were vaccinated during the next two months and fitted with red collars signifying that they are rabies-free.

The vaccinations appeared to calm fears of rabies, but with an estimated 100,000

dogs displaced, officials still wanted to cull dogs to control the population.

Blumberg and David incorporated the Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust in March 2005 to expand the Coalition work into an an energetic high-volume dog and cat sterilization drive. The vaccination work continues as a part of the sterilization protocol.

Sterilizations began with a two-week demonstration clinic presented by the Yudisthira/Bali Street Dog team for veterinarians from both Sri Lanka and Animal Birth Control programs in India. Achieving 175 surgeries per week, the Trust had sterilized 4,000 animals by mid-July, when Blumberg briefly visited family back in the U.S.

The Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust sterilization drive significantly expands the capacity of Animal Birth Control programs in Sri Lanka to contain the street dog population without lethal measures.

Political pressure to kill street dogs recently escalated with the introduction of a draft dog licensing law which would allow municipalities to collect unlicensed dogs and dispose of them after only a three-day holding period. The draft law includes numerous financial disincentives to dissuade individuals and nonprofit animal welfare organizations from assisting “community dogs.”

The Save Our Friends Association in May 2005 won a judicial verdict against a Kandy Municipal Corporation plan to poison street dogs, instead of cooperating with the



(Robert Blumberg)

SOFA sterilization program.

The case originated, SOFA secretary Rohini de Silva said, when the Kandy municipal veterinarian was hired to do sterilizations, then demanded more money than the contracted amount despite poor performance.

Disregarding the court judgement, the Kandy municipal dog catchers poisoned 15 dogs on June 13, de Silva alleged.

SOFA has sterilized more than 4,000 dogs and 300 cats since 2002, operating on about 20 dogs at field clinics held every second week, de Silva said.

[Contact the Tsunami Memorial Animal Welfare Trust c/o 48-B, Skelton Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka; <info@tsunami-animal.org>; <www.tsunami-animal.org>.]

Big dogs in Beijing

More than 200,000 dogs live in Beijing who are larger than permitted by the Impementation Guide to the Beijing Dog Keeping Regulation issued by the Beijing Municipal Government in October 2003. The regulation prohibits keeping dogs who are taller than 35 centimeters (about 18 inches), excluding the head. Their previous licenses expired on June 30. From July 1, the police are to seize dogs who do not have a new license.

Animal Rescue Beijing held a forum on violence and big dogs on June 11, 2005 in the Beijing Guodu Pet Park. More than 200 pet dog keepers attended, with enthusiam even hotter than the temperature.

A dozen news media covered the forum, but only one newspaper published a report. We learned later that the city legal department noted that the issue of big dogs was sensitive and forbade publication of articles about the big dog issue in local media.

I think letters to the Olympic Organizing Committee in Beijing will be most effective, c/o <international@beijing-olympic.org.cn> and <environment@beijing-olympic.org.cn>.

—Irene Zhang
Animal Rescue Beijing
Beijing, China
<irenezy@yahoo.com>



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Maddie’s Fund, 2223 Santa Clara Ave, Suite B, Alameda, CA 94501
510-337-8989, info@maddiesfund.org, www.maddiesfund.org

Transforming Phuket animal conditions post-tsunami *(from page 1)*

that in Buddhist neighborhoods the dog-to-cat ratio was more than eight-to-one. Both dogs and cats were abundant around temples, scarce in between.

In dog-free Muslim neighborhoods, cats lounged on steps and window ledges.

Buddhist temples function as quasi-animal shelters. Homeless dogs and cats are dumped at the temples, and are fed by visitors and sometimes by monks.

“Temples are thought to be shelters for all kinds of poor things, ranging from homeless people to stray dogs, and monks cannot refuse those asking for help,” an anonymous monk at the Wat Luang Phor Chalong temple in southern Phuket explained in 2003 to Achata Chuenniran and Onnucha Hutasing of the *Bangkok Post*.

Wat Chalong then housed about 40 dogs, Achata and Onnucha wrote. After visitors complained that the dogs scared them and soiled the temple, the dogs were caged for a time, monks told Achata and Onnucha, but European and American visitors objected, so the dogs were released.

The Wat Kosit Wiharn temple, north of Phuket city, housed 20 dogs and 20 feral cats, Achata and Onnucha said.

Visiting other temples around the island, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** confirmed that the typical resident animal population is about 40. About 30 dogs usually dominate the courtyards in several separate packs, each with a home territory where they are fed. Cats keep to the fringes, where they can climb a tree or run into a monk’s dwelling built on stilts or duck under something if dogs chase them.

Temple animals have at times been poisoned by orders of head monks, but in recent years such incidents have often attracted media notice as far away as Bangkok and Singapore—twice in fall 2004—and head monks who are attentive to image may fear bad publicity more than bad karma.

Estimating that about 2,000 of the ten to thirteen thousand dogs on Phuket occupy temple grounds, and trying to reduce their numbers, the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office in July 2004 opened the first pound on the island, over the objections of Soi Dog Foundation founder Margot Park and Linda Wells of Dogs In Distress.

Occupying part of a former rubber plantation near Thalang, the pound holds about 300 dogs at a time. Far more escape than are adopted. Most freely roam the fenced outdoor premises, but returned escapees are confined in tin-roofed runs.

Only three of the 19 Phuket municipalities contribute to the pound operating costs, the *Phuket Gazette* reported on June 24, 2005. Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura told the *Phuket Gazette* that he was the only contributor to a foundation he incorporated to raise funds for dog food.

Local hotels donated their scraps until the tsunami. After the tsunami, tourism and the supply of scraps fell off.

The Soi Dog Foundation took over feeding the pound dogs on an emergency basis, resisting pressure to become the fulltime pound managers.

At least four other expatriate-directed animal welfare societies operated on Phuket before Margot Park formed the Soi Dog Foundation in September 2003, but the others focused on rescuing and placing a few dogs at a time, or sheltering small numbers in care-for-life arrangements, or helping to look after the dogs and cats at particular temples and resorts.

Park, a Dutch expatriate with an American husband, brought a long-range perspective to the work. Her dynamism soon attracted three supporters of note. Leone Cosens, a new Zealand expatriate, started the Phuket Animal Welfare Society in 1992 but moved on in frustration a decade later. John Dalley, a seasoned British anti-vivisection activist, retired to Phuket in 2003 with his wife Gillian.

Introducing high-volume free sterilization to Phuket by taking a mobile surgical set-up to temples, the Soi Dog Foundation had sterilized nearly 1,500 dogs and cats in the 14 months preceding the tsunami.

Misfortune hit in October 2004, when Gillian Dalley lost both legs to septicemia contracted while rescuing a dog from the middle of a muddy water buffalo pasture, and hit again when Cosens was killed by the tsunami.

Instead of disintegrating, as might have been expected, the Soi Dog Foundation led post-tsunami animal relief efforts on Phuket and Phi Phi Island, farther off shore.

Establishing global credibility and recognition, leading to increased donor support, the Soi Dog Foundation then



This Soi Dog volunteer’s name is Miao. (Kim Bartlett)



Soi Dog Foundation founder Margot Park [left] holds a dog who is recovering from mange. John Dalley of the Soi Dog Foundation [right] holds Lawan, meaning “beautiful one.” So mangy that she looked more like a reptile than a mammal, Lawan “greeted” ANIMAL PEOPLE at the Thalang pound gate, seeking a chance to escape. Dalley took her to receive veterinary treatment. ANIMAL PEOPLE Kim Bartlett adopted her, either to be brought to the U.S. when able to travel, or as a sponsorship project. (Kim Bartlett)

stepped up the sterilization pace, adding to the mobile clinics a spacious fixed site clinic almost in the dead center of the island. The clinics are served by an animal ambulance donated by the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Disturbed habitat

Short-term, the Soi Dog Foundation is preventing homeless dog and cat births. Long-term, removing street dogs and feral cats from Phuket is part of the third major habitat transition to overtake the island in about 150 years. This may leave open to other species the ecological niche now occupied by free-roaming dogs and cats—but which species?

Phuket has been disturbed habitat for so long that whatever the “native” ecology might once have been is a matter of educated guessing.

Immigrants from India opened tin mines on Phuket circa 100 B.C. Chinese, Siamese, Burmese, and Malay invaders by turns captured the tin mines, but none managed to exhaust the deposits until political stability under Thai rule coincided with the arrival of modern hydraulic mining and strip mining in the late 19th century.

The tin mining epoch re-contoured and polluted much of the landscape, but Phuket remained sparsely inhabited.

Formed by ancient volcanic activity, Phuket never had the miles of low-lying mangrove swamps that characterized much of the Thai coast, before logging and shrimp farming denuded them in recent decades.

Neither did Phuket ever have the alternating rice paddy-and-swamp forest characterizing the Thai north.

As Phuket was not hospitable to rice-growing, intensive cultivation came only with the introduction of coconut, pepper, tea, pineapple and rubber plantations in the early 20th century. Just as the tin mines declined, growing demand for rubber automobile tires saved the Phuket economy, at the expense of whatever remained of the native forests.

If rubber could be grown on a piece of land, it was. Even protected forest habitat today still includes tell-tale straight rows of rubber trees, interrupting 30-year-old second growth at predictable intervals.

Phuket is today more densely forested, despite the recent development boom, than at any time since the beginning of the plantation era, but small squirrels may be the only abundant native diurnal mammals. Bats are plentiful at night.

Eagles are returning, after virtually disappearing during decades of heavy DDT use to control mosquitoes.

Wildlife

Tourism succeeded rubber as the dominant Phuket industry coincidental with the advent of nylon as a tire-making material, beginning in the 1960s. A landmark event in Phuket history was the creation of the Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Conservation Center in 1969. The 5,500-acre park exhibits “langours, barking deer, mouse deer, bear, wild boar, monkeys, gibbons, porcupines, macaques, reptiles, lizards and several species of birds,” it advertises, in semi-natural habitat. Most of the animals are believed to have once been native to Phuket, and some may still persist in the steeper and most densely wooded areas, but many of the animals on exhibit appear to have been imported from the north.

Two other protected habitat areas were designated after Khao Phra Thaeo. The Ton Sai Waterfall Forest Park and Bang Pae Waterfall Park are popular hiking venues, but the only easily seen large mammals at either site are reputedly the caged gibbons at the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project complex near the Bang Pae entrance. The gibbons can only be seen from below, at a relative distance.

Founded in 1992, sponsored by the Asian Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Rescue Foundation of Thailand, the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project consists of a series of large but sparsely outfitted chain link cages arranged on the mountain-side somewhat like an ascending pueblo village. There is no visitor access to the gibbons, just a visitor center that sells souvenirs and an educational sign board. The project offices are about two miles away, at the edge of the nearest village.

The rehabilitation concept is that gibbons who have been confiscated from traffickers or surrendered by people who



illegally keep them as pets are moved ever higher into the forest as they become more habituated to being there.

After the gibbons pair off and produce offspring in captivity, the families are released together.

The 38 gibbons at the center seemed reasonably happy and well-looked-after, but at least one was previously a pampered pet and was still having adjustment trouble. Eighteen gibbons were in the lower tier of cages, 11 were in the high tier, according to the staff, and nine are nominally in the wild.

Three gibbon families have been released in 12 years, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was told. All still receive supplemental feeding, and they do not seem to be rapidly recolonizing the forest. This may be because the habitat is not ideal for them, differing considerably from the forests of northern Thailand where gibbons are most abundant, or because the released gibbons lack wild survival instincts.

The Gibbon Rehabilitation Project still distributes literature mentioning an attempt to start gibbon colonies on islands in Phang Nga Bay, which were never native gibbon habitat. That experiment failed, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was informed, when the gibbons taken to the islands disappeared, probably poached.

Historically, the bars and restaurants of Phuket were a common destination of gibbons, orangutans, and other wildlife captured for exhibition. Eating wildlife was also common. But wildlife displays and consumption were eventually recognized as offensive to European visitors. Phuket therefore became reputedly the first part of Thailand to successfully discourage the illegal but largely uncontrolled wildlife trading for which the nation has long been notorious.

Wild animals are still displayed here and there.

ANIMAL PEOPLE did not visit but heard no good words about the small Phuket Zoo. The zoo advertises circus-like wildlife acts, once common at U.S. and European zoos, but long ago abandoned by most as inconsistent with conservation education—and, often, with humane animal care.

ANIMAL PEOPLE saw three elephant ride concessions. They offered holding conditions ranging from relatively good to one facility alongside the approach to Bang Pae at which a waiting elephant was inexplicably kept on a concrete pad. Elsewhere throughout the world, elephant keepers are revamping captive habitats so that elephants need not stand on concrete, as standing on hard surfaces is known now to aggravate foot and joint ailments common among captive elephants.

ANIMAL PEOPLE also encountered a mobile exhibitor of birds of prey at a roadside scenic overlook, charging passers-by for the opportunity to photograph or be photographed with the birds.

Back up & running

The tsunami killed 5,395 people in Thailand, with 2,991 missing, but only 262 people were killed on Phuket, 105 of them visitors, among 261,390 fulltime residents.

Relatively well-protected by cliffs and high ground, Phuket was soon almost back to business-as-usual. Six months after the tsunami, the ongoing clean-up looked much like other development. The most evident effect of the waves was to sweep squatter settlements away from the beach areas. Rather than removing most of the debris, landholders buried much of it beneath truckloads of fill.

More Phuket residents now work in construction than in agriculture, fishing, mining, and forestry combined. The island unemployment rate is officially just 1.3%.

The main road through the middle of Phuket is expanding to four lanes, big shopping malls are rising alongside it, and battalions of Burmese temporary workers camp in new shanty-towns, far up the steep slopes, where plantation workers resided generations ago.

—Merritt Clifton

Phuket contacts:

The Gibbon Rehabilitation Project, 104/3 M.3, Paklock Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand; 66-76-260491-2; fax 66-76-260491; <grp@warthai.org> or <tum@warthai.org>. **Soi Dog Foundation** c/o 57/61 Laguna Golf Villas, Moo 4, Srisoonthorn Road, Choengthale, Phuket 83110, Thailand; <margot@loxinfo.co.th>; <www.soidogfoundation.org>.

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PETA splits freedom of expression verdicts

Ruling at the Newcastle Crown Court, British High Court Judge Peter Langan on June 16 refused to grant **Covance Laboratories** an extended injunction to prevent PETA from airing undercover videography of a Covance facility in Vienna, Virginia, but allowed a previous injunction to stand for another 14 days to allow Covance time to appeal.

Covance pledged to appeal, but on June 23 withdrew parallel motions filed in Fairfax, Virginia, where Covance is pursuing a lawsuit against PETA and investigator **Lisa Leitten**, a former primate technician, for alleged fraud and violation of an employee contract.

PETA counsel **Desmond Browne** described the video in court as "horrendous."

Responded Langan, "Mr Browne's rhetoric may owe something to forensic licence but, having watched the video, I am unable to say that his language is far short of the mark. I would regard the description 'highly disturbing' as fitting the video precisely. I take just two aspects of what can

be seen, the rough manner in which animals are handled and the bleakness of the surroundings in which they are kept. These are matters which, even to a viewer with no particular interest in animal welfare, at least cry out for explanation."

Langan assessed \$91,341 in court costs against Covance.

In an unrelated case also involving freedom of expression, the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. District** on July 5 ruled that the **Washington D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities** was within its rights in 2002 when it refused to include a PETA sculpture of a chained elephant wearing a blanket with an anti-circus slogan in a sidewalk exhibit of sculptures of donkeys and elephants. PETA appealed the rejection to **U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon**, who in August 2002 ordered the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities to allow the elephant sidewalk space during the last month of the five-month exhibit.

Leon later ordered the commission to refund PETA's \$4,000 sponsorship fee.

Most wanted poachers busted in India & Nepal

DELHI, KASARA—The two most notorious living poachers on the Asian subcontinent were arrested on June 30 and July 20, respectively, as result of separate investigations.

The Indian Central Bureau of Investigation apprehended Sansar Chand, 47, after tracing him to his Delhi home by identifying his newspaper reading habits: a native of Rajasthan, Chand read Rajasthani papers in a neighborhood where few others did.

First arrested for poaching and wildlife trafficking at age 16, in 1974, when he was found in possession of 676 animal pelts including those of tigers and leopards, Chand worked with at least five close relatives. He was reportedly convicted 15 times without serving any significant sentence, even after he was caught with 28,486 contraband pelts in 1988. Fifty-seven cases are pending

against him in nine Indian states, wrote London *Independent* Delhi correspondent Justin Huggler.

Apprehending Chand became an Indian government priority after he was linked to the annihilation of the tiger population at Sariska National Park. The loss of tigers, confirmed in November 2004 after months of suspicion, destroyed the tourism appeal of one of India's former top visitor attractions.

The Royal Nepal Army and Royal Chitwan National Park staff captured eight reputed major rhino horn poachers and traffickers three weeks later, including Pemba Lama Gurung, a.k.a. Yakche. Believed to be about 40, Pemba Lama Gurung reportedly confessed to buying 20 poached rhino horns.

Wildlife Action Group attorney Ravi Sharma Aryal saluted the arrest as "possibly the biggest catch of its kind in Nepal."

More events

(from page 10)

<www.wolf.org>. **October 1-7: European Vegetarian Union Congress**, Riccione, Italy. Info: <www.euro-vegetarian.org>. (continued on page 11)

Oct. 1-8: Tennessee's Week For The Animals. Info:

901-454-0807; <www.TheAnimalWorld.org>.

Oct. 4: World Animal Day anti-animal fighting events. Info: <www.hsihsus.org>.

October 7-9: 20th Annual Compassionate Living Festival, Raleigh/Durham, N.C. Info: <www.animalsand-society.org>.

Oct. 8: Intl. Day of Protest Against the Japanese Dolphin Slaughter. Info: Ric O'Barry, <ricobarry@bellsouth.net>

Oct. 15: National Feral Cat Summit, Philadelphia. Info: <summit@neighborhoodcats.org>.

Oct. 18-19: Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conference, Dubrovnik, Croatia. Info: <www.icawc.org/>.

Nov. 3-6: Southern Regional S/N Leadership Conference, Atlanta. Info: Julie Becker, 504-931-5156; <info@spayneuterconference.org>.

Nov. 4: Animal Welfare Conference 2005, Lansing, Mich. Info: 866-M-HUMANE or <www.michiganhumane.org>.

Nov. 12: Connecticut Cares for Cats Conf., Cromwell, Ct. Info: Animal

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PETA staffers face 62 felony cruelty counts in North Carolina *(from page 1)*

female cat and her two 'very adoptable' kittens taken from Ahoskie Animal Hospital, veterinarian Patrick Proctor said."

Stated Proctor, "These were just kittens we were trying to find homes for. PETA said they would do that."

Earlier reports

ANIMAL PEOPLE in mid-2004 received detailed complaints from several North Carolina no-kill shelter volunteers and one ex-PETA employee who charged that PETA was taking animals from them who had been sterilized and vaccinated in preparation for adoption, promising to place them in homes, and then refused to account for them. The volunteers believed the animals were being killed. The ex-PETA employee affirmed their suspicions, but the complainants had no physical evidence to support their case.

"The arrests have left local animal rescuers with more questions than answers," summarized Luci Weldon of *The Warren Record*.

Macon animal rescuer Ruth Brown told Weldon that "In December 2003, while she was working with Rainbow Rescue, a no-kill organization in Roanoke Rapids, she conducted e-mail correspondence with an individual who described herself as being active in animal rescue and who used the Community Animal Project, run by PETA, to provide foster care for the rescued animals.

"I thought it was the answer from heaven," Brown recounted.

Wrote Weldon, "Brown said that she was told that local animals transferred to PETA would be prepared for potential adoption. As animals were given to PETA, Brown said she had contact with a representative of CAP in Norfolk, where PETA is headquartered, as well as contact with Adria Hinkle."

Said Brown, "We asked them about the animals and they said they only had to put one to sleep because of congenital heart failure," Brown said. "We questioned them on several occasions. They reassured us that the animals were adopted."

Continued Weldon, "Brown said that Warren County animal rescuers held fundraising events to pay for spaying and neutering and other needs related to the care of the animals transferred to PETA."

Brown became suspicious in late spring 2004 "after her original contact arrived in a large truck which contained over 80 animals," Weldon added.

A fellow volunteer followed the truck to Ahoskie, Brown told Weldon, but "was not allowed inside a building in Ahoskie where the animals were taken," Weldon summarized.

The volunteer did enter the building later and found syringe caps and blood.

"In June of 2004, several local animal rescuers decided to cut ties with PETA," Brown said, and a Rainbow Rescue representative said last week that her organization "will definitely not have anything to do with PETA," Weldon wrote.

Brown's account closely paralleled those that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** had received.

She told Weldon that Warren County rescuers sent approximately 1,000 animals to PETA in about six months.

"We had faith," Brown concluded. "They told us they were fostering, vetting, networking these animals. Isn't this deception? We believed in them."

PETA survives IRS audit

NORFOLK—The Internal Revenue Service announced on May 16 that a 20-month audit of PETA and the subsidiary Foundation to Support Animal Protection found no reason to revoke their tax-exempt status.

FSAP holds two-thirds of the assets under PETA control according to IRS Form 990, including 75% of the cash and securities.

FSAP in recent years has paid the mortgage on the PETA headquarters, has leased the site to PETA, and has done direct mail fundraising on behalf of PETA. This has enabled PETA to avoid declaring the full extent and nature of PETA assets and spending on IRS Form 990.

PETA claimed in fiscal 2003, for example, that only 14% of its expenditures were for fundraising and administration, but if FSAP and PETA were seen as a single fundraising unit, counting the cost of all mailings with fundraising appeals as fundraising expense, following the Wise Giving Alliance accounting standard, actual fundraising and administrative expense came to 50% of budget.

While claiming to oppose cruel methods of killing animals, PETA is the last major animal advocacy group in the U.S. that overtly opposes neuter/return feral cat control and no-kill sheltering.

In September 2003, for example, PETA tried to block a neuter/return program proposed to the city of Newport News by Cat Rescue Inc., the Animal Resource Foundation, and Meower Power Feral Cat Coalition.

PETA and Meower Power had clashed before. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in March 1998 published the allegation of Norfolk-area cat rescuer John Newton that a hit squad led initially by Ingrid Newkirk herself had for three years trapped cats from neuter/return colonies supervised by Meower Power and took many to their deaths at animal control shelters.

Newkirk did not respond to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** questions on that occasion, but confirmed to Michael Barakat of Associated Press in July 2000 that her staff killed 1,325 of the 2,103 dogs and cats they received in 1999—63%, above the regional animal control norm of 58%.

Then, according to Virginia state records, PETA in 2003 killed 1,911 of 2,225 animals received: 86%.

Although PETA is not a shelter organization, it killed more animals each year than 75% of the animal control shelters in Virginia.

Following the Barakat expose, PETA agreed to fund three mobile sterilization clinics in Virginia, operated by the Houston-based Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, whose first Virginia clinic was funded by the Best Friends Animal Society.

Newkirk had in February 2000 media statements called the Best Friends "No More Homeless Pets" drive to make Utah a no-kill state "at best, naive."

With investment of \$8.27 million through June 2005 from Maddie's Fund, Best Friends assembled a coalition including 25 rescue groups, 54 animal control agencies, 93 private practice veterinary clinics, and the Humane Society of Utah, who together have subsequently cut Utah shelter killing by 29%, boosting adoptions by 56%.

Newkirk ripped "No More Homeless Pets" after Best Friends cofounder Michael Mountain and two other Best Friends staff members asked PETA about the Barakat article.

Newkirk "declined to meet with us," Mountain told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

"Other staffers at PETA said that they routinely kill the animals that they pick up," Mountain continued. "We have received unsolicited reports from former PETA staff, describing how they joined because they wanted to help animals, only to find that they were sent out to kill them. We have also heard from numerous sources who were visited by people calling themselves PETA volunteers," Mountain said, "offering to 'find a good home' for homeless pets, and saying that the animals would be taken to a 'PETA shelter.'"

"These people discovered too late that there is no PETA shelter and that no one at PETA would even tell them what had become of the animals. Local rescue groups reported that PETA basically com-

petes with them, trying in many cases to kill the animals before they can be rescued," Mountain charged.

About six months after the Barakat expose appeared, PETA in 2000 sent euthanasia technician Teresa Gibbs to the no-kill Visakha SPCA, of Visakhapatnam, India, as a donated "shelter manager." Seeking to undo the Visakha SPCA no-kill policy, Gibbs did severe harm to the organization's donor, staff, and community relations before being fired.

Gibbs then joined the Animal Birth Control program managed by Ahimsa of Mumbai, and did similar damage.

"We do not advocate 'right to life' for animals," Newkirk handwrote on a post card to neuter/return and no-kill sheltering proponent Nathan Winograd, who then directed the Law & Advocacy Department for the San Francisco SPCA and now does shelter consulting from San Diego.

A former criminal prosecutor, Winograd offered his services pro bono to the North Carolina prosecution.

Animal advocates respond

"At a press conference following the arrest of the two PETA employees," the Best Friends web site editorialized, "PETA president Ingrid Newkirk said, 'PETA believes euthanasia is the kindest gift to a dog or cat unwanted and unloved.' We simply couldn't disagree more. The kindest gift to a homeless animal is a good home."

Wrote Friends of Animals legal director Lee Hall, "FoA would like to state that the Ahoskie killings are not euthanasia, and are a serious affront to animal rights. Animal advocates have no business killing healthy sheltered animals. People who engage in such conduct—regardless of killing or disposal methods—convey the message that they and their supporters have accepted a reprehensible practice."

"Alternatives to the cycle of breeding and killing do exist," Hall added, pointing out that FoA has subsidized sterilization of more than two million animals since 1957.

Wrote Kanak Roy, M.D. of the Animal Aid Alliance in Virginia Beach, in a commentary typical of many that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** received from activists around the world, "I have had disagreements with Newkirk in the past, but regardless of her troubling philosophy, I have continued to defend her publicly. I have lobbied several local news commentators on her behalf. However, the belief that PETA's unconscionable actions are in support of animal welfare, and the idea that they are any way reducing suffering, is pathological." —M.C.

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Japan still killing whales, but moratorium holds

SEOUL—Japan is still killing minke, sei, Bryde’s and sperm whales in the name of research, and will kill humpbacks this year as well, with a total self-set “scientific” quota for the year of 935.

Norway continues killing minke whales in coastal waters, and Iceland has resumed whaling, but all still without world approval, as the 57th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission ended in Ulsan, South Korea on June 24 with no major successes for the pro-whaling faction.

“We entered the week with a strong fear that the balance of power within the IWC would shift to a pro-whaling majority,” summarized Whalewatch Coalition leader Philip Lymbery. His delegation represented the Royal SPCA, Earth Island Institute, Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society, Whale Watch, and Humane Society International.

“Six new pro-whaling nations joined the IWC this year,” Lymbery continued, “countered by just

three new anti-whalers. Anti-whalers held the majority largely due to tactical lobbying and absentees,” and India caught up on back dues and sent a delegation just in time for the most critical ballots.

A Japanese motion to end the global moratorium on commercial whaling was voted down 29-23.

“Japan’s ongoing scientific whaling program was condemned by an Australian resolution, 30-27,” Lymbery added. “Welfare was recognized as an important issue, demonstrated by a consensus agreement to hold a workshop on the welfare implications of whaling at next year’s IWC meeting. The cruelty of whaling was raised many times from the floor. Undercover video of a Norwegian hunt made a particular impact.

“On the final day,” Lymbery finished, “a hostile resolution originally proposed by Sweden, that could have threatened the moratorium and led to more whales being killed, was voted down by an overwhelming majority.”



Dog round-up & shark fin controversies bite Hong Kong Disneyland

HONG KONG—Hong Kong Disneyland had barely found a face-saving way to retreat from serving sharks’ fins at weddings when Hong Kong Dog Rescue founder Sally Anderson complained to *South China Morning Post* reporter Simon Perry that Disney management had lethally purged several dozen dogs she was trying to capture at the theme park and offer for adoption.

“Dozens of stray dogs adopted by construction workers on the Disney site have been rounded up and killed in the run-up to the park’s opening in September,” Parry wrote on July 25, 2005. “Forty-five dogs, some believed to have been used as unofficial guard dogs on the site during construction, have been caught by government dog catchers at Disney’s request.

“Disney last night denied the strays had ever been officially used as guard dogs and said it had called in dog catchers because the animals were roaming in packs and posing a threat to staff.”

Reuters sent the story worldwide.

Asked **ANIMAL PEOPLE** of Disney, “Why didn’t Walt Disney Inc. contact the Hong Kong SPCA, which is no-kill, and is the largest humane society between San Francisco and Chennai?”

A Disney spokesperson with animal welfare background pledged to find out.

A different spokesperson told Parry that the Hong Kong SPCA had been contacted, but said it could not rehome so many dogs.

Responded Hong Kong SPCA deputy director of animal welfare Fiona Woodhouse, “We couldn’t have taken 50 adult mongrels and guaranteed to find them homes. What we could have done is advertise them and try to find them homes.”

Woodhouse told Parry that she had

no record of any contact from Disney, “but did not rule out that the company had phoned for advice,” Parry wrote.

The shark fin blunder came to light when Parry disclosed on May 23 that the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel would serve shark fin soup because, said spokesperson Irene Chan Man-tuen, “the dish is considered an integral part of Chinese banquets.”

Responded Martin Baker of Greenpeace Hong Kong, “How can the same company that produced *Finding Nemo*, with its message that marine life is under threat, at the same time support a trade that is unsustainable, wasteful, and cruel?”

Brian Darvell of the Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society and Eric Bohm of the World Wildlife Fund’s Hong Kong office seized the chance to point out that hunting sharks for their fins has already jeopardized the survival of many shark species.

World Conservation Union data indicates that the global shark population is down by half since 1986. The WCU believes that Hong Kong accounts for about half of all shark fin consumption, and that about 85% of the fin traffic passes through Hong Kong.

“They say it’s cultural. Does that

Irene Chan Man-tuen also promised, Parry wrote, that Disney would only buy fins from “reliable and responsible suppliers” who “guarantee not to hunt endangered species or engage in ‘finning,’ where fins are cut off and sharks left to die.”

“In some senses this issue is similar to the bear bile issue, in the respect that the supply is fueling the demand,” Animals Asia Foundation CEO Jill Robinson observed. “Shark fin was traditionally only available to a wealthy minority, but is now readily available and much cheaper, with dire consequences for the ocean’s eco-system.

“We have a real opportunity to change attitudes here in Asia and reinforce our message that tradition is never an excuse for cruelty and exploitation,” Robinson assessed. “Sharks may not have people’s affection in the same way as bears or dogs and cats, but they need our help.”

On June 17 the conflict received half a page in *The New York Times*.

Disney retreated on June 24.

“After careful consideration and a thorough review process,” said a statement e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “we were not able to identify an environmentally sustain-

able fishing source, leaving us no alternative except to remove shark’s fin soup from our wedding banquet menu.”

Instead, Irene Chan Man-tuen said, the Hong Kong Disneyland hotel would serve lobster soup, a sea whelk dish, a bouillon made from bamboo fungus, and crab roe.

“We are confident the change will not affect the attractiveness of our weddings,” Chan told Associated Press.

The anti-shark fin campaigners hoped the Disney example would influence other banquet venues.

“We are definitely keeping shark’s fin soup on the menu,” InterContinental Hotel food and beverage manager Harrison Lun Yuman told Parry.

“We would have to explain to stakeholders why our revenue would be \$100,000 less for the month,” J.W. Marriott Hong Kong spokesperson Therese Necio-Ortega said.

The Hong Kong government refused to take shark fin soup off of state banquet menus.

But the 15 nation Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission on June 29 adopted an international ban on collecting shark fin in eastern Pacific waters.

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Axed SNAP founder Sean Hawkins starts over

HOUSTON—Either Spay/Neuter Assistance Program founder Sean Hawkins was fired on May 26, 2005, as the June edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported, or Hawkins was still CEO, as the SNAP board claimed in a June 6 statement.

Whichever it was, Hawkins on June 20 submitted his formal resignation, and on July 5 announced the formation of a new charity, Saving Animals Across Borders, to carry out a mission similar to that of SNAP but with a stronger international emphasis.

“Based in Houston, Saving Animals will promote the adoption of healthy dogs and cats,” Hawkins said on July 5, “and will increase the availability of animal sterilization services, to ultimately wipe out animal homelessness in communities where these programs and services are not available.

“Saving Animals’ efforts in Houston will focus on building a state-of-the-art animal sterilization, wellness, and adoption center for animals in economically challenged families,” Hawkins declared. “The facility will be a worldwide training center for veterinarians and animal protection organizations, to showcase and teach best practices and latest techniques in animal health care and sterilization.

“Saving Animals will expand humane services and best practices throughout the Mexican border region, as well as critical areas of need in central Mexico,” Hawkins pledged.

Joining Hawkins on the start-up team are former SNAP chief veterinarian Gil Costas, named international program director, and Denise Burton, who is director of development.

Melanie Lambert, vice president of the Dallas-based Summerlee Foundation, told Salatheia Bryant of the *Houston Chronicle* that Summerlee had granted more than \$1 million to SNAP since 1998, but will direct future grants to Saving Animals Across Borders. Seven other foundations also pledged that their funding—\$1.75 million in 2004—would likewise follow Hawkins. Their contributions together made up 55% of the SNAP budget.

Responded SNAP board president Norman Ritchie, “SNAP has a strong identity. Sean’s impact on fundraising has been exaggerated. There’s certainly enough money in Houston. It’s going to be a test to see if all of us can tap into it.”

“I can’t see Sean in any other business,” Citizens for Animal Protection executive director Kappy

Muenzer told Bryant. “He wants things better for animals everywhere. I think he’ll be able to make a success of this new organization.”

Hawkins debuted in humane work as a CAP volunteer cage-cleaner and dog-walker while still in junior high school. He founded SNAP in 1994 as a program of the Fund for Animals, took it independent in 2000, and built it into a \$3 million-a-year organization, sterilizing about 50,000 dogs and cats per year in six southwestern states and northern Mexico.

Hawkins split with SNAP about six months after a transition of board members was followed by conflict with new board president Norman Ritchie and board member Glenda Davis over how to run a sterilization program on the Navajo Nation. Davis also heads the Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program.

Hawkins on May 26 told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that Ritchie had directed him to end the Navajo Nation SNAP project. “Now that SNAP sterilization services have halted, the Navajo Nation has resumed shooting all the dogs it can catch,” Hawkins alleged.

SNAP representative Hazel Greenberg on July 15 responded that, “Our Native American Project and New Mexico mobile clinic has been and still is in operation. Whatever its future, that truck has been and is operating presently, and was never down.”

Returned Hawkins, “SNAP is currently in negotiations to sell the Albuquerque mobile clinic to the Humane Society of the U.S. or the Humane Alliance,” a North Carolina-based sterilization outreach program.

“Even the staff in Albuquerque is aware of this,” Hawkins said, “and the management is currently looking for employment elsewhere.”

SNAP interim CEO Jim Weedon, DVM, did not respond to an **ANIMAL PEOPLE** inquiry.

The May 26 rift between Hawkins and SNAP came less than three weeks after Hawkins accepted the Airline Animal Transportation Association’s Animal Welfare Award in Calgary, Alberta, in recognition of SNAP’s disaster response efforts in the Cayman Islands after Hurricane Ivan in August 2004.

SNAP, CAP, Cayman Airways, and the Houston SPCA collaborated to evacuate and adopt out the animals who were left homeless after Ivan destroyed the only shelter in the Cayman Islands.

[Contact Saving Animals Across Borders c/o P. O. Box 130897, Houston, TX 77219; 713-527-4490; <smhawkins@houston.rr.com>.]

Indo-Canadian low-cost vets accuse British Columbia Vet Med Association of discrimination

VANCOUVER—Alleging that they have been targeted for doing low-cost dog and cat sterilizations, 18 Indo-Canadian veterinarians, 16 of them members of the British Columbia Veterinary Medical Association, are pursuing discrimination claims against BCVMA registrar Valerie Osborne.

Led by Atlas Animal Hospital owner Hakam Bhullar, the vets have registered a lawsuit with the British Columbia Supreme Court, seeking to remove Osborne from office, and have petitioned the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal requesting that an unusually strict language proficiency test required by the BCVMA be repealed.

Osborne and other BCVMA representatives have said little on the record about the Indo-Canadian veterinarians’ complaints, except to deny that the intent of the language proficiency test is discriminatory.

Under Osborne, Bhullar told Richard Chu of the *Vancouver Sun*, the BCVMA requires vets to score 92% on a standard test of spoken English. Lawyers, medical doctors, dentists, nurses, and firefighters are required to score only 83%, Bhullar said.

Supporting Bhullar *et al*, former Vancouver park board commissioner Roslyn Cassells pointed out to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that as well as meeting the 83% proficiency standard, many of the Indo-Canadian vets speak other languages that are commonly used at home by members of the large Asian immigrant population of the Vancouver region.

“One of the members of a BCVMA committee was caught on tape saying the English test is to shut out low-cost vets,” Bhullar alleged.

The BCVMA recommends that members should charge \$140 for a cat spay and \$85 for feline vaccinations. Bhullar, whose practice is favored by many individual rescuers and small humane organizations, charges \$45 for the spay and \$22 for the vaccinations, he said.

A demand letter sent to the BCVMA on June 2 listed 17 purported discriminatory actions by Osborne, including allegedly refusing to issue a license to practice to an Indo-Canadian veterinarian based on an apparently undocumented claim that he was mentally ill, conducting a disciplinary hearing of allegations against a non-BCVMA member, leaking confidential information about Indo-Canadian veterinary businesses to competitors, and pursuing an allegedly retaliatory complaint of sexual harassment against an Indo-Canadian veterinarian, brought by two technicians who had been fired by the veterinarian’s employer.

Bhullar and the other Indo-Canadian veterinarians earlier lodged complaints of discrimination with the British Columbia Ombudsman, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, and the Law Society of British Columbia.

A central part of their dissatisfaction is that their allegations have repeatedly been referred by the various agencies back to the BCVMA, even though the BCVMA is the subject of the complaints.

Summarized Bhullar and fellow veterinarian Tejpaal Bhatia in their appeal to the Ombudsman, “In the past few years there has been an influx of foreign veterinary graduates to the province of British Columbia. Many of these new Canadians come from India, where many have trained and practiced veterinary medicine for years.

“In order to improve access to veterinary care for working families, seniors, students, disabled persons and unemployed persons, many of these veterinarians opened low-cost community clinics which serve the public seven days a week, including evenings, weekends, and holidays. This created a wave of dissatisfaction among some older, established veterinarians, who resented the financial competition, despite the obvious benefits of improved animal welfare and strong community support.

“Initially the BCVMA tried to impose price fixing,” Bhullar and Bhatia charged, “as has been done in other professions. This would have required all vets to impose certain designated fees to their clients regardless of their wish to offer the same service for less, or to offer the same service on a pro-bono basis as a community service.

“Ultimately it is the animals who suffer from this intransigence,” Bhullar and Bhatia wrote. “As veterinarians, we feel our most important responsibility is toward the welfare of animals. We cannot understand why a professional association which has in its mandate a commitment to the wellbeing of animals would behave in this way.

“The next attempt to limit the low-cost clinics run by Indo-Canadian veterinarians was to attempt to limit any advertising of rates, not only in print and other media, but also even inside the veterinary clinics themselves. Despite this, our clinics have prospered, largely due to word-of-mouth referrals by satisfied customers.”



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June 20-24: All About News Releases

Lynne Ouchida of Humane Society of Central Oregon and John Van Zante of Helen Woodward Animal Center will answer your questions about how to get your news out to the media and in print! Submit one of your news releases for editing.

June 27-July 1: Focus on Fundraising

Can raising money to help the animals really be fun and easy? Danielle Hamilton and Elizabeth Tolson of HumaneFundraising help you raise funds for your work.

July 4-8: Critters for Keeps: Helping Pets Stay in Their Homes

Allergies, moving, housebreaking issues ... we’ve all heard the reasons that otherwise loving homes consider giving up a pet. The folks at the Best Friends Network and Emily Weiss, Ph.D., of SAFER give you the tools to counsel would-be relinquishers so they can keep their pets in the family.

July 11-15: Orphaned Infant Care in Foster Homes

Wendy C. Brooks, DVM, of Mar Vista Animal Medical Center answers our questions about how to keep the tiny babies in our care warm, well-fed, and well-socialized.

July 18-22: Hold That Pose! Animal Photography Tips

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Shelter killing drops after upward spike

The numbers of dogs and cats killed in U.S. animal shelters appears to have resumed a 35-year decline after a brief spike upward, according to the 12th annual **ANIMAL PEOPLE** review of shelter exit data. The overall rate of shelter killing per 1,000 Americans now stands at 15.5.

Shelter killing is coming down in all parts of the U.S., but progress remains most apparent where low-cost and early-age dog and cat sterilization programs started first, decades ago, followed by aggressive neuter/return feral cat sterilization, introduced on a large scale during the early 1990s.

Regions with harsh winters that inhibit the survival of stray and feral kittens were usually killing more than 100 dogs and cats per 1,000 humans circa 1970. The U.S. average was 115, and the Southern toll (where known) soared above 250.

Current regional norms vary from 3.6 in the Northeast to 27.5 along the Gulf Coast and 29.2 in Appalachia.

The Northeast toll is as low as it is partly because most animal control agencies in Connecticut still do not actively pick up cats, although they were authorized to do so in 1991—but even if Connecticut agencies collected two or three times as many cats as dogs, the overall Northeast rate of shelter killing would be less than 4.5 dogs and cats per 1,000 humans.

For most cities in most parts of the U.S. 5.0 is for all practical purposes the threshold of achieving no-kill animal control, as on average about five animals per 1,000 humans will be too severely injured, ill, or dangerous to save. New York City is unique in having by far the highest human population density in the U.S., with only about half the U.S. per capita rate of pet-keeping. This reflects the predominance of high-rise apartment house living.

The no-kill threshold for New York City is accordingly about 2.5—and the city is almost there, having cut shelter killing almost in half during the 18-month tenure of current Center for Animal Care & Control director Ed Boks.

San Francisco, a distant second in human population density, crossed the no-kill threshold in 1994, and continues to reduce shelter killing by finding ways to save ever more of the animals who would have no chance elsewhere due to lack of resources for treatment and rehabilitation.

At the present rate of New York City progress, however, New York could become the most successful U.S. city at saving animals’ lives in one more year—or less.

The most remarkable new finding in the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** data analysis is that the percentage of unsterilized



(Kim Bartlett)

	Animals killed per 1,000 people	YEAR	1,000s of people	Animals killed
CONNECTICUT	0.8	2003	3,483	2,647
Ithaca, NY	2.2	2003	97	214
New York City	2.6	2005	8,086	21,171
Onandaga County, NY	4.2	2003	311	1,300
Oswego, NY	7.5	2003	18	135
Madison County, NY	7.8	2003	70	548
NORTHEAST (36%)	3.6		33,396	120,486
NEW JERSEY	5.9	2003	8,638	50,637
Pittsburgh, PA	8.6	2003	1,261	10,907
Baltimore	9.2	2003	762	7,003
Harford Cnty, MD	11.2	2002	219	2,448
Berks County, PA	11.8	2002	85	4,489
Frederick Cnty, MD	13.7	2003	203	2,784
Philadelphia	19.7	2002	1,518	29,935
MID-ATLANTIC (43%)	8.5		29,704	251,634
Chicago	10.4	2002	2,896	30,000
Cincinnati	13.1	2002	835	10,951
MICHIGAN	13.3	2004	9,991	133,000
Tippecanoe Cty, IN	15.2	2003	155	2,360
St. Louis	15.6	2003	1,365	21,336
Butler County, OH	15.8	2002	835	5,329
Kansas City	16.6	2002	1,500	25,000
Springfield, MO	16.9	2002	594	9,689
Minneapolis	17.9	2002	1,115	20,000
Jefferson Cty, MO	18.9	2003	198	3,745
Winnebago Cty, IL	19.2	2004	284	5,449
Clermnt Cnty, OH	20.3	2002	182	3,700
Kansas City, KS	21.6	2004	158	3,412
Indianapolis	23.5	2003	857	20,100
Madison/St Clair IL	24.5	2003	515	12,627
Warren County, OH	27.1	2002	169	4,572
Athens, OH	46.6	2004	64	3,000
Columbia, MO	50.4	2002	80	4,033
Hamilton, IN	60.5	2000	172	10,406

MIDWEST (36%)	15.1	60,436
913,081		

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dogs and cats who have homes is now almost equal, in many locales, to the number killed in shelters per 1,000 humans.

This quick-and-crude approach to estimating dog-and-cat reproductive potential may be more a recurring coincidence than a rule, and does not appear to hold up where the rate of dog and cat sterilization is known to be less than 70%, but it did hold up in every U.S. city where **ANIMAL PEOPLE** had both sterilization and shelter killing data.

Seventy percent is the tipping point at which the remaining unsterilized animals cannot reproduce in excess of attrition, if the 70% sterilization ratio is maintained.

After initially estimating U.S. shelter killing each year by projecting the rate per 1,000 humans based on a limited number of whole-state surveys, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 1997 shifted to the present method of using only data from the three most recent fiscal years, and using proportionally weighted city and county data where whole-state surveys are unavailable.

Research commissioned by the National Council on Pet Population Study, done during 1994-1996, subsequently confirmed the estimate of dogs and cats killed in shelters that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** projected.

A new paper resulting from the NCPPS investigation, “Birth and Death Rate Estimates of Cats and Dogs in U.S. Households and Related Factors,” appeared in volume 7.4 of the *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* just as the July/August 2005 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press.

Co-authors of the paper included John C. New Jr. and William Kelch of the University of Tennessee, Jennifer Hutchison of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, Mo Salman and Mike King of Colorado State University, Janet Scarlett of Cornell University, and Philip Kass of the University of California at Davis.

Estimating feral cats

Based on 1996 survey data from 7,399 U.S. households, the new paper establishes that “The crude birth rate was estimated to be about 11.2 kittens per 100 cats in households, and 11.4 puppies per 100 dogs in households.”

Attrition included a death rate of 8.3 among cats, 7.9% among dogs, plus a disappearance rate of 3% among cats, 1.1% among dogs. Cat births in households equalled attrition; dog births in households exceeded attrition by 2.4%.

Twice as many kitten litters as puppy litters were born, with a surprisingly large average kitten litter size of 5.73 and puppy litter size of 7.57. About 82% of the animals were from unplanned litters.

Thus about 6.63 million kittens were born in households, 5.46 million of them through unplanned births, along with six million puppies, 2.6 million through unplanned births.

The number of unplanned births was almost exactly equal to U.S. shelter admissions, and movement of feral cats into homes and shelters appears to have been approximately equal to net growth in the household population pus cat killing in shelters, as projected by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The number of feral cats in any locale can be estimated by adding net cat acquisition to shelter killing and multiplying by three, to account for the numbers of queens, toms, and siblings not entering homes or shelters who must exist to produce the numbers of ferals who are either adopted or killed.

However, nationally the feral population is markedly

	Animals killed per 1,000 people	YEAR	1,000s of people	Animals killed
Richmond, VA	7.7	2004	195	1,489
Miami/Dade County	9.2	2003	2,300	21,205
Wake Cty, NC	15.2	2003	656	10,000
Norfolk	15.9	2003	1,500	23,869
VIRGINIA	18.1	2003	7,386	133,800
Lee County, FL	18.7	2002	463	8,667
Tallahassee	22.4	2004	239	5,350
Coweta Cty, GA	22.6	2004	101	2,288
Muskogee Cnty, GA	27.5	2003	275	7,500
Volusia County, FL	28.6	2003	455	13,000
NORTH CAROLINA	31.2	2002	8,407	265,289
Tampa	32.4	2002	1,000	32,431
Columbia, SC	37.0	2004	332	12,275
Augusta, GA	45.3	2004	198	8,967
Buncombe Cty, NC	49.4	2004	213	10,528
SO. ATLANTIC (52%)	23.5		45,644	1,070,496
Lewisville, TX	17.5	2001	78	1,367
Fort Worth	19.6	2004	1,486	29,177
LaPlace, LA	20.8	2003	50	1,042
Dallas/FtWorth	23.0	2002	3,439	79,207
El Paso, TX	31.4	2004	700	22,000
Lafayette, LA	28.0	2004	195	5,439
Tuskaloosa, AL	33.0	2003	167	5,502
San Antonio	35.3	2003	1,418	50,000
Amarillo	50.9	2002	174	8,859
Hattiesburg, MS	56.2	2002	73	4,100
GULF COAST (19%)	27.5		33,997	934,295
Loudon Cty TN	18.9	2003	40	754
Chattanooga	22.5	2004	307	6,918
Blount Cty, TN	22.6	2003	108	2,437
Knoxville	27.6	2004	393	10,848
Roane Cty, TN	32.1	2003	52	1,669
Anderson Cty, TN	32.3	2003	72	2,327
Spartanburg TN	32.8	2004	261	8,562
Union Cty, TN	42.8	2003	18	788
Lincoln County, KY	43.7	2003	24	1,045
Sevier Cty, TN	44.4	2003	74	3,275
Jefferson Cty TN	53.1	2003	45	2,390

APPALACHIA (34%)	29.2	4,124
120,627		



(Kim Bartlett)

reduced. A total of only six million feral cats surviving each winter and 12 million at the summer population peak (about 16% of the current household cat population) would be sufficient to produce all of the current annual net gain in pet cats and all of the cats killed in shelters.

U.S. shelter killing had declined from 17.4 in 1996 to 14.8 in 2000-2001, according to the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** projections, but rebounded to the 1996 level after the high-tech stock market slump and terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 brought a catastrophic dip in funding for nonprofit and government-subsidized low-cost dog and cat sterilization.

Neuter/return had apparently caught on well enough that the feral cat population continued to drop, but at a slower rate than in the 1990s.

However, shelter dog intake and killing sharply increased during the first half-decade of the 21st century, coinciding with a five-fold increase in admissions of pit bull terriers and Rottweilers, from under 5% of the dogs received to more than 26%, according to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** shelter surveys done in 1993 and 2004.

The same years brought a 789% increase in the numbers of people killed or maimed by pit bulls, who committed about half of all the life-threatening or fatal dog attacks in the U.S., plus a 2000% increase in the numbers of people killed or maimed by Rottweilers, who committed about 25% of the life-threatening or fatal dog attacks.

The increasing volume of pit bulls and Rottweilers entering shelters was enough to tip the balance of shelter killing from 43% dogs and 57% cats in 1996-1997 to 57% dogs and 43% cats in 2003-2004.

ANIMAL PEOPLE did not re-survey the shelter dog population in 2005, as there seemed to be no indication of any change in the trend since 2004.

Fifteen Americans were killed by pet dogs during the first six months of 2005, 11 by pit bulls and three by Rottweilers. Police seized 693 pit bulls in connection with dog-fighting, 14% fewer than in the first half of 2002 but approaching the totals seized in each full year from 1999 through 2001, and nearly twice as many as were seized in 1998.

(Please note that the regional and national totals appearing in the accompanying table in bold are not tallies of the data used to produce them, but are rather estimates proportionately weighted to reflect demography. The percentage figure in parenthesis is the percentage of the regional human population from which the totals were derived.)

	Animals killed per 1,000 people	YEAR	1,000s of people	Animals killed
San Francisco	2.5	2004	771	1,892
San Diego	5.9	2004	2,931	17,421
Portland/Multnomah	6.8	2004	686	4,714
SF Bay area	7.1	2003	7,039	50,000
Silicon Valley	8.5	2003	1,668	14,097
Los Angeles	8.7	2003	9,638	83,780
OREGON	9.3	2002	3,560	33,132
Sacramento	13.4	2002	1,269	17,000
Lodi, CA	13.9	2002	57	790
Clark County, WA	14.6	2003	361	5,283
Grants Pass, OR	17.8	2003	78	1,400
San Bernardino	18.5	2002	1,766	32,656
Riverside, CA	24.3	2002	1,636	39,687
Modesto	30.5	2004	489	14,903
Victorville, CA	28.6	2002	300	8,598
Longview, WA	31.3	2002	80	2,500
Bakersfield, CA	33.3	2003	676	22,500
Fresno, CA	80.0	2002	500	40,000
Visalia, CA	81.1	2002	100	8,100
PACIFIC (69%)	12.1		47,082	570,636
Denver	5.8	2002	1,961	11,407
Phoenix, AZ	11.9	2003	3,195	38,048
Billings	14.3	2004	133	1,900
Las Vegas area	14.5	2003	1,641	23,758
UTAH	15.4	2004	2,352	36,121
Payette, ID	16.6	2002	60	1,000
Albuquerque	26.9	2004	581	15,600
Flagstaff, AZ	30.7	2003	59	1,848
Kingman area, AZ	39.5	2003	162	6,404
Navajo Nation	136.0	2003	46	6,952
WEST (53%)	14.3		18,883	269,883
U.S. TOTAL	15.5		290,810	

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Feral cats & Singapore animal advocacy

SINGAPORE—The first feral cat in Singapore may have been the animal for whom the island city-state is named.

He was reputedly a big one, with a red body and black mane. When he lived and who saw him is mysterious.

Singapore in the fifth century A.D. was known to Chinese sea farers as “Pu-luo-chung,” meaning “little town at the end of a peninsula.” From the seventh century to the 10th century the little town was Temasek, a Buddhist city-state.

After several centuries of obscurity, Temasek rose as a regional power in the 14th century, passing from Buddhist to Islamic rule, but was eventually destroyed by warfare. The ruins were sparsely inhabited until 1819, when Sir Stamford Raffles rebuilt the ancient palace grounds as the seat of British government in Southeast Asia.

By then, the former Temasek was already *Singapura*, meaning in Malay and Sanskrit “The lion city.”

Singapore mythology holds that the name *Singa-pura* was conferred in the early 14th century by the Sri Vijayan prince Sang Nila Utama, who had sailed from Sumatra seeking a place to build an empire.

Approaching Temasek, which in the legend did not yet exist, Sang Nila Utama saw the red-bodied, black-maned animal. His advisors recognized the animal as a lion, the story goes, but were mystified, since lions were not known to exist east of India. They took the lion as a good omen, and chose to build where the lion had appeared.

However, the story appears to be apocryphal. The site of the five-king dynasty that Sang Nila Utama founded was apparently still called Temasek until centuries later.

The first lions known to have been anywhere near Singapore were among the specimens captured in Kenya by the Chinese Muslim eunuch admiral Zheng He. Zheng He sailed to Africa four times between 1405 and 1433. Undertaken with as many as 300 ships and 30,000 crew, the voyages restocked and expanded emperor Zhu Di’s zoo.

Zheng He might have lost a lion, or a shipload of lions, near Temasek. They might have established a small feral colony that persisted for several generations, fending off the native tigers and inspiring the mysterious place name.

Cat Welfare Society

Singapore today rivals Hong Kong in almost everything, including as a hub of animal advocacy. As in Hong Kong, trying to stop wildlife trafficking wins headlines, but feral cat rescue attracts by far the most public participation.

Like Hong Kong, Singapore has few if any street dogs, since free-roaming dogs have not been tolerated for generations. Most of the human population lives in high-rise apartments, owned by the state. Rental regulations allow small dogs only, no cats, but feral cats long ago took over the most congenial outdoor habitat, with little competition and no significant predation pressure from the few other predators who share the island. Extended colonies of 50 or more feral cats, often with kinked tails symptomatic of inbreeding, thrive in the ornamental shrubbery and green space between high-rises.

Many are in effect community cats, sprawling lazily in plain view of passers-by, freely accepting petting or tummy-rubs. Apartment residents, frequently retired people, have often become the cats’ avid volunteer feeders and caretakers.

Ubiquitous as feral cats seem to be in residential areas, the Singapore population is falling. Singapore may have



Mme. Soon, a Cat Welfare Society cat feeder. (Kim Bartlett)

had as many as 150,000 feral cats in 1999, when an incident in which someone burned a box of kittens alive shocked the nation. The Cat Welfare Society formed soon afterward.

The Cat Welfare Society helped to win passage of a felony cruelty law in 2002. Offenders may receive a fine of \$10,000 Singapore dollars plus a year in jail. But promoting cat sterilization and coordinating neuter/return work emerged as the top Cat Welfare Society priorities.

Enlisting the cooperation of dozens of local cat feeders, the Cat Welfare Society helped to cut the Singapore feral cat population to between 60,000 and 80,000 within five years, according to Agri-Veterinary Authority estimates.

ANIMAL PEOPLE estimated, based on colony observation with Cat Welfare Society director Dawn Kwa, plus inspection of parks, rooftops, and alleys, that Singapore now supports not more than 54,500 feral cats.

The Cat Welfare Society sterilization work was initially supported by a Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme funded by the Agri-Veterinary Authority. The Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme sterilized about 10,000 cats between 1999 and 2003, about half of them with Cat Welfare Society assistance.

Despite achieving a rapid drop in kitten births, the scheme did not achieve a big reduction in complaints about cats to public officials, partly because the remaining cats became tamer and more visible. Then complaints spiked during the Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome panic of 2003.

SARS apparently crossed into humans via palm civets, who are both trapped from the wild and factory-farmed in China. Though civets and felines last shared a common ancestor probably no more recently than 40 million years ago, civets are often called “civet cats,” creating a misguided public impression that felines too might carry SARS.

“Our stand is that there is no evidence that SARS can affect cats or dogs,” Centre for Animal Welfare chief Madhavan Kannan told *The Straits Times*, after testing 140 cats from the Singapore streets.

His department, however, reportedly picked up and killed from three to four times more cats than usual during the next few months, after National Development minister Vivian Balakrishnan ordained that, “There should be no strays, cats, dogs or vermin near or in food establishments, markets, or any other place where food is sold or handled.”

As well as enforcing an ordinance long on the books, but previously loosely interpreted, Balakrishnan suspended the Stray Cat Rehabilitation Scheme.

Absorbing a 60% increase in sterilization costs and a 200% increase in rescue costs during the next year, while cat abandonments surged, the Cat Welfare Society was obliged to suspend paying sterilization reimbursements to cat feeders.

The Cat Welfare Society now hopes to establish its own sterilization clinic.

Singapore SPCA

The Cat Welfare Society is only the largest of a constellation of pro-animal organizations founded in Singapore during the past 15 years, reflecting both a rapid expansion of humane concern and a transition of animal advocacy leadership from the expatriate community to native Singaporeans.

Officially, 76% of the Singapore population are of Chinese ethnicity and speak Mandarin. Muslims of Malaysian ethnicity are next most numerous, then Hindus of Indian descent. Only 2% are of European background, mostly British, but for more than 100 years, animal welfare work—to whatever extent any was done—was a British expatriate enclave.

The earliest trace of the Singapore SPCA was an October 1878 note in *The Straits Times* mentioning that it investigated 84 cruelty cases in the first quarter of the fiscal year, resulting in 10 magisterial warnings and six convictions.

The Singapore SPCA and two other Singaporean animal welfare societies attended the 1910 International Humane Congress, hosted by the American Humane Association in Washington D.C., “but until 1947, there are no other details available,” the Singapore SPCA web site says. “In 1947, the RSPCA, as it was known then, was revived by an Englishwoman, Miss Lucia Bach. She ran a boarding house and took in stray animals.”

The society incorporated and opened a shelter in 1954, in 1969 became one of the first major humane societies in the world to require sterilization of all adopted animals, opened a sterilization clinic in 1976, and in 1984 moved to the present site—which is about the size of a gas station/convenience store.



The Merlion, official symbol of Singapore. (Wolf Clifton)

Lack of space contributes to a Singapore shelter killing volume that has plateaued since the early 1990s at about 9,000 dogs and 12,000 cats per year, between the Agri-Veterinary Authority and the SPCA.

But the numbers alone do not tell the whole story. Singapore in 1960 had 1.7 million human residents. The central city was still ringed with truck farms and rubber plantations. Livestock far outnumbered dogs and cats.

Today Singapore has 4.4 million human residents. Though the government housing policies discourage petkeeping, the Singapore pet population almost certainly grew at least as fast as the human population. The plateau in shelter killing accordingly reflects significant progress, likely to accelerate if Singapore SPCA executive director Deirdre Moss succeeds in negotiating a longterm lease on larger and more conveniently located property when the present lease expires next year.

ACRES

The Singapore SPCA, like most older mainstream humane societies, appears to have emphasized care of work animals in early years, and companion animal issues ever since. AnimalWatch Singapore emerged in the 1990s to advocate for animals on other fronts. In May 2001 it spun off the Animal Concerns Research & Education Society.

While AnimalWatch Singapore now focuses on food issues, ACRES seeks to “Improve the living conditions and welfare of animals in captivity.”

The first prominent ACRES project was a comprehensive report on bear bile markets outside of China, by former AnimalWatch president Guna Subramaniam, who is now Asian director of Care For The Wild. ACRES followed the bear bile trafficking investigation with others looking at other branches of the wildlife trade, including the exotic pet industry and non-human primate sales to biomedical research.

Singapore prosecuted 34 people for wildlife offenses in 2000. Since ACRES debuted, prosecutions rose to 68 in 2003 and 97 in 2004.

ACRES president Louis Ng, 27, a commando in the Singaporean national defense force reserves, is pushing for more. The Agri-Veterinary Authority recently seized 47 turtles of protected species from three local pet shops. ACRES at a July 22 press conference presented the results of an undercover investigation which found that about 20% of the pet shops in Singapore are selling protected or restricted species. Among the 100 pet shops that ACRES visited, Ng said, were 111 animals of contraband species.

“ACRES is calling for stricter enforcement in Singapore, as well as amendment of the Endangered Species Act to eradicate loopholes and increase the penalties,” Ng said. “ACRES believes that the main loophole in this Act is that it is based on a per species basis. All a trafficker has to do is traffic in only one species at a time and the penalties are minimal.

“The highest possible fine would be about \$3,000 U.S. plus a year in jail. ACRES proposes that the Act should be amended to a per animal basis, and for wildlife parts, a per kilogram basis,” Ng finished.

ACRES is also seeking land for a wildlife rehabilitation center, and hosted the 2005 Asia for Animals conference, attended by 210 delegates from 19 nations. —Merritt Clifton

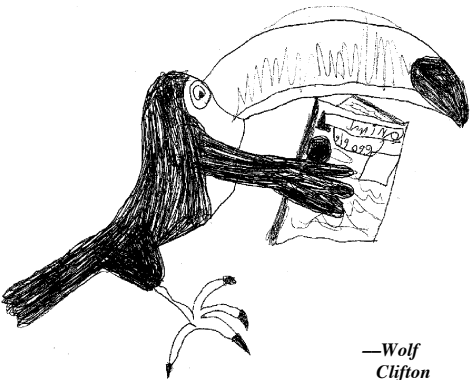
Contacts:

Cat Welfare Society, Orchard Road, P.O. Box 65, Singapore 912303; <info@catwelfare.org>; <www.catwelfare.org>.

Singapore SPCA, 31 Mount Vernon Road, Singapore 368054; 6278-5355; fax 6286-5997; <feedback@spca.org.sg>; <www.spca.org.sg>.

ACRES, 11A Opal Crescent, Level 3, Singapore 32840; 65-6296-7758; <info@acres.org.sg>; <www.acres.org.sg>.

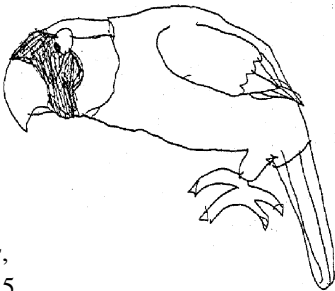
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White tigers, green polar bears, & maintaining a world-class zoo (from page 1)

more a forest green.

Changing color is apparently not a problem for polar bears. The algal condition is called “greening” regardless of what hue it eventually becomes.

Tuk, the longest-lived polar bear on record, was yellow when he rescued a kitten from his moat at the Stanley Park Zoo in Vancouver in 1983, and was still yellow when he died on December 9, 1997, at age 37, having long outlived the defunct zoo itself.

Tuk’s fur actually contributed to the demise of the zoo. Though Tuk seemed content there, photos of the “green” bear became a staple of literature distributed by the Vancouver Green Party, whose slate closed the zoo after winning election to the city parks board.

Pacing

A greater problem at the Singapore Zoo, from an animal welfare perspective, is that the polar bears engage in stereotypical pacing, a common predilection of understimulated intelligent animals in zoos.

Zoo animals pace for many reasons, and zoo critics often misread it. For example, the anticipatory pacing of hungry animals at feeding time may be called “stereotypical.”

Stereotypical pacing by polar bears, however, tends to be obvious.

The most notorious case involved Gus, the senior male polar bear at the Central Park Zoo in New York City. Wildlife Conservation Society behaviorist Don Moore tried to stop his obsessive pacing for a decade.

“In 1994 the media observed Gus pacing, and the public grew vocal and concerned about his welfare,” Moore told a recent symposium hosted by Polar Bears International.

“In 1998 the zoo became more proac-

tive, and put more soft substrates and frozen food toys into the exhibit. Gus continued to pace. The zoo then tried different types of enrichment, such as sprayers, hay, logs, and male fox scent. His pacing increased 33% with the log and 121% with the male fox scent,” Moore said.

“In 2002 the Zoo created a new polar bear exhibit, ‘The Arctic Stream.’ Still, Gus displayed no significant decrease in stereotypic behavior. In 2003, Gus was given almost 24/7 access to the back den,” Moore ended. “This change seems to have resulted in no pacing.”

North Carolina Zoo animal management supervisor Tim Mengel found as far back as 1996 that “24/7 den access decreased stereotypical behaviors significantly. The males’ stereotypies decreased by 62 and 66%,” Mengel told the symposium, “while the female’s decreased by 68%. In addition, the bears’ object manipulation increased, and social interaction increased slightly.”

But 24/7 den access is not the whole answer. “When the zoo later made minor pool modifications—smoothing rough surfaces and a cobbled beach area, and turning off a loud waterfall—stereotypes decreased even more,” Mengel said.

San Diego Zoo senior animal trainer JoAnne Simerson tried to stop pacing polar bears after a new San Diego polar bear exhibit opened in 1996 seemed to produce more pacing than the older, smaller facility had.

“When the zoo received two very young, orphaned cubs and they too began to exhibit early stereotypic behavior, zoo staff came up with a theory they wanted to test,” Simerson told the symposium.

“In the wild, cubs faced with novel stimuli show a startle response and initial

stress reaction, followed by bonding or reassurance from their mother. Were zookeepers coddling them too much, blocking the learning of coping skills, and unintentionally reinforcing the cubs’ stress-related reactions? Were they entertaining the bears *too* much, and not helping them entertain themselves?

“The cubs were crate trained,” Simerson continued. “Trainers encouraged their natural curiosity, but taught cubs to make the connection that their behavior influenced whether they got what they wanted.

“The trainers provided no food enrichment, but created situations that would startle the cubs, in hopes they would develop their coping skills. For example, trainers introduced the cubs to large vehicles, because those are often driven around the exhibit area. Keepers reinforced investigative behavior and then reassured the cubs.”

Play increased from less than 10% to more than 20% of the cubs’ time. Stereotypic behavior decreased from 45% in 1997 to “less than 0.08% in 2003,” Simerson said.

Oregon Zoo behaviorist David Shepherdson from 2001 through 2003 studied the activity of 59 captive polar bears at 22 accredited U.S. zoos.

“Males engaged in stereotypical behavior more in the first two quarters of the year,” Shepherdson reported. “Females engaged in stereotypical behavior more in the first and fourth quarters. The study found no correlation between stereotypical behavior and factors such as den access, exhibit complexity, or wild-caught versus captive—except that larger pool surface area (not volume) has a significant positive effect.

“The more bears in a social group, the less stereotypic behavior,” Shepherdson found. “The more females in a group, the less average time spent stereotyping.”

Leadership

The international zoo community seems to have the expertise to help the Singapore Zoo build a world-class polar bear habitat. The catch is not necessarily money.

“Polar Bear Splash” at the San Diego Zoo cost \$5 million in 1996. “Arctic Ring of Life,” at the Detroit Zoo, cost \$13.6 million in

2001. Replacing the present Singapore Zoo polar bear house with anything comparable could cost \$20 million or more.

But “The Arctic Stream” was added to the Central Park Zoo for Gus at cost of just \$25,000 for expansion of his habitat, plus the donation of a \$12,500 current-churning machine by Endless Pool Inc.

“Since April 2004 we have been in discussion with the Singapore Zoo with regard to their polar bears,” Animal Concerns Research & Education Society president Louis Ng told ANIMAL PEOPLE.

“We had originally asked that the bears be repatriated to the Cochrane (Ontario) polar bear facility, which is a rescue centre for polar bears,” at a historical theme park, Ng said. “The zoo was keen, but has now decided that they want to keep the bears.

“They have also indicated that they will not build a new enclosure,” Ng added. “The existing enclosure is difficult to improve to any acceptable standard as it is simply too small and nothing much can be done. We are now looking to compile a detailed report on polar bears in captivity in Asia,” including examinations of exhibits in Thailand, China, Japan, and South Korea.”

ACRES and Ng are also in conflict with the Singapore Zoo over their effort to extend the 2002 circus ban to the zoo acts.

From a business management perspective, Ng is simultaneously pressuring the Singapore Zoo to undertake costly improvements and threatening revenue streams that could help pay for them.

From a zoo management perspective, however, Ng is only asking the Singapore Zoo to catch up with the standards and practices that have evolved among major U.S. zoos in the decades since it debuted.

Orangutans do not normally perform tricks before crowds. Zoos have learned that crowds will come to see them if they merely go about their own business. The public will admire elephants, whether or not they can be ridden. Yellow and black tigers are every bit as magnificent, and genetically healthier than white tigers. Even green polar bears do not have to pace.

Knowing this is what distinguishes a state-of-the-art zoo today from the state of the art when the Singapore Zoo debuted.

—Merritt Clifton



Tuk, the late Stanley Park Zoo polar bear. (Kim Bartlett)

Romanian flooding reveals weakness of international animal disaster relief planning

GALATZI—More than 100,000 farm and work animals drowned or starved, 26 people were killed, and 14,000 at least temporarily lost their homes in floods inundating 21 of the 32 Romanian counties between April and early July 2005. Yet as late as July 20 there was no global response on behalf of animals—and little help appeared to have reached affected humans.

Unlike the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 26, 2004, which hit with abrupt and dramatic violence, the Romanian flooding spread deceptively slowly, through spring snowmelt combined with unusually steady rain. Even after the rising water spilled into Hungary and Serbia, and satellite photos seemed to show a Pleistocene lake shimmering through the clouds over much of southern Romania, the disaster drew scant outside attention.

ANIMAL PEOPLE was first alerted on June 12.

“Over 300 square kilometers of pastures, forests and settlements are underwater,” Ecovet Timisoara coordinator Adriana Tudor reported, in an e-mail forwarded without reply headers by Aura Maratas of the Fundatia Daisy Hope in Bucharest.

Maratas, who is herself by

far the largest Daisy Hope donor, soon had her own crisis, with two flood-damaged businesses and a resultant cash flow crunch.

“Where only a few days before lay wide plains,” Tudor wrote, “is now a sea, with gulls crying out the tragedy of people and animals. We have tried to evacuate animals,” Tudor said, “and where this wasn’t possible, to feed them. Where houses have crumbled, dogs stayed, cold and hungry, to guard what the waters left. Pigs who could not be evacuated and poultry in the haystacks need food.

“Unfortunately, we also had to recover dead animal bodies,” Tudor added. “All of this was done with the aid of students and veterinary volunteers.”

Unable to find and respond to Ecovet Timisoara, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** sent other Romanian humane organizations the same list of disaster relief web sites and contacts that Robert Blumberg used to start the post-tsunami animal relief effort in Sri Lanka (*see page 11*), but none mobilized until July 14, more than a month later.

Then, as the waters rolled slowly toward Galatzi to drain into the Danube, ROLDA cofounder Dana Costin tried to organize a

mobile aid mission to help the animals of stricken upstream towns—but she didn’t get there.

Instead, more rain sent 30 times the normal water volume surging through Galatzi itself. The ROLDA team for the next several days rescued and assisted animals in the immediate Galatzi area, while Nancy Janes of the California-based support group Romanian Animal Rescue contacted international organizations in search of outside aid.

The Romanian affiliate of the Austrian group Vier Pfoten reportedly began flood relief work about then.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals dispatched a representative to do a needs assessment on July 20, who was due to arrive in the flood zone on July 22, the same day that Noah’s Wish founder Terri Crisp flew to Romania, sponsored by Romanian Animal Rescue.

By the time any outside helpers reached the flooded regions, the water had receded, Crisp and Costin separately reported. They later collaborated to produce an update featuring Crisp’s photos of the damage to rural villages.

ROLDA and Romanian Animal Rescue had already initiated

a mobile vaccination project in the worst-hit villages around Galatzi.

International support through the peak days of the crisis came chiefly through volunteer rescue networks, who amplified ROLDA bulletins and occasional appeals from other groups.

“I am not happy that we did not know anything of this,” Humane Society of the U.S. chief of staff Andrew Rowan told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “I am not sure that we would have leapt into the fray but we should have known about it.”

ROLDA announced late on July 27, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, that the HSUS affiliate Humane Society International had pledged emergency funding.

WSPA director general Peter Davies pledged a complete revamp of the WSPA disaster response mechanism, already underway in response to lessons learned during the tsunami crisis.

“We have at last recruited a full time disaster relief director, who will join us on September 1,” Davies said. “He will set up a permanent disaster relief operations center. Each of our three most likely scenario areas, South America, Africa, and Asia, will have a trained staff member who

will be the area disaster relief officer, who will have a trained team to carry out immediate reconnaissance. This will take some time to fully establish but we are now firmly on our way.”

Offered International Fund for Animal Welfare supporter relations specialist Ronnie O’Connor, to IFAW donors who sought help for Romanian animals, “We must focus our energies and our resources on the anti-cruelty campaigns available for you to see on our website...I suggest that you visit <http://worldanimal.net/>—it contains a directory of animal welfare organizations in most countries and every U.S. state. You may find several groups already working in Romania that may be able to help. Thank you for your concern for the animals.” —M.C.



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Clara's Grand Tour

by Glynis Ridley

Atlantic Monthly Press (841 Broadway, New York, NY 10003), 2004. 222 pages, hardcover. \$22.00.

General Howe's Dog

by Caroline Tiger

Penguin Group (375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014), 2005. 192 pages, hardcover. \$18.95.

Historical scholars Glynis Ridley and Caroline Tiger each happened across an intriguing mention of an animal while investigating other events of the mid-18th century. Each reconstructed the story of the animal, as best she could from surviving documentation. Each produced a book about her findings, with remarkably different results.

Ridley produced an award-winning account of the travels and influence of a young female Indian rhinoceros, Clara, whose mother was killed by hunters in Assam, India, circa 1738-1739. Hauled overland to Calcutta, Clara was raised to adulthood in the home of Dutch East India Company director J.A. Sichterman, initially as a household pet. Outgrowing her quarters, Clara was sold in early 1741 to Dutch sea captain Douwemont Van der Meer. Van der Meer sailed to Leiden with her.

From July 1741 until Clara died suddenly in London in 1758, Van der Meer exhibited Clara, visiting virtually all of the

leading cities from Versailles to Vienna, Naples to Berlin.

Clara may have traveled farther in her lifetime than any other rhino ever. Other rhinos were brought to Europe before and after her, but no others lived nearly as long, were seen in as many places, or were depicted as often in art and literature.

Traces of Clara are easily recognized, because before Clara toured Europe, rhinos for more than 200 years were almost always drawn, sculpted, or described from Albrecht Durer's woodcut of a rhino in armor, published in 1515. Clara became the model for a whole new view of rhinos, continuing to attract creative attention even after her horn fell off during a visit to Italy.

Ridley discovered enough of Van der Meer's sensational promotional literature about Clara to establish a significant discrepancy between the allegedly fierce beast described to the public and the rather friendly animal captured in art.

Van der Meer exhibited Clara at a time when the prevailing modes of animal exhibition were still royal menageries and small traveling shows. Bear-baiting and other forms of mortal combat were common, but as Clara was one of a kind, far too valuable to risk, Van der Meer resisted opportunities to pit her against supposed natural foes, even while attracting customers by portraying her as a serial killer of elephants.

Neither the modern circus nor zoos of educational pretensions existed yet. Although Van der Meer's exhibitions anticipated modern circuses in many respects, including in his invention of a heavy-duty

circus wagon for Clara, he also anticipated the zoos of today in purporting to teach viewers about nature and the world beyond Europe. The earliest drawing of Clara posed her with a mounted human skeleton, each presented as an object of scientific curiosity.

Tiger enjoyed much less success in trying to dig up the story of "George Washington, the Battle of Germantown, and the Dog Who Crossed Enemy Lines."

Revolutionary troops found a dog belonging to British commander William Howe; George Washington sent him home. Neither his name nor anything else about him was ever recorded.

Tiger strives mightily to fill out her story with background information about Howe, who was friendly with Washington and skeptical of the war, and Washington, whose famed fondness of his own dogs did not extend to all dogs.

Washington allowed his dogs to roam indoors long before most dogs enjoyed house privileges, but was most interested in dogs as hunting companions, and was an avid breeder in the era when dog pedigrees first became established.

In 1787, trying to stop predation on sheep, Washington ordered that all stray dogs around his farm should be killed, and forbade his slaves from keeping dogs.

More might have been done with the animal aspects of *General Howe's Dog*, but—apparently aiming at the school library market—Tiger avoids any discussion that might be controversial. The result is that Tiger's analysis is as thin as the factual basis that inspired the book.

—M.C.

One Small Step:

America's First

Primates in Space

by David Cassidy & Patrick Hughes

Penguin Group (375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014), 2005. 135 pages, paperback plus DVD documentary. \$19.95.

One Small Step presents the history of the early U.S. space program, focusing on the "chimpanauts," who preceded humans into orbit.

Then-U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower had one question, according to David Cassidy and Patrick Hughes: "If I put humans in space, are they going to die? Will their hearts stop beating? Will their blood stop flowing? Or will they be so sick that they just can't do anything?"

Video documentary Cassidy's investigation, turned into a book by Hughes, reveals not only how many animals were sacrificed in the cause of space exploration, but also how carefully their suffering was concealed from the public. Chimpanzees grimacing in agony were depicted by the Air Force-compliant media as "smiling with enjoyment."

The policy of propagandising the space program, glossing over problems, eventually contributed to the explosions of the space shuttles *Challenger* in 1986 and *Columbia* in 2003, of which California physicist Richard Feynman wrote: "Truth should never be subordinated to public relations because although you can fool the people, you can't fool Nature."

Rhesus macaques were shot into space to die, killed on impact if the rocket returned to earth or drowned in the sea if it sank. Others were incinerated on re-entry or atomised when the rockets exploded.

Wild chimpanzees were "procured" from Africa to better simulate human astronauts. In 1961 only a handful of then-small and obscure anti-vivisection societies protested against their capture and use. Chimps were strapped into metal chairs and trained to spend all day in one position. They were strapped into centrifuges and other devices to test the effects of rapid acceleration, deceleration, and decompression.

(John Paul Stapp, the first U.S. space research supervisor, had ethical qualms about the work, and in 1946-1947 used himself as the subject of the first such experiments. Recalls the web site <www.ejection-site.com/stapp.htm>, "When after many months the results of all Stapp's work was presented to the Aero Med Lab brass, they were horrified...Stapp was told in no uncertain terms that human tests had to end. Chimpanzees, his superiors advised, would be acceptable substitutes.")

During actual space flight the chimpanaut received shocks if they pulled the wrong levers.

Those who survived the harsh treatment of the space program were consigned in 1963 to the infamous Coulston Foundation laboratories for use in other types of biomedical research.

Primarily Primates at last won the release of 31 former NASA chimps from the Air Force in 1997, and Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care founder Carole Noon in late 2002 bought the Coulston Foundation buildings, equipment, 266 chimpanzees, and 61 monkeys for \$3.7 million. Some of the chimps had by then endured solitary confinement in concrete cells for 40 years.

—Chris Mercer & Beverley Pervan
<www.cannedlion.co.za>

Meat Market:

Animals, Ethics & Money

by Erik Marcus

Brio Press (244 Blakeslee, Hill Road, Suite 5, Newfield, NY 14867), 2005. 273 pages, hardcover. \$21.95.

Erik Marcus writes crisply in this book about the evils of factory farming. He disposes of common misconceptions and exaggerated arguments, frequently employed both by industry apologists and Animal Rights activists. His logic is clearly expressed and his prose flows tightly. In fact the book is so easy to read that it would make an excellent text book for humane education and animal law courses.

Marcus examines the transformation of animal agriculture since 1950 and analyses the growth of factory farming at the expense of small family-owned farms.

Aiming squarely at urban activists who have no clear understanding of farming methods, he introduces us to the life of a layer hen, describing in harrowing detail her tortured life. Then he does the same for broiler chickens, pigs, dairy cows, and beef cattle.

Next Marcus suggests ways of reducing unnecessary cruelty, i.e. unnecessary in the business sense of being not cost effective. Marcus concedes that factory farming achieves the objective of keeping meat prices low and yet making profits.

After discussing why animal activists have failed to make real progress against the cruelty of factory farming, Marcus contemplates how to dismantle such a large and powerful industry.

Accepting that change will have to take place at a sub-political level, Marcus suggests that veganism is the solution. Each vegan spares the lives of the thousands of animals eaten in a lifetime by the average person.

Marcus advocates outreach pro-

grams aimed at younger consumers in order to encourage the growth of vegetarianism or—preferably—veganism.

Marcus becomes less convincing when he advocates launching a new movement to dismantle the meat industry. It is understandable that Marcus wants to distance himself from the AR militants whom he believes discredit everyone involved in trying to stop cruelty to animals. But where would all the people come from to comprise the Dismantlement Movement? From outreach programs, yes, but inevitably too from the existing pool of animal activists, whom agribusiness propagandists could quickly reconnect with the AR movement.

Writes Marcus on page 83:

"Just as slavery was once America's most pressing human rights violation, there can be no doubt that the effort to eliminate cruelty to animals should focus on agriculture. Animal agriculture accounts for more than 97% of animals killed by humans in the USA.

"Farmed animals therefore deserve priority and arguments made on their behalf should not be weakened by lumping in rhetoric pertaining to hunting, medical research or companion animals."

This logic trivializes the important work done in other animal advocacy causes, including opposition to hunting, medical research, and companion animal welfare practices that interface with opposition to meat consumption.

Marcus is correct that the numbers involved in animal agriculture support his proposition. But numbers alone are not the whole measure of the value of an enterprise. People campaign for lions, tigers, harp seals, moon bears, and gorillas because they care passionately about them.

Far from weakening the campaign against factory farming we believe that exposing cruelty to animals of any species helps to build a general societal consensus that no animals should be mistreated.

Besides, canned lion hunting—my own focal issue—is itself a form of fac-

tory farming, abusing wildlife as "alternative livestock."

The notion of creating a Dismantlement Movement might be justified, however awkwardly, if it rested on a new or unique moral foundation. But Marcus relies upon the same moral and ethical values long used by vegetarians, animal rights advocates, and animal welfarists, differing merely in his tactical preferences.

In political lexicon, a group of groups is called a "front," and we venture to suggest that this is really what Marcus wants and needs: groups who share his tactical ideas getting together to form a front to campaign jointly for the abolition of factory farming.

Possibly in the interest of conciseness, Marcus has not dealt with any longterm macro-economic effects of factory farming, such as the global petroleum shortage that many resource economists believe is imminent. One wonders whether factory farming will not die a natural death in the post-petroleum world, now just 20 years away by some estimates.

An over-populous society which crowds into cities where it is pathetically reliant upon a fast depleting commodity like oil to put food on the plate cannot last indefinitely. A meat industry which has flourished during the oil glut by burning oil to grow food for animals, to transport those feeds to massive captive breeding facilities, and then to transport the dead product to city markets, must inevitably unravel.

If the meat cannot be brought to market, but the markets still insist on consuming it, then the markets must go to the meat. Urban societies may disperse back to the countryside, as the Internet facilitates decentralized commerce, and a new era might begin for the small family farm—much as the back-to-the-earthers prematurely predicted during their exodus to the countryside after the petroleum crisis of the early 1970s.

—Chris Mercer
<www.cannedlion.co.za>

Why They Must Not Be Brutalized

J.B. Suconik

"Suconik erases all whispers of the absurd from the debate, and offers a logical and objective formula to guarantee natural rights to all non human animals." Rhona Zaid P.I.L.D "It covers all the most important issues, and is written simply yet powerfully. I hope all who should read the book will read his book." Professor Tom Regan "Why They Must Not Be Brutalized, is informative, insightful, cogent, challenging, timely, and iconoclastic" ... James A. Cox Editor-in-chief of Midwest Book Review. And its free in the USA with this add and check of \$7.95 to cover handling, \$13.00 elsewhere. Price without add is \$28.00. Please send your check and add, and return address to Nuark Publishing 115 S. Linden Avenue, Elmhurst Illinois 60126 USA Nuark 158p, hard cover library binding \$28.00

Animals:

Why They Must

Not Be Brutalized

by J.B. Suconik

Nuark Publishing (30 Amberwood Parkway, Ashland, OH 44805), 2002. 160 pages, hard cover. \$28.00

Suconik's book is basically a moral treatise against the arguments commonly used to support vivisection. Give us the whole balance sheet, he implores vivisection apologists, not just an item from the profit and loss account. Then we can accurately determine the legitimacy of the whole enterprise.

Don't just argue, for example, that without biomedical research on animals we can forget about a cure for AIDS. Tell us how much it will cost, how many animals will be used, how cruel are the procedures and what are the alternatives.

Sure, if you spend millions tormenting animals for years you are bound to learn something, sooner or later. But if better ways exist, then the millions spent on vivisection will have been wastefully employed.

Suconik describes biomedical research as "the biological science version of medieval torture to extract information."

The second half of Suconik's book offers harrowing examples of egregious cruelty endured by animals around the world.

Suconik provides some deep thinking and some trenchant criticisms.

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

Wild Dogs: past & present by Kelly Milner Halls

Darby Creek Publishing
(7858 Industrial Parkway, Plain City, OH 43064),
2005. 64 pages, hardcover, illustrated. \$18.95.

Addressing children, Kelly Milner Halls in *Wild Dogs* pleads for appreciation and tolerance of coyotes, dingoes, dholes, foxes, wolves, and other wild canines. Often persecuted as alleged predators of livestock, each in truth preys much more heavily on rodents and other so-called nuisance wildlife.

Wild Dogs is overall a unique and fascinating look at dogs and dog relatives who predate humanity. Tracing the evolution of dogs, Milner Halls points out that each variety of living wild dog is a remnant of the evolution of current domestic pet dogs, and observes that contrary to stereotype, not all primitive dogs are ferocious carnivores. Many routinely consume some plant food. The mild-mannered maned wolf of southern South America is especially fond of fruit.

Much more could have been said about primitive dogs, humans, and our influences on each other, had Milner Halls not been obliged to work within a set length limit.

Another whole book could have been written about the plight of primitive dogs today. Not only wild dogs but also the oldest branches of the domestic dog family are often abominably treated. In this category are Asian street dogs, African pariah dogs, and tanukis, or "Asian raccoon dogs."

Tanuki now exist mainly on Chinese fur farms. Some



Red wolf—an ancient wolf/coyote hybrid. (Kim Bartlett)

are skinned alive, according to recent exposes by Swiss Animal Protection, the Environment & Animal Society of Taiwan, Care For The Wild, of Britain, and the *Beijing News*.

Milner Halls did not mention farmed tanuki, and mostly missed opportunities to expose some of the many misguided efforts to "conserve" wild dogs by means which might actually ensure their extinction.

Page 29, for example, describes the Channel Islands fox, native only to six islands off the California coast, without mentioning that the fox has become endangered as result of a 35-year *putsch* against feral livestock waged by the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy.

The foxes prospered at first, feasting on dead ani-



Well-camouflaged African wild dog. (Kim Bartlett)

mals. But golden eagles flew in from the mainland to share the carrion. When the carrion ran out, the eagles turned on the foxes, as well as the young of the surviving pigs.

Now the official line is that eradicating the pigs will send the eagles elsewhere, but they might eat the last foxes first, other than those in a captive breeding program.

On pages 40-41 Milner Halls praises Ethiopia Wolf Conservation Program founder Claudio Sillero for allegedly saving Ethiopian wolves from an October 2003 rabies epidemic by vaccinating local domestic dogs.

In actuality, the EWCP vaccinated some pet dogs and working dogs, but for nearly three years ignored the recommendation of Homeless Animal Protection Society cofounder Efreem Legese that street dogs should be vaccinated too. Sillero and his successor, Stuart Williams, sought to shoot the street dogs instead, to keep them from possibly mating with the wolves.

The EWCP ended the dog vaccination effort in July 2003. Within weeks another HAPS cofounder, Hana Kifle, photographed an apparently rabid wolf. The EWCP failed to respond to this and other early warnings of a rabies outbreak until October, when it seized upon the outbreak as a new pretext to shoot street dogs, and grossly overstated the amount of vaccination that had been done—as their own annual reports revealed. Fleeing gunfire, the surviving street dogs ran for cover, toward the wolves' habitat.

For exposing the situation through **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Kifle and Legese both lost senior positions at Bale Mountains National Park, and were persecuted with bogus criminal charges, eventually rejected by the courts in both Addis Ababa and Goma.

ANIMAL PEOPLE is now paying Kifle and Legese modest salaries while they continue the work of HAPS.

Milner Halls, to her credit, was appalled at discovering her oversights. She promised immediately to seek ways to set the record straight in future writings.

—Merritt Clifton

First Friends

by Katherine M. Rogers

St. Martin's Press
(175 Fifth Avenue, New York,
N.Y. 10010), 2005.
263 pages, paperback. \$24.95.

The title is carefully chosen for this history of the interaction of dogs and humans. Note that it is "First Friends," and not "Best Friends."

Katherine M. Rogers, in this erudite and sometimes repetitively thorough treatise on the use and treatment of dogs in English and classical literature, deals in depth with the two extremes: dog lovers and dog detesters.

"For some people dogs are no more than beasts, and it is fatuous, if not impious," Rogers writes, "to value them in anything like human terms."

Rogers places herself between the two extremes, adopting the phrase "dog interested," meaning that she believes dogs should be well treated but that it is better for both dogs and humans if dogs are kept a subordinate place.

Chapters entitled "How the Partnership Started," "Hunting Dogs," "Working Dogs," "Dogs in the 19th Century," and "Dogs used as Surrogates for Humans" accurately describe the contents.

In "Dogs as Equals," Rogers deplores the trend among some modern writers to exaggerate egalitarian feelings to the point of denying any differences between the sensibilities, priorities, and rightful claims of dogs and humans. Writers who ridicule such sentimental anthropomorphising are quoted with evident approval.

Rogers' book might provide an interesting basis for examining

broader social, political, and religious implications of dog companionship, but this lies beyond the scope of a review. The Roman Catholic catechism, teachings associated with conservative Islam, and socialism as interpreted by Mao Tse-Tung each offer a prominent example of "humanitarian" doctrine expressing deep offense at the alleged pampering of useless pets while millions of humans remain in desperate need.

In other words, though loving dogs cuts completely across socio/political class lines, how we treat our dogs is often represented as a class issue.

Speaking for myself, one of my favorite **ANIMAL PEOPLE** features is the obituaries page, where I find I am just as interested in the animal obituaries as in those of humans.

Put me among the dog lovers.

—Chris Mercer

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OBITUARIES

Ed Piukowsky, 52, died of a heart attack on July 9, 2005, at home in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The son of a police dog handler, Piukowsky and his wife Bonnie Lanzendorfer Piukowsky founded the Jollyman Animal Sanctuary in 2002. *Blairsville Dispatch* reporter Jeff Himler in April 2005 listed the residents as “16 dogs, 50 cats, six chickens, three goats, a dozen each of geese and ducks, two peafowl, a rabbit and a parrot.” Recalled Dogs Deserve Better anti-chaining group founder Tammy Grimes, “Ed was very supportive of me and my work, and had me speak at their fundraisers each of the past three years. The first time was my first time ever speaking, and I was so nervous I thought I’d die. I spoke for a whole 30 seconds, but it was enough to get me past the point of trying. He told me each year, ‘See, I knew you were going to go far, didn’t I tell you that?’ He was so proud of me and the progress we have made.”

Shana Alexander, 79, died on June 23, 2005 in Hermosa Beach, California. The daughter of composer Milton Ager and *Variety* and *PM* film critic Cecilia Ager, Alexander broke into journalism as a *PM* copygirl, was promoted to reporter, and in 1951 was hired as the first woman staff writer for *Life*. She left *Life* to edit *McCall’s*, 1969-1971, then debated *Washington Star* columnist James J. Kilpatrick weekly on the “Point/Counterpoint” segment of CBS *60 Minutes*, 1975-1979. Alexander for the next decade wrote books exploring murder and gender issues. Only a 1962 *Life* cover feature and her last book, *The Astonishing Elephant* (2000) indulged her lifelong interest in elephants—but Alexander at age 15 had already made an enduring contribution to pro-elephant activism. Upstaged by Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of World War II, the December 1941 release of the Walt Disney animated classic *Dumbo* appeared to be a failure until Cecilia Ager took Alexander with her to see it, and moved by her response, saved it with a rave review. “*Dumbo* is the nicest, kindest Disney yet,” Ager wrote. As *The Astonishing Elephant* documents, albeit with only one reference to *Dumbo*, it was also in many respects shockingly realistic. Composer Paul McCartney in April 2004 acknowledged seeing *Dumbo* as a child as one of the formative experiences contributing to his longtime involvement in animal advocacy.



Timbo, 1957-2005, a 33-year resident of actress Tippi Hedren’s Shambala sanctuary near Los Angeles, died June 5. (Bill Dow)

Simon Hutton, 39, son of Free the Bears Fund founder Mary Hutton, was hit by a car on June 22, 2005 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and died two days later without regaining consciousness. As Cambodia project director for Free The Bears Fund, “He was in charge of building a vet clinic and working with the bear keepers at our sanctuary in the Phnom Tamao Zoological Gardens & Wildlife Rescue Centre,” Mary Hutton told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “He had been in Cambodia since the end of January 2005. Simon was a gentle, warm-hearted person who sat up all night and bottle fed a baby sun bear who was dehydrated and listless. Simon was also responsible for getting Free The Bears Fund started. One evening in 1993 he yelled, “Mum you have to see this on TV!” I saw a little bear banging his head against a bar of a cage, and that was the first I knew of bears in bile farms—it went from there.”

Janet Orio, 51, dog warden for Windsor Locks, Connecticut since 1996, called paramedics to her home on June 2, 2005 after experiencing a medical emergency, but died before they arrived. Orio had on May 31, 2005 persuaded the Windsor Locks board of selectmen to fund construction of a new animal shelter.

Julia Palmer-Stoll, 21, who played the role of Simone in the German TV series *Marienhof*, was killed by a car on June 10 while trying to rescue a hedgehog from the highway between Dachau and Munich.

Tobias Ndhlovu, 32, a Zimbabwean “minder” at the Knysna Elephant Park near Cape Town, South Africa, was on June 22 crushed to death by a 17-year-old bull elephant named Harry. Describing Ndhlovu as “the most gentle, loving, soft-spoken man,” park owner Lisette Withers said he “was walking through high grass, when he apparently tripped. Harry went down to pick him up. Elephants use their tusks as a forklift. Harry has a huge forehead, the length of Tobias’ body. He did not fling him or use his trunk; there was no aggression. It was like he was trying to lift him.”

Lee Tsai-chin, a.k.a. **Chen Chint-sai**, 41, a 20-year bear keeper at the Lefoo Safari Park in Hsinchu, Taiwan, was on July 5 found still alive but fatally mauled in a 16-year-old brown bear’s enclosure. He had apparently entered the enclosure to feed the bear, in vioation of zoo policy. A fence painter was killed in a similar accident at the same zoo in 2004, after apparently taking a shortcut through a lion habitat.

Mary S. Nash, 56, died of lung cancer on July 1, 2005 in Dallas, Texas. Moving to Kaufman, a Dallas suburb, in 1987, Nash found herself living near one of the largest U.S. horse slaughterhouses. “In 2003,” recalled *Dallas Morning News* staff writer David Renfrow, “Nash teamed up with the Texas Humane Legislation Network to defeat legislation that would have legalized the operation of equine slaughterhouses in Texas, which currently operate under federal laws that they say supercede state law. Nash continued to campaign against horse slaughter until her death.”



Simon Hutton with sun bear Flo Phi.

Bhu Dev Chakraborty, 41, a forest guard since 1985 at Orang National Park near Mangaldai, India, was killed by a tiger in early July while on night patrol. He left a widow and two young children.

Kate Tetley, a cat rescue contact for the Louisiana SPCA, was killed in a July 5 fire at her home near Slidell. Fourteen cats and a dog died of smoke inhalation and burns. St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services director Brent Robbins, DVM told Chris Kirkham of the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, but 30 animals were saved.

Lark Fran Bennett, 45, a Louisiana SPCA dog groomer and cofounder of the annual Barkus Parade fundraiser for New Orleans animal charities, was shot to death with another woman in Chalmette, Louisiana, on July 11, 2005, reportedly by a third woman who knew them both.

Kathleen Ann Coppolino, 33, a People-Pet Partnership volunteer driver, was killed on July 23, 2005 in a fiery five-vehicle crash caused when an SUV driven by James Howard Jr., 42, jumped a guardrail and collided almost head-on with Coppolino’s vehicle, a van belonging to the Philadelphia Animal Care & Control Association. Coppolino was returning to PACCA after delivering a load of animals to a PETsMART adoption day. Howard was also killed. His girlfriend and one-year-old daughter escaped injury, but three other people were hurt.

Claire Simmons Allan, 76, died on June 9, 2005, in Rock Hill, South Carolina. A former opera singer, she and her late husband Bill Allan endowed the Claire Simmons Samson Allan Memorial Scholarship in Moral Philosophy at North Carolina State University. “Over the years Claire practiced her own version of animal rescue,” recalled former NCSU philosopher department chair and animal rights philosopher Tom Regan. “If she happened to see a neglected dog,” she would first issue a warning, and then, if the dog was not better looked after, “find an opportune time to ‘liberate’ the abused animal, leaving a note behind that warned against ever having another animal to care for, signed by ‘Mrs. Robin Hood.’ She was never caught.”

MEMORIALS

In memory of Wizard, 18, my daughter and partner's black, golden-eyed cat, who enriched their lives. May her soul commune joyously with the souls of cats and their people who have gone before.
—*Esther Klein*

In memory of Lester Raymond.
—*Dr. Barbara Davis*

In memory of J.C. Cat.
—*Ginny Hillger*

In memory of Lucille Gismondi on her birthday, 1919-1999.
—*Elaine Gismondi*



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July 28, 2004.

In memory of Schwartz, Mimi, Haji Baba, E.T., and especially Bonny Shah.
—*Judy Youngman*



In memory of Shumba, a Kalahari Raptor Centre watchdog who knew how to delegate.

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

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